



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 16 APRIL 2024 (SELASA)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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ATHLETICS TRAINING ✓

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and Kelab Olahraga Shah Alam are collaborating on an athletics development programme. The Shah Alam Track and Field Academy is offering training by qualified coaches in sprints (100m to 400m), long distance running (800m and above), hurdles, walks, long and triple jumps, shot put, discus and javelin. It is held on Mondays and Thursdays, from 5pm to 6.15pm at Shah Alam National Sports Complex (Panasonic Stadium). The programme, costing RM50 per month, starts April 22. It is open to schoolchildren and adults aged 18 and above. For details, WhatsApp 019-2021 220, email athleticsshahalam@gmail.com. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ysr9a9f7>

THE STAR

Tarikh: **16 APR 2024**

MPAJ MATTERS ✓

>Ampang Jaya Municipal Council's (MPAJ) mobile counter will be stationed in front of Spectrum Shopping Mall, Bandar Baru Ampang, until April 30, from 9am - 3pm. It will also be the Taman Muda morning market on April 20 and 21, and April 27 and 28, from 8am to noon. Residents can make payment for assessment fees. For details, call 03-4285 7004 or email pelanggan.hasil@mpaj.gov.my.

>Ampang Jaya dog owners can apply or renew their pet's licence at the parking lot of Tasik Pandan Perdana (April 27), Taman Cheras Indah community hall (May 11) and basketball court on Jalan Youth (May 25), from 10am - 4pm. For details, call 03-4285 7007/7235

THE STAR

Tarikh:.....**16 APR 2024**

Federal Hill road upgrading works under the spotlight

Story and photos by
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Star
Metro
(RM)

A FEDERAL Hill Kuala Lumpur resident has questioned the necessity for repair works currently being carried out in Jalan Selangor.

The 64-year-old, who declined to be identified, said they did not understand why the drains and pedestrian footpaths were being replaced when the original structures appeared to be in good condition.

"The pedestrian footpath on both sides of the road fronting the Travers police station had tiles and the kerbstones were in perfect condition.

"The tiles needed to be cleaned of moss and lichen, but that was it.

"The kerb was also in good condition.

"Drainage might have been an issue but this could have been solved with proper maintenance," said the resident.

They said it was a similar situation at the roundabout at the top of Jalan Selangor.

The retired mechanical engi-

neer also complained about the contractor dumping wooden pallets, plastic wrap and other rubbish by the side of the road.

When *StarMetro* visited the area, a site supervisor for the contractor said they had a letter from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to carry out road upgrades not only in Jalan Selangor but also in Jalan Johor and Jalan Persekutuan at Federal Hill.

The work permit dated March 15 states that the upgrades are expected to be completed by June 14.

The site supervisor also said that while the drains and footpaths appeared fine outwardly, the internal parts of the structures had given way.

"The walls surrounding the drains were broken, causing some parts to become clogged, which impeded water flow.

"The majority of the 50 drain inlets along the footpaths were broken and clogged."

He said the drains would be widened from 0.3m to 0.6m and a new concrete footpath, wider than previously and with a rougher non-slip surface, had also replaced



Newly laid concrete footpath along Jalan Selangor in Federal Hill, with the bare patch to be planted with grass. (Inset) The site supervisor pointing to drain inlets replacing damaged ones.



the old one.

As for the rubbish issue, the site supervisor said they would be cleared once construction work was completed.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 16 APR 2024

Sports facility ready but off limits till 2025

Residents complain of long wait, lack of basic facilities like changing rooms at long-delayed project in Brickfields

By BAVANI M
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THE construction of a sports facility on the former Kelab Sukan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (KSDBKL) site on Jalan Tun Sambanthan 1 in Brickfields is finally complete.

However, residents will have to wait until 2025 to use the facility and they are not happy.

The completed facility consists of a new football field, basketball courts and futsal court.

The original sports complex, which sits on a 2.42ha site, was demolished in 2017 and a sports facility project to replace it was announced in 2021.

However, the project, which was supposed to be ready by August 2023, had faced multiple delays.

"Why make us wait until next year (to use the facility)? We have waited too long already," complained Brickfields resident Raja Gopal.

Another resident, PK Rajan, urged Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to expedite the opening.

"Brickfields has faced the loss of many playing fields to development, the former DBKL sports complex included," he said.

Eagle-eyed stakeholders have also raised concerns regarding the absence of essential infrastructure at the new facility.

Bangsar resident M. Viknendran said there were no toilets and changing rooms.

"I expected the facility to have



New football field and multi-purpose court in Brickfields will be open to the public in January 2025.
— LOW BOON TAT/The Star

toilets and changing rooms on-site," Viknendran said.

Local Agenda 21 (LA21) Safe City KL coordinator Ghani Mohamed echoed Viknendran's concerns, and asked about management arrangements for the facility.

"Who is responsible for managing this facility?"

"Is it the DBKL sports department, or the former sports club management?"

Brickfields Rukun Tetangga chairman SKK Naidu reiterated the necessity to provide basic amenities.

"For any sports facility, you need the basics to be included, like a toilet. I find it strange that

they left it out," Naidu added.

When contacted, DBKL in a statement issued through its corporate communications unit to *StarMetro*, said the sports facility was completed in early 2024 and would be managed by its Culture, Arts, Tourism and Sports Department.

DBKL said the sports facility was expected to be open to the public by January 2025, after the end of the defect liability period, to ensure the facility was in good condition for public use.

There was, however, no mention of toilets or changing room facilities.

StarMetro previously highlighted the scarcity of playing fields

and open spaces in particular around Brickfields.

Former Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah had pledged to replace the demolished football field and approved plans for its restoration at the former DBKL sports club location.

The restoration plan was supposed to include basic facilities such as toilets, changing rooms and parking lot, alongside other amenities.

Constructed in 1970, the former DBKL sports club served as a significant venue for City Hall staff and the Kuala Lumpur football team during the 1980s, host-

Brickfields residents get new field and hall

Football pitch, community hall set for August completion

"This is the best new year's gift for the children."
A. Naidu

Brickfields residents are excited about the new sports facility that is set to be completed by August. The new facility, which is located on the former Kelab Sukan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (KSDBKL) site, will include a football pitch, a community hall, and a multi-purpose court. The residents, who have been waiting for the facility for several years, are happy to see the project finally coming to fruition.



StarMetro's report on Jan 7, 2023.



Ghani wonders who will manage the facility.



Naidu says any facility should include basic infrastructure.

ing renowned football personalities such as Rashid Hassan, Razip Ismail, Chow Siew Yai and Fandi Ahmad.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 16 APR 2024

KOSMO 16/4

Kewangan negara kekal teratur, cekap

PETALING JAYA – Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) akan menggunakan instrumen sedia ada bagi memastikan pasaran kewangan Malaysia kekal teratur dan terus berfungsi secara cekap.

Katanya, operasi pasaran BNM akan memastikan mudah tunai yang memadai serta pasaran pertukaran asing berfungsi secara teratur.

“Inisiatif berterusan sedang dilaksanakan secara berterusan dengan sokongan syarikat berkaitan kerajaan, pelaburan berkaitan kerajaan, korporat dan pengeksport untuk terus membawa masuk aliran dan mudah tunai ke dalam pasaran pertukaran asing.

“BNM akan terus pantau pasaran kewangan dengan teliti dan menguruskan sebarang risiko yang berpunca daripada volatiliti pasangan kewangan,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Menurut BNM, satu libat urus telah diadakan dengan peserta pasaran kewangan termasuk ketua operasi perben-daharaan yang bersetuju bahawa sebarang ketidakpastian

“

BNM akan terus pantau pasaran kewangan dengan teliti dan menguruskan sebarang risiko yang berpunca daripada volatiliti pasangan kewangan.”

akan berkurang dan menjadi stabil apabila ketegangan geopolitik reda.

Kenyataan itu dikeluarkan susulan gesaan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yang menyatakan kerajaan memantau rapat situasi terkini di Asia Barat dan mengambil kira faktor yang mungkin memberi kesan kepada rakyat Malaysia.

Katanya, kerajaan akan bertindak dengan bijaksana bagi memperkukuh kestabilan ekonomi dan kewangan negara.



PASARAN kewangan negara akan terus dipastikan berada dalam keadaan teratur dan cekap ekoran konflik yang berlaku di Asia Barat.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 16 APR 2024

Penolong jurutera saman hospital dakwa cuai punca hilang dua kaki

Shah Alam: Seorang penolong jurutera Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) mendakwa dirinya menjadi orang kelainan upaya (OKU) akibat kecuai doktor bedah sebuah hospital terkemuka.

Susulan itu, Isman Ibrahim, 41, memfailkan saman terhadap hospital berkenaan di Mahkamah Tinggi kerana menyebabkannya kehilangan kedua-dua kaki, lima tahun lalu.

"Saya masuk hospital sebab apendiks tetapi sebab doktor cuai, kaki saya hilang. Prosedur pembedahan tidak berjalan dengan baik apabila doktor menebuk dan mengikat saluran darah utama sehingga menyebabkan kedua-dua kaki menjadi hitam atau gangren.

"Hospital itu kemudian memindahkan saya ke hospital swasta lain. Pemeriksaan lanjut menyebabkan kaki saya terpaksa dipotong bagi menyelamatkan nyawa," katanya ketika ditemui pemberita selepas prosiding kes saman itu di hadapan Pesuruhjaya Kehakiman, Datuk Hazi-zah Kassim semalam.

Isman berkata, pemotongan kedua-dua kaki dibuat hingga paras paha, selain perlu menjalani pembedahan pintasan saluran darah.

"Ketika semua ini terjadi, isteri saya mengandung anak keempat. Hati siapa tidak sedih apabila melihat diri sudah tidak seperti dulu.

"Selama 10 hari terpaksa sorokkan nasib yang menimpa saya daripada tiga anak lain sebelum



Isman (berkerusi roda) bersama peguam di Mahkamah Tinggi, Shah Alam, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

mereka menangis melihat keadaan terbaharu saya," katanya.

Selain terpaksa dipotong kaki, kakitangan MBSA itu berkata, kecuai pakar bedah hospital berkenaan menyebabkannya menderita sakit saraf teruk setiap dua hari.

"Tidur saya tidak lagi lena sejak lima tahun lalu. Setiap dua hari bermula jam 2 pagi saya akan mengalami kesakitan serta ada bahagian badan terganggu dan terpaksa bergantung sepe-

nuhnya kepada ubat.

"Saya nekad bawa kes ini ke mahkamah untuk menunjukkan dan membongkar isu kecuai pihak hospital. Saya pasti banyak kes didiamkan dan berharap mereka yang senasib tampil ke depan," katanya.

Failkan semula saman

Sementara itu, peguam bela Isman, Firhat Muhd Fikri Isman, memaklumkan prosiding terbit sepatutnya untuk perbicara-

an, namun pihaknya akan memfailkan semula tuntutan saman seperti dipersetujui anak guam.

"Tuntutan saman awal adalah RM55 juta dan pemfailan semula bagi memastikan kebajikan anak guam terjamin, termasuk mendapatkan kos sebenar bagi kaki palsu.

"Kita mahu anak guam menjalani kehidupan seperti biasa. Pemfailan semula tuntutan akan dibuat dalam tempoh sebulan ini," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....16 APR 2024

KKM rekod 45 kes penyakit berkaitan haba, 2 kematian

Orang ramai diminta pastikan tahap hidrasi mencukupi, elak aktiviti luar

Oleh Mohd Nasaruddin Parzi
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Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak 45 kes penyakit berkaitan haba direkodkan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) setakat semalam, membabitkan 33 kes kelesuan haba, 11 kes strok haba dan satu kes kejang haba, berikutan cuaca panas ketika ini sehingga Sabtu lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan, berkata secara kumulatif, dua kes kematian akibat strok haba turut dilaporkan dalam tempoh sama.

Beliau berkata, kes kematian itu membabitkan seorang lelaki berusia 22 tahun dan kanak-kanak lelaki tiga tahun di Kelantan.

"Pada masa ini, empat kes masih mendapat rawatan di hospital iaitu satu kes strok haba yang dirawat di Unit Rawatan Rapi (ICU) dan tiga kes dirawat di wad biasa, yang terdiri daripada dua kes strok haba dan satu kes kelesuan haba. Kes-kes lain sudah sembuh dan dibenarkan keluar.

"Kes dirawat di ICU membabitkan seorang lelaki berusia 24



Murid menggunakan kipas mini mudah alih berikutan cuaca panas ketika tinjauan di sekitar Kuala Lumpur, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

tahun, dimasukkan ke ICU Hospital Port Dickson sejak 10 Mac lalu dan sudah dipindahkan ke ICU Hospital Tuanku Jaafar, Seremban, pada 5 April lalu," katanya.

Bagi keseluruhan 45 kes itu, beliau berkata, pecahan setiap negeri adalah masing-masing lapan kes di Perak dan Kedah, enam di Selangor serta masing-masing lima di Johor, Negeri Sembilan dan Pahang.

"Empat kes di Sabah, dua kes di Perlis, satu kes di Pulau Pinang dan satu kes di Kelantan," katanya.

Terus langkah berjaga-jaga

Sehubungan itu, katanya, KKM menasihatkan semua pihak meneruskan langkah berjaga-jaga dengan memastikan tahap hidrasi yang mencukupi dan mengurangkan aktiviti fizikal lasak serta aktiviti di luar rumah pada

musim cuaca panas sekarang.

"Orang awam juga diminta agar mengelakkan diri daripada terdedah kepada cuaca panas, banyakkah berteduh dan berehat lebih kerap ketika cuaca panas, memilih untuk melakukan ziarah pada waktu kurang panas atau waktu malam, terutama ketika mengunjungi sanak saudara dan rakan taulan ketika perayaan," katanya.

Katanya, orang awam juga boleh mendapatkan maklumat terkini mengenai status cuaca panas di laman sesawang METMalaysia (<https://www.met.gov.my/iklim/status-cuaca-panas/>) dan langkah-langkah pencegahan bagi mengurangkan kesan kesihatan akibat cuaca panas di laman sesawang KKM.

Kelmarin, status cuaca panas dikeluarkan METMalaysia, Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam merekodkan beberapa kawasan berada pada Tahap Amaran Satu.

Ia membabitkan seluruh negeri Perlis, Kedah (Pulau Langkawi, Kubang Pasu, Kota Setar, Pendang, Yan, Kuala Muda, Kulim, Bandar Baharu, Baling, Padang Terap, Sik), Pulau Pinang (Timur Laut), Perak (Hulu Perak, Kuala Kangsar, Kinta), Kelantan (Gua Musang), Pahang (Raub), Sarawak (Limbang) dan Sabah (Tenom, Beaufort, Tuaran).

Satu kawasan direkodkan berada di Tahap Amaran Dua sekurang-kurangnya tiga hari berturut-turut iaitu Pokok Sena, Kedah.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 16 APR 2024

'Kerajaan tidak pinggirkan mana-mana kaum'

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Shah Alam: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menegaskan pentadbiran kerajaan yang diketuainya tidak pernah meminggirkan mana-mana kaum, terutama kaum India.

Perdana Menteri sebaliknya, menegaskan keutamaan kerajaan adalah untuk menamatkan kemiskinan di negara ini tanpa mengira kaum.

Katanya, di bawah Kerajaan MADANI, pelbagai program dirancang bagi membantu komuniti India.

"Siapa yang dapat faedah banyak? Orang miskin... kebetulan dari segi jumlah, orang Melayu, tetapi dari segi nisbah, di Kuala Lumpur dan Negeri Sembilan, nisbah paling banyak mendapat manfaat ialah masyarakat India.

"Kalau saya tidak lakukan apa-apa untuk membantu masyarakat India, anda ada hak untuk menikam. Saya tak peduli, tokey India, Melayu atau Cina berjaya atau tidak. Saya peduli mengenai majoriti di bawah," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika merasmikan Konvensyen Antarabangsa dan Majlis Sambutan Kelahiran Dr Ambedkar ke-133 tahun di Pusat Konvensyen Ideal (IDCC), di sini, petang kelmarin.



Anwar bersama Timbalan Menteri Perpaduan Negara, Saraswathy Kandasami ketika merasmikan Konvensyen Antarabangsa dan Majlis Sambutan Kelahiran Dr Ambedkar ke-133 tahun di Shah Alam, semalam. (Foto Hairul Anuar Rahim/B)

Anwar berkata, di Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Selangor dan Pulau Pinang, kerajaan berjaya menyelesaikan hampir keseluruhan masalah kemiskinan tegar, tanpa mengira kaum.

Katanya, masalah kedua yang

berjaya diselesaikan oleh kerajaan adalah membabitkan sekolah.

"Kita nak bangunkan semua sekolah sekali gus, tak mungkin. Jadi apa yang kita lakukan adalah keputusan untuk membina, membantu, memperbaiki tandas sekolah daif tanpa pengecualian.

"Kita lakukan dan berjaya habiskan 100 peratus membabitkan Sekolah Tamil," katanya.

Anwar turut menegaskan bahawa Unit Transformasi Masyarakat India Malaysia (MITRA) bukanlah satu-satunya medium bagi menaik taraf hidup masyarakat

rakat India.

"Kerajaan Madani turut memberi tumpuan kepada Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia dan Tabung Ekonomi Kumpulan Usaha Niat (TEKUN) yang memberikan bantuan kepada masyarakat India seluruh negara," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....1.6...APR...2024...



Di tengah-tengah cabaran ekonomi, bayaran insentif berupaya memberi sokongan tambahan kepada penjawat awam khususnya dalam aspek meningkatkan kestabilan kewangan dan kesejahteraan keluarga.

Bayaran insentif bantu penjawat awam berdepan kenaikan kos

SAUDARA PENGARANG,

MENERUSI Belanjawan 2024 yang dibentang Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim pada 13 Oktober tahun lalu, kerajaan mengumumkan bayaran insentif awal Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) sebagai menghargai penjawat awam yang berkhidmat dengan setia dan berdedikasi.

Di tengah-tengah cabaran ekonomi, insentif ini dilihat berupaya memberikan sokongan tambahan kepada penjawat awam khususnya dalam aspek meningkatkan kestabilan kewangan dan kesejahteraan keluarga. Ini ditambah dengan cabaran kenaikan kos sara hidup yang kian mencabar terutama bagi kakitangan gred rendah seperti Gred N11 yang masih menerima gaji permulaan sekitar RM1,216 sebulan.

Pada masa sama, pemberian insentif ini diharap dapat meningkatkan semangat dan kepuasan bekerja penjawat awam di samping menyuntik dorongan positif agar lebih produktif, seterusnya dengan cemerlang menyumbang kepada rakyat dan negara.

Sudah tentu, penjawat awam menghasratkan agar kajian SSPA tahun ini bakal memanifestasikan hasil yang terbaik terhadap skim gaji kerajaan yang tidak pernah dikaji semula sejak sekian lama (melebihi 10 tahun). Untuk rekod, kali terakhir kadar gaji penjawat awam dinaikkan adalah pada 2013.

Hakikatnya, pemberian insentif awal kajian SSPA ini memberikan implikasi positif kepada penjawat awam yang sekian lama menantikan 'pemugaran' kedudukan gaji semasa dilaksanakan ekoran tidak lagi sepadan dengan kos sara hidup yang tinggi.

Sungguhpun insentif yang diberikan adalah bersifat sekali beri (*one-off*), namun bagi penjawat awam gred rendah yang gajinya adalah dibawah Pendapatan Garis Kemiskinan (PGK), sedikit sebanyak langkah strategik kerajaan ini memberikan nafas yang lega.

Bahkan, langkah ini seiring dengan tuntutan penyampaian sektor awam awam yang mahukan keberhasilan di luar kelaziman dan sudah semestinya suntikan imbuhan yang setimpal ialah sesuatu yang wajar.

SYED MOHAMAD AL ADRÖS TUAN MUNING
Pusat Pengajian Pengurusan dan Kepimpinan
INTAN Bukit Kiara

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:1.6...APR...2024...

Saman hospital RM55 juta akibat hilang dua kaki

UM 16/4

SHAH ALAM: "Kecuaian itu mengakibatkan kedua-dua kaki ini hilang sedangkan saya menghidap apendiks."

Demikian luah seorang penolong jurutera Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) yang menjadi orang kurang upaya (OKU) selepas mendakwa menjadi mangsa kesilapan doktor bedah sebuah rangkaian hospital terkemuka di negara ini, lima tahun lalu.

Isman Ibrahim, 41, berkata, detik hitam itu berlaku selepas menjalani pembedahan susulan pemeriksaan imbasan tomografi berkomputer mendapati dirinya menghidap apendiks pada Jun 2019.

"Prosedur pembedahan tidak berjalan lancar apabila doktor yang membedah saya disyaki menebuk dan mengikat saluran darah utama hingga menyebabkan kaki menjadi hitam atau *gangrene*."

"Hospital itu kemudian memindahkan saya ke sebuah hospital swasta lain dan pemeriksaan lanjut menyebabkan kaki



ISMAN Ibrahim (depan) ketika hadir di Mahkamah Sivil Shah Alam, Selangor semalam bagi tuntutan saman terhadap rangkaian hospital termuka yang didakwa menyebabkannya kehilangan kedua-dua belah kaki. - UTUSAN/AFIQ RAZALI

terpaksa dipotong bagi menyelamatkan nyawa," katanya di Mahkamah Shah Alam di sini, semalam.

Dakwanya, pembedahan kaki dibuat pada paras paha dan perlu menjalani pembedahan pintasan

saluran darah kekal bagi memastikan bahagian kekal dua kakinya boleh bergerak.

"Pada waktu itu, isteri saya sedang hamil anak keempat dan hati mana tidak sedih melihat diri ini sudah tidak seperti dulu.

Selama 10 hari juga saya terpaksa menyembunyikan perkara itu daripada tiga anak lain," ujarnya.

Menurut Isman, kecuaiannya turut mengakibatkan anaknya mengalami sakit saraf selama tiga jam selang dua hari.

Sementara itu, Peguam Firhat Muhd. Fikri yang mewakili Isman berkata, prosiding di hadapan Pesuruhjaya Kehakiman Datuk Hazizah Kassim sepatutnya bagi perbicaraan namun pihaknya memfailkan semula tuntutan saman seperti dipersetujui anak guamnya.

"Tuntutan saman awal berjumlah RM55 juta dan pemfailan semula bagi memastikan kebebasan anak guam terjamin. Ini termasuk mendapat kos sebenar bagi kaki palsu daripada beberapa pengeluar."

"Kita mahu anak guam menjadi senormal mungkin kehidupannya. Pemfailan semula tuntutan itu akan dibuat dalam tempoh sebulan," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 16 APR 2024

Negara diramal panas, hujan petang

UM 16/4

Oleh **FATIN NORIZATI MAT ISA**
utusannews@mediamula.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia diramal mengalami cuaca panas sehingga hujung bulan ini disebabkan faktor-faktor global seperti ayunan Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) dari Lautan Hindi ke Lautan Pasifik.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Felo Akademi Sains Malaysia, Dr. Fredolin Tangang, berkata, selain peningkatan suhu, faktor-faktor tersebut juga akan meningkatkan penurutan hujan di beberapa tempat.

"Pusat gangguan cuaca berkait dengan ayunan Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) dari Lautan Hindi ke Lautan Pasi-

fik juga akan mempengaruhi keadaan cuaca di Malaysia dan ayunan fenomena ini berlaku sekali dalam tempoh 20 hingga 60 hari.

"Mengikut Pusat Ramalan Iklim Amerika Syarikat dikeluarkan pada 7 April, keadaan pusat yang kurang litupan awan akan mendominasi rantau Malaysia dan Indonesia dalam tempoh satu hingga dua minggu dari sekarang dan kebarangkalian pengurangan penurutan curahan hujan serta peningkatan suhu akan meningkat dalam tempoh waktu tersebut," katanya.

Jabatan Meteorologi (MetMalaysia) sebelum ini mengeluarkan kenyataan bahawa Malaysia telah memasuki fasa peralihan



Di sebalik pengaruh musiman, Malaysia juga masih berada dalam pengaruh El Nino sepanjang April ini."

monsun di sepanjang Pantai Barat Semenanjung, terutama di Lembah Klang yang mempengaruhi keadaan cuaca hingga hujung Mei.

Mengulas lanjut, Fredolin menjelaskan, taburan hujan tertinggi di kawasan Pantai

Barat Semenanjung terjadi pada April dan Mei, berbanding Pantai Timur, Sabah dan Sarawak yang alami kadar penurutan hujan rendah pada bulan sama.

"Di sebalik pengaruh musiman, Malaysia juga masih berada dalam pengaruh El Nino sepanjang April ini dan dijangka berakhir Mei serta sepanjang suku kedua 2024, keadaan di Lautan Pasifik diramal beralih kepada keadaan La Nina.

"Sepanjang April, keadaan peningkatan hujan di Pantai Barat Semenanjung disebabkan peralihan monsun mungkin tidak setinggi seperti keadaan normal disebabkan pengaruh El Nino," katanya.

Menurutnya, kawasan Pantai Timur terutamanya di bahagian

utara Semenanjung dan Sabah, cuaca panas diramal berterusan sepanjang April disebabkan pengaruh El Nino.

"Dari segi peningkatan suhu, keadaan diramal masih tinggi dari suhu normal disebabkan pengaruh El Nino terutama di utara Semenanjung dan Sabah. Peralihan ke musim panas Hemisfera Utara menjadikan kawasan utara lebih panas," ujarnya.

Jelasnya lagi, terdapat pelbagai faktor yang mempengaruhi cuaca dan amatlah penting bagi orang awam mengikuti ramalan cuaca harian setempat dikeluarkan oleh MetMalaysia bagi mengelakkan strok haba, kejadian kepala air dan banjir yang mungkin boleh berlaku.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:1.6...APR...2024..

Ringgit susut berikutan pengukuhan dolar AS

UM 16/4

PETALING JAYA: Ringgit dijangka melemah berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) yang semakin mengukuh di tengah-tengah perkembangan terkini membabitkan konflik Iran-Israel, kata penganalisis.

Pada pukul 9 pagi semalam, mata wang tempatan susut ke paras 4.7715/7780 berbanding dolar AS daripada 4.7680/7730 pada akhir Jumaat lalu, sebelum ditutup pada 4.7770/7810.

Penganalisis Ekonomi UniKL Business School, Prof. Madya Dr. Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid berkata, konflik di Asia Barat itu dijangka menyebabkan ringgit menyusut kepada kadar antara RM4.77 ke RM4.80.

Ujarnya, perang di Gaza yang

berlanjutan dengan serangan Iran ke atas Israel bukan sahaja memberikan kesan kepada ekonomi Malaysia, malah turut memberi impak yang mendedak kepada ekonomi dunia.

"Pasaran pertukaran mata wang menjadi tidak menentu dan saya menjangkakan ringgit akan melepasi kadar RM4.80, antara 4.77 ke 4.80 disebabkan konflik yang berlaku ini.

"Kesannya adalah peningkatan kos dalam mengimport barangan dari luar negara memandangkan dolar AS adalah mata wang yang kerap digunakan bagi tujuan penyelesaian perdagangan.

"Indikator dolar AS akan terus mengukuh dengan index

DXY terus naik apabila Rizab Persekutuan (Fed) dilihat tidak akan menurunkan kadar faedahnya pada Jun ini," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, semalam.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, bursa seluruh dunia turut dijangka terkesan dan para pengurus dana beralih kepada memegang pelaburan Bon Terbitan 10 tahun yang kini mulai tinggi semula pada 4.5 peratus.

"Pengurus dana pula dijangka akan menambahkan pembelian emas sebagai pelaburan selamat," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, Pengarah Program MBA, Putra Business School (PBS), Prof. Dr. Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff turut ber-

pandangan sama bahawa ringgit akan kekal melemah berbanding dolar AS selagi konflik Timur tengah berterusan.

Katanya, Fed AS juga dijangka tidak akan menurunkan kadar faedahnya kerana perbelanjaan isi rumah di AS masih meningkat yang menyebabkan dolar AS kekal kukuh.

"Kemungkinan ringgit akan kembali mengukuh apabila Fed AS menurunkan kadar faedahnya tapi ini mungkin berlaku pada suku ketiga tahun ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan harus berterusan menarik pelaburan asing ke dalam negara, mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada barangan import

dan memperkasakan barangan tempatan.

"Itu antara langkah yang boleh dilakukan oleh kerajaan untuk mengawal keadaan ini daripada ringgit terus menyusut," katanya.

Pada Ahad, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata kerajaan sedang memantau rapat perkembangan konflik di Timur Tengah dan kedudukan pasaran kewangan, termasuk potensi dampak atau impaknya ke atas Malaysia.

Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan turut memberi jaminan bahawa kerajaan akan bertindak dengan bijaksana bagi memperkukuh kestabilan ekonomi dan kewangan negara.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 16 APR 2024



A man completing an online application to make a special withdrawal from his Employees Provident Fund account at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020. The four special withdrawal schemes during the pandemic drained RM145 billion from EPF. FILE PIC

NST 6/4

FROM NEXT MONTH

3RD EPF ACCOUNT FOR THE CASH-STRAPPED

It will comprise 10pc of future monthly contributions which may be withdrawn at any time

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THE Employees Provident Fund's much-awaited Account 3 is expected to comprise 10 per cent of future monthly contributions that account holders can withdraw at any time.

More details on the facility are expected to be announced soon, but the *New Straits Times* is made to understand that only contributions from May onwards would be used for Account 3 and existing funds in Accounts 1 and 2 will be untouched. This means Account 3 will start with zero balance.

The spirit behind the new facility, also known as the Flexible Account, is to help contributors sustain their livelihoods before they hit retirement age.

Currently, 70 per cent of members' monthly contributions are channelled into Account 1, which

cannot be accessed until after retirement. The other 30 per cent goes into Account 2, which can be accessed to pay for education, healthcare and housing, as well as a partial one-time withdrawal at age 50.

The *NST* learnt that the restructured system will see monthly contributions split three ways: 75 per cent into Account 1, 15 per cent into Account 2 and 10 per cent into Account 3.

Contributors can withdraw the funds from Account 3 at any time — much like a savings account.

However, it is understood that the EPF would allow members who want to maximise capital gains to transfer the funds in Account 3 into Accounts 1 and 2.

The introduction of Account 3 comes after four Covid-19 pandemic-related withdrawal programmes drained RM145 billion from EPF.

As of December 2023, EPF's investment assets stood at RM1.13 trillion.

In July 2023, then EPF chief strategy officer, Nurhlsham Hussein, said the proposal to introduce Account 3 was to meet the potential emergency cash needs of members.

It also aims to attract those in the informal sector to make contributions to the EPF.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan had said

EPF would explain how monthly contributions would be split among the three accounts and the withdrawal mechanism of the Flexible Account.

In November 2023, Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist and social finance head Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid told *Business Times* that money in Account 3 was expected to remain there for a short time, so it was likely that the Flexible Account would command lower returns than the other accounts, which were not as easy to withdraw.

However, the *NST* was made to understand that members who do not withdraw from their Account 3 might get a "token" payout much lower than the dividend for Accounts 1 and 2. It remains to be seen how the yearly dividends will be calculated.

The EPF paid out RM57.8 billion to members for 2023, comprising a 5.5 per cent dividend for members with the conventional account and 5.4 per cent for the Syariah account.

For 2022, EPF announced a dividend of 5.35 per cent for conventional accounts and 4.75 per cent for Syariah accounts.

At the end of 2023, EPF had 8.5 million active members. Of these members, 6.7 million have conventional accounts, while the rest have Syariah accounts.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 16 APR 2024

OPPORTUNITIES

'ECRL-related projects expected to lift socioeconomic activities'

KUALA LUMPUR: The East Coast Rail Link-Economic Accelerator Projects (ECRL-EAP) will boost socioeconomic activities in various sectors such as construction, tourism, trade and industrial development, said Malaysian Investment Development Authority (Mida).

The ECRL-EAP is an infrastructure programme that started in April 2019 in collaboration with Mida and China Communications Construction Company.

Mida said the ECRL project was replete with opportunities for companies and it would be a huge loss if those were untapped.

"Given that the project is the largest ever to be undertaken along the East Coast alignment, it would be ideal for companies to seize the available opportunities."

"Areas that could be further explored — being EAP enablers — are construction (products and services), renewable energy, sustainability products and services, education and training centres, shared utility service like waste

management, and research and development.

"This will create more economic opportunities and new jobs at each of the EAP."

Mida also said the successful implementation of the ECRL required cooperation among all stakeholders.

"Mida is eager to support businesses eyeing ECRL-EAP investments. This will enhance the project's allure for investors. This effort is crucial in maintaining an edge over competing initiatives, such as Thailand's proposed Kra land bridge."

"We are calling on more companies to join forces with the government via Mida."

Mida will also promote programmes in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Selangor re-

lated to the ECRL-EAP. It has initiated engagements with key stakeholders, including local governments, industry associations, park managers and developers, government-linked investment companies and real-estate investment trusts to raise awareness of the EAP and to reach a wider audience.

"Participation from all stakeholders is important. Issues such as floods, infrastructure, utility readiness, zoning restrictions and land categorisations have been identified."

"To address these concerns, Mida is working closely with key stakeholders such as utility providers, state governments, associations and developers to make sure that the issues are addressed and an enabling environ-

ment is provided for development and investment along the route," it said.

Mida, through the domestic investment coordination platform (DICP), plays a role in connecting investors with financiers.

The DICP facilitates direct engagement between investors and financiers, allowing them to discuss funding options, negotiate terms and explore alternative financing arrangements.

The RM50.27 billion ECRL project aims to connect Kota Baru to Port Klang.

Spanning 665km, the project is targeted to be completed in December 2026 and operational in January 2027.

As of February this year, the project was 62.4 per cent complete. **Bernama**



The East Coast Rail Link project in progress in Kelantan last month. The Malaysian Investment Development Authority says companies can tap sectors such as construction and renewable energy along the East Coast alignment. PIC BY NIK ABULLAH NIK OMAR

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh:1-6-APR-2024..

'EPF MAY SHIFT INVESTMENT STRATEGY'

Pension fund may increase low-yield liquid assets to meet possible withdrawals

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THE rollout of Account 3 by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) may shift the fund's investment portfolio to highly liquid assets to allow for withdrawals.

This, in turn, would affect the fund's investment returns given that highly liquid assets often yield low returns.

Bank Muamalat Bhd chief economist and social finance head Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the pension fund might need to keep highly liquid

assets in its portfolio to meet the possible withdrawals from Account 3.

"It really depends on the size of the withdrawals and how such a trend would evolve in a given year.

"Safe to say, the share of the money market may need to be bumped up. In the process, it would alter the investment return profile as highly liquid assets carry low returns. These are some of the trade-offs that need to be endured by the EPF and its members," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Details of Account 3, including its implementation date and rate of contribution, have yet to be announced.

Account 3, which is also known as the Flexible Account, was first announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the

tabling of the 2024 Budget in October last year.

Economist Dr Geoffrey Williams said a higher allocation of contributions to Account 1 would address issues concerning pension inadequacy.

Currently, 70 per cent of employee contributions are channelled into Account 1 while the rest goes to Account 2.

Williams said the rollout of Account 3 would change the ratio and that Account 1 should receive a higher percentage of funds.

"The effect (of Account 3) on Account 2 depends on how the split is made. If Account 1 remains at 70 per cent of contributions and Account 2 is reduced to 20 per cent with 10 per cent going to Account 3, this would make more sense and protect long-term savings in Account 1.

"It would be better to raise Account 1 to 80 per cent and have 10 per cent in each of Account 2 and Account 3 because this would protect long-term savings better and help address pensions inadequacy rates due to withdrawals."

Williams believes that the introduction of Account 3 would not reduce overall contributions to the pension fund as only a small portion of the funds would go into the new account that was immediately accessible.

This move, however, is not expected to have an impact on the dividends.

"The dividend should be the same on all accounts or Account 3 should be voluntary. Otherwise it would force 10 per cent of savings into a low-dividend account that many would not use.

"Alternatively, Account 3 could be voluntary but with a lower div-

idend and higher dividends in Account 1 to encourage long-term savings.

"The EPF had assets above RM1 trillion and the new Account 3 will not be a big part of that. The money is still invested until it is withdrawn," he added.

EPF chief executive officer Ahmad Zulfarnain Onn had said that the pension fund was not expecting any change in mandatory contribution rates once Account 3 was rolled out.

The current mandatory contribution rates are 11 per cent for employees and 13 per cent for employers.

Account 1 cannot be accessed until retirement, and funds in Account 2 can be withdrawn for limited purposes, such as education or housing.

It also allows for a partial, one-time withdrawal at age 50.



Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid



Dr Geoffrey Williams

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh:16 APR 2024

Concerns over ^{sun 16/4} vanishing greenery

DRIVING up the steep slope along Jalan Maarof towards the Bangsar Shopping Centre has always been a scenic delight as the left side of the slope is adorned with indigenous trees and verdant foliage.

However, motorists and residents were recently dismayed to find that this once-vibrant greenery has been ruthlessly cleared, leaving behind barren, brown slopes that mar the landscape.

Residents of upscale properties such as Menara Bangsar, Taman SA, Menerung and Sri Penaga across the road are horrified by the sudden disappearance of the mature trees and lush vegetation in the area.

The residents have taken to social media to express their anguish and concern that such a large segment of the greenery has been removed.

Despite prominent signboards indicating that the land was gazetted as a green lung by the Kuala Lumpur City Council, residents are bewildered by the lack of explanation for the clearing.

Social media platforms have been flooded with expressions of anguish and outrage, with reports describing the event as a "massacre" of trees.

Amid the prevailing dry season, the stark transition from lush greenery to a barren landscape is painfully evident.

Residents, who fondly remember Bangsar as a bastion of urban development harmoniously coexisting with natural ecosystems, now fear the loss of this delicate balance.

With no official notices provided and workers unable to offer explanations, residents have turned to social media and have appealed to Member of Parliament Fahmi Fadzil, who also serves as the communications minister, to intervene and investigate the matter. Their hope is to revive what has been lost and restore the area to its former green glory.

(DBKL)

S.N. Rajan
Bangsar

THE SUN
16 APR 2024
Tarikh:

BNM: We'll ensure financial markets remain orderly and function efficiently

sun 16/4

PETALING JAYA: Following the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Sunday, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has stated that it stands ready to deploy the tools at its disposal to ensure the Malaysian financial markets remain orderly and continue to function efficiently.

In a statement yesterday, BNM said its market operations will ensure sufficient liquidity and orderly functioning of the foreign exchange market. "This is supported by the ongoing initiatives with GLCs, GLICs, corporates and exporters which continue unabated to further bring in flows and liquidity into the foreign exchange market," it said, adding that it will continue to closely monitor conditions in the financial markets

and will manage any risks arising from heightened financial market volatility.

BNM has engaged with financial market participants, including heads of treasury operations, who concur that any uncertainties would recede and stabilise once the geopolitical situation de-escalates.

On Sunday, Anwar, who is also the finance minister, said the government is closely monitoring the developments in the Middle East conflict and the financial market situation, including the potential impact on Malaysia.

He added that the government will act wisely to strengthen the country's economic and financial stability.

Meanwhile, in a joint statement, the Securities Commission Malaysia and Bursa

Malaysia said that in light of current developments in the Middle East conflict and in furtherance to the statement by Anwar, they have increased their market monitoring and surveillance to ensure activities in the Malaysian capital market remain stable, fair and orderly.

"We would like to assure that our market fundamentals remain strong and our intermediaries are well capitalised. We also have a robust system in place to ensure continuous and effective clearing and settlement of trades. Additionally, we have the necessary controls in place to address potential sharp increase in volatility in the equity market," they said.

They added that they will continue to assess the situation very closely to ensure the integrity of their capital market remains intact.

THE SUN

Tarikh: 16 APR 2024

SUN 16/4

Malaysia has potential to become high-income nation by 2030: Amro

KUALA LUMPUR: Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said the recent report by the Asean+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (Amro) on Malaysia's growth underscores its potential to become a high-income nation by 2030, driven by significant foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows.

He said plans are in place to enhance the country's electrical and electronics (E&E) ecosystem, improve business conditions, and prepare for global minimum tax implementation in 2025.

He said Malaysia is dedicated to attracting high-technology companies and encouraging value chain advancement within existing industries.

"Efforts are also ongoing to boost the semiconductor ecosystem, through the New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, which includes attracting wafer fabs and advancing packaging, assembly, and testing capacities, to reinforce Malaysia's global industry position," he said in a reply to a posting on X.

Tengku Zafrul was replying to a posting by a local financial media quoting Amro on the Malaysian economy and the year-end peak of the semiconductor upcycle.

According to Amro, Malaysia's gross domestic product is expected to grow by 5% this year 2024, outpacing Asean's average of 4.8%.

Amro also said economic growth in the regional bloc is expected to improve, premised on higher exports on the back of the semiconductor upcycle, continued strength in the US goods consumption and robust demand for travel and services.

Apart from that, Tengku Zafrul said Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International has reported a global semiconductor industry recovery, with increasing electronics and integrated circuits sales.

Malaysia's semiconductor sector, he said, is poised for significant growth in the second half of 2024, bolstered by a World Semiconductor Trade Statistics prediction of a 13.1% market rebound. – Bernama

THE SUN

Tarikh: