



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

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	SELANGORKINI	• PANTAU CERUN BERISIKO LIMA PBT • PBT TANAM LEBIH SEJUTA POKOK

LAIN-LAIN PBT

BIL	AKHBAR	PBT	TAJUK
1.	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DBKL	• 20,000 CCTV PANTAU TRAFIK, KESELAMATAN IBU NEGARA

UMUM

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	SELANGORKINI	• COVID-19: TIADA LAGI KUARANTIN RUMAH
2.	THE STAR	• FOREST FARMERS IN DESPAIR • COMMUNITY UNITES TO PLANT TREES IN BUKIT JELUTONG PARK • STATE ACHIEVES CLOSE TO 70% OF FIVE-YEAR INITIATIVE • SCHOOL AHEAD, SLOW DOWN • REGULAR VAPES, PROTECT YOUTH
3.	SINAR HARIAN	• KENAIKAN GAJI PENJAWAT AWAM DIUMUM 16 OGOS • WASPADA TAKTIK PENIPUAN GUNA TEKNOLOGI AI-FAHMI • KERAJAAN SEDIA KAJI JUMLAH BANTUAN TUNAI
4.	KOSMO	• EKONOMI MALAYSIA DIJANGKA BERKEMBANG 4.7% - AMRO • KERAJAAN SEDIA NIALAI SEMULA JUMLAH SUBSIDI JIKA HARGA BAHAN API NAIK BANTUAN DIESEL RM200 CUKUP • KERAJAAN SERIUS JAMIN KUALITI AIR TERBAIK DITERIMA RAKYAT KAJI PENCEMARAN MIKROLPASTIK DI SUNGAI
5.	BERITA HARIAN	• PERKASA TINDAKAN PENGUATKUASAAN UNTUK PERANGI BULI SIBER • 20,000 CCTV DIPERLUKAN PANTAU ALIRAN TRAFIK DI KL • NAHRIM KAJI IMPAK KEHADIRAN BAHAN CEMAR TERHADAP KUALITI AIR
6.	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	• SELANGOR SELESAI LANTIK 373 KETUA KAMPUNG • BELANJAWAN 2025 FOKUS BERI BANYAK MANFAAT BUAT RAKYAT
7.	NEW STRAITS TIMES	• BE WARY OF AI-GENERATED DEEPPFAKES, WARNS FAHMI • ECONOMY SEEN TO GROW 4.7pc
8.	THE SUN	• FOOD SECURITY ININTIATIVE FOR ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY • STUDY OF NEW POLLUTANTS IMPACTING WATER QUALITY

Pantau cerun berisiko lima PBT

SHAH ALAM - Laporan beberapa cerun berisiko dikemukakan kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) untuk tindakan lanjut, kata EXCO Infrastruktur Ir Izham Hashim.

Beliau berkata kawasan itu membabitkan Majlis Perbandaran Kajang, Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya, Majlis Perbandaran Selayang, Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya dan Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor.

"Kita memanjangkan kepada PBT bagi kawasan Hulu Langat, Hulu Selangor dan Gombak. Terbaharu, Subang Jaya juga termasuk disebabkan berlakunya beberapa kes cerun (runtuh)," katanya dalam sidang Dewan Negeri Selangor pada 9 Julai.

Beliau juga menjelaskan laporan berkenaan diperoleh hasil keputusan cerapan jawatankuasa pemantauan cerun yang diketuainya.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE

TARIKH: 16 JULAI 2024

PBT tanam lebih sejuta pokok

SHAH ALAM - Sebanyak 1.12 juta pokok landskap ditanam di seluruh Selangor sepanjang tahun lalu melalui pelbagai usaha yang dijayakan semua pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) negeri.

EXCO Alam Sekitar Jamaliah Jamaluddin berkata Majlis Bandaraya Diraja Klang merekod penanaman tertinggi meliputi 500,000 pokok diikuti Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (305,645 pokok).

"Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor pula mencatat 178,175 tanaman pokok, diikuti Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Langat (152,281 pokok) dan Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (117,041 pokok).

"Semua perbelanjaan bagi inisiatif tanaman pokok landskap melibatkan semua PBT ini membabitkan kos RM26.6 juta," katanya di Dewan Negeri Selangor pada 4 Julai.

Covid-19: Tiada lagi kuarantin rumah

SHAH ALAM - Individu positif Covid-19 tidak lagi dikenakan kuarantin di rumah dan tidak perlu melapor status ujian sendiri dalam aplikasi MySejahtera berkuat kuasa 15 Julai.

Menurut Kementerian Kesihatan, mereka akan dirawat sama seperti jangkitan saluran pernafasan lain tetapi digalakkan memakai pelitup muka, kekal di rumah dan mengelak tempat sesak.

Kenyataan berkenaan juga mengingatkan individu yang positif berupaya menyebarkan jangkitan dan disaran mengambil langkah kawalan dan pencegahan jika perlu keluar rumah, lapor Bernama.

Mereka perlu mendapatkan pemeriksaan lanjut jika gejala berterusan atau bertambah teruk dan diberi cuti sakit dan dirujuk ke hospital jika perlu berdasarkan penilaian pegawai kesihatan.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE

TARIKH: 16 JULAI 2024

'Forest farmers' in despair

Land clearing driving tapirs into dangerous conflict with humans

By FARID WAHAB
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A FURTHER decline in population of the Malayan tapir could pose a serious threat to the country's natural ecosystem.

This warning from wildlife activists and conservationists was made after news surfaced that the species is rapidly vanishing in Peninsular Malaysia.

As of 2020, the animals, known by the scientific name *Tapirus indicus*, have dwindled to as few as 700 to 800 as reported by *StarMetro* on June 17.

This is roughly half the estimate of between 1,100 and 1,500 tapirs documented by the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) in 2013.

Interest groups cite increased development projects in recent decades for causing disruptions within forests, as among reasons for the worrying trend.

They are urging the authorities to address the issue swiftly, in view of the tapir's crucial role in sustaining Malaysia's biodiversity.

Divided jungle

Tapirs largely exist in the peninsula's Central Forest Spine, inhabiting primary and secondary tropical rainforests.

As of 2022, the peninsula recorded 5.72 million hectares of forest, according to data on the Forestry Department's website.

This figure has remained unchanged since 2011, with Pahang having the largest forest coverage at over two million hectares.

This was followed by Perak, Kelantan, Terengganu, Johor, Kedah, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Perlis.

Penang, Melaka and Kuala Lumpur recorded less than 10,000ha of forested area (see graphic: Forest cover by states in Peninsular Malaysia).

However, activists say massive land clearing to facilitate highway construction and housing developments have fragmented forests.

Ecotourism and Conservation Society Malaysia president



Signboard on the Central Spine Road in Raub, Pahang, notifying motorists to keep watch for tapirs that may be crossing the road. — FARID WAHAB/The Star

Andrew Sebastian said several highway projects had created pockets of isolated forests.

"This usually occurs at lowland forests where demand for connectivity is high, though some highways do cut across the highlands too.

"The East-West Highway and the Central Spine Road are among highways that pass through both the lowlands and highlands," he said.

The East-West Highway is a 130km road linking Jeli in Kelantan with Gerik in Perak, and stretches over the Bintang Range and Titiwangsa Range.

The Central Spine Road is a 340km thoroughfare along the Titiwangsa Range connecting Kuala Krai (Kelantan) with Kuala Pilah (Negri Sembilan).

Land clearing to make way for farming and mining activi-

ties has also contributed to fragmentation, further jeopardising the survival prospect of tapirs.

Andrew said animals in fragmented forests were at higher risk of genetic defects and lowered resistance to diseases.

"Such forests offer less space to roam, reducing mating options and increasing the potential for inbreeding.

"Over time, this will lead to reduced genetic diversity, which may cause the species to become more prone to diseases," he added.

Although yet to be observed among tapirs, Andrew said several species were already showing effects of this phenomenon.

He said albino snakes and deer had been discovered in Malaysian forests, where the mutation might indicate a compromised gene pool.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia honorary secretary Mageswari Sangaralingam said fragmentation had reduced food supply in the jungle.

"As a result, more tapirs venture out of forests to forage for food, causing more conflicts with humans," she said.

"Some animals get lost and find themselves in the middle of roads, contributing to increased roadkills in recent years."

The June 17 report also touched on roadkill incidents on a steady rise, from nine cases in 2018 to 23 in 2021.

There was also a corresponding rise in conflicts with humans recorded in that period, from 29 cases to 67.

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) conservation division head Donovan Louis said fragmentation contributed to poor



Central Forest Spine, which comprises several forest complexes running along the peninsula's backbone, is a known habitat for Malayan tapirs. — Courtesy photo



Community rangers comprise Orang Asli, army and police veterans tasked with keeping watch on illegal activities in Malaysian forests. — Photo courtesy of MNS

Tarikh:



Increasing numbers of tapirs are involved in fatal road crashes each year. (Right) A tapir wandering out of the jungle and into Felcra Sungai Ara in Kota Tinggi, Johor, in 2020. — Filepics

Getting tapirs ready for the wild

Sanctuary for the mammal in Hulu Selangor has released 14 back to nature since 2004

By FADIA WISMA
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NESTLED within the lush greenery of the Sungai Selangor Wildlife Conservation Centre, a small, rustic building serves as a temporary home for a group of young tapirs.

Here, a group of young tapirs, known as "tapir babies," are being raised and prepared for release into the wild. The tapirs are kept in a fenced area, where they are fed and monitored by staff.



Dr. Henry (left) and Dr. Mardiana (right) are the two main caretakers of the tapir babies at the sanctuary.



Mardiana (left) and Henry (right) are the two main caretakers of the tapir babies at the sanctuary.



A tapir in a cage at the sanctuary.



A tapir in a cage at the sanctuary.



A tapir in a cage at the sanctuary.



A tapir in a cage at the sanctuary.

StarMetro report on June 17.

ecology and higher risks of soil erosion.

"This may disrupt the food chain," he said, adding that this would alter the balance in the ecosystem.

Vital function

Due to their nature to disperse seed, Malayan tapirs are also known as "forest farmers" among the scientific community.

These animals are frugivores, according to Louis, as they preferred to eat a wide variety of fruits, as well as plants.

"They are known to travel great distances and in the process excrete seeds of the fruits and plants they consume via their droppings.

"The droppings act as natural fertiliser, which are vital for plants in the forests, making tapirs an important part of the nutrient cycle.

"The reduction in tapir numbers may cause forests to gradually degrade, potentially leading to the collapse of the biome (an area classified according to the species that live in that location)," he said (see graphic: How tapirs contribute to nutrient cycle).

Tapirs may travel between 10 and 25sq km in a day and females usually cover a wider area compared to males.

They create small trails in the jungle, which according to Louis, allows sunlight to filter through to smaller plants on the forest floor.

For this reason, Louis said, tapirs should be deemed a high conservation value (HCV) species, as they helped sustain biodiversity.

HCV is a concept in forestry studies that denotes species of critical importance due to their environmental, socioeconomic or cultural values.

Ongoing efforts

Several measures have been taken to safeguard tapirs and their habitat, among other wildlife, in Malaysia.

One of them is the Improving Connectivity in Central Forest



Mageswari says forest fragmentation has reduced food sources in the jungle.

Spine (IC-CFS) programme launched in 2014 by the then Energy and Natural Resources Ministry.

It aims to reduce fragmentation by creating 37 ecological corridors linking four major forest complexes spanning eight states in the peninsula.

The four forest complexes are Bintang-Nakawan, Greater Taman Negara, South East Pahang-Chini-Bera and Endau Rompin-Ulu Sedili.

On March 9 last year, Natural Resources and Environment Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said the Federal Government was working with the relevant states to implement the programme in phases.

"We need IC-CFS to reduce human-wildlife conflicts caused by forest fragmentation," he was quoted as saying in Dewan Rakyat.

Andrew said the IC-CFS initiative was a good start, but more must be done to deter poaching and forest encroachment.

"More funds should also be allocated to ensure the programme's success," he said, adding that continuous monitoring was crucial to ensure progress.

Louis, meanwhile, lauded Perhilitan's Community Ranger initiative introduced in 2023, which roped in the Orang Asli as well as army and police veterans for forest patrols.

They are tasked with keeping



Louis says poor ecology may disrupt the food chain, altering the forest ecosystem.

watch on encroachment, poaching and illegal logging in wildlife reserves, state parks, forest reserves and Ramsar sites.

During the tabling of Budget 2024, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim pledged to double the number of community rangers to 2,000 this year.

Some RM60mil was also allocated for recruitment, in addition to RM10mil to compensate those who suffer damage caused by wildlife.

In Hulu Selangor, the Sungai Dusun Wildlife Conservation Centre conducts rehabilitation and breeding programmes for tapirs.

Currently housing eight of the mammals, it also carries out a programme where the animals are prepared for eventual release into the wilderness.

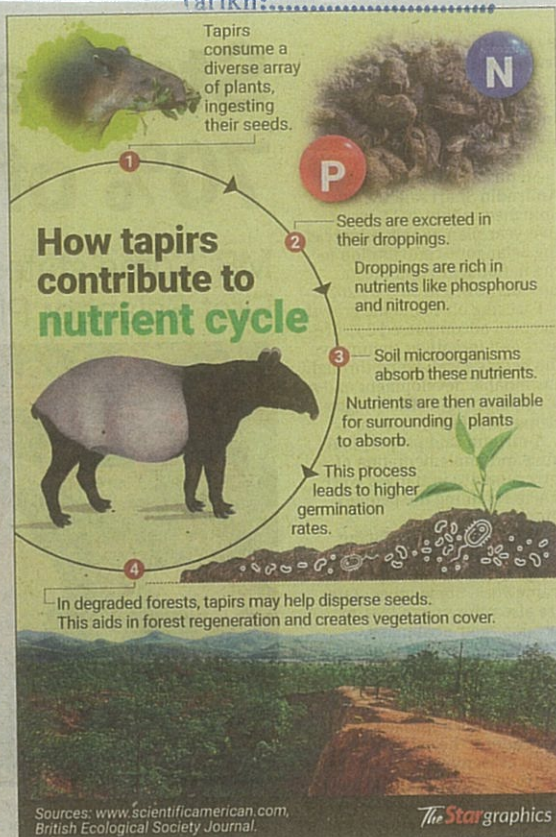
Step up protection

Despite efforts made thus far to preserve and conserve tapirs, activists insist there is still room for improvement.

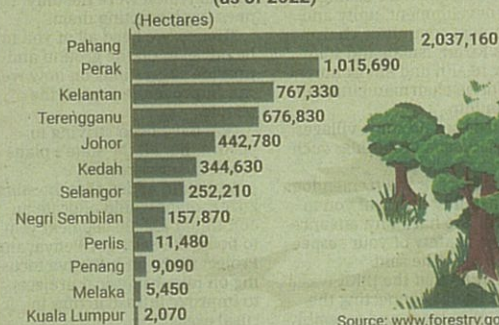
Andrew said local authorities could play a role by considering the impact on wildlife when drafting their local plans.

"Care must be taken to protect their natural habitat and ecosystem," he said, adding that focus must also be given on developing ecotourism.

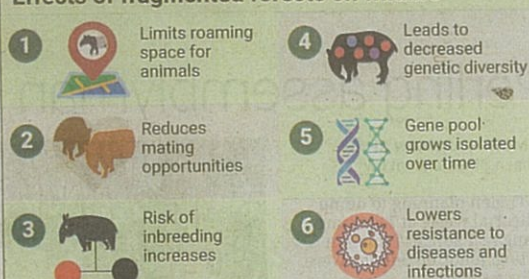
Mageswari urged the authorities to intensify cooperation with non-profit organisations



Forest cover by states in Peninsular Malaysia (as of 2022)



Effects of fragmented forests on wildlife



Sources: thinkwildlife foundation.com, treesforlife.org.uk; www.seesouthernforests.org

The Star graphics

and higher education institutions on conservation programmes.

"Some proposals look good on paper, but how effective are they in addressing the tapir decline?"

She added that this was an urgent issue as the species was listed under Appendix I, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) — referring to a status of "most endangered".

Louis echoed the sentiment, noting that the authorities should work with non-profit organisations on rescue operations for tapirs.

He also suggested the setting up of a hotline for the public to submit reports about poaching and wildlife trade.

He acknowledged that restoring the Malayan tapir numbers was an uphill task.

"It is difficult, but not impossible. If there is a will, there is a way," he said.



Bukit Jelutong residents planting trees along the walkway at Tasik Lagenda park in Shah Alam.

Community unites to plant trees in Bukit Jelutong park

TASIK Lagenda park in Bukit Jelutong in Shah Alam, Selangor now boasts an additional 100 trees thanks to a green initiative.

The tree planting was part of Sime Darby Property's community engagement initiative, where the trees were planted along a 150m walkway across the park.

The developer's spokesperson said the newly planted trees were expected to play a crucial role in creating shaded areas, increasing the park's greenery and serving as a natural buffer

that reduces visibility and noise.

The 100 trees include seven species, namely *Dipterocarpus kunstleri* (keruing gombang merah), *Elaeocarpus mastersii* (bead tree), *Irvingia malayana* (wild almond), *Lithocarpus curtisii* (Mempening), *Palaquium obovatum* (nyatoh putih), *Shorea multiflora* (damar hitam), and *Tabernaemontana corymbosa* (jelutong badak).

More than 100 Bukit Jelutong residents took part in the collaborative effort with Bukit Jelutong Residents Association (BJRA).

"The initiative demonstrates our commitment to fostering a harmonious co-existence between urban development and the natural environment," said the spokesperson.

"Integrating more greenery not only beautifies the area, it also improves utility for residents.

"Each tree planted is a step towards a greener future, and every hand that helped is a testament to the community's commitment to preserving nature's beauty and diversity."

THE STAR

Tarikh: 1.6.2024

By LEW GUAN XI
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SELANGOR government has implemented 69% of the initiatives outlined under its First Selangor Plan (RS-1).

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said the RS-1, launched in July 2022, was a five-year plan aimed at increasing Selangor's contribution to the national gross domestic product (GDP) to 30% by 2025.

Focusing on economic growth, the plan encompassed 262 projects and initiatives to improve the people's well-being through sustainable development and a transparent and efficient government delivery system.

Amirudin said proper planning and implementation of government's initiatives were key to retaining the people's support.

"Selangor is currently the only state in Malaysia with such a sophisticated development framework. Some other states are also referring to RS-1 to develop their own plans.

"The people want to see us working continuously for their welfare, not only pleasing them a few days before elections.

"That is the approach we must adopt," he said yesterday when presenting appointment letters to Selangor village development and security committee (JPKK) leaders.

The ceremony saw 373 community leaders sworn in as JPKK chairmen, including 23 women.

Also present were Selangor rural development, unity and consumers committee chairman Datuk Rizam Ismail and state public health and environment committee chairman Jamaliah Jamaluddin.

Amirudin said some villages even had urban buildings such as apartments.

"Therefore, it is a tremendous responsibility for all of you to push for the harmony, advancement and safety of your respective villages," he said.

He added that the JPKK was a crucial bridge connecting the state government and assemblymen to the grassroots.

State achieves close to 70% of five-year initiative

MB: Some states keen to emulate framework of First Selangor Plan for economic growth, well-being



Amirudin (centre, in purple) posing with Selangor's traditional village development and security committee leaders who received their appointment letters. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

"We have 46 welfare programmes in Selangor. They would not be effective if the assemblymen were the only ones implementing them.

"Hence, we need all of you to be our eyes on the ground and provide suggestions on how we can improve the lives of the people.

"We have been striving to ensure that all the state's plans reach the grassroots."

Amirudin added that the state government would allocate an additional RM400,000 next year to boost the Selangor Penyayang Project (PSP), an initiative focusing on minor physical projects to improve infrastructure in rural areas.

The JPKK leaders were also

urged to not get distracted by political interests while carrying out their duties.

"We have to make tough decisions all the time. As leaders, we must be able to see the bigger picture and do the right thing for the people," he said.

"We will actively go down to the ground to listen to the people's problems.

"We will also hold meetings like this twice a year so the state government can listen to the issues your villages face.

"Together, let's preserve our state, in line with the spirit of RS-1 to make Selangor a liveable, smart and advanced state," he added.

Amirudin also said that the Federal Government had been



Some 373 JPKK leaders swearing in during the appointment letters presentation ceremony.

trying its best to restore the country's economy.

"The government has been actively bringing in investments and creating various job oppor-

tunities for the people.

"The ringgit has also been performing well lately.

"Our fiscal deficit is also decreasing," he added.

THE STAR

16 JUL 2024

Tarikh:.....

School ahead, slow down

Speed limit at school zones to be lowered further, says DPM

By CHARLES RAMENDRAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: The speed limit at school zones will soon be lowered to 30kph from the current 40kph to lower the rate of accidents and create a safer environment for students, says Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The Deputy Prime Minister said on average, 67 people perished annually at school zones.

He added that additional speed breakers will be installed in collaborations between local councils and schools to ensure that the speed limit is observed by motorists.

He said that according to police statistics, 322 road accidents were reported at school zones nationwide last year.

He said international research had shown that for every one kilometre of speed reduction, the fatality rate declined by 4% to 5%, and a speed reduction of 5% could decrease fatal accidents by 30%.

"A working committee will have to be formed to decide on the timing and road stretches at school zones where the new speed limit will be implemented," Ahmad Zahid said after chairing a meeting with the Cabinet committee on road safety and traffic congestion here yesterday.

He said police records also showed that until May this year, 267,013 road crashes were report-



Data inspection: Ahmad Zahid (third from left) visiting the control room during the Cabinet committee meeting on road safety and traffic congestion at the Kuala Lumpur Command Control Centre. With him are Loke (left) and Zaliha. — Bernama

ed and 2,742 fatalities, with more than two-thirds of the victims comprising motorcyclists and pillion riders.

"I was also told by the police that road accidents had risen by 8.39% compared with the same period last year.

"The approach we need to take to curb accidents is not merely by creating awareness and education, but also by intensifying enforcement," Ahmad Zahid told a press conference.

Also present were Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Minister

in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh.

Separately, Ahmad Zahid said a pilot test conducted for a tidal flow lane stretching 3.8km from the Sungai Besi toll plaza to the KL Gateway to ease traffic congestion found there was no improvement in traffic flow.

The five-day test was carried out by the Malaysian Institute of

Road Safety Research (Miros).

Ahmad Zahid said Miros and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) had been instructed to find alternative ways to improve traffic at the stretch.

He also said it was proposed that DBKL work closely with other ministries and agencies, especially the police's Criminal Investigation Department, in utilising its 5,000 closed-circuit television cameras installed in the city for other purposes such as crime prevention.

Ahmad Zahid said there were also discussions on the dispersion of traffic in Johor Baru in preparation for the Johor Baru-Singapore Rapid Transit System, which will be ready in 2027.

Meanwhile, Loke said the government would continue encouraging the use of public transport by introducing schemes that benefit users.

"We also discussed how to improve walkability and bus services. There are many areas in Kuala Lumpur that do not have bus stands.

"We encourage local councils to collaborate with the private sector on this matter," he added.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



THE STAR

Tarikh: 16 JUL 2024

Regulate vapes, protect youth

Calls grow for vape laws after vending machines found dispensing such products

By KHOO GEK SAN
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PETALING JAYA: The recent discovery of a vending machine selling electronic cigarettes in Malaysia has sparked significant public worry about how easily youth can access vape products, which has in turn led to urgent calls for the Health Ministry to address the issue.

Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) education officer NV Subbarow (pic) said he has met with 1,000 pupils in Penang and Kedah secondary schools over the past month, and there was evidence that a considerable number of them are addicted to vape (products) and ecigarettes due to their easy availability.

"Many shops are located near schools and housing areas, making it convenient for teens and youth to purchase these products," he said. Subbarow added that during discussions in schools, many of the 300 children in a survey also admitted to buying vape products through online platforms.

He said pupils would save their lunch money to buy vape products since online sellers cannot verify the buyer's age.

"We're asking for a ban on all



online vape sales now; they should be stopped because they're killing the next generation," he said.

Subbarow said even without vending machines, kids as young as eight years old are purchasing vape and ecigarette products online without restrictions.

"Stalls on five-foot ways, mini-markets, and cash-and-carry shops are also selling these products, with nicotine-containing juices being sold to teens without any questions asked. Anyone selling nicotine-containing products through vending machines should be charged in court," he added.

Ikram Health Malaysia president Dr Mohd Afiq Mohd Nor

proposed several measures the Health Ministry could take to better control the sale and use of ecigarettes.

He recommended that all ecigarette retailers and shops be registered and required to obtain a licence, similar to current regulations for tobacco cigarette sales.

This would create accountability and ensure that only authorised vendors are permitted to sell these products.

He said there is a need for a robust system of regular inspections and monitoring of registered vape retailers to ensure compliance with regulations and prompt identification of any violations. To prevent unauthorised sales, he suggested implementing technology-based solutions such as the digital tracking of vape product sales.

"This would help detect and prevent illegal sales, including those through vending machines," he added.

Dr Mohd Afiq also recommended increasing public awareness campaigns to educate the public on the dangers of smoking and vaping and to highlight new regulations to foster compliance and discourage attempts to bypass the rules.

Additionally, he called for empowering local authorities, including state governments and the police, to enforce regulations, adding that they should have the authority to impose fines and penalties.

Regarding penalties for those who break the rules, he suggested imposing significant fines to reflect the seriousness of the offence and to act as a deterrent.

Dr Mohd Afiq also recommended that the government revoke the licences of repeat offenders to ensure stricter adherence to the regulations.

Malaysian Organisation of Vape Entity (MOVE) president Samsul Kamal Ariffin said that while his group opposes vending machines for vape products, the key issue is the government's removal of nicotine from the Poisons Act 1952, leaving it unregulated.

"I can sell this product to a minor, and it's not against the law. Vape operators are exploiting the lack of regulation. We want clear-cut laws stating that under-18s cannot vape. Even a five-year-old can vape right now. There are no laws controlling this issue," he added.

He suggested that the regulatory framework include manufac-

turing, retail, and consumer levels, each with clear guidelines.

"Currently, I can vape in an air-conditioned space without restriction. We welcome regulation. It's long overdue. If the government wants to implement regulations, the punishment should be severe for sellers, not users," he added.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad recently announced that regulations and orders to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes and vape products, including through vending machines, are expected soon, with the Attorney General's Chambers currently reviewing them.

The Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024 (Act 852), which will regulate these products, is still in the drafting phase. Until Act 852 is enforced, nicotine vapes can legally be sold to anyone, including minors under 18, due to a March 31, 2023, order by then-health minister Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

The order removed liquid nicotine from the Poisons Act.

On July 13, a shopping centre in Kuala Lumpur was ordered to stop selling ecigarettes via a vending machine following a Health Ministry complaint.

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16 JUL 2024

Tarikh:.....

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Kenaikan gaji penjawat awam diumum 16 Ogos

PUTRAJAYA - Pengumuman khas berkaitan dengan kenaikan gaji 1.5 juta penjawat awam akan dibuat kerajaan pada 16 Ogos depan.

Menerusi hantaran di laman X, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam memaklumkan, pengumuman khas itu diadakan menerusi Majlis Amanat Perdana Perkhidmatan Awam (MAPPA) yang berlangsung di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC).

"Mesti semua pegawai awam tengah sibuk dan teruja kira gaji baharu kan?" katanya.

Pada hantaran sama, jabatan itu turut menyeru agar penjawat awam meningkatkan prestasi dan kualiti kerja setimpal dengan kenaikan gaji baharu kelak.

"Sambil kita menghitung hari pengumuman khas berkaitan kenaikan gaji di Majlis MAPPA, jom la kita sama-sama meningkatkan prestasi

dan kualiti kerja dengan penuh dedikasi. Barulah selari dengan kenaikan gaji yang terima nanti," jelas JPA.

Pada Jun lalu, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, perincian kadar baharu kenaikan gaji bagi penjawat awam akan diumumkan sebelum pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 yang dijadual pada Oktober.

Ketika menyampaikan amanat sempena sambutan Hari Pekerja pada 1 Mei lalu, Anwar mengumumkan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam lebih 13 peratus bermula 1 Disember depan.

Kali terakhir kadar baharu kenaikan gaji penjawat awam diumumkan adalah sekitar 13 peratus pada 2013.

Pada 1 Mei lepas, beliau mengumumkan pelarasan gaji penjawat awam yang menyaksikan kenaikan melebihi 13 peratus dan merupakan yang tertinggi pernah dicatatkan dalam sejarah negara.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:1.6...JUL...2024..

Teknologi itu bantu pembangunan negara, namun ada pihak yang salah guna

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Waspada taktik penipuan guna teknologi AI - Fahmi

PUTRAJAYA

Masyarakat diminta berwaspada dengan taktik penipuan menggunakan penyebaran video dan imej palsu atau 'deepfake' yang dihasilkan menggunakan teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI), kata Menteri Komunikasi Fahmi Fadzil.

Berucap pada perhimpunan bulanan Kementerian Komunikasi di sini pada Isnin, beliau berkata penggunaan AI sememangnya membantu pembangunan negara, namun ada pihak yang menyalahgunakan teknologi berkenaan.

"Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza dalam *posting* di Instagram beberapa hari lepas terima panggilan, dan tunjukkan (satu) panggilan WhatsApp video seolah-olah dia yang bercakap, rupa-rupanya *deepfake* yang dibuat secara *live*."

"AI boleh diguna untuk kebaikan dan kejahatan. Kita perlu waspada maklumat diterima dan

pastikan sebarang video diterima adalah benar (tulen) atau dihasilkan melalui aplikasi AI," katanya.

Sehubungan itu beliau meminta Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia (Bernama) dan Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) menguar-uarkan mengenai bahaya taktik penipuan menggunakan *deepfake* AI ketika ini.

Pada Ahad penyanyi nombor satu negara itu dilaporkan mendedahkan taktik terkini digunakan *scammer* yang dipercayai menggunakan teknologi AI bagi meniru suara dan wajahnya demi mengaut keuntungan.

Sementara itu Fahmi berkata beliau akan bertemu dengan semua pengendali media sosial di Singapura pada bulan ini bagi membincangkan beberapa perkara termasuk mengenai bahaya AI di platform mereka.

"Saya harap (*deepfake* AI) dapat ditangani oleh pihak Meta kerana WhatsApp adalah di bawah tanggungjawab Meta," katanya.



Fahmi (dua dari kanan) hadir pada Majlis Perhimpunan Bulanan Kementerian Komunikasi di Kompleks Kementerian Komunikasi pada Isnin.

Beliau turut menyarankan semua kementerian memanfaatkan penggunaan AI dalam tugas dan meminta Institut Penyiaran dan Penerangan Tun Abdul Razak (IPPTAR) menyelaras kursus teknologi berkenaan.

"AI mampu bantu bukan hanya untuk hasilkan *content* tetapi beberapa aspek lain seperti tugas dalam aspek *coding*, *programming*, teliti data, dan ada beberapa perkara lain boleh dimanfaatkan AI," katanya.

Turut hadir Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Komunikasi, Datuk Mohamad Fauzi Md Isa; Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Bernama, Nur-ul Afida Kamaludin dan Ketua Pengarang Bernama, Arul Rajoo Durar Raj. - Bernama



SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:1.6 JUL 2024....

84
147

Kerajaan sedia kaji jumlah bantuan tunai

Jika berlaku peningkatan
harga diesel pada masa
akan datang

Oleh **DIANA AZIS**
KUALA LUMPUR

Kerajaan akan mengkaji jumlah bantuan tunai subsidi diesel Budi Madani sekiranya berlaku peningkatan harga bahan bakar tersebut pada masa akan datang.

Timbalan Menteri Kewangan, Lim Hui Ying berkata, buat masa ini ketetapan jumlah bantuan tunai sebanyak RM200 sudah mencukupi bagi menampung kos diesel tambahan bulanan berdasarkan kajian Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM).

"Kerajaan akan mengkaji dari masa ke masa jumlah pemberian subsidi.

Berkenaan ketetapan jumlah bantuan sebanyak RM200 sebulan, ia adalah hasil kajian mendalam dan perundingan pelbagai pihak berkepentingan termasuk pemilik kenderaan, pakar ekonomi dan industri.

"Berdasarkan data Laporan Survei Pendapatan dan Perbelanjaan Isi Rumah 2022 dikeluarkan oleh DOSM berkaitan perbelanjaan bulanan diesel, dianggarkan RM200 adalah jumlah mencukupi untuk menampung kos bulanan tambahan bagi 80 peratus isi rumah di Semenanjung Malaysia.

"Kerajaan akan sentiasa memantau situasi semasa, termasuk pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel. Sekiranya perlu penambahbaikan, ia akan dibuat bagi memastikan golongan benar-benar layak terus mendapat perhatian kerajaan dalam mendepani cabaran kos sara



HUI YING

hidup," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Suhaimi Nasir (**BN - Libaran**) mengenai ketetapan jumlah bantuan tunai Budi Madani sekiranya harga diesel meningkat pada masa akan datang.

Sementara itu menjawab soalan tambahan Nurul Amin Hamid (**PN-Padang Terap**)

mengenai kos sebenar pembangunan Budi Madani, Hui Ying menjelaskan, sistem tersebut tidak melibatkan sebarang peruntukan tambahan daripada kerajaan.

"Budi Madani adalah (pembangunan) dari dalaman, jadi tiada kos yang terlibat kerana dibangunkan oleh kakitangan kerajaan.

"Sistem ini oleh LHDN (Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri), kita ada pakar jadi tidak libat sebarang kos," jelasnya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: **16 JUL 2024**

Ekonomi Malaysia dijangka berkembang 4.7% – AMRO

PETALING JAYA – Ekonomi Malaysia dijangka menyaksikan pertumbuhan lebih baik pada kadar 4.7 peratus tahun ini, berbanding 3.6 peratus pada 2023 disokong permintaan dalam negeri yang berdaya tahan dan pemulihan dalam permintaan luaran, menurut Pejabat Penyelidikan Makroekonomi ASEAN+3 (AMRO).

Ia berdasarkan penilaian awal yang dibuat semasa Lawatan Perundingan Tahunan ke Malaysia dari 25 Jun hingga 5 Julai lalu oleh

pasukan AMRO yang diketuai Pakar Ekonomi Utamanya, Runchana Pongsaparn.

Pongsaparn berkata, keadaan pasaran buruh yang menggalakkan dan pemulihan pelancongan berterusan akan menyokong penggunaan, manakala realisasi pelaburan yang diluluskan dengan rekod tertinggi dan pelaksanaan pelan induk negara akan meningkatkan pelaburan.

"Inflasi dijangka menyederhana kepada 2.3 peratus tahun ini,

meskipun berdepan risiko daripada rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Berhubung cadangan polisi, AMRO memuji komitmen Bank Negara Malaysia terhadap kadar pertukaran yang fleksibel dan usahanya untuk mengekalkan fungsi pasaran yang teratur melalui langkah mesra pasaran, di samping komunikasi yang jelas serta konsisten.

Jelasnya, langkah yang diam-

bil termasuk membuat penyelarasan dengan syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC) dan syarikat pelaburan berkaitan kerajaan (GLIC), serta merintis rangka kerja pra-kelulusan pantas bagi pelaburan semula untuk korporat, yang menggalakkan penghantaran pulang dan penukaran pendapatan asing.

Selain itu, AMRO turut mengalu-alukan usaha berterusan pihak berkuasa ke arah penyatuan fiskal.

"Walaupun rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 akan menghasilkan penjimatan fiskal yang besar, pelaksanaan berperingkat dengan komunikasi berkesan disyorkan untuk mengelakkan kejutan inflasi yang besar dan membolehkan penilaian kesan dasar.

"Pembaharuan cukai utama, seperti pengenalan semula Cukai Barang dan Perkhidmatan (GST), adalah penting untuk mencapai kemampuan fiskal dalam jangka sederhana dan panjang," ujarnya.



PASARAN buruh yang menggalakkan dijangka terus menyokong pertumbuhan ekonomi Malaysia tahun ini. – GAMBAR HIASAN

KOSMO

Tarikh: 16 JUL 2024

Kerajaan sedia nilai semula jumlah subsidi jika harga bahan api naik

Bantuan diesel RM200 cukup



HUI YING ketika bercakap pada sidang Dewan Rakyat di Kuala Lumpur semalam.

DEWAN RAKYAT

Oleh ZULKIFLI MANZOR

KUALA LUMPUR – Jumlah bantuan tunai subsidi diesel sebanyak RM200 sebulan yang diberikan kepada pengguna kenderaan diesel yang layak melalui Budi Madani mencukupi untuk menampung kos diesel bulanan bagi 80 peratus isi rumah di Semenanjung Malaysia.

Timbalan Menteri Kewangan, Lim Hui Ying berkata, kerajaan bagaimanapun akan menilai semula jumlah bantuan itu jika harga diesel mencatatkan peningkatan pada masa hadapan.

"Kerajaan akan mengkaji jumlah pemberian subsidi ini dari semasa ke semasa. Ketetapan jumlah bantuan RM200 sebulan adalah hasil kajian mendalam dan

rundingan dengan pelbagai pihak. "Berdasarkan data Laporan Survei Pendapatan dan Perbelanjaan Isi Rumah 2022, dianggarkan RM200 mencukupi untuk menampung kos diesel bulanan tambahan bagi 80 peratus isi rumah.

"Penambahbaikan akan dibuat dari semasa ke semasa jika perlu bagi memastikan golongan benar-benar layak terus mendapat perhatian kerajaan," katanya pada sidang Dewan Rakyat di sini semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Suhaimi Nasir (**BN-Libaran**) mengenai ketetapan jumlah bantuan tunai Budi Madani sekiranya harga diesel meningkat pada masa hadapan.

Terdahulu Hui Ying berkata, kos pembangunan Budi Madani tidak membabitkan sebarang peruntukan tambahan kerana ia menggunakan kepakaran dalam dalam kalangan pegawai kerajaan tanpa melibatkan khidmat perunding luar.

"Oleh itu, isu tender terbuka atau tidak, tidak wujud memandangkan menggunakan infrastruktur sedia ada," ujarnya.

KOSMO

16 JUL 2024

Tarikh:



FADILLAH ditemui pemberita selepas Seminar Mikroplastik Kebangsaan Pertama 2024 Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC) semalam. - FAIZ ALIF ZUBIR

Kerajaan serius jamin kualiti air terbaik diterima rakyat

Kaji pencemaran mikroplastik di sungai

Oleh KAMARIAH KHALIDI

PUTRAJAYA – Kerajaan melalui Institut Penyelidikan Air Kebangsaan Malaysia (NAHRIM) menjalankan penyelidikan berkaitan impak kehadiran bahan cemar baharu melibatkan bahan pengganggu endokrin (EDCs), kerintangan antimikrob (AMR) serta mikroplastik terhadap kualiti air.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof berkata, penyelidikan itu dijalankan di empat lembangan sungai di negara ini menerusi Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK12).

Seminar yang diadakan oleh NAHRIM membabitkan penglibatan pemain industri, kementerian dan agensi untuk kita melihat dan berkongsi pengalaman daripada pakar-pakar dan di harap kita dapat mengetahui kedudukan Malaysia dengan pe-

nyelidikan yang sedang dibuat di empat lembangan sungai.

"Ia untuk kita lihat apakah dasar pada masa depan yang boleh dikemukakan untuk menangani cabaran-cabaran baharu dalam konteks (pencemaran) mikroplastik," katanya selepas merasmikan Seminar Mikroplastik Kebangsaan Pertama 2024 di sini semalam.

Seramai 120 peserta dari pelbagai kementerian, jabatan persekutuan dan negeri, institusi pengajian tinggi serta industri tempatan dan antarabangsa dari Korea, Jepun, India dan Singapura menyertai seminar anjuran NAHRIM dengan kerjasama Frontier Laboratory Ltd. dan Persatuan Penyelidikan Air Malaysia.

Menurut Fadillah, penglibatan pelbagai sektor di dalam seminar itu merupakan kunci dalam

menangani isu pencemaran air secara holistik dan berkesan, memastikan perlindungan sumber daya air yang penting untuk kehidupan manusia dan alam sekitar secara keseluruhan.

Beliau yang juga Menteri Peralihan Tenaga dan Transformasi Air berkata, pengumpulan data-data asas adalah amat penting bagi membolehkan kerajaan menetapkan dasar dan polisi baharu dengan lebih berkesan dan bersifat pencegahan.

"Hasil daripada penyelidikan ini nanti di harap dapat digunakan oleh semua pemegang taruh yang berkaitan untuk memperingkatkan kualiti air di Malaysia.

"Ini bermaksud, proses rawatan air minuman mungkin perlu diberi perhatian atau pendekatan baharu bagi menjamin kualiti air yang terbaik diterima oleh rakyat," ujarnya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 16 JUL 2024

Perkasa tindakan penguatkuasaan untuk perangi buli siber

Seiring dengan kepesatan kemajuan teknologi digital hari ini, penggunaan pelbagai platform media sosial menerusi peranti terutama telefon pintar juga turut berkembang secara drastik.

Media sosial hari ini menjadi pilihan nombor satu pengguna sama ada mahu mendapatkan maklumat, membaca berita, mengetahui gosip, menyibuk kisah dalam kain artis, mempengaruhi sosial, tokoh dikenali, orang kenamaan, menteri, raja dan kerabat mereka.

Penggunaan media sosial tanpa batasan dan kawalan sendiri ini akhirnya mendorong jiwa dan naluri pengguna menjadi lancang, lantang, celupar dan biadap apabila meninggalkan komen pada setiap topik atau isu berbangkit di media sosial.

Sehingga pada akhirnya, pengguna media sosial semakin jauh dengan larangan agama, batasan adab, nilai murni budaya, empati dan tatasusila apabila menulis komen lalu membawa kepada kata-kata nista, mencerca, mengugut serta kini membuli.

Walaupun tidak mempunyai istilah khusus apa yang dimaksudkan dengan buli siber, hari ini dapat difahami ia adalah perbuatan menggunakan teknologi digital untuk mengganggu, mengugut, memalukan atau menyakiti jiwa individu lain.

Ia termasuk mesej atau komen kasar di media sosial, emel mengancam, penyebaran khabar angin dalam talian atau mendedahkan maklumat peribadi seseorang, sama ada dikenali atau tidak tanpa izin.

Impak buli siber ini semakin menunjukkan bibit-bibit bahaya apabila ada mangsa buli mengalami tekanan, kemurungan dan gangguan mental sehingga akhirnya mengambil keputusan nekad seperti membunuh diri seperti kes kematian mempengaruhi TikTok, A Rajeswari atau lebih dikenali sebagai Esha, baru-baru ini.

Tidak dapat dinafikan buli siber seolah-olah semakin menjadi normalisasi dalam kehidupan masyarakat pengguna media sosial, tetapi apakah yang boleh dilakukan mangsa untuk menamatkan gejala semakin membarah di alam maya ini.

Setakat ini, Malaysia mempunyai Seksyen 233 Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia 1998 dan Seksyen 507 Kanun Keseksaan, namun kelihatannya undang-undang ini tidak cukup ampuh untuk menangani isu buli siber.

Sedangkan berdasarkan statistik terkini Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (MCMC), sebanyak 51,638 kes kandungan berbahaya dikesan tersebar di media sosial dalam tempoh tiga bulan pertama tahun ini.

Atas faktor ini, Menteri Digital, Gobind Singh Deo mencadangkan undang-undang baharu dipertimbang bagi meletakkan tanggungjawab kepada pemilik platform media sosial atas penyalahgunaannya, termasuk jika terbabit kes buli siber.

Hakikatnya, belum terlambat untuk kerajaan merencana dan berhasrat mewujudkan undang-undang antibuli siber atau bersesuaian dengannya. Apa yang penting, aspek penguatkuasaan perlu diperkasakan untuk perangi buli siber.

Penguat kuasa perlu tangkas bertindak dan memastikan pelaku buli siber tidak menggunakan alasan 'akaun media sosialnya digodam' bagi mengelakkan diri daripada penakwaan, seperti pernah berlaku sebelum ini.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh..... 16 JUL 2024

20,000 CCTV diperlukan pantau aliran trafik di KL

DBKL diberi tanggungjawab cari peruntukan, pasang dan buat pemantauan

Oleh Nor Azizah Mokhtar
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Sekurang-kurangnya 20,000 kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) perlu dipasang bagi memantau keselamatan dan aliran trafik di sekitar ibu kota ini.

Perkara itu diputuskan dalam Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kabinet Mengenai Keselamatan Dan Kesesakan Jalan Raya (JKMKKJR) yang dipengerusikan Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi di sini, semalam.

Ahmad Zahid berkata, ketika ini ada 5,000 CCTV dipasang di sekitar ibu kota bagi tujuan pemantauan trafik dan keselamatan, namun jumlah itu perlu ditambah menjelang Rancangan Malaysia Ke-13 (RMK13).

Beliau berkata, JKMKKJR juga berpendapat pemasangan 20,000 CCTV itu mesti dilaksanakan dan disertai semua agensi dan kementerian berkaitan.



Ahmad Zahid dan Anthony Loke melawat bilik kawalan ketika hadir mempengerusikan mesyuarat JKMKKJR, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

"Kami berpendapat pemasangan CCTV ini tidak dilakukan secara silo atau satu agensi. Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) diberi tanggungjawab mencari peruntukan, memasang dan melakukan pemantauan tetapi JKMKKJR mencadangkan kementerian, jabatan dan agensi lain turut dilibatkan, terutama bahagian siasatan jenayah dalam PDRM.

"Pada hemat kami, DBKL de-

ngan kerjasama jabatan dan agensi memerlukan sekurang-kurangnya 20,000 CCTV, ertinya dalam tempoh sekarang hingga RMK13, usaha ini mesti dilakukan," katanya pada sidang media selepas mesyuarat JKMKKJR di sini, semalam.

Mesyuarat yang diadakan di Pusat Info Trafik dan Kawalan Lampu Isyarat (KLCCC) DBKL itu turut disertai Menteri Pengangkutan, Anthony Loke serta

wakil agensi berkaitan termasuk DBKL serta Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM).

Contoh bandar pintar

Ahmad Zahid yang juga Menteri Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah, berkata 5,000 CCTV yang sedia ada ketika ini, berperanan membantu pemantauan lalu lintas sekitar pusat bandar raya, bencana banjir dan tumpahan konkrit.

Kamera itu turut digunakan untuk pemantauan jenayah serta kawalan berkonsepkan bandar selamat oleh PDRM.

"Kita belajar daripada bandar pintar dan bandar selamat di negara lain, dengan adanya CCTV pengesanan wajah berdefinisi tinggi, kadar jenayah dapat diturunkan.

"Kadar kemalangan jalan raya dapat juga dikurangkan, juga pemantauan lain-lain aktiviti dapat dijalankan tanpa mengisik hak peribadi seseorang," katanya.

Katanya, perkara itu dicadangkan sebagai antara langkah kepolisian moden yang perlu dilakukan bagi mengurangkan keberadaan pegawai dan anggota beruniform di lapangan.

Dalam mesyuarat yang sama, Ahmad Zahid berkata, jawatankuasa itu menyaran supaya had laju maksimum di kawasan sekolah perlu dikurangkan kepada 30 kilometer sejam (km/j) berbanding kadar 40km/j sebelum ini.

BERITA-HARIAN
Tarikh... 16 JUL 2024

NAHRIM kaji impak kehadiran bahan cemar terhadap kualiti air

Putrajaya: Institut Penyelidikan Air Kebangsaan Malaysia (NAHRIM) sedang giat menjalankan penyelidikan berkaitan impak kehadiran bahan cemar baharu terhadap kualiti air di beberapa lembangan sungai di Malaysia di bawah Rancangan Malaysia ke-12.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, berkata bahan cemar berkenaan termasuk pengganggu endokrin (EDCs), kerintangan antimikrob (AMR) dan juga mikroplastik.

Beliau yang juga Menteri Per-alihan Tenaga dan Transformasi Air berkata, bahan cemar baharu yang menjadi tumpuan di peringkat antarabangsa adalah pencemaran berkaitan mikroplastik dalam sumber air di Malaysia.

"Mikroplastik mengikut takrifan Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) adalah serpihan plastik bersaiz kurang daripada 5 mm dan ia memasuki sistem sungai melalui beberapa cara, terutamanya dari larian air permukaan, efluen air sisa (terawat dan tidak dirawat), efluen perindustrian dan sisa plastik terurai," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam

ucapannya sempena Seminar Mikroplastik Kebangsaan Pertama anjuran NAHRIM bersama Frontier Laboratory Ltd Japan dan Persatuan Penyelidikan Air Malaysia, di sini semalam.

Memetik daripada Laporan World Economic Forum 2023, Fadillah berkata, seseorang terdedah kepada pengambilan plastik secara tidak sengaja melalui bawaan air sebanyak lima gram seminggu.

"Kerajaan komited untuk meningkatkan kualiti air sungai dengan kerjasama kerajaan negeri dan sektor berkepentingan lain melalui langkah-langkah strategik. Namun, usaha-usaha kerajaan ini tidak akan berhasil sekiranya kesedaran pada peringkat komuniti tentang kepentingan memelihara sumber air masih rendah," katanya.

Sementara itu, pada sidang media, Fadillah berkata, walaupun penggunaan plastik tidak dapat dielakkan, penggunaannya perlu diimbangi agar ancaman kepada alam sekitar dapat dikurangkan.

"Jadi hasil daripada program ini, kita akan dapat mengetahui kedudukan di Malaysia melalui



Fadillah melawat tapak pameran selepas merasmikan Seminar Mikroplastik Kebangsaan Pertama 2024 di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC), semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

hasil penyelidikan yang sedang dibuat di empat sungai, apakah dasar yang dapat di bangunkan pada masa depan.

"Kita boleh kemukakan kepada kerajaan untuk kita tangani cabaran-cabaran baharu dalam konteks pencemaran, khususnya mikroplastik," katanya sambil menambah standard kualiti air minum adalah di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) dan ia akan dilihat sekiranya standard air perlu ditambah baik dan apakah skopnya.

Ketua Pengarah NAHRIM, Mohd Zaki Mat Amin, yang turut hadir pada majlis berkenaan berkata kerja penyelidikan berkaitan pencemaran mikroplastik meliputi kerja persampelan, pengumpulan data lapangan dan

analisis makmal.

"Lembangan sungai terpilih dalam penyelidikan ini ialah Lembangan Sungai Langat, Lembangan Sungai Kelantan, Lembangan Sungai Klang dan Lembangan Sungai Sarawak.

"Hasil penyelidikan mendapati purata kelimpahan mikroplastik di empat lembangan sungai tersebut adalah di antara 179.6 partikel per liter sehingga 4541.4 partikel per liter.

"Purata kelimpahan mikroplastik di setiap lembangan sungai ini dipengaruhi oleh aktiviti antropogenik seperti aktiviti industri dan domestik, selain pengurusan sisa pepejal tidak terurus yang menyumbang kepada kemerosotan kualiti air sungai," katanya.

BERNAMA

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 16 JUL 2024

20,000 CCTV pantau trafik, keselamatan ibu negara ^(DBKL) ^{um} ^{1/2}

KUALA LUMPUR: Sekurang-kurangnya 20,000 kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) diperlukan bagi memantau keselamatan dan aliran trafik ibu kota.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata, ketika ini terdapat hanya 5,000 CCTV di sekitar ibu kota bagi tujuan pemantauan trafik dan keselamatan.

Oleh kerana itu, menurut beliau, penambahan jumlah CCTV perlu dilakukan dengan kerjasama daripada pelbagai pihak bermula sekarang hingga ke Rancangan Malaysia Ke-13 (RMK13).

"Pada masa ini, DBKL diberikan tanggungjawab untuk mencari peruntukan, memasang, memantau dan melakukan pemantauan.

"Jawatankuasa Kabinet Mengenai Keselamatan Dan Kesesakan Jalan Raya (JKMKJR) mencadangkan agar kementerian, jabatan dan agensi lain dilibatkan terutamanya Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) iaitu Bahagian Siasatan Jenayah sama ada komersial ataupun jenayah biasa," katanya dalam sidang akhbar



AHMAD Zahid Hamidi (dua dari kiri) diberi penerangan tentang operasi Pusat InfoTrafik dan Kawalan Lampu Isyarat DBKL, di Bukit Jalil, semalam. - UTUSAN/MUHAMAD IQBAL ROSLI

di Pusat Info Trafik dan Kawalan Lampu Isyarat (KLCCC) Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) di sini, semalam.

Yang hadir sma, Menteri Pengangkutan, Anthony Loke Siew Fook; Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr. Zaliha Mustafa dan Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

Mengulas lanjut, Ahmad Zahid berkata, selain daripada pemantauan trafik di ibu kota, 5,000 CCTV itu turut digunakan untuk memantau bencana banjir dan tumpahan konkrit.

Jelasnya, sebahagian dari kamera tersebut juga digunakan untuk memantau jenayah serta kawalan berkonsepkan bandar selamat.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: **16 JUL 2024**

Selangor selesai lantik 373 ketua kampung

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SHAH ALAM: Polemik pelantikan 373 ketua kampung di negeri ini berakhir apabila penyerahan watak lantikan Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JPKK) disempurnakan, semalam.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari berkata, pemilihan ketua kampung dibuat Exco Kemajuan Desa, Perpaduan dan Pengguna, Datuk Rizam Ismail dengan perbincangan bersama pimpinan parti dalam Kerajaan Perpaduan peringkat negeri.

"Kita hormati Barisan Nasional (BN) yang tidak melantik wakil untuk menjadi Pengerusi JPKK. Namun, saya memberi kelonggaran kepada dua Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) daripada BN Selangor untuk memilih minimum 10 wakil Pengerusi JPKK.

"Alhamdulillah, kita berjaya menyelesaikan hal (pelantikan ketua kampung) dengan baik," katanya pada Majlis Pelantikan dan Penyerahan Watak Pengerusi JPKK Kampung Tradisi Selangor.

Sebelum ini, pelantikan JPKK negeri ini menimbulkan polemik apabila UMNO Selangor mengembalikan semula 75 jawatan ketua kampung yang



AMIRUDIN Shari (dua dari kiri) menyerahkan watak kepada Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JPKK) yang dilantik bagi penggal 2024-2025 di Shah Alam, Selangor, semalam.
- UTUSAN/SYAKIR RADIN

ditawarkan kepada parti itu.

Sebanyak 75 jawatan ketua kampung itu di dalam kawasan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Sungai Air Tawar dan Dusun Tua, yang dimenangi parti itu pada Pilihan Raya Negeri (PRN) tahun lalu.

Dalam pada itu, Amirudin mengingatkan ketua kampung

yang dilantik supaya melakukan tugas sebaik mungkin supaya penduduk di kawasan mereka dapat hidup selesa.

"Saya mengingatkan supaya mereka memahami hal-hal pentadbiran (pengurusan kampung) dan sentiasa bekerjasama dengan jabatan serta agensi di bawah Kerajaan Pusat

dan negeri.

"Kejayaan mereka menguruskan kampung akan memberikan impak yang baik dan positif kepada imej kerajaan negeri, sekali gus menjadi satu kayu ukur bagi rakyat membuat pemilihan parti politik mana yang mereka akan undi pada pilihan raya akan datang," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
16 JUL 2024
Tarikh:

Belanjawan 2025 fokus beri banyak manfaat buat rakyat

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH
RAHIM dan AQILAH MIOR
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PUTRAJAYA: Intipati Belanjawan 2025 yang bakal dibentangkan 18 Oktober ini memberi fokus kepada perlindungan sosial dan pembinaan lebih banyak infrastruktur untuk manfaat rakyat.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan berkata, peruntukan terbesar kewangan negara itu dirangka berdasarkan kerangka Ekonomi Madani yang sudah mencapai setahun pelaksanaannya untuk membantu pertumbuhan ekonomi secara menyeluruh.

Bagaimanapun, menurut beliau, segala langkah yang mahu dilaksanakan mempunyai cabaran terutamanya untuk mengurangkan defisit kewangan.

Oleh itu, kata beliau, bagi mencapai matlamat itu kerajaan memerlukan model baharu termasuk melakukan langkah menggalakkan pelaburan langsung domestik (DDI).

"Sebagai contoh usaha tambah baik infrastruktur seperti dilakukan awal tahun ini menaikkan tarif air kerana kadar lama tidak lagi mampan selepas 42 tahun tidak berlaku kenaikan.

"Bila kita tidak bayar tarif air, syarikat air tidak mahu membuat pelaburan, paip akan bocor, rakyat tidak dapat air menyebabkan mereka marah. Jadi kadar tarif air ini penting untuk membantu syarikat air dalam menyediakan infrastruktur le-

bih baik," kata beliau ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia* baru-baru ini.

Kata Amir, selepas menggalakkan DDI kerajaan juga mengambil langkah seterusnya untuk melihat pelaburan asing dibawa masuk ke negara ini.

Menurut beliau, pada tahun lalu, kerajaan paling banyak menandatangani pelaburan langsung asing (FDI) sekali gus membuktikan keyakinan

pihak luar terhadap kedudukan ekonomi negara.

Kata beliau, jumlah DDI juga turut melonjakkan ekonomi ke arah lebih baik apabila Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) merekodkan 4.4 peratus pada suku keempat tahun ini berbanding 2.7 peratus sebelum ini.

"Unjuran kerajaan KDNK mencapai 4 ke 5 peratus dengan suku pertama dalam 4.3

peratus. Jika tiada perkara-perkara luar biasa, kita boleh capai sasaran.

"Perkara besar sekarang semua orang bercakap tentang perkara ini, mereka yakin dengan ekonomi Malaysia tetapi isunya orang dalam negara seolah-olah tidak yakin.

"Namun saya sendiri yakin dan insya-Allah akan datang ekonomi Malaysia semakin baik," katanya.



Peruntukan terbesar kewangan negara itu dirangka berdasarkan kerangka Ekonomi Madani yang sudah mencapai setahun pelaksanaannya untuk membantu pertumbuhan ekonomi secara menyeluruh."

AMIR HAMZAH



UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 16 JUL 2024

Be wary of AI-generated deepfakes, warns Fahmi

PUTRAJAYA: The public has been urged to be wary of scam tactics involving the dissemination of fake videos and images (deepfakes) created using artificial intelligence, said Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

He said while the use of AI helped in the country's development, some parties were misusing the technology.

"(Singer) Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza, in an Instagram post several days ago, showed a WhatsApp video call that seemed as if she was talking, when it was actually a live deepfake.

"AI can be used for good and evil intentions. We need to be cautious of the information received and ensure that any video received is genuine or produced through an AI application," he said at the ministry's monthly assembly here yesterday.

As such, Fahmi said, the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) and Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) must educate the public on the dangers of scam tactics using AI deepfakes.



Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil speaking at the ministry's monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

On Sunday, the country's No. 1 singer reportedly revealed the latest tactic used by scammers believed to be using AI technology to imitate her voice and face for profit.

Meanwhile, Fahmi said he would meet with representatives of social media platforms in Singapore later this month to discuss several issues, including the dangers of AI on their platforms.

"I hope the issue of AI-generated deepfakes can be addressed by Meta, as WhatsApp is Meta's responsibility."

At the same time, he suggested that all ministries use AI in their tasks and requested the Tun Abdul Razak Broadcasting and Information Institute to coordinate courses on the technology.

Fahmi said the government would take stern action against those who posted offensive, intimidating and outrageous comments on social media platforms, including WhatsApp.

He said immoral and intimidating statements, including death threats, had been disseminated even against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"After the attempted assassination of former president Donald Trump in the United States, immoral and criminally intimidating statements have been circulated on WhatsApp.

"Some said the ones who should have been shot were not just there (in the US), they hinted at a threat of violence, a criminal

threat, a death threat against the prime minister.

"It's okay to have different opinions, but don't go to the extreme. That's outrageous."

On another matter, Fahmi said he would meet with editors-in-chief of the media industry following extreme comments on the news posted on their social media platforms.

Fahmi said the investigation by the Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission in to Sinar Harian and Astro Awani TikTok Live sessions found 18 accounts posting comments that violated the laws.

"Of the 18 accounts, 12 were fake accounts, and six other account holders have been identified along with their phone numbers and addresses.

"I have asked the MCMC to take firm and immediate action, and to liaise with the Attorney-General's Chambers and the police to scrutinise on this matter. It is high time the issue of fake accounts was handled more diligently." Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 16 JUL 2024

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ECONOMY SEEN TO GROW 4.7pc

Amro says inflation may drop 2.3pc in spite of risks linked to fuel subsidy rationalisation

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MALAYSIA'S economic growth is projected to rise to 4.7 per cent this year, backed by robust domestic demand and an increase in external demand, compared with last year's growth of 3.6 per cent.

The Asean+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (Amro) said inflation was expected to drop to 2.3 per cent in spite of risks from the rationalisation of fuel subsidies.

"The authorities are encouraged to stand ready to adjust the monetary policy to contain any broader inflationary pressure, rebuild fiscal space through fiscal consolidation and gradually build up foreign reserves when market conditions allow," it said in its preliminary assessment during its annual consultation visit to Malaysia.

Amro principal economist Runchana Pongsaparn said positive market conditions and the ongoing tourism recovery would boost consumer spending, while the realisation of record-high approved investments and the execution of national master plans would drive investment growth.

Amro said Malaysia's external position deteriorated last year due to a reduced trade surplus and significant portfolio invest-

ment outflows, although this was somewhat balanced by a robust recovery in tourism.

It noted that the banking system remained stable, with adequate buffers to handle macro-financial shocks.

"The ringgit weakened amid challenging external conditions and the strengthening of the US dollar, prompting foreign exchange interventions by Bank Negara Malaysia to mitigate excessive volatility of the currency.

"Repatriation of foreign investment income by government-linked companies (GLCs) and government-linked investment companies (GLICs), as well as their conversion into the ringgit has helped to stabilise the exchange rate," it noted.

Amro praised Bank Negara for its commitment to a flexible exchange rate and its initiatives to

ensure orderly market operations through market-friendly measures and clear, consistent communication.

"These measures include coordinating with GLCs and GLICs, as well as piloting a fast-track pre-approval reinvestment framework for corporates to encourage repatriation and conversion of foreign earnings.

"As foreign exchange interventions may be needed during periods of excessive volatility, Bank Negara should continue to build up its foreign reserves when market conditions allow," it said.

It added that while rationalising the RON95 fuel subsidy would generate significant fiscal savings, a gradual implementation with effective communication is advised to prevent major inflationary shocks and enable proper assessment of policy im-

pacts.

"Major tax reforms, such as the reintroduction of the Goods and Services Tax, are crucial for achieving fiscal sustainability over the medium and long term.

"The recent enactment of the Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility Act is much welcome, and the authorities are encouraged to expedite the tabling of the Government Procurement Act," it added.

Amro highlighted the need to accelerate structural reforms to tackle long-term challenges, including insufficient research and development spending, low-innovation levels, and shortages in skills and talent.

"These reforms are essential for industrial advancement and to support the country's goal of climbing the global manufacturing value chain.



Malaysia's positive market conditions and the ongoing tourism recovery will boost consumer spending, says Amro principal economist Runchana Pongsaparn. FILE PIC

NEW STRAITS TIMES
16 JUL 2024
Tarikh:

Food security initiative for Orang Asli community

► Volunteer group holds event to empower women through awareness on sustainable agricultural practices

■ BY FARAHATUN NISA OMAR
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PETALING JAYA: Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia (Sirom) recently conducted a community initiative called "The Sustainable Food Security Project" in Bentong, Pahang as a comprehensive approach to address the issue in Malaysia.

Its president Soon Lay Ean said the programme focused on feeding the hungry and revolutionising the entire food system, encompassing production, distribution, consumption and waste management.

"The event also gathered Malaysian soroptimists from all the other states to collectively address one of the world's most pressing challenges, which is food security."

Soon said Sirom is a dynamic global volunteer movement striving to transform the lives of women and girls with around 62,000 members in 123 countries, who advocate education, empowerment and opportunities for women and girls.

"During the event, participants engaged in discussions and activities aimed at exploring solutions to enhance food security, such as promoting sustainable agricultural practices tailored for the indigenous community."

"Additionally, the project has already trained 10 Orang Asli families in vegetable cultivation and aquaponic farming, providing them with practical skills to improve food self-sufficiency and sustainability within their communities," she said, adding that Sirom's holistic strategy aims to empower participants with a variety of agricultural skills, boosting their ability to sustain livelihoods and produce food sustainably.

She said by equipping participants with a diverse skill set, the initiative aims to improve their immediate earning potential while fostering long-term resilience within their communities.

"Those selected for training were individuals facing challenges in securing permanent employment, and some of the girls were specifically trained in (produce) and chicken farming."

"The initiative is designed not only to bolster food security by increasing production but also to ensure the food produced is nutritious, environmentally sustainable and promotes social justice by empowering marginalised communities."

Soon said the approach addresses sustainability by promoting practices that minimise environmental impact, enhance

efficiency in food production and distribution, and promote equity by ensuring fair access to resources and opportunities throughout the food supply chain.

"These families are now earning income by selling their cultivated crops and farming products. The Tilapia fish harvested from the aquaponic systems are not only consumed locally but also sold to restaurants, thereby enhancing the socioeconomic status of these indigenous women."

Soon said a consistent supply of food must be ensured through domestic production, both for local consumption and distribution to the population, adding that people must have the economic means to access this food, which involves having adequate income or resources to purchase or otherwise obtain nutritious food.

She also said it is important to secure a reliable food supply through domestic production to meet local consumption needs and distribution across the population.

"Focusing on production and economic access aims to establish a sustainable and fair food system that enhances the health and nutrition of everyone."

"This would ensure everyone has access to nutritious, safe and sufficient food while preserving our planet's biodiversity as it perfectly aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being and Responsible Consumption and Production."



Sirom members with a rack for growing produce at the project site. — PIC COURTESY OF SIROM

Study of new pollutants impacting water quality

PUTRAJAYA: The government, through the National Water Research Institute of Malaysia, has been actively conducting research on the impact of new pollutants on water quality in several river basins in Malaysia under the 12th Malaysia Plan, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

He said the contaminants include endocrine-disrupting chemicals, microplastics and those causing antimicrobial resistance.

"One of the new pollutants gaining international attention is microplastic pollution in Malaysia's water sources."

"Microplastics, defined by the World Health Organisation as plastic fragments less than 5mm in size enter the river system through various pathways, primarily surface water runoff, wastewater effluents (both treated and untreated), industrial effluents and decomposed plastic waste."

He said humans are exposed to microplastics through food and air.

Fadillah, who is also energy transition and water transformation minister, was speaking yesterday at the First National Seminar on Microplastics organised by the National Water Research Institute in collaboration with Frontier Laboratory Ltd of Japan and the Malaysian Water Association.

Quoting from the World Economic Forum Report 2023, Fadillah said individuals may inadvertently ingest up to five grams of plastic per week through water consumption.

"The government is committed to enhancing river water quality in collaboration with state governments and other stakeholders through strategic initiatives. However, these efforts will be ineffective if community awareness about the importance of preserving water resources remains low."

During a media conference, Fadillah acknowledged that while plastic usage is unavoidable, it must be managed to minimise its environmental impact, Bernama reported.

He added that the results of a study being carried out in four rivers would reveal the situation in Malaysia and help to shape future policies.

"We can propose solutions to the government to address emerging challenges, particularly on microplastic pollution," he said, adding that drinking water quality standards fall under the Health Ministry.

The institute's director-general Mohd Zaki Mat Amin highlighted that research on microplastic pollution involves sampling, field data collection and laboratory analysis.

"The research covers several river basins including Sungai Langat, Sungai Kelantan, Sungai Klang and Sungai Sarawak. Results show that microplastic concentrations in

Govt concerned about contaminants, including endocrine-disrupting chemicals, microplastics and those causing antimicrobial resistance: DPM



Fadillah, accompanied by Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry deputy secretary-general Datuk Mohd Rodzwan Mohd Baba Sakri (right), visiting a booth at an exhibition held in conjunction with the event in Putrajaya yesterday. — BERNAMAPIC

these basins range from 179.6 particles per litre to 4541.4 particles per litre on average."

He expressed concern over the presence of microplastics in Malaysia's aquatic ecosystems, highlighting the threat they pose to aquatic life, and their indirect exposure to humans through the food chain.

It is estimated that Malaysians use an average of nine billion plastics annually.

It was reported last year that the country's recycling rate was at 35.38%, indicating inadequate management of plastic waste, raising concerns about its environmental impact, particularly on rivers.