



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 17 APRIL 2024 (RABU)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

BIL	AKHBAR	PBT	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	MBSA DBKL	• PHOTO CONTEST • FENCE ALONG 'GLUTTON STREET' IN KEPONG KEEPING OUT CUSTOMERS, STAKEHOLDERS SAY

UMUM

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• HERITAGE BUILDING IN KL GETTING FROM BAD TO WORSE • ALL EYES ON OIL PRICE, RINGGIT • CONSUMERS ARE RESPONDING TO PRICE HIKES • NO CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS DUE TO LOW ENROLMENT
2.	SINAR HARIAN	• HARGA MINYAK TINGGI BAWA IMPAK BERBEZA – PAKAR EKONOMI
3.	BERITA HARIAN	• MALAYSIA PERLU RM90b BIAYA PROJEK KRITIKAL 10 TAHUN LAGI
4.	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	• PENDUDUK MALAYSIA MASIH TIDAK PEDULI KESAN PENCEMARAN PLASTIK • SAMPAH : SALAH DIDIKAN ATAU MEMANG SIKAP KITA
5.	THE SUN	• GOVT TO HOST TALKS TO PROMOTE HARMONY • RINGGIT LOWER ON BULLISH SENTIMENT OVER US DOLLAR • MINISTRY MULLS PLAN TO REPATRIATE STUDENTS

PHOTO CONTEST

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) is organising its Shah Alam Photography Contest 2024 until Aug 31. Categories include buildings/landmarks, nature and life-style. For details, visit www.mbsa.gov.my or call 03-5510 5133 ext 1430/1777.

5/9/24
11/4

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 APR 2024

By ETHEL SIAO
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THE newly installed fence along a stretch of Jalan Kepong Baru known as "wai sek kai" (glutton street) in Kuala Lumpur has caused more problems than solutions for traders.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping said the fence was part of a road upgrading project by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

He said the more than 40 vendors had been trading there for over 30 years, but the recent move to put up a fence and remove parking bays had adversely affected their business.

"The new fencing prevents people from directly accessing the stalls from the road," said Yee.

Lee Chin Siong, 36, a vendor at the location for six years, said the new fence installed last Saturday had resulted in a 70% drop in his business.

The mixed rice seller said the 200m-long fence had made it inconvenient for pedestrians and motorists.

"It becomes very troublesome for customers to get to our stalls, and many are now forced to park along the busy road.

"Although there are parking bays opposite the stalls, it is still dangerous for people to cross four lanes to get to our stalls," he said.

A visit to the site revealed that

Fence along 'glutton street' in Kepong keeping out customers, stakeholders say



New fencing along Jalan Kepong Baru reduces customers' access to the businesses, traders claim. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



Yee showing exposed wires which could endanger passers-by at the residential area.

parts of the fence had been tampered with to allow openings, like gates.

Chin Siong suggested that DBKL open portions of the fence to allow access.

Yee said lack of parking also forced cars to take up limited parking spaces from residents along Jalan Antoi 1.

On a separate matter, Yee said he had raised the matter of the increasing number of telecommunication towers in the Jalan Antoi residential area.

"Currently, there are four monopoles with various transmitters along Jalan Lingkungan Jambu Gajus, Jalan Kepong Baru and Jalan Helang Belalang

Kepong Baru.

"Three of them have been cordoned off by DBKL enforcement officers who are looking into the licensing matter," he said.

Yee urged DBKL's Engineering Department to take strict action against the companies involved as the equipment had not been maintained properly.

He said some electronic components were left exposed to the elements, including wires that could endanger pedestrians.

A resident living in Jalan Antoi 1, who only wanted to be identified as Lee, worried about possible radiation from the transmitter and stability of the tower.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 1...7...APR...2024...

By BAVANI M
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PARTS of the ceiling and wall of the former Federated Malay States (FMS) Survey Department building in Kuala Lumpur has collapsed.

Located at the intersection of Jalan Raja and Jalan Tun Perak along the same row as iconic Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, the FMS building has been left deserted for over 20 years.

This is the second time the building, designed by British engineer Arthur Denison Hubback and built in 1910, has suffered significant damage.

In late 2016, one of the dome's spires collapsed, raising warning flags on the fragility of heritage buildings in the area.

The structure was designated as a heritage building under National Heritage Act 2005.

Tour guide Jane Rai, who was passing by the area yesterday, alerted *StarMetro* when she spotted the latest damage.

"It looks like part of the ceiling has crumbled.

"There were wood pieces everywhere on the floor.

"Many parts of the building are neglected and in a state of decay.

"And things are only going to get worse," she added.

K. Ramanujam, a tourist from India, said all the buildings in the area looked as if they were falling apart.

"They are beautiful buildings, but they look like they need a lot of repairs," he added.

The FMS Survey Department building comes under the purview of Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (MOTAC), with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) previously maintaining the facade.

When tabling Budget 2023

Heritage building in KL getting from bad to worse

Ceiling, wall at 1910 structure latest to collapse after damage to dome



A dome (top right) of the former Survey Department building was damaged when the spire came crashing down in 2016 and has not been repaired. — Photos: LOW LAY PHON/The Star



Latest damage seems to involve the ceiling and parts of the wall.

last year, the government announced that Khazanah Nasional Bhd would spearhead the establishment of the National Heritage Fund to encourage private sector involvement in preserving Malaysia's national heritage.

These efforts are expected to

revitalise Kuala Lumpur.

When contacted, a Khazanah spokesperson said it did not own the building.

At the time that the spire collapsed, then Tourism and Culture minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz told *StarMetro* that the building was under the min-

istry's purview but a lack of funds had hampered plans to restore it.

He had said that the ministry did not get any allocation from the government for conservation efforts, adding that the Treasury did not grant his application for RM150mil.

Nazri had said that once the ministry received the allocation he hoped to turn the place into an office for Kuala Lumpur City Hall staff who were previously located in Jalan Conlay.

However, the funds did not come through and the building fell into disrepair.

THE STAR
17 APR 2024

kh:.....

8th 12/4 (1)

All eyes on oil price, ringgit

While high prices may be beneficial to Malaysia as a net exporter, it could boost inflation and impact various industries

ECONOMY

By ELIM POON
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PETALING JAYA: The possibility of higher oil prices, should there be an escalation in the conflict between Iran and Israel, would not necessarily provide a tailwind to Malaysia's economy and the battered ringgit.

Sunway University economics professor Yeah Kim Leng said while net oil exporting countries including Malaysia will experience higher oil export earnings, a widening of the Iran-Israel conflict will send the already fragile global economy into a tailspin.

"Being highly dependent on exports, it will be challenging for the local economy to meet its 4% to 5% growth target for the year should the conflict spill over to the region and trigger a global downturn."

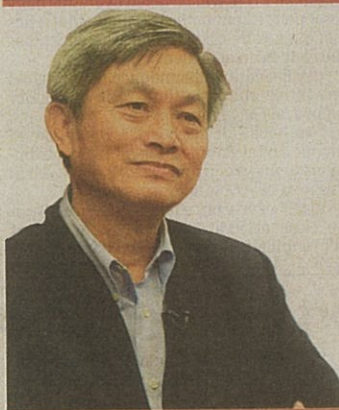
"The negative global demand shock is projected to exceed the benefits of high oil prices that are diminished by an concomitant rise in fuel subsidy spending by the government," he told *StarBiz*.

Notably, Iran is a major oil producer accounting for 7.8% of global oil supply in March 2024, according to the International Energy Agency.

Yeah said the disruption of oil supply in the Middle East will likely cause world oil prices to spike above US\$100 per barrel from the current US\$90 for Brent crude oil.

Yeah added that the government's petrol and diesel subsidy rationalisation initiative is becoming an even more pressing and urgent initiative in the face of rising world oil prices.

He said the shift from blanket to targeted



"Being highly dependent on exports, it will be challenging for the local economy to meet its 4% to 5% growth target for the year should the conflict spill over to the region and trigger a global downturn."

Prof Yeah Kim Leng

fuel subsidies should proceed as planned as the gains to both the government and the public would be even larger at higher prevailing world oil prices.

"While the higher oil prices translate into greater capacity of the government to foot the burgeoning subsidy bill, it however results in a bigger misallocation of resources as well as a missed opportunity to strengthen the country's public finance and reduce inefficient and over-consumption of its limited non-renewable fossil resources," he said.

The government plans to introduce a targeted fuel subsidy programme this year.

Rakuten Trade head of equity sales Vincent Lau said it is still too early to tell whether there will be a deferment in the implementation of the petrol and diesel

subsidy rationalisation programme, in light of the heightened geopolitical tensions.

"The planned subsidy rationalisation initiative will likely proceed as scheduled and any impact that is sustained from the escalation of the conflict between Iran and Israel would probably have subsided by then."

"Hopefully, by then, tensions in the Middle East will have eased and we will see Brent crude oil price returns to around US\$80 per barrel," he said.

Lau opined it is unlikely Israel will engage in a full-blown war and that any response Israel will have towards Iran is expected to be a measured one. Hence, any benefits or impact that Malaysia is projected to sustain, whether economically or

currency-related, will be minimal and short lived.

"We are optimistic that the tensions in the Middle East will not escalate out of control."

"If the oil prices rise as a result of escalated tensions, it will cushion the ringgit. Conversely, if the situation de-escalates and oil prices decrease, our economic situation will remain relatively stable," he said.

Lau added that while high oil prices may be beneficial to Malaysia from a net oil exporter standpoint, it could boost inflation and impact various industries.

"At the most, the Brent crude oil pricing may hit US\$100 should the conflict escalates. Not to mention, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its allies may intervene to stabilise oil prices if they become excessively high."

"As for the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) rate cut decision, currently, the Fed dot plot suggests the possibility of three rate cuts though consensus has shifted to two due to the consumer price index data in the United States."

"The ongoing tensions in the Middle East are unlikely to significantly influence the Fed's rate decision, as they typically focus on domestic factors," he said.

Meanwhile, Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzaniz Abdul Rashid said the primary concern arising from tensions in the Middle East is on the ringgit, as the demand for safe-haven currency such as the US dollar would be higher during heightened economic uncertainties.

This will lead to the depreciation of the ringgit, which may cause the country import bills to rise.

> TURN TO PAGE

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 APR 2024

Sh 17/4 (2)

Increase in oil prices will help support the ringgit marginally

> FROM PAGE 1

"In respect of crude oil prices, it will benefit the oil and gas players as we are able to sell crude oil at higher prices. However, the country will have to pay more for the imported petroleum that is meant for domestic consumption.

"This might have an impact on subsidy expenditure by the government. Hence, there is a need to rationalise the fuel subsidies.

"However, this can be quite tricky as the rationalisation would entail higher domestic fuel prices, which later can have an impact on inflation," he said.

He added that potential disruptions in international trade could impact productivity, leading to supply shortages and potentially contributing to inflationary pressures.

Afzanizam noted that a rate hike by the central bank is not expected to take place as a result of higher inflation should oil

prices rise.

"We experienced high inflation in 2008 due to shocks in global crude prices but they did not resort to an overnight policy rate hike.

"What matters is the cause for inflation. If it is cost driven, then Bank Negara may not react to it," he said.

On this note, Yeah said the fuel impact on inflation will depend on the magnitude of the world oil price increase and the amount of government subsidies that will determine the cost pass-through to consumers and producers.

"If the world oil price spike is temporary, then the inflation may not require any policy adjustment.

"However, a prolonged period of high oil prices lasting more than three months would require the sharing of the subsidy burden between the government and consumers to be recalibrated to strike an equitable balance between fiscal sustainability and higher inflation," he said.

With regard to the outlook of the ringgit, Saktiandi Supaat, head of foreign exchange research and strategy at Maybank Singapore, said the US dollar/ringgit rate is heading higher largely because of the strengthening of the greenback.

"Similarly, other currencies in the region are also moving in the same direction albeit at higher proportions.

"The ringgit has depreciated around 0.96% over the past week but it is a currency that has been more resilient since the release of US inflation numbers last week and the rise in US yields," he said.

Saktiandi said the rise in oil prices could also help support the ringgit marginally, especially if Brent crude oil prices rise to levels beyond US\$90 per barrel.

"The South Korean won, Indonesian rupiah, Japanese yen, Singapore dollar and Taiwan dollar are faring worse over a five-day period, with 2.9%, 2%, 1.7%, 1.4% and 1.2% drop, respectively.

"Our year-end forecast of US dollar/

ringgit is at 4.55 and Singapore dollar/ringgit at 3.42. Near term, the currency is likely to be range bound at around 4.65 to 4.70.

"Given that our own behavioural equilibrium exchange rate model finds that the ringgit is among the most undervalued regionally, the currency can potentially see good gains upon a turn in the external environment," he said.

Furthermore, he said domestic economic fundamentals look to remain robust with gross domestic product expected at 4.4% in 2024.

This should reduce the pressure on Bank Negara to cut rates and in turn, together with a US easing, help reduce the impact that the wide rate differentials have had on the ringgit, Saktiandi said.

"Aside from that, a continued improvement in the tourism sector as well as a turnaround in electronics export should help lift Malaysia's external position," he added.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 11.7.2024

Consumers are responding to price hikes

REFERRING to the report "Eateries shortening hours" (*Sunday Star*, April 14), it is evident that changes are afoot in Malaysia's dining scene.

Over the years, Malaysians have grown accustomed to eating out, with Malaysia earning recognition for its diverse culinary offerings available around the clock.

Mamak stores, in particular, are renowned for opening almost 24 hours a day.

However, despite official claims of inflation being maintained at 2.4%, it's widely acknowledged that prices of food have surged, with some items seeing a staggering 30% increase and, in some cases, doubling or even tripling in price.

Compounded by sluggish adjustments in salary increments, especially for civil servants, this surge has led to prolonged complaints from Malaysians.

The solution to mitigating the effects of escalating food prices lies in reducing dining out and making necessary adjustments to cook and pack meals for work and school.

In Economics 101, price elasticity refers to the responsiveness of the quantity demanded to changes in prices. Essentially, adjustments become feasible in the long run.

Increasingly, we're witnessing the long-term effects of this elasticity on dining out habits. Restaurants and food stalls are experiencing reduced sales, even

during festive seasons like Hari Raya. Malaysians are changing their dining habits, driven primarily by higher food prices and, hopefully, a growing interest in healthier living.

But what happens to food entrepreneurs amid this shifting landscape? In the coming months, we anticipate another Economics 101 principle at play; when producers can no longer cover their variable costs, they will exit the market.

In simpler terms, many food businesses may shutter, exacerbating economic and social woes as unemployment rates climb.

But Malaysians are resilient. Many are exploring opportunities across borders in countries like Singapore, drawn by higher

wages and favourable exchange rates. This potential exodus underscores the need for immediate action from policymakers to shore up Malaysia's economy and retain its workforce.

In light of the changing tide, it's imperative that we address key issues, including improving foreign exchange rates, bolstering the ringgit, upskilling our workforce, and diversifying our industries.

The writing is on the wall, and it's clear that economic principles of elasticity will continue to shape our future.

PROF TAN PL
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THE STAR
17 APR 2024
Tarikh:.....

No closure of schools due to low enrolment

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17/4

NO primary schools would be closed due to low number of students, Deputy Education Minister Wong Kah Woh assured in a *Malaysia Nanyan* report.

He also said funds would continue pouring in for these schools, adding that the government provides RM38,000 for the development of a school without looking at the student number.

"There are 3,038 schools with fewer than 150 students. Perak alone has 419 schools," he said during a visit to SJK Ladang Sungai Samak in Ulu Bernam, Perak.

> The daily also reported that a non-governmental organisation was helping a foreign worker return to his home in Tamil Nadu, India.

The 46-year-old former restaurant helper had been living on the streets of Kuala Lumpur and survived on food given by Good Samaritans after leaving his previous employment.

Ulagu Manitha Neya Iyakkam president T. Kamalanathan claimed that the man, who came to Malaysia in May last year, was made to work 12 hours a day for six consecutive months.

"He fell ill and asked to be let go but the employer refused," he said.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 APR 2024

Harga minyak tinggi bawa impak berbeza - Pakar ekonomi

Sinar Harian
17/4

PUTRAJAYA - Ketegangan di Timur Tengah yang berterusan sejak beberapa bulan lalu dan dilihat semakin memuncak dijangka meningkatkan lagi harga minyak mentah, sekali gus memberi manfaat besar kepada negara pengeluar minyak yang merupakan pengeksport bersih, kata pakar ekonomi.

Ketua ahli ekonomi Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd, Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid berkata, sektor minyak dan gas negara dijangka mencatatkan prestasi memberangsangkan kerana harga dijangka terus kekal tinggi.

"Saya rasa harga lebih tinggi juga akan mendorong syarikat minyak utama untuk melakukan eksplorasi dan pengeluaran," katanya kepada *Bernama* ketika ditanya mengenai serangan Iran ke atas Israel baru-baru ini.

Pada Selasa, minyak mentah West Texas Intermediate diniagakan pada AS\$89.98 (AS\$1 = RM4.77) setong dan Moody's menjangka harga minyak menokok AS\$5 setong lagi terhadap premium risiko dan melonjakkan harga minyak kepada lingkungan AS\$90 hingga AS\$95 setong.

Berkongsi pandangan sama ialah bekas Ketua Eksekutif Institut Penyelidikan Ekonomi Malaysia (MIER), Profesor Emeritus Datuk Dr Zakariah Abdul Rashid.

Menurutnya, kerajaan Persekutuan dijangka meraih kenaikan hasil dari segi nilai eksport.

"Saya tidak pasti sama ada Israel akan mengambil tindakan ke atas Iran seperti apa yang telah dilakukan terhadap Gaza (Palestin), mungkin juga ia akan melakukan terhadap Iran, Syria yang membuat serangan balas itu.

"Jadi, harga minyak mentah akan naik dan memberikan satu dimensi yang bukanlah pengalaman baharu bagi kita.

"Kita akan merasai kenaikan atau peningkatan harga minyak. Apabila ia berlaku, maka eksport kita akan meningkat dan hasil kerajaan Persekutuan akan meningkat kerana nilai eksport lebih tinggi serta harga minyak mentah yang naik," katanya.

Namun, pada masa sama, menurut Zakariah, Malaysia juga merupakan pengimport bersih barangan petroleum iaitu bahan api bagi tujuan kegunaan kereta, kapal terbang dan semua jenis produk berasaskan petroleum.

"Oleh itu, orang ramai (pelanggan runcit) juga akan turut merasai kenaikan harga minyak yang lebih mahal, tidak kira RON95 mahu pun RON97.

"Jadi, dalam situasi inilah subsidi akan digunakan sebagai instrumen iaitu bagaimana pemberian subsidi itu boleh disusun kembali supaya kesan negatif ke atas orang ramai tidaklah teruk sangat. Kita dapat menampung dengan lebihan hasil kerajaan Persekutuan," katanya.

Tambah beliau, pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar adalah satu jalan penyelesaian.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 17 APR 2024

Malaysia perlu RM90b biaya projek kritikal 10 tahun lagi

8th 17/4

Malaysia memerlukan RM60 bilion sehingga RM90 bilion untuk membiayai projek kritikal dalam tempoh 10 tahun akan datang, kata Menteri Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

Beliau berkata, anggaran keperluan perbelanjaan itu merangkumi usaha memperluaskan pengangkutan awam, mengukuhkan grid infrastruktur dan meningkatkan kemahiran tenaga kerja.

Katanya, anggaran kos untuk pembangunan grid sahaja adalah begitu besar, mencecah RM180 bilion menjelang 2050 untuk menampung cita-cita tenaga bersih Malaysia.

"Tambahan pula, mengambil

kira pelbagai peringkat penyahkarbonan pembangunan teknologi di seluruh negara adalah jelas bahawa kemajuan sangat bergantung kepada sumber tenaga alternatif dan serantau yang kukuh serta kerjasama antarabangsa," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian berucap pada majlis menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) antara Bursa Malaysia dengan dengan Mobilising Institutional Capital Through Listed Product Structures MOBILIST di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Majlis disaksikan Tengku Mahkota Pahang, Tengku Hassan Ibrahim Alam Shah Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

Yang turut hadir, Pesuruhjaya Tinggi British ke Malaysia, Ailsa Terry; Pengerusi Bursa Malaysia, Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Bursa Malaysia, Datuk Umar Swift.

Kerjasama antara Bursa Malaysia dan MOBILIST bagi mengukuhkan agenda kemampanan negara itu akan membolehkan pelaburan lebih besar untuk menyokong peralihan tenaga dan memajukan matlamat pembangunan mampan (SDG) di Malaysia.

Nik Nazmi berkata, peralihan skala kewangan dalam tenaga di Malaysia ketika ini sangat penting kerana dianggarkan RM1.2 trilion (AS\$260 bilion) diperlukan antara 2023 hingga 2050 yang menonjolkan keperluan pelaburan

lebih besar di seluruh ASEAN.

Sementara itu, Abdul Wahid berkata, tumpuan pengendali pasaran saham itu ketika ini adalah untuk memupuk ekonomi yang teguh dan mampan sejajar aspirasi sifar bersih negara dan SDG Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB).

"Walaupun landskap pembiayaan ESG (tadbir urus, sosial dan alam sekitar) di Malaysia berkembang, ia belum mencukupi untuk menangani keperluan SDG dan komitmen mencapai sasaran iklim.

"Di Bursa Malaysia, kami mengulangi seruan ini untuk bertindak dan program MOBILIST adalah salah satu daripada langkah memacu penyelesaian

ESG di Malaysia," katanya.

Abdul Wahid berkata, program MOBILIST yang disokong oleh Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) kerajaan United Kingdom adalah inisiatif utama selaras dengan keutamaan Malaysia.

Beliau berkata, program itu melahirkan tindakan mantap ke arah memanfaatkan sumber untuk menyokong matlamat pembangunan mampan di seluruh dunia.

Katanya, dengan komitmen sebanyak 156 juta pound (RM1 bilion), program MOBILIST bertujuan memangkinkan pelaburan di seluruh infrastruktur mampan, kewangan iklim dan kewangan inklusif pada skala global.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....1.7.APR.2024.....

Penduduk Malaysia masih tidak peduli kesan pencemaran plastik



AHMAD ISMAIL

BAGI menangani isu pencemaran plastik, pihak industri dan akademik mesti bersama kerana kedua pihak ini mampu menyelesaikan masalah sama ada dari segi perubahan sikap dan gaya hidup masyarakat terhadap plastik, kempen kesedaran pengurusan bahan plastik serta inovasi, teknologi, pengangkutan mahupun pengeluaran.

Satu sekretariat mesti ditubuhkan segera bagi menyelaraskan kerjasama pihak industri, akademik, pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) dan pihak berkuasa tempatan dengan strategi serta tindakan yang jelas dan berkesan.

Sasaran tahun 2030 untuk memperlihatkan pengurusan sisa plastik yang baik memerlukan kefahaman dan kesedaran awam, teknologi dan inovasi serta penglibatan pihak berkuasa mahupun NGO.

Oleh kerana penggunaan plastik sudah menjadi satu keperluan dan budaya kehidupan manusia, maka usaha dan kerjasama pihak akademik dan industri mesti disegerakan terutamanya mencari jalan untuk hasilkan plastik mesra alam. Galakkan, insentif dan program khas mesti diadakan antara pihak berkenaan.

Banyak artikel melaporkan plastik boleh dijumpai di puncak Gunung Everest hingga lautan yang paling dalam di dunia. Plastik, serpihan plastik atau mikroplastik boleh dijumpai di mana-mana sahaja di dunia ini termasuk dalam tubuh manusia seperti dalam najis, darah dan susu ibu.

Kewujudan sisa plastik di merata tempat yang boleh menyebabkan masalah kepada alam sekitar dan memberikan kesan kepada kesihatan manusia, hidupan liar dan perubahan iklim, maka isu pencemaran plastik mesti diselesaikan segera oleh penduduk dunia.

Pencemaran plastik sudah menjadi krisis global. Lebih kurang 95 peratus plastik dihasilkan daripada bahan



SISA plastik yang dibuang di merata tempat boleh menyebabkan masalah alam sekitar dan memberi kesan kepada kesihatan manusia, hidupan liar dan perubahan iklim. - AFP

api fosil dan melepaskan 3.7 peratus Gas Rumah Hijau (GRH). *Jurnal Nature* melaporkan pada tahun lalu sebanyak 352 juta tan sisa plastik di dunia dan lebih kurang separuh daripada plastik yang dihasilkan digunakan hanya sekali sahaja. Hanya sembilan peratus sisa plastik sahaja dikitar semula dan 19 peratus lagi dibakar.

Aktiviti ini boleh mengurangkan kualiti udara. Sebahagian besar sisa plastik berakhir di tapak pelupusan sampah (49 peratus) selain daripada disalah guna atau salah urus (22 peratus) dan sebahagiannya dibakar secara terbuka, longgokan sampah secara haram atau pembuangan sampah di merata-rata.

Pencemaran plastik yang sedang berlaku di dunia boleh mengakibatkan kesan buruk kepada planet bumi. Proses semula jadi yang sedang berlaku di bumi akan berubah seperti kitaran nutrien dalam tanah dan corak cuaca tempatan.

Ada pandangan yang mengatakan kejadian pencemaran plastik berpotensi sebagai era geologi baharu akibat perbuatan manusia.

BIOPLASTIK

Walaupun terdapat banyak penemuan baharu berkaitan bioplastik, hasil daripada kajian berbilang tahun, namun masih banyak kerja



Penggunaan plastik sudah pun menjadi keperluan dan gaya hidup semasa."

penyelidikan yang perlu dilakukan terutamanya berkaitan ekonomi sirkular bagi mewujudkan perniagaan dan pelaburan yang bertanggungjawab.

Ahli kimia dalam bidang polimer terutamanya, mesti bekerja lebih keras bersama pihak industri untuk membangunkan teknologi kitar semula dan produk plastik mesra alam.

Bioplastik yang dibangunkan daripada sumber biomassa yang boleh diperbaharui menggantikan sumber minyak mentah. Kajian yang lebih mendalam perlu dilihat bukan sahaja dari segi faktor alam sekitar tetapi yang lebih penting ialah ekonomi. Pelaburan pihak industri dan akademik dalam hal ini sangat penting.

Pandemik Covid-19 menambah lagi penggunaan plastik sekali guna terutamanya untuk keselamatan dan membendung merebaknya penyakit. Penghantaran barangan keperluan harian seperti makanan dan

keperluan asas terus ke rumah menambahkan lagi penggunaan plastik sekali guna dalam pembungkusan.

Pengalaman itu memerlukan kreativiti dan inovasi baharu termasuk ekonomi sirkular selain daripada plastik mesra alam dan sistem pengurusan sisa plastik yang baik.

SIFAR PLASTIK

Kerajaan Malaysia sudah pun melancarkan Pelan Hala Tuju Malaysia Ke Arah Sifar Penggunaan Plastik Sekali Guna 2018-2030. Malangnya sambutan masyarakat terhadap kempen sifar beg plastik sekali guna tidak begitu kelihatan, seolah-olah kempen itu tidak pernah dilakukan. Beg plastik dan botol plastik sekali guna misalnya masih boleh dijumpai di dalam sungai semasa air surut.

Oleh kerana masalah global ini yang sudah pun diiktiraf Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu (PBB) dan mereka mengajak semua negara bersama-sama menangani isu ini di lautan secara berkesatuan. Di peringkat antarabangsa sudah ada kaedah pendidikan dan kempen bagi menarik minat seluruh masyarakat dunia memahami dan melaksanakan kawalan pencemaran plastik.

Malaysia sentiasa mempromosikan pembangunan mapan dengan mengimbangi pertumbuhan

ekonomi dan perlindungan alam sekitar sejajar dengan Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari PBB (SDG 2030). Walaupun Malaysia komited dengan polisi dan peraturan, namun sambutan daripada masyarakat umum masih lagi berada di tahap yang tidak menggalakkan.

Isu pencemaran plastik secara global sukar dikawal sekiranya tiada komitmen menyeluruh daripada kerajaan, rakyat dan pihak industri. Penggunaan plastik sudah pun menjadi keperluan dan gaya hidup semasa.

Pemantauan PBB terhadap SDG 2030 setakat ini, umumnya tidak berjaya seperti yang diharapkan memandangkan fenomena perubahan iklim dan kehilangan kepelbagaian biologi terus berlaku. Pencemaran plastik di lautan juga masih berlaku dan terus meningkat.

Pencemaran plastik di lautan merupakan sumbangan signifikan mengancam kesihatan hidupan liar marin seperti ikan paus, penyu dan burung laut. Mikroplastik juga memberi kesan kepada aktiviti fotosintesis dan pertumbuhan fitoplankton. Kesan keracunan ke atas zooplankton dalam perkembangan dan pembiakan, kesan stok karbon dan kesan ekologi lain umumnya.

Fitoplankton dan zooplankton adalah produser dan konsumen penting dalam kitaran tenaga lautan. Apabila kitaran tenaga terhalang akan memberikan kesan kepada biodiversiti dan perubahan iklim umumnya.

Dalam Plan Hala Tuju Malaysia Ke Arah Sifar Penggunaan Plastik Sekali Guna 2018-2030, Malaysia mencadangkan industri plastik beralih kepada produk yang mesra alam dan terus berkembang dengan mengadaptasi teknologi hijau dan memelihara alam sekitar.

Semua pihak yang berkepentingan mesti memainkan peranan dalam menyokong Pelan Hala Tuju kerajaan melalui pelbagai cara dengan penggunaan teknologi, amalan dan sokongan sehingga objektif itu tercapai dan manusia seluruhnya mendapat manfaat.

DR. Ahmad Ismail ialah Presiden Persatuan Ekologi Malaysia (PEM).

Sampah: Salah didikan atau memang sikap kita

SANGAT menyedih dan mengecewakan apabila melihat sikap pengguna yang membuang sampah sesuka hati di Central Spine Road (CSR) seperti yang tular baru-baru ini sehingga mencacatkan pemandangan di lebuhraya itu.

Kebanyakan sampah adalah plastik bungkusan makanan, polisterin dan kotak minuman. Sisa makanan yang ditinggalkan bukan sahaja dihurungi lalat dan langau tetapi juga menyebabkan pencemaran bau.

Sikap buruk itu jelas menunjukkan tiada rasa tanggungjawab dalam diri mereka berhubung kebersihan di tempat awam sedangkan kebersihan sangat dituntut dalam agama dan merupakan pelengkap kepada iman setiap Muslim.

Cuma, kita 'bernasib baik' kerana hanya sebahagian kecil sahaja yang bersikap begitu. Bayangkan jika semua atau sebahagian besar daripada pengguna lebuhraya itu melakukannya, pasti keadaan menjadi lebih teruk. Bukan setakat lalat dan langau, malah ia mungkin mengundang haiwan berbahaya untuk menikmati sisa 'juadah' yang ditinggalkan.

Tiada kawasan rehat dan rawat di raya tersebut atau tiada tong sampah disediakan tidak wajar dijadikan alasan. Masih ada banyak cara untuk kita menjaga kebersihan persekitaran.

Apa salahnya kita simpan dahulu sampah kita sehingga kita berjumpa dengan tong sampah atau sehingga sampai ke destinasi kita. Mengapakah kita sanggup kotorkan kawasan awam hanya semata-mata mahu kenderaan kita bersih.

Saya tertanya-tanya apakah agaknya perasaan orang yang sewenang-wenangnya membuang sampah ke luar kereta. Takkan tiada rasa bersalah ketika melakukannya. Apakah sikap yang sama mereka amalkan di rumah dan di tempat kerja.

Semua ini ada kaitan dengan didikan, sikap dan gaya hidup seseorang. Apakah ibu bapa mereka tidak menekankan soal kebersihan. Tidak mungkin. Atau adakah ibu bapa sendiri yang menjadi contoh terhadap sikap buruk itu.

Didikan di sekolah tidak pernah mengajar kita supaya membuang sampah sesuka hati. Di sekolahlah kita banyak belajar tentang kebersihan. Di sekolah ada jadual bertugas untuk bersihkan kelas, malah ada hadiah disediakan untuk kelas paling bersih.

Ada sekolah yang hanya menyediakan tong sampah di tempat tertentu sahaja. Alasannya ialah supaya setiap murid dididik menyimpan sampah masing-masing dan dibuang di tempat yang betul.

Tidak tahu di mana silapnya. Didikan di sekolah seperti gagal menanam dan membentuk budaya cintakan kebersihan dalam diri setiap murid. Setelah hampir 67 tahun merdeka, kita masih bergelut dengan isu sampah. Bukan sahaja di lebuhraya tetapi hampir di semua tempat termasuk kawasan rumah sendiri.

Setiap hari ada sahaja longgokan sampah yang kita ditemui di tempat yang tidak sepatutnya. Jika ada papan tanda larangan membuang sampah, di situlah sampah di-longgokkan. Jika ada kawasan semak, ada sahaja sampah dilihat di situ.

Kebersihan adalah tanggungjawab bersama dan cermi- nan kepada sikap kita. Sama-samalah menjaganya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 17 APR 2024

Govt to host talks ^{SUN} to promote harmony

PUTRAJAYA: Those involved in provocative discussions about religion on social media will be called to attend a face-to-face meeting soon as a measure to ensure the country's harmony is preserved.

Deputy National Unity Minister K. Saraswathy said the session would hopefully encourage understanding and unity among the public and ensure religious provocative issues do not recur in the future.

She said it was among the matters agreed to by National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang during a meeting with the ministry and Malaysia Hindu Sangam (MHS) representatives in Putrajaya on Monday.

"The minister emphasised that the ministry is concerned and encourages understanding and mutual respect between followers of all religions to ensure all individuals can practise their religion and faith peacefully." - Bernama

THE SUN
17 APR 2024

Tarikh:

Ringgit lower on bullish sentiment over US dollar

SUN
17/4

KUALA LUMPUR: The ringgit continued its downtrend to end lower against the greenback yesterday due to continued positive sentiment for the US dollar, which was bolstered by strong US March retail sales data and amid concerns over the Middle East tension, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit fell to 4.7945/7970 against the US dollar from Monday's closing of 4.7785/7815.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the strong US retail sales data suggest that the anticipation of a US rate cut has diminished.

"This certainly has led to higher demand for the US dollar which saw the US Dollar Index rose 0.16% to 106.373 points," he told Bernama.

He also noted that concerns over Middle East tensions would exert pressure on emerging market currencies as demand for safe haven currencies such as the US dollar is higher.

At the close, the ringgit was traded mostly lower against a basket of major currencies.

It shed against the euro to 5.0966/0992 from 5.0915/0947 at Monday's close, weakened versus the British pound to 5.9701/9732 from 5.9660/9697 but was better vis-a-vis the Japanese yen to 3.1020/1038 from 3.1053/1075 yesterday.

However, the ringgit was traded mixed against Asean currencies. It was lower versus the Thai baht at 13.0858/13.0983 compared with 13.0148/13.0286 at Monday's close, depreciated against the Singapore dollar to 3.5135/5156 from 3.5123/5148 yesterday, but was flat versus the Philippine peso at 8.41/8.42 and stronger vis-a-vis the Indonesian rupiah to 296.3/296.6 from 301.4/301.8 previously.

THE SUN
17 APR 2024

Tarikh:

Sun 17/4

Ministry mulls plan to repatriate students

KUALA LUMPUR: The Higher Education Ministry is considering the need to repatriate Malaysian students following the conflict in the Middle East.

In a statement, the ministry said there are 1,872 Malaysian students in Jordan, 37 in Syria, eight in Iran and none in Lebanon and Iraq, Bernama reported.

"The ministry acknowledges the ongoing situation in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran and Israel, which has indirect impacts on neighbouring countries like Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

"The ministry is actively monitoring the situation through Education Malaysia offices in Jordan and Dubai, while maintaining regular communication with the Malaysian Embassies in Tehran in Iran and Amman in Jordan, to ensure the safety of the students."

For inquiries, contact the Malaysian Embassy in Tehran by phone at (+9821) 88072444 or (+9821) 88078606, or via email at mwtehran@kln.gov.my and mwconsular.teh@gmail.com.

The Malaysian Embassy in Amman can be reached at (+962) 6590 2400 or (+962) 78590 2400, or via email at mwamman@kln.gov.my.

THE SUN

17 APR 2024

Tarikh: