



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 17 DISEMBER 2024 (SELASA)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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MPKj urged to be more lenient with parking fines

A GROUP of Indian residents has appealed to the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) not to be overzealous in its car-parking enforcement, *Makkal Osai* reported.

Two residents who spoke to the daily, Vivekananthan Vairakannu and Samuel Govindasamy, said the Kajang area is notorious for its parking congestion.

It was not uncommon for shoppers to double-park to run a quick errand, they said.

They urged MPKj to be considerate of the people's plight.

> A bank manager in India conned a farmer out of tens of thousands of rupees worth of chickens with the promise of a loan, the daily also reported.

Rupchand Manhar had wanted to expand his poultry farm in Chhattisgarh and so sought a loan from the State Bank of India branch in Masturi.

The bank manager initially asked for a 10% commission from the 1.2 million rupees (RM63,000) loan requested by the farmer, before asking for gifts of local chickens from Rupchand.

Rupchand, finally realising that he might go bankrupt before his loan got approved, then filed a petition with the local magistrate.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 DEC 2024

Safety of city projects the priority

Developers urged to work with DBKL to restore confidence among buyers, foreign visitors

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa is stressing that safety should take priority over speed with regard to property developments in Kuala Lumpur.

She made the comment in response to reports that several developers were delaying project launches due to Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) new geotechnical requirements.

"This perception that Kuala Lumpur is not safe, especially after the Masjid India sinkhole incident, must be addressed seriously," she said.

"Safety isn't just about protecting the city's residents; it is also about reassuring foreign visitors."

"We need to take steps to restore confidence in Kuala Lumpur's safety."

"The challenge is striking a bal-



Dr Zaliha: I would want to know if the ground beneath a building is safe.

ance between strict safety standards and ensuring development in the city continues to thrive.

"Personally, I will want to know if the ground beneath a building is safe."

Dr Zaliha was responding to a question from *StarMetro* on a

StarBiz report titled "Developers postpone several KL property launches".

According to the report, CIMB Research found that these postponements stemmed from new geotechnical study requirements introduced by DBKL.

It said the requirements might lengthen approval process for new projects.

The requirements were implemented following an incident where a 48-year-old tourist from India fell into an eight-metre-deep sinkhole at Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur, in August.

Despite search-and-rescue efforts, she was never found.

Following the tragedy, Dr Zaliha temporarily halted construction approvals in the city to allow for the formation of a task force.

It is tasked with reviewing and improving standard operating procedures (SOPs) for developments in the city.

As a result, geotechnical studies are now required for all development projects.

"Previously, geotechnical studies were mandatory for high-risk areas such as hill slopes or locations with unstable soil."

"But after the Masjid India incident, we have made it a requirement across the board to prevent such incidents from happening again," she said.

Dr Zaliha said that while experts confirmed the stability of Kuala Lumpur's Kenny Hill Formation (a stable layer of hardened rock and sediment), deeper layers beneath the city such as limestone caves extending down 2,000 to 2,500m could pose potential risks.

"The sinkhole happened on flat ground, and we are waiting for the final report."

"Many agencies are involved, and we need to ensure the findings are as accurate as possible. Until then, the geotechnical

study requirement remains in place for all projects," she added. Dr Zaliha reassured developers that the government was open to collaboration.

"We need to instil confidence in residents and visitors."

"It is better to be safe than sorry, particularly when constructing multi-storey buildings," she reiterated.

She encouraged developers to reach out to DBKL's task force that includes the Mineral and Geoscience Department.

"Our agencies have geologic data for some areas."

"If that data is sufficient, developers may not even need to conduct their own studies."

"So, talk to us. Our task force operates with clear SOPs and is here to help," she said.

Dr Zaliha said the government's safety measures were aimed at building public trust while keeping Kuala Lumpur attractive to investors.



Rescue teams heading deep into the affected area to find the tourist who fell into the sinkhole in Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur. — Filepic

THE STAR

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Selangor to contribute RM500,000 for Kelantan flood relief operations

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor government will donate RM500,000 to Kelantan as support aid to assist with recovery efforts following floods last month.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said the allocation will be tabled at the state executive council meeting tomorrow for final approval.

"This support aid will be used to repair damaged infrastructure and other affected facilities. Through the Selangor Prihatin Fund, we provide assistance to disaster-affected areas, including Kelantan," he said after officiating at the Disaster Aid Mission, Ihsan Madani Squad: Selangor-Kelantan Post-Flood Assistance at the Selangor State Secretariat Building yesterday.

He added that the state government has mobilised the Ihsan Madani squad, comprising local authority staff and volunteers, to assist with post-flood recovery efforts in Kelantan.

The team also includes Selangor's waste management company, KDEB Waste Management, which will handle the cleanup of public infrastructure and homes affected by the disaster. — Bernama

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 DEC 2024

Activists sue district council over shooting of Kopi the dog

By NURBAITI HAMDAN
nurbaiti@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Four animal activists have filed legal action against the Besut District Council (MDB) over the death of Kopi, a stray dog who had gone viral on TikTok.

Kartini Farah Abd Rahim, S. Mukunnam, Hong Hai San and S. Shashi Kumar filed the originating summons at the Kuala Terengganu High Court via

Messrs Raj & Sach on Dec 10.

They named MDB and the Terengganu state government as the first and second defendants respectively.

At a press conference here yesterday, lawyer Rajesh Nagarajan, who represented all the plaintiffs, said the Kuala Terengganu High Court has fixed Jan 15 for case management.

In the originating summons, the plaintiffs are seeking a court declaration that the murder of

Kopi by MDB violates Section 29(e) of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) 2015.

They are also seeking a declaration that MDB's act of shooting the stray dog using a firearm violates Section 30(1) and that such shooting under Section 30(2) of the AWA is prohibited.

This is because Section 30(1) stipulates that using a firearm against any dogs, cats or other animals is not allowed and can only be sanctioned by a veterinar-

ian in an emergency or for disease control purposes.

Kartini Farah, who affirmed an affidavit in support, said residents in Besut were shaken at about 1.30am on Oct 6 by the sound of gunshots.

The residents, who went out to investigate, saw three MDB officers driving around the area in a pick-up truck.

They later found Kopi dead with gunshot wounds.

Kartini Farah said MDB issued

a statement on Oct 13, citing that the shooting of Kopi was done in accordance with the law and the standard operating procedure in handling stray dogs.

However, a Facebook page called My Forever Doggo shared a 52-second video clip that showed Kopi died from serious injuries.

Kopi became famous after one of her feeders, Abby Razali, uploaded a TikTok video of the dog playing with a kitten in March.

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Near-reality exercises to prepare for future disasters

PUCHONG: The construction of a disaster simulation site for the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (SMART) at Pulau Meranti is expected to be completed by February next year, says Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan.

The Deputy Works Minister said the project, overseen by the Selangor Public Works Department (JKR), is 99% complete.

"It is the first disaster simulation centre and the second in the Asean region after Singapore.

"The purpose is to enhance the efficiency and professionalism of SMART members in dealing with various disasters.

"We aim to become a highly efficient rescue team. There are about 150 SMART members and the centre will provide optimal training for them," he told reporters after visiting the simulation site at the SMART headquarters yesterday, Bernama reported.

The project, which costs nearly RM33.4mil, is owned by the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) under the Prime Minister's Department.

Ahmad said the facility would be able to simulate various disaster scenarios, forming the basis for comprehensive, near-reality-based training exercises.

He said the site's facilities and technology are expected to support all the requirements for SMART to maintain its recognition by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, a body under the United Nations that coordinates the international network of rescue teams for cross-border disaster operations.

The simulation training modules include cable car rescue (cable car accident rescue module), underground train accidents, rescuing from tilted and partially collapsed buildings and abseiling tower exercises.



Beyond the classroom: The facility will be able to simulate various disaster scenarios, forming the basis for comprehensive, near-reality-based training exercises. — Bernama

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SHOULD the government reinstate local government elections? To determine this, let's examine their brief history.

Municipal elections in Malaysia began in 1911 in Penang during the British colonial period. After World War II, the Federation of Malaya Agreement on Feb 1, 1948, shifted governance from local to state elections, leading to the Federal Legislative Council's formation.

The Local Authorities Elections Ordinance 1950 allowed Melaka's first municipal elections on Nov 1, 1951, and the 1952 Local Councils Ordinance expanded voting rights to all residents and foreigners.

However, due to the Indonesian Confrontation after Sabah and Sarawak formed Malaysia with Malaya and Singapore in 1963, an Emergency was declared in 1964 and local government elections were suspended indefinitely. The Local Government Act of 1976 ultimately abolished these elections.

Today, voters can elect representatives at two government levels: Members of Parliament (MPs) at the federal level and state assembly members at the state level. In the federal territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and

Putrajaya, only MPs are elected. Local government councillors are appointed by the state government and are accountable to state assembly members, allowing for reduced governance costs.

Former Housing and Local Government minister Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican stated in a press conference on Sept 2, 2021, that the cost of local government elections is estimated at RM2mil per council, totalling RM302mil for all 151 councils in the country. There are also hidden costs associated with security provided by the police and Rela (People's Volunteer Corps) at voting centres.

Reviving local government elections every two years would burden voters with more elections compared with the current five-year cycle for general elections. The costs and time associated with these frequent elections could instead be redirected to enhance healthcare services and public infrastructure.

Since the Malaysian government is democratically elected,

holding more elections, such as local government elections, will not necessarily make the country more democratic or ensure better services.

Instead, the government should consider other ways to improve community administration.

In recent years, some local governments have enhanced community administration through information and communications technology (ICT), connecting councils with residents. ICT allows residents to contact councillors directly using handphones, social media and e-mail, and submit complaints and make payments online, saving time.

This online system enables councillors to efficiently access current issues reported by residents for timely resolution.

Since local government elections were suspended in 1964, appointed councillors have been able to serve their communities without the distractions of political pressure.

This approach enables the government to support councillors in

meeting their KPIs for reappointment, fostering a focus on effective service delivery. In contrast, elected councillors would have to navigate the challenges of prioritising popularity to gain votes. This distinction highlights the potential benefits of a merit-based system for local governance.

Conflicts of interest can arise when elected officials like MPs, assemblymen and councillors belong to different political parties, hindering service delivery. Appointing councillors instead of holding elections can help prevent these conflicts.

Reviving local government elections is neither relevant nor beneficial for our communities' future. The current government structure is effective and cost-efficient. Instead of returning to outdated practices that were used back in the British colonial era, we should continue to focus on more innovative ways to improve service delivery to communities.

A MALAYSIAN VOTER
Seri Kembangan, Selangor

Move on from local elections

17/12/24

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 DEC 2024

130 Selangor personnel heading east to aid in flood cleanup

By VIJENTHI NAIR
vijenthi@thestar.com.my

SELANGOR government flagged off a relief mission to Kelantan to lend assistance in cleaning up after the floods.

Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said 12 local councils comprising 130 personnel and 45 vehicles including water tankers, RoRo lorries, tipper lorries and pickup trucks were part of the convoy.

However, he said this was not the full team because some staff were on standby to attend to floods in Selangor.

Amirudin said this period in December was a critical time for the state due to heightened risk of flooding.

"In fact, the state experienced



Amirudin (front row, with Selangor flag) seeing off the relief mission to Kelantan to help with the flood aftermath.

some of its highest tides of up to five metres this morning and yesterday.

"We are prepared to handle any eventuality with the support of federal agencies such as the

police and Fire and Rescue Department, along with teams from local councils and trained volunteers," he said.

On the mission to Kelantan, Amirudin said the team would focus on cleaning up public facilities until Dec 19.

Kelantan has been hit by massive floods since last month.

Bernama reported that the Kelantan government had suffered over RM30mil losses due to the first wave of floods that occurred at the end of last month.

It was also reported that 10 out of 11 districts with river basins in Kelantan were expected to experience flooding until Dec 19.

The affected districts are Tumpat, Pasir Mas, Kota Baru, Tanah Merah, Bachok, Machang,

Pasir Puteh, Kuala Krai, Jeli and Gua Musang.

Amirudin said the relief mission would cost Selangor between RM300,000 and RM400,000.

"It is a manifestation of the state's concern and commitment to the well-being of the people regardless of location and geography.

"The team will coordinate with Kelantan government on areas that need help, and will prioritise the cleanup of public facilities such as mosques and community halls," he said.

Amirudin also said that he would suggest to Selangor government to approve a cash contribution of RM500,000 to Kelantan government to help with social infrastructure facilities.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 17 DEC 2024

**YOUR
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to
know**

Zoning debate divides Bangsar neighbourhood



By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

Businesses warn of economic risks while residents push for preservation

THREE connected roads in Bangsar that are home to vibrant businesses face an uncertain future as Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) proposes rezoning the area from major commercial back to residential.

The proposal, which involves 32 lots on Jalan Abdullah, Lengkok Abdullah and Lorong Abdullah, has sparked strong opposition from business and property owners.

They warned that this move could lead to plummeting property values, disrupted investments and a loss of confidence in the city's planning policies.

Representatives of 56% of the affected properties have expressed their disapproval, stating that the change threatens to undermine years of investment.

Many property owners say that they specifically invested in the area because of its major commercial zoning under Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2020 (KLLP 2020).

They are appealing to DBKL to consider the long-term implications and make commercial zoning permanent instead of revisiting it with each local plan.

Notable restaurants on Jalan Abdullah could be adversely affected, along with an aged care facility, legal firms and security services in the area.

"Downgrading the zoning from commercial to residential sets a dangerous precedent that will undermine investor confidence," said Datuk Muhammad Shapiae Mat Ali, a spokesperson for the affected business owners.

"It could open the floodgates for other residents to demand similar downgrades, rendering commercial areas no longer safe for investors," he said.

He further cautioned that the move could leave the area deserted, like Jalan Gelenggang in Bukit Damansara where abandoned houses stand in stark contrast to bustling commercial developments nearby.

Proposed rezoning

The proposed changes were outlined in the draft Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 (KLLP 2040) earlier this year, catching many business owners by surprise.

The draft categorises properties on Jalan Abdullah into a few zoning classifications – residential 1, residential 2 and lot amalgamation.

Under residential 1, properties numbered 23 to 37 are allowed to build up to three storeys.

For residential 2, properties numbered 11 to 21, as well as those on Lorong Abdullah and Lengkok Abdullah, can have buildings up to 15 storeys high.

For lot amalgamation, where three lots are merged, structures exceeding 15 storeys are permitted.

"This unprecedented move has caused significant concern among business and property



A house owner in Jalan Abdullah hangs a banner in protest of high-rises being built in his neighbourhood. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



Muhammad Shapiae says downgrading the zoning sets a dangerous precedent.



Lim invested RM2.8mil to develop his property into an elderly care centre.



Ksharmini has opposed efforts to commercialise her neighbourhood for years.



Fahmi says the shift from major commercial to residential was requested by the residents.

owners," said Muhammad Shapiae.

"The majority affected owners want the major commercial status retained, and have submitted statutory declarations (SD) to DBKL affirming their position," he said.

Allen Lim, another affected property owner, highlighted that 18 out of 32 lot owners opposed the rezoning.

He added that many property owners invested heavily after the area was zoned commercial under Kuala Lumpur City Plan (KLCP) 2020, upgrading and transforming properties into thriving businesses, paying higher taxes and obtaining commercial licences.

Impact on businesses

Bungalow 37 restaurant owner Datuk Seri K. Mohan expressed frustration, noting his significant investment in transforming a 14,500sq ft ageing bungalow into

a thriving restaurant.

"When I purchased the bungalow in 2017, the bank valued the loan at RM9mil, but Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTGWP) valued it at RM13mil because of its commercial status.

"Reverting to residential zoning means we will lose the substantial investments we have made," he said.

Lim shared similar sentiments, pointing out that his elderly care centre, which cost RM2.8mil to develop, provided an essential service to the community.

"If it reverts to residential, we will suffer significant losses.

"This centre offers peace of mind to families, especially those living abroad, knowing their elderly loved ones are well-cared for here," he said.

Bangsar Lutheran Church leader HC Leong also voiced objections to the change, urging DBKL to maintain the major commercial status until the Jalan Abdullah property is officially

rezoned as a religious building.

Muhammad Shapiae felt that the rezoning would also lead to property owners losing rental income potential.

"They will have no incentive to invest in maintaining their properties. The area risks falling into neglect," he added.

Support for rezoning

In contrast, long-standing residents have welcomed the proposed rezoning, citing concerns about over-commercialisation and its impact on infrastructure and quality of life.

"We have opposed efforts to commercialise our neighbourhood for years," said 54-year-old Ksharmini Thanigasalam.

"The infrastructure cannot handle the strain and the peace of our homes is disrupted," she said.

Similarly, resident Ratnasothy Kandiah felt relieved when she heard the news.

"I have lived in this house for 80 years, having moved here as a child.

"When I heard that our area is being rezoned back to residential, I felt relieved.

"However, I regret that it was zoned commercial for a time, as this allowed the approval of a 34-storey high-rise right next to my bungalow and a 62-storey tower at the back.

"Rezoning back to residential will, at the very least, prevent further development," she added.

Also all for the rezoning proposal is long-time resident Mooi Lau Chan.

"My house has been home to four generations of my family.

"There is no logic in commercialising a historical and heritage area that was developed between 1929 and 1940.

"Reverting our neighbourhood back to residential will ensure it remains liveable and preserves its unique charm.

THE proposed rezoning of Jalan Abdullah, Lengkok Abdullah and Lorong Abdullah in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, from major commercial to residential aligns with the area's inherent characteristics, say property experts.

Association of Valuers, Property Managers, Estate Agents and Property Consultants in the Private Sector Malaysia (PEPS) president A. Subramaniam described the move as potentially aligning with the neighbourhood's inherent features.

He noted that the area's smaller roads and limited lot sizes were less suitable for large-scale commercial ventures.

"The rezoning proposal for these roads in Bangsar reflects a recalibration of land use that may better suit the area."

"While the area is close to Jalan Bangsar, it is nestled within smaller roads, making it less ideal for major commercial developments."

"Furthermore, the smaller lot sizes limit the feasibility of fully utilising the commercial plot ratio, reducing its appeal for large-scale ventures," he added.

Subramaniam explained that authorities often allowed existing operations to continue under a grandfathering provision — meaning businesses might operate with the old rule continuing to apply until there is a change in ownership or purpose.

Property experts say rezoning applies to future projects, aligns with area's features



Subramaniam says the smaller lot sizes limit the feasibility of fully utilising the commercial plot ratio.



Fernandez says any change in zoning will only affect future developments.

"This approach could mitigate immediate disruption for businesses that relied on commercial zoning."

"From a property value perspective, owners need not feel overly concerned or shortchanged," he said.

Subramaniam also highlighted that Bangsar's strong demand for properties, driven by its prime location and established reputation, was unlikely to diminish significantly even with a shift to residential zoning.

"Provided the location remains desirable, the intrinsic value of these properties should remain intact."

"However, the issue of compensation for businesses, should their operations be compromised, is a legitimate concern, particularly given the investments made based on the previous commercial zoning," he said.

He suggested that if the rezoning imposed operational restrictions or necessitated relocation, affected parties might reasonably

expect consideration or support from the authorities to mitigate financial losses.

"This could include transitional allowances, tax relief or other compensatory mechanisms."

"Moreover, potential risks such as abandoned properties or economic stagnation can be avoided with thoughtful planning."

"Authorities could engage stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition and explore ways to harmonise residential and small-scale commercial uses, preserving the area's vibrancy," added Subramaniam.

"Rezoning an area like Jalan Abdullah back to residential is not just about land use, it is about preserving the long-term sustainability of the neighbourhood," said M. Shamini, a senior realtor based in Damansara.

"While commercial development has its benefits, it must be balanced against the realities of infrastructure limitations and community needs."

"In this case, the narrow roads and small lot sizes make the area better suited for low-density residential living, which can also contribute to maintaining

property values in the long run," she explained.

"However, any rezoning must be carefully managed to avoid alienating current business owners."

"Clear communication, stakeholder engagement and transitional support will be crucial to ensure the area retains its vibrancy while aligning with the proposed changes," Shamini added.

Planning lawyer Derek Fernandez explained that zoning changes in the draft plan applied only to future developments, under the Federal Territory (Planning) Act 1982 (Act 267).

"It does not impact existing use," he said.

"If the authorities intend to cease existing business operations, they must issue a requisition notice under Section 30."

"In such cases, property owners are entitled to compensation under the law for the loss of property value and other losses incurred as a result of being prevented from using their property for business or commercial purposes," said Fernandez.

— By BAVANI M



During lunch hour, the road is often filled with cars as people come to enjoy a meal at the various eateries in the area.

"The distinctive character of our area is something the city should take pride in," she added.

Likewise, Dr Padma Soosai was happy to hear about the proposed rezoning.

"It will help ease the traffic issues we have been struggling with on Jalan Abdullah," said the resident.

"The roads are so congested that two cars can barely pass each other, let alone emergency service vehicles."

"This decision will also help preserve the little green spaces we have left and shield residents from the noise and air pollution caused by commercial activities,"

said Dr Padma.

Save Kuala Lumpur (SKL) chairman Datuk M. Ali said the area was one of the city's earliest organised housing estates.

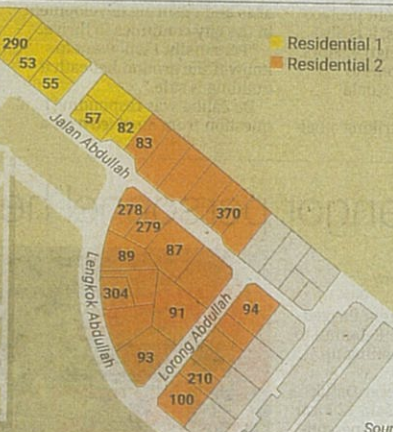
Its residents, many of whom have inherited properties across generations, hold deep emotional and historical ties to their homes.

"The area has been a traditional, generational residential enclave since its inception."

"Without engaging the local community, DBKL made a decision to change the zoning to major commercial with a high plot ratio."

"This decision is entirely at odds with the desires of the

Proposed land rezoning for Jalan Abdullah, Lengkok Abdullah and Lorong Abdullah



Owners opposed to the proposed zone change	
Lot number	
51	279
290	87
53	91
55	93
57	304
82	89
83	94
370	210
278	100

Source: Draft KLPP 2040

original residents.

"There is an urgent need for DBKL to consider the implications of its planning decisions," said Ali.

He said this area should be protected as a heritage site, given its historical significance.

"The existing infrastructure for electricity and water is already strained and roads here cannot accommodate increased traffic."

"Flood risks are also high because of the limited capacity to expand the drainage system," he added.

Ali also pointed out incidents of inadequate fire hydrant performance during recent fires, which required water tankers to be brought in.

The challenges, he noted, highlighted the area's inability to support high-density mixed-use development.

"DBKL's approvals for unsustainable developments risk turning these housing estates into future slums."

"We strongly appeal to the cur-

rent mayor to put an end to these plans before it is too late."

Busy enclave

When *StarMetro* visited the area recently, it was evident that many properties had been transformed into thriving businesses.

There were restaurants such as Bangalow 37, Lubuk Bangku and Hux Cafe, several commercial carparks operating on vacant land, an elderly care centre, a church, security service offices, a car wash and a pet centre.

Just a short distance away is a low-density, 180-unit residential suite tower as well as an upcoming project featuring apartments and office buildings.

During lunchtime, the area is particularly congested, with cars parked on both sides of the roads as people visit the popular restaurants.

While some restaurant owners have hired parking attendants to manage the situation, traffic remains hectic on busy days.

Police were also observed issuing summonses to vehicles that were illegally parked.

StarMetro reached out to Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil, who said his office had not been contacted by business owners opposed to the rezoning.

However, residents in favour of reverting to residential had been in constant communication with his office.

"The shift from major commercial to residential was requested by the residents," said Fahmi.

The draft KLPP 2040, launched in January this year, outlines the capital city's vision, focusing on land use planning and development intensity in line with the goals set in the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2040 (KLSP 2040) in accordance with the Federal Territory (Planning) Act 1982.

The public was invited to submit their objections and feedback on the draft until April 15.

The draft KLPP 2040 is expected to be gazetted by the first quarter of 2025.

Perkasa modul integriti peringkat sekolah demi negara bertamadun

17/12

SHAH ALAM - Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia (KPM) disarankan untuk memperkasa modul integriti dalam jadual persekolahan demi membina sebuah negara yang bertamadun.

**RASUAH
BUSTERS**

Pengerusi Gabungan Rasuah Busters Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan dan Putrajaya, Profesor Dr Hamdan Daniel M Sharib berkata, perkara sedemikian tidak boleh dipandang ringan kerana hasil daripada pemeraksanaan itu akan membawa kepada perubahan pentadbiran yang lebih berintegriti pada masa hadapan.

"Umum mengetahui bahawa masa hadapan negara bergantung kepada kejayaan dalam mendidik mereka. Modul integriti ini perlu diperkasakan dengan memasukkan ia dalam jadual serta takwim persekolahan menerusi kempen berkaitan.

"Jika kita mendedahkan hal itu, mereka secara tidak langsung dapat memahami bahawa rasuah merupakan satu jenayah berat yang boleh membawa kemunduran kepada negara," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Dalam pada itu, Hamdan Daniel memberitahu bahawa cadangan untuk mewujudkan modul sedemikian boleh diperkembangkan ke institusi pengajian tinggi.

Jelasnya, usaha memupuk semangat untuk menolak perbuatan rasuah tidak boleh terhenti di peringkat persekolahan, sebaliknya perlu diteruskan dengan pelaksanaan kempen secara berterusan.

"Kita perlu ingat manusia ini merupakan makhluk yang mudah lupa. Kalau kita tidak mewujudkan modul integriti ini di peringkat universiti, mungkin anak-anak akan lupa.

"Keadaan itu boleh mendorong mereka untuk melakukan perbuatan menerima atau memberi rasuah. Ini yang kita nak elak," ujarnya.

Sehubungan itu, Hamdan Daniel sekali lagi menegaskan untuk mana-mana pihak berkuasa atau pertubuhan bukan kerajaan agar melakukan kempen anti rasuah secara berkala.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 17 DEC 2024

Bayaran haji naik 20 peratus

Bagi jemaah B40 dan M40, bagaimanapun kos masih kekal pada RM33,300 seorang

Oleh MUKHRIZ MAT HUSIN
KUALA LUMPUR

Bayaran haji bagi kumpulan B40 dan M40 pada tahun ini naik 20 peratus susulan peningkatan kos penginapan, penerbangan dan perkhidmatan di Tanah Suci.

Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH), Syed Hamadah Syed Othman berkata, kadar bayaran melibatkan jemaah haji muassasah kumpulan B40 yang menunaikan ibadah suci tersebut buat kali pertama ditetapkan pada RM15,000 berbanding RM12,356 seorang pada tahun lalu.

Ujar beliau, bayaran haji kumpulan M40 pula ialah RM23,500 berbanding RM19,152 seorang pada tahun lalu.

"Sementara jemaah muassasah kumpulan T20 perlu menjelaskan bayaran penuh kos haji iaitu RM33,300 seorang."

"TH telah dapat mengekang peningkatan bayaran bagi musim haji tahun ini di mana kos haji masih kekal pada RM33,300 bagi seorang jemaah muassasah," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika sidang akhbar Majlis Pengumuman Kos Haji, Bayaran Haji dan Bantuan Kewangan Haji 1446H di Menara TH Tun Razak di sini pada Isnin.

Dalam pada itu, Syed Hamadah berkata, TH melakukan pelbagai usaha untuk mengekang peningkatan kos haji ter-

masuk mendapatkan kontrak jangka panjang penerbangan.

"Harga penginapan di Tanah Suci juga telah meningkat dengan mendadak akibat daripada pembangunan pesat di Makkah dan Madinah.

"Namun, TH telah berjaya mengikat perjanjian dengan pengusaha hotel untuk beberapa tahun akan datang bagi memastikan keterjaminan harga penginapan terkawal.

"Kos penginapan, penerbangan dan caj perkhidmatan di Tanah Suci merangkumi 87 peratus daripada kos keseluruhan dan adalah di luar kawalan TH," ujar beliau.

Menurut beliau, penurunan bantuan kewangan haji itu dilakukan untuk memastikan kelestarian kewangan TH, sejajar dengan keperluan memenuhi kehendak pendeposit.

"TH sentiasa berusaha mengimbangi keperluan membantu bakal haji yang memerlukan dengan kehendak pendeposit yang mengharapkan agihan keuntungan



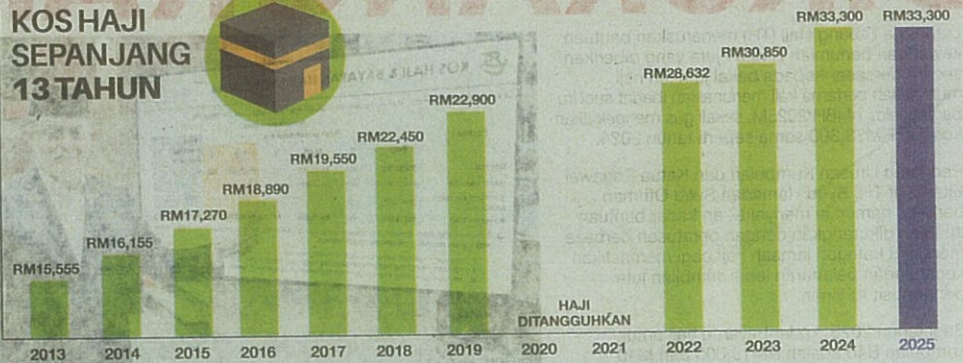
TH melakukan pelbagai usaha untuk mengekang peningkatan kos haji termasuk mendapatkan kontrak jangka panjang penerbangan. - Gambar hiasan

berpatutan," katanya.

Jelasnya bantuan kewangan haji adalah sebahagian daripada sumber pen-

dapatan TH, dan sebarang pengurangan bantuan akan memberi kesan positif kepada agihan keuntungan pendeposit.

KOS HAJI SEPANJANG 13 TAHUN



NEGERI	SUBUH	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
PERLIS	6:08	6:59	1:17	4:38	7:09	8:24
ALOR SETAR	6:09	7:00	1:17	4:38	7:09	8:24
PULAU PINANG	6:07	7:19	1:17	4:39	7:11	8:25
IPOH	6:03	7:14	1:15	4:37	7:10	8:25
KOTA BHARU	6:01	7:15	1:10	4:31	7:02	8:13
KUALA TERENGGANU	5:55	7:09	1:06	4:27	6:59	8:14

NEGERI	SUBUH	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
KUANTAN	5:52	7:06	1:07	4:30	7:04	8:19
KUALA LUMPUR - PUTRAJAYA	5:59	7:11	1:12	4:35	7:09	8:24
SHAH ALAM	5:59	7:10	1:12	4:35	7:09	8:24
SEREMBAN	5:56	7:08	1:11	4:35	7:09	8:24
BANDAR MELAKA	5:54	7:08	1:10	4:33	7:08	8:23
JOHOR BAHRU	5:47	7:01	1:04	4:27	7:03	8:18

• PENERBIT/KETUA PEGAWAI EKSEKUTIF (CEO) GRUP SINAR KARANGKRAF: FARAH HUSSAMUDDIN • KETUA PENGARANG KUMPULAN: ZAMRI RAMLI
• PENGARANG EKSEKUTIF (CETAK): AZMI TARMIZI • PENGARANG EKSEKUTIF (DIGITAL): RUZY ADILA IDRIS • PENGARANG BERITA: JUNHAIRI ALYASA
• TIMBALAN PENGARANG BERITA: BADRULDIN ZAKARIA, ZUKI PILEH, AZLINA MOHAMAD JANTAN, AHMAD SYAHRIUL DERAUH, ROSLI HASSAN • KETUA JABATAN IKLAN: AIROL FADLEY LIMIN • PENGARANG KREATIF KANAN: NORAZLAN ISMAIL
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SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh:17 DEC 2024.....

Pelancong Malaysia suka percutian santai, alam semula jadi

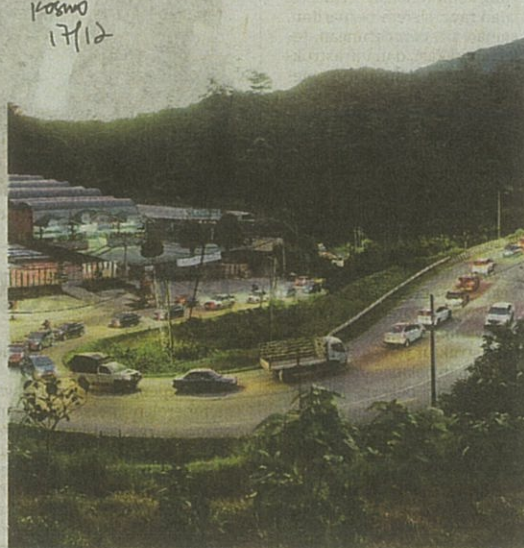
PETALING JAYA – Rakyat Malaysia didapati lebih gemarkan pelancongan berbentuk santai dan destinasi berunsurkan alam semula jadi, berdasarkan kajian Menakrif Semula Perjalanan: Memahami dan Melayani Pelbagai Keperluan Pelancong APAC (Asia Pasifik) yang dilaksanakan Traveloka dengan kerjasama YouGov.

Kajian itu melibatkan kira-kira 12,000 responden meliputi sembilan negara termasuk 1,000 dari Malaysia dan mendedahkan maklumat tabiat serta kecenderungan pelancong yang semakin berkembang untuk membentuk landskap pelancongan di rantau ini.

Di Malaysia, berehat dan memulihkan tenaga merupakan tujuan utama bagi 31 peratus rakyat Malaysia untuk memilih menjalani pelancongan santai, lebih tinggi berbanding purata serantau sebanyak 26 peratus.

Sebagai contoh, kebanyakan pengembara di Malaysia cenderung memilih destinasi berunsurkan alam semula jadi dengan kawasan pergunungan mendahului senarai pemilihan pada 59 peratus, diikuti pantai (57 peratus) serta tapak budaya dan sejarah (42 peratus).

Harga juga merupakan faktor penentu kritikal di Malaysia dengan 46 peratus responden menyatakan bahawa kemampuan membayar menjadi keutamaan dalam pemilihan pengi-



KAWASAN pergunungan seperti Cameron Highlands menjadi pilihan rakyat Malaysia untuk berehat.

napan.

Presiden Traveloka, Caesar Indra berkata, Asia Pasifik merupakan kawasan dengan peluang yang luas, namun kepelbagaian budaya di rantau ini memerlukan kreativiti dan pendekatan yang tersendiri.

"Untuk berjaya dalam landskap pelancongan yang dinamik ini, penyedia pelancongan perlu

mempunyai pemahaman yang tinggi terhadap keperluan unik pasaran yang pelbagai.

"Kejayaan boleh dikecapi dengan mengolah strategi inovatif melalui dapatan kajian, sekali gus membawa pengembara lebih dekat kepada pengalaman yang mereka mahukan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

KOSMO

Tarikh: **17 DEC 2024**

Pusat simulasi bencana dijangka siap Februari

Puchong: Projek pembinaan tapak khas simulasi bencana bagi Pasukan Mencari dan Menyelamat Khas Malaysia (SMART) di Pulau Meranti, dekat sini dijangka siap sepenuhnya pada Februari ini.

Projek di bawah seliaan Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) Selangor itu mencapai 99 peratus kemajuan dan bakal menjadi pusat simulasi bencana yang pertama di Malaysia serta kedua di rantau ASEAN selepas Singapura.

Timbalan Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan, berkata pembinaan pusat simulasi bencana itu bertujuan meningkatkan kecakapan dan tahap profesionalisme anggota SMART dalam mendepani segala bentuk kemungkinan bencana.

"Kita ingin menjadi pasukan menyelamat yang cekap ketika berlaku bencana. Anggota SMART kira-kira 150 orang dan pusat ini akan memberikan latihan optimum kepada mereka yang terlibat," katanya pada sidang media selepas melawat tapak simulasi khas bencana itu di Markas SMART, di sini semalam.

Projek membabitkan kos hampir RM33.4 juta itu adalah milik Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) di bawah Jabatan Perdana Menteri.

Ahmad berkata, pusat berkenaan memiliki keupayaan membuat simulasi pelbagai senario bencana yang akan menjadi asas kepada latihan komprehensif

dan berdasarkan situasi sebenar bencana.

Beliau berkata, fasiliti dan teknologi yang akan melengkapkan pusat berkenaan dijangka menyokong semua keperluan bagi memudahkan pasukan SMART mengekalkan pengiktirafan International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), badan di bawah Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) yang mengkoordinasikan rangkaian penyelamat antarabangsa berkaitan operasi bencana rentas sempadan.

Antara modul latihan simulasi dalam projek itu ialah modul kereta kabel (modul menyelamatkan kemalangan kereta kabel), kemalangan kereta api bawah tanah, menyelamatkan bangunan condong dan bangunan separa runtuh dan menara.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Ahmad turut mengumumkan JKR akan membina projek NADMA di bawah Kumpulan Wang Amanah Bantuan Bencana Negara untuk menyiapkan dewan terbuka pusat pemindahan kekal bencana dalam kawasan sekolah.

Beliau berkata, terdapat lapan sekolah terpilih dengan dua sekolah menerima surat setuju terima (SST) manakala enam lagi masih dalam proses perancangan.

"Pusat ini adalah pusat pemindahan banjir, projek NADMA bagi hadapi bencana seperti banjir dengan membina dewan terbuka pusat pemindahan kekal bencana," katanya. **BERNAMA**



Ahmad ketika lawatan kerja ke projek simulasi bencana bagi pasukan mencari dan menyelamatkan khas Malaysia (SMART) di Markas SMART, Pulau Meranti, Puchong. (Foto Amirudin Sahib/BH)

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh...1..7..DEC..2024.....

Skuad Ihsan MADANI hulur bantuan pasca banjir di Kelantan

Shah Alam: Kerajaan Selangor menggerakkan Skuad Ihsan MADANI ke Kelantan semalam, bagi membantu membersihkan kemudahan awam dan rumah penduduk yang terjejas banjir.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, berkata skuad yang terdiri daripada anggota pihak berkuasa tempatan dan sukarelawan bagi operasi pascabanjir sebagai komitmen terhadap usaha kemanusiaan dan tanggungjawab sosial.

Beliau berkata, misi disertai 130 individu bersama 45 jentera itu akan menumpukan kepada kerja pembersihan bermula hingga Khamis ini.

Skuad itu katanya, turut disertai syarikat pembersihan sampah negeri KDEB Waste Management yang akan melaksanakan pembersihan infrastruktur awam, selain rumah penduduk.

Hulur RM500,000

Amirudin berkata, kerajaan Selangor juga akan memberi sumbangan berjumlah RM500,000 kepada kerajaan Kelantan sebagai



bantuan sokongan susulan banjir.

Katanya, perkara itu akan dibawa ke Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri (MMKN) pada esok untuk dimuktamadkan.

"Bantuan sokongan ini diberikan untuk kegunaan membaiki pulih infrastruktur dan kemudahan lain yang terjejas. Secara umumnya, kita memang ada Tabung Selangor Prihatin yang akan disalurkan kepada mana-mana tempat ditimpa bencana," katanya.

Beliau berkata kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Pelepasan Misi Bantuan Bencana Skuad Ihsan MADANI: Bantuan Pasca-banjir Selangor Kelantan di sini semalam.

BERNAMA



Amirudin melepaskan konvoi Misi Bantuan Bencana Skuad Ihsan MADANI ke Kelantan di Shah Alam, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)



Pengarah Urusan KDEB Waste Management (KDEBWM), Datuk Ramli Mohd Tahir (lima dari kanan) pada konvoi Misi Bantuan Bencana Skuad Ihsan MADANI ke Kelantan, di Shah Alam, semalam. (Foto Faiz Anuar/BH)

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....17 DEC 2024.....

Syor tuala wanita masuk dalam kit bantuan banjir

Oleh Nurul Suhaida Ibrahim
bhrencana@bh.com.my



Pembantu Penyelidik, Pusat Kajian Ekonomi dan Kemasyarakatan, Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (IKIM)

Banjir gelombang kedua sudah mula melanda Kelantan dan Terengganu, sekali lagi mengundang detik cemas penduduk yang sudah pun terjejas teruk akibat bencana alam sebelumnya.

Di sebalik banyak bantuan seperti makanan dan minuman diberikan, kita terlepas pandang bantuan keperluan asas, terutama berkaitan pengurusan haid.

Meskipun bantuan makanan dan pakaian diagihkan secara meluas, keluhan mengenai kekurangan pad sanitari dan keperluan haid lain semakin banyak dide-ngar.

Seorang mangsa banjir di pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) di Kelantan dalam wawancara dengan media menegaskan dia bersyukur dengan makanan dan selimut diberi, tetapi keperluan seperti tuala wanita sangat sukar didapati.

Ini menyebabkan mangsa banjir itu terpaksa berkongsi dengan orang lain, malah ramai wanita terpaksa bergantung kepada kain biasa kerana tiada pilihan lain.

Situasi perlu dihadapi wanita di PPS ini bukan

sahaja menyebabkan ketidakselesaan, malah menimbulkan risiko jangkitan pada saluran kencing dan organ reproduktif seperti ditegaskan Ketua Jabatan Obstetrik dan Ginekologi Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Prof Madya Dr Habibah Abdul Hamid.

Bellau mengingatkan wanita terdedah risiko lebih tinggi kepada jangkitan semasa haid sekiranya kebersihan tidak diberi perhatian.

Dalam satu kajian dijalankan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) diketuai Prof Madya Dr Latifah Abdul Majid, ia menekankan kepentingan menyertakan bantuan keperluan haid dalam pakej bantuan bencana seperti pad sanitari, sabun dan pakaian dalam bersih.

Utama keperluan khas

Justeru, bantuan keperluan khas itu perlu diberi keutamaan sama seperti makanan dan tempat perlindungan.

Latifah yang juga Pensyarah Fakulti Pengajian Islam (FPI) UKM turut menegaskan bantuan untuk pengurusan haid bukanlah isu kecil kerana berkaitan maruah dan kesihatan wanita, terutama semasa situasi bencana.

Kajian itu menunjukkan kekurangan bantuan keperluan haid boleh menambah tekanan psikologi kepada mangsa wanita.

Semasa tragedi banjir pada 2023, pasukan penyelidik UKM bekerjasama dengan beberapa pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) menyediakan kit bantuan khas kepada mangsa banjir, termasuk pad sanitari, pakaian dalam dan sabun.

Mereka turut mendapati wanita menerima kit ini menyatakan peningkatan ketara dalam kesejahteraan dan keupayaan menguruskan diri semasa di PPS.

Pengalaman lepas membuka mata ramai pihak mengenai satu keperluan mendesak untuk memasukkan bantuan pengurusan haid sebagai sebahagian standard operasi dalam pengurusan bencana di Malaysia kerana tiada siapa boleh menghalang haid walau dalam tempoh getir.

Usaha ini memerlukan kerjasama erat antara agensi kerajaan, NGO dan masyarakat umum untuk memastikan keperluan asas mangsa banjir sama ada berada di PPS atau di rumah masing-masing dipenuhi pada masa sama tidak mengabaikan dari sudut kebersihan, kesihatan mental dan keselamatan.

Fenomena banjir semakin kerap berlaku akibat perubahan iklim membawa keperluan mendesak untuk pelaksanaan langkah proaktif seperti ini bagi memastikan kesejahteraan dan kesejahteraan mangsa bencana tidak terabai.

BERITA HARIAN
17 DEC 2024
Tarikh.....

'Syor usia bersara 64 tahun tidak sesuai dilaksanakan'

Perbezaan demografi, cabaran pasaran kerja antara faktor kekangan

Oleh Mohamed Farid Noh
farid_noh@bh.com.my

Johor Bahru: Syor menaikkan usia persaraan kepada 64 tahun bagi meningkatkan simpanan asas persaraan rakyat negara ini seperti dilakukan Singapura, tidak sesuai dilaksanakan susulan perbezaan demografi, struktur ekonomi dan cabaran dalam pasaran kerja.

Timbalan Dekan (Akademik dan Hal Ehwal Pelajar), Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan, Sekolah Pembangunan Sumber Manusia dan Psikologi Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Prof Dr Siti Aisyah Panatik, berkata langkah Singapura yang mengumumkan had usia persaraan dinaikkan kepada 64 dan 69 tahun minggu lalu, berikutan taraf hidup yang lebih tinggi di republik itu dengan penjagaan kesihatan yang lebih baik serta peluang pekerjaan yang sesuai bagi warga emas negara berkenaan.

Sebaliknya Malaysia katanya, mempunyai struktur demografi yang berbeza dengan Singapura, susulan kadar kelahiran negara yang lebih tinggi dan populasi yang lebih muda berbanding republik itu.

Oleh itu katanya, meningkatkan usia persaraan kepada 64 tahun tidak

Kesatuan sekerja Singapura naikkan umur bersara

Siapa pun yang berminat untuk mengetahui lebih lanjut mengenai perkara ini, boleh menghubungi pihak berkaitan.

Keratan akhbar BH, Rabu lalu.

sepadan dengan realiti demografi negara berbanding Singapura.

"Bagi ramai pekerja, meningkatkan usia persaraan bermakna mereka mungkin tidak lagi mampu untuk terus bekerja pada tahap yang optimum kerana masalah kesihatan yang berkaitan dengan usia, sekali gus boleh menurunkan kualiti hidup mereka, terutama dalam sektor yang memerlukan tenaga fizikal yang tinggi.

"Jika pekerja lebih tua terus berada dalam tenaga kerja negara, ia boleh menyebabkan pengangguran dalam kalangan generasi muda, terutama dalam sektor yang menawarkan peluang pekerjaan yang terhad apatah lagi kadar pengangguran belia di Malaysia ketika ini pun meningkat kepada 10 peratus.

"Meskipun simpanan persaraan akan meningkat dengan usia persaraan yang lebih tinggi, tidak semua pekerja akan mempunyai peluang atau akses untuk menambah simpanan mereka, terutama dalam kalangan pekerja berpendapatan rendah yang sukar menyalurkan wang untuk simpanan persaraan.

"Bekerja lebih lama juga boleh memberi kesan negatif kepada kesejahteraan mental pekerja, terutama jika mereka menghadapi tekanan pekerjaan tinggi atau berasa tidak dihargai. Peningkatan usia persaraan juga boleh menyebabkan ketidakseimbangan dalam keluarga, kerana individu yang lebih tua terpaksa menanggungkan masa bersara mereka," katanya ketika dihubungi.

Khamis lalu, penanda aras simpanan asas persaraan dilaporkan dinaikkan kepada RM390,000 menjelang 1 Januari 2028 berbanding RM240,000 sekarang menurut Rangka Kerja Kecukupan Pendapatan Persaraan (RIA) Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP).

Bagi melaksanakan peralihan secara berfasa, KWSP dalam satu

kenyataan berkata, jumlah simpanan asas akan dinaikkan secara berperingkat sebanyak RM50,000 setiap tahun untuk tempoh tiga tahun dengan RM290,000 menjelang 1 Januari 2026; RM340,000 menjelang 1 Januari 2027 dan RM390,000 menjelang 1 Januari 2028.

Minggu lalu, usia persaraan ka-kitangan Kongres Kesatuan Se-kerja Kebangsaan (NTUC) di Singapura dilaporkan akan dinaikkan kepada 64 tahun dan jika layak dan masih mampu bekerja lagi, akan dilanjutkan lagi sehingga 69 tahun, mulai 1 Januari 2025.

Tiga kali perubahan

Had umur pensen di Malaysia sudah mengalami tiga kali perubahan dalam tempoh 20 tahun, bermula pada 2001 apabila umur bersara penjawat awam dilanjutkan daripada 55 tahun kepada 56 tahun dan kemudian pada 2008, dilanjutkan daripada 56 tahun kepada 58 tahun.

Perubahan sekali lagi disaksikan pada 2012 apabila had usia persaraan dilanjutkan daripada 58 tahun kepada 60 tahun.

Siti Aisyah yang juga pakar Psikologi Industri dan Organisasi berkata, peningkatan umur persaraan secara menyeluruh juga akan meningkatkan kos perubahan yang ditanggung majikan susulan kebanyakan syarikat insurans tidak berminat untuk memberikan perlindungan kepada pekerja yang lebih tua.

Justeru katanya, kajian terperinci perlu dilakukan sekiranya terdapat keperluan mendesak untuk meningkatkan usia persaraan supaya langkah itu bersesuaian dengan keadaan semasa negara selain tidak mendatangkan impak negatif.

Bekerja lebih lama juga boleh memberi kesan negatif kepada kesejahteraan mental pekerja, terutama jika mereka menghadapi tekanan pekerjaan tinggi atau berasa tidak dihargai



Siti Aisyah Panatik, Timbalan Dekan (Akademik dan Hal Ehwal Pelajar), Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan, Sekolah Pembangunan Sumber Manusia dan Psikologi UTM

4 aktivis haiwan saman MDB, kerajaan Terengganu

Tindakan berhubung kematian seekor anjing liar akibat ditembak

Oleh Ahmad Johari Mohd Ali
ajohari@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Empat aktivis haiwan mengemukakan tindakan undang-undang terhadap Majlis Daerah Besut (MDB) berhubung kematian seekor anjing liar dikenali sebagai Kopi yang tular selepas videonya bermain dengan anak kucing terbiar di sebuah taman perumahan.

Bagaimanapun, melalui akaun Facebook My Forever Doggo (MFD) yang berkongsi hantaran video dengan durasi 52 saat, menunjukkan anjing liar itu mati disebabkan oleh kecederaan

yang serius.

Aktivis terbabit yang bertindak selaku plaintif, memfailkan saman pemula pada 10 Disember lalu, dengan menamakan MDB dan kerajaan Terengganu sebagai defendan pertama dan kedua.

Saman pemula berkenaan difailkan plaintif, Kartini Farah Abd Rahim, S Mukunnam, Hong Hai San dan S Shashi Kumar melalui firma guaman Tetuan Raj & Sach, di Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Terengganu.

Pada sidang media di Kompleks Mahkamah Kuala Lumpur, di sini semalam, peguam Rajesh Nagarajan yang mewakili semua plaintif berkata, Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Terengganu menetapkan pada 15 Januari ini bagi pendengaran saman pemula terbabit.

Dalam saman pemula itu, plaintif memohon perisytiharan bahawa pembunuhan Kopi oleh MDB, adalah melanggar Seksyen 29 (e) Akta Kebajikan Haiwan 2015 (AWA 2015).

Mereka juga memohon perisytiharan, bahawa tindakan menembak anjing liar itu menggunakan senjata api oleh MDB melanggar Seksyen 30 (1), dan menembakan mengikut Seksyen 30 (2) AWA adalah dilarang.

Ini adalah kerana, Seksyen 30 (1) jelas memperuntukkan bahawa penembakan menggunakan senjata api terhadap mana-mana anjing, kucing atau haiwan lain adalah tidak dibenarkan.

Ini melainkan dibenarkan oleh pihak berkuasa veterinar, dalam situasi kecemasan atau untuk tujuan kawalan penyakit sahaja.

Aktivis terbabit juga memohon perisytiharan bahawa penggunaan senjata api adalah terhad kepada syarat di bawah Seksyen 30 (1) dan tidak boleh diguna pakai untuk pembunuhan di bawah Seksyen 30 (2) akta sama.

Terkejut bunyi tembakan

Kartini Farah yang mengikrarkan afidavit sokongan, berkata pada 6 Oktober lalu kira-kira jam 1.30 pagi, penduduk sekitar Dae-

rah Besut, Terengganu dikejutkan dengan beberapa tembakan, lalu keluar untuk menyiasat lanjut.

Beliau mendakwa penduduk melihat tiga pegawai MDB memandu di sekeliling kawasan itu menggunakan trak pikap.

Seorang ejen atau pekerja MDB dilihat dakwanya, duduk di dalam trak pikap dan dari kenderaan itu didapati menembak seekor anjing terbiar yang dikenali sebagai Kopi.

Katanya, selepas kejadian tembakan berakhir, penduduk dan individu yang berada di sekitar kawasan itu menemui bangkai Kopi yang ditinggalkan oleh MDB dengan kesan luka tembakan.

Kartini Farah berkata, Yang Dipertua MDB, Mohd Sukeri mengeluarkan kenyataan media sekitar 13 Oktober lalu, bahawa tembakan terhadap Kopi dilakukan mengikut peruntukan undang-undang dan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) untuk menangani anjing liar.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 17 DEC 2024

IMF puji pembaharuan ekonomi Malaysia

PETALING JAYA: Tabung Kewangan Antarabangsa (IMF) memuji pembaharuan ekonomi Malaysia terutama pengenalan Akta Kewangan Awam dan Tanggungjawab Fiskal (FRA) 2023.

Selain itu, IMF turut memuji kejayaan pelaksanaan pembaharuan subsidi elektrik dan diesel yang dilaksanakan oleh Malaysia.

IMF dalam satu kenyataan turut menekankan keperluan untuk mempercepatkan pembaharuan itu bagi mewujudkan ekonomi yang lebih inklusif dan berdaya tahan dalam menghadapi ketidakpastian global.

"Prestasi ekonomi Malaysia yang kukuh memberikan negara peluang untuk memajukan agenda reformasi yang bercita-cita tinggi.

"Pelan pembaharuan struktur kerajaan di bawah Rangka Kerja Ekonomi MADANI difokuskan dengan sewajarnya," katanya.

IMF berkata, pandangannya adalah berdasarkan penemuan awal pasukannya selepas mengadakan lawatan ke Malaysia baru-baru ini.

Sebagai rekod, FRA adalah pencapaian penting bagi pengurusan dan tadbir urus fiskal, menunjukkan bahawa dalam menghadapi persekitaran global yang semakin tidak menentu terdapat keperluan untuk membina semula penampan fiskal, menambah potensi per-



TABUNG Kewangan Antarabangsa turut memuji usaha Malaysia melaksanakan pembaharuan subsidi diesel.

tumbuhan dan mengukuhkan perlindungan sosial, pada masa sama mengekalkan kestabilan makroekonomi dan kewangan.

Bagi pertumbuhan ekonomi, IMF menyatakan bahawa prestasi ekonomi Malaysia telah meningkat dengan ketara pada 2024, disokong oleh permintaan dalam dan luar negara yang kukuh.

Bagaimanapun, pertumbuhan diunjurkan menyederhana daripada 5.0 peratus pada 2024 kepada 4.7 peratus pada 2025, mencerminkan pertumbuhan pelaburan yang sederhana dan ketidakpastian global yang semakin meningkat.

Risiko kepada penurunan pertumbuhan yang dijangka terutamanya disebabkan oleh prospek global yang tidak menentu termasuk risiko luaran daripada faktor geoekonomi.

"Sementara itu, risiko peningkatan mungkin timbul daripada pelaksanaan projek pelaburan besar yang lebih pantas daripada jangkaan di Malaysia," tambahnya.

IMF juga berkata, pendirian dasar monetari neutral semasa adalah wajar dan sektor kewangan Malaysia kekal kukuh dengan kedudukan modal dan mudah tunai bank yang kukuh.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
7 DEC 2024
Tarikh:

Pakej haji agensi swasta dijangka naik hingga 15 peratus

Oleh HAFIZ SAIDINA
utusannews@mediamulla.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Kos haji yang dikendalikan syarikat pelancongan tempatan sebagai Pengelola Jemaah Haji (PJH) bagi Musim Haji 1446H/2025M, dijangka meningkat sekitar 10 hingga 15 peratus berbanding musim haji sebelum ini.

Jurucakap Persatuan Syarikat Pengendalian Pelancongan Bumiputera Malaysia (BUMITRA), Harun KC Ahmmu berkata, kenaikan itu adalah wajar dan bersesuaian dengan peningkatan kos di Arab Saudi dan di dalam negara.

Kata beliau, walaupun terdapat kenaikan tetapi ia masih dalam kadar yang munasabah



HARUN KC AHMMU

dan tidak akan membebankan bakal jemaah haji.

"Kami berpendapat sudah pasti syarikat swasta pengelola haji yang dilesenkan ada kenai-

kan kos haji tahun hadapan apabila pakej muassasah yang biasanya ada penurunan bantuan kewangan.

"Saya menganggarkan hanya 10 hingga 15 peratus kenaikan bergantung kategori perkhidmatan yang disediakan.

"Pihak kami juga masih menunggu kos-kos perkhidmatan yang bakal disediakan oleh Arab Saudi untuk haji tahun hadapan," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Terdahulu, Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) telah melantik 37 syarikat pelancongan tempatan, termasuk anak syarikatnya Tabung Haji Travel & Services Sdn. Bhd. (THTS) sebagai PJH bagi Musim Haji 1446H/2025M, berbanding 25 syarikat pada musim lalu.

Penambahan itu menunjukkan komitmen TH untuk memberi peluang kepada syarikat pelancongan tempatan yang memenuhi syarat dan kriteria dalam memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik kepada jemaah haji Malaysia.

Selain itu, TH juga mengemukakan kos haji bagi musim 1446H/2025M untuk jemaah Muassasah yang pertama kali menunaikan ibadah haji kekal pada RM33,300 seorang.

Namun, kadar bantuan haji telah dikurangkan secara berperingkat dengan peratusan berbeza mengikut kategori jemaah haji bagi memastikan kemampuan kewangan syarikat.

Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif

TH, Syed Hamadah Syed Othman berkata, penurunan bantuan kewangan tersebut adalah langkah yang adil bagi mengurangkan impak terhadap pulangan pelaburan pendeposit.

Tambah Harun, bagi jemaah yang berkemungkinan mendapat visa jemputan daripada pihak-pihak Arab Saudi dinasihatkan menggunakan perkhidmatan syarikat yang dilesenkan oleh TH.

"Ini kerana TH akan menjaga segala perkara penting jemaah haji. TH mempunyai garis panduan syarat yang baik dan ketat demi menjaga kepentingan jemaah haji Malaysia.

"Setiap duit yang digunakan untuk perkhidmatan haji akan selamat dan berbaloi," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: ...1.7...DEC...2024....

Tahun baharu 2025, adakah kita masih belum bersatu padu?



SAYUTI MUKHTAR

KEMBALI di penghujung tahun. Akan menjelma lagi tahun baharu, musim yang bersilih ganti.

Rutin peredaran waktu tetap berlalu walau tanpa diisi dengan apa yang patut dan yang diperlu.

Politik negara sudah berubah dari landskap sebelumnya. Malang, jika orang Melayu masih mengandaikan tiada keperluan untuk bangkit bersatu, berpadu demi mengukuhkan kedaulatan bangsa, kekuatan ummah.

Membina kekuatan bukan semestinya menunggu segalanya ranap dan runtuh sepenuhnya.

Waktu itu mungkin sudah terlewat untuk dibangunkan semula. Jadi, sikap beringat-ingat dan berwaspada sebelum parah adalah sebaik pedoman untuk diukur dan diberi perhatian.

Seiring berpandukan peribahasa Melayu... "Beringat sebelum kena, berjimat sebelum habis".

Tidak ada yang boleh dibangga, dianggap untung jika sekadar selesai pada daerah kelompok dan puak, kerana konteks kelegaan sebenar ialah apabila kedudukan bangsa dan agama pada umumnya tidak terganggu atau diganggu.

Ruginya kalau terus bertelagah, bersengketa, sedangkan agenda utama demi *survival* bangsa diketepikan.

Sepatutnya, perlu ada usaha menguatkan moral dan mutu kehidupan, selain ekonomi yang teguh, ilmu yang mantap, nilai setiakawan yang kukuh.

Wajar bercakap tentang politik, kerana 'politik' itu jaminan 'kuasa'.

Barangkali masih ramai orang Melayu senang hati dengan wujudnya pelbagai jenama parti politik yang masing-masing anuti.

Padahal, sejak sekian lama, Melayu diperingatkan tentang "bersatu itu teguh bercerai itu roboh" dan "jangan sampai menang sorak kampung tergedai...".

Orang Melayu harus faham,



SEMOGA tahun 2025 akan menempatkan politik negara pada suasana yang lebih segar dan harmoni.

dengan peratusan bilangan yang tidak begitu jauh di hadapan, apa lagi cagaran kekuatan yang mereka ada, jika terus diracik dan dipecah-kecilkan.

Belajarliah dari pengalaman, dan perhitungkan senario yang ada. Jawapan tepat bagi persoalan politik semasa ialah tentang pemilikan jumlah kerusi yang selesai dan selamat.

Orang Melayu perlu memiliki jumlah kerusi yang cukup pada erti kata 'sewajarnya', untuk dapat mendominasi pemerintahan negara dengan stabil.

Jumlah kerusi yang bermajoriti kukuh menjamin tidak akan timbul sebarang 'unsur ugutan' atau suasana yang boleh menggugat pemerintahan.

Memperkatakan tentang keperluan mendominasi kuasa dan kekuatan bukan bermakna dengan niat untuk memusuhi, mencero bohi atau menafikan hak mana-mana kaum yang ada.

Apa yang penting ialah untuk menentukan kelangsungan kestabilan dan kemakmuran terus dapat sama-sama dinikmati.

Sementara, orang Melayu tetap mengharapakan kedudukan keistimewaan mereka sebagaimana yang termaktub dalam

Perlembagaan Persekutuan tetap teguh, tidak dipersoal atau diganggu-gugat oleh mana-mana pihak.

Jangan persiapkan kenangan indah sepanjang yang pernah dilalui dalam sejarah pemerintahan negara.

Lebih enam-dekad negara stabil makmur tanpa wujud 'kecelaruan' ketara. Malaysia aman, maju, makmur. Itu adalah sebuah kenyataan.

Yang baik boleh dijadikan pedoman, yang buruk perlu dijadikan pengajaran. Rakyat pada umumnya menerima struktur kehidupan bernegara dengan konsep "sama rasa sama jaya...".

Tiada mana-mana pihak yang dinafikan hak untuk menjayakan kehidupan sedaya mungkin.

Ketika itu Barisan Nasional (BN) mendominasi pemerintahan negara. Bersama-samanya ada MCA, MIC, Gerakan dan parti-parti kalangan Bumiputera di Sarawak dan Sabah.

Mereka menelusuri konsep atau pendekatan berkonsensus, bersederhana, berinklusif dan adil saksama.

Empat paksi ini ternyata berjaya mewujudkan suasana kehidupan yang damai dan selesai. Azimat besarnya ialah 'bersederhana'.

Tidak berbangkit isu-isu mempersoal struktur

asad negara, atau membuat tuntutan di luar batas yang sepatutnya.

Tidak salah kalau rakyat Malaysia kembali kepada 'acuan asal' (*back to basic*), jika itu dianggap wajar dan perlu.

Baguslah, jika BN sudah pun menyuarakan kesanggupan 'meng-nyahkan' unsur-unsur yang tidak digemari rakyat seperti bersikap 'sombong', menganggap rakyat yang mahu mereka, bukan mereka yang mahukan rakyat dan enggan melakukan perubahan.

"BN...terus harmonikan imej parti kalau mahu rakyat meletakkan hatinya".

Sering disebut, Malaysia maju membangun dan mencapai kemakmuran dengan cara dan neraca pengukuran yang tersendiri.

Rakyatnya mampu membuktikan sikap bersatu hati dan sedia menerima hakikat yang seadanya.

Justeru, sebarang sikap melampau atau keterlaluan yang cuba diterapkan oleh mana-mana pihak perlu ditentang dan ditolak.

Sebarang bentuk ancaman atau elemen yang boleh menggugat keamanan dan kesejahteraan negara perlu dihapus secara 'senada dan bersama'.

Contoh, dalam menghadapi

isu kemasukan pendatang tanpa izin (PATI) dan menangani unsur-unsur yang boleh 'menjantik emosi', mengeruhkan hubungan kaum atau agama.

Jangan bosan untuk sering berpesan dan menebar seruan supaya sebangsa seagama menjalin penyatuan menghimpun ukhuwah dan kekuatan. Semua institusi perlu digerak melaksanakan tanggungjawab bersama ke arah menjayakan misi suci ini.

Institusi-institusi yang dimaksudkan termasuk keluarga, pendidikan, agama, jabatan-jabatan dan agensi kerajaan, juga pertubuhan-pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO).

Semoga tahun 2025 akan menempatkan politik negara pada suasana yang lebih segar dan harmoni. Negara perlukan kestabilan untuk terus memacu kemajuan.

Malaysia perlu mengelak dari turut mengalami resah dan ketidakstabilan global yang tidak menentu baik dari segi sosial, ekonomi dan keselamatan.

Dalam perjuangan... sebaiknya, utamakan apa yang perlu diutamakan.

DATUK SAYUTI MUKHTAR ialah Profesor Adjung Universiti Malaysi Kelantan (UMK).

Pelancongan Malaysia wajib seimbang antara ekonomi dan budaya

TEO KOK SEONG



TIDAK dapat dinafikan bahawa pelancongan sebagai sumber negara bukan sahaja amat penting untuk pertumbuhan ekonomi. Sehubungan ini, ia menjana pendapatan, mewujudkan pekerjaan dan merangsang perniagaan tempatan dengan mempertingkatkan jualan perkhidmatan dan barangan setempat.

Juga pelancongan sangat penting untuk ehwal budaya, khususnya dari aspek perkongsian. Sehubungan ini, pelancong mengalami tradisi dan amalan hidup berlainan. Ini penting untuk memupuk toleransi dan kesedaran sejagat yang mustahak dalam mempertingkatkan hubungan dan kerjasama antarabangsa.

Namun kebelakangan ini, hanya dimensi ekonomi diberi penekanan luar biasa di Malaysia untuk sektor pelancongan memberi sumbangan besar kepada pendapatan negara. Ini dilakukan dengan berlebihan sekali untuk memperoleh dampak ekonomi optimum sehingga menjejaskan dampak budaya pelancongan dengan seriusnya. Antaranya dalam pemeliharaan warisan budaya watan kita.

Sehubungan ini, warisan budaya watan kita semenjak azali sebagai bumi Melayu-Islam mahu dikesamping dengan begitu sahaja. Ini antaranya dapat dilihat apabila ada keinginan bersungguh-sungguh untuk menggunakan papan tanda dan iklan dalam bahasa Mandarin secara bersendirian sahaja. Ia untuk memenuhi cita rasa pelancong tertentu, khususnya China dari pelbagai sisi. Antaranya termasuklah keinginan, kegembiraan dan kecenderungan mereka.

Dengan ini, warisan budaya watan, khususnya bahasa Melayu selaku bahasa negara yang wajib digunakan secara perundangan mahu ditinggalkan terus. Ia yang ingin dilakukan sedemikian untuk memperoleh dampak ekonomi dalam merangsang perniagaan, ikut mengundang



PELANCONGAN memainkan peranan sangat penting dalam pembangunan ekonomi sesebuah negara itu dan juga perkongsian budaya wataninya. Kedua-dua ekonomi dan budaya haruslah dipastikan selalu seimbang.

pelbagai spekulasi negatif. Antaranya mendewakan bahasa leluhur.

Selain ini, terdapat peniaga yang sedia melakukan apa-apa sahaja yang bukan sahaja tidak munasabah, juga yang melanggar perundangan negara. Ini dapat dilihat apabila ada yang berusaha untuk mendapat barang khusus tertentu dari negara tertentu, misalnya China. Ia semata-mata untuk menarik pelancong ke premis perniagaan mereka agar dapat dilayan sebaik-baiknya seperti di negara asal pelancong itu.

Sehubungan ini, mereka menggunakan barang import dari China yang tertera ideologi politik di sana yang bukan sahaja tidak diterima di sini, malah yang sama sekali dilarang di Malaysia. Ia yang ingin juga dilakukan untuk dampak ekonomi ikut tidak dapat elak daripada bermacam-macam andaian buruk. Antaranya menyokong ideologi politik itu.

Sewajarnya perbuatan mahu menggunakan bahasa Mandarin sahaja dan menyajikan makanan dalam bekas yang tertera imej tokoh politik China tertentu selain prinsip ideologi politik republik itu, tidak sepatutnya

berlaku di sini dan oleh rakyat Malaysia sendiri pula.

Ini kerana bukan sahaja ia sesekali tidak wajar dilakukan di sebuah negara berdaulat lain yang mempunyai budaya wataninya selain ideologi politiknya sendiri. Juga ia sama sekali tidak selari dengan aspirasi nasional kita, yakni sebagai hasrat sebuah negara secara keseluruhannya dan bukan hanya nafsu kelompok tertentu di dalamnya, untuk sesuatu agenda negara itu.

Sesungguhnya pelancongan memainkan peranan sangat penting dalam pembangunan ekonomi sesebuah negara itu dan juga perkongsian budaya wataninya. Oleh itu, kedua-dua dampak ekonomi dan budaya haruslah dipastikan selalu seimbang. Dengan ini, ia wajib memastikan fenomena sosiobudaya pada pelancongan mesti seiringi dengan fakta sosioekonominya.

Dalam pada ini, pelancongan di Malaysia tidak boleh hanya mempunyai dampak positif dari segi ekonomi semata-mata. Tidak dapat dinafikan bahawa dengan manfaat ekonomi daripada pelancongan, kita dapat menikmati prasarana

lebih baik di samping kemudahan kesihatan dan pendidikan yang juga lebih baik.

Pada masa sama, pelancongan juga harus memiliki dampak positif yang serupa dari segi budaya. Dengan ini, warisan budaya watan kita wajib dipastikan bukan sahaja selalu dipelihara dengan baik, juga hendaklah ditentukan dapat terus kekal selama-lamanya. Semua ini penting untuk dipromosikan sebagai jati diri kita selaku negara berdaulat dengan rakyatnya yang patriotik.

Dengan ini, berpadalah dalam kita membangunkan sektor pelancongan di Malaysia agar ia ikut bermanfaat dalam memastikan kemakmuran sosiobudaya kepada rakyat dan negara, dan bukannya cuma untuk kemakmuran sosioekonomi yang sepenuhnya sahaja. Oleh itu, warisan budaya watan tidak boleh sesekali diketepikan dalam apa-apa bentuk jua pada bila-bila masa.

Untuk ini, bahasa Melayu sebagai warisan budaya watan wajib diangkat pada setiap masa sebagai keperibadian kebangsaan, yakni pemikiran dan tingkah

laku yang bukan sahaja dikongsi bersama, juga yang dipamerkan oleh semua pihak di Malaysia. Begitu juga dengan aspirasi nasional yang merupakan fahaman yang wajib dihayati oleh setiap rakyat di negara ini. Juga sebagai sentimen dan gagasan yang menyatukan kita semua di tanah air yang dicintai bersama-sama ini.

Sesungguhnya, ehwal budaya pada pelancongan adalah sangat penting kepada sesebuah negara. Ini kerana warisan budaya negara berkenaan adalah unsur pertama dan utama kepada identiti nasional bagi negara itu dan identiti budaya bagi rakyatnya. Oleh itu, ia tidak boleh sesekali dikompromikan atas apa-apa alasan.

Dalam hal ini, warisan budaya watan kita sebenarnya mewakili ciri negara ini sebagai bumi Melayu-Islam, selain mempamerkan pelbagai bukti akan kewujudannya pada sepanjang masa dari semua aspek, termasuklah sosiopolitik.

PROFESOR Emeritus Datuk Dr. Teo Kok Seong ialah Fellow Majlis Profesor Negara (MPN) dan Institut Masa Depan Malaysia (MASA).

MADANI IHSAN SQUAD

MyIPO TEAM TO EASE BURDEN ON KELANTAN FLOOD VICTIMS

Volunteers will distribute 500 electrical fans to 500 families

YOUNI NGIM
PETALING JAYA
news@nst.com.my

THE Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) sent its Madani Ihsan Squad on its first critical flood relief mission to Kelantan yesterday, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to community support during challenging times.

Led by its chairman, Dr Mohd Zuhan Mohd Zain and attended by deputy director-general Sh Ariffin Sh Mohd Noor, the initiative targets Kelantan's most severely flooded areas.

Zuhan said: "Our goal is to not just provide assistance, but to also ease the burden on flood victims during their most vulnerable period."

Kelantan suffered the most severe flooding in the past couple of

weeks, which damaged roads, homes and cars, and displaced thousands of people.

The three-day, two-night mission will see 20 members deplo-

yed across multiple regions, including Lubuk Jong, Rantau Panjang, Pasir Mas and Tumpat.

The squad will offer direct sup-

port to 500 families by distributing 500 electrical fans worth RM50,000, and providing critical relief to affected communities.

Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia chairman Dr Mohd Zuhan Mohd Zain flagging off the Madani Ihsan Squad at Menara MyIPO in Petaling Jaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AZIAH AZMEE



Selangor pledges RM500,000 to Kelantan

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor government will donate RM500,000 to Kelantan to support the state's recovery efforts following severe flooding at the end of last month.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said yesterday the proposal will be tabled at the executive council meeting tomorrow for final approval.

"This aid is for the repair of infrastructure and essential facilities.

"We have the Selangor Prihatin Fund, which can be allocated to areas affected by disasters, even outside the state."

He said this at the launch of the Madani Ihsan Squad Disaster Relief Mission: Post-Flood Aid from Selangor to Kelantan at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz



Shah Building.

The state previously mobilised the Madani Ihsan Squad, comprising its government officials and volunteers, to assist with post-flood work in Kelantan.

Amirudin said the team con-

sists of 130 members and 45 vehicles, including water tankers and Roll-On/Roll-Off trucks, to carry out cleaning from today to Thursday.

He added that the squad, which includes KDEB Waste Manage-

ment, will focus on cleaning public infrastructure and homes.

"The team will assist in cleaning efforts in critical areas, particularly public facilities, such as mosques and suraus, based on guidance from the National Dis-

aster Management Agency.

"We are providing food baskets and cleaning supplies to victims through the MBI Foundation. The cost of this mission is RM400,000, funded by contributors."

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari (second from right) sending off the Selangor Madani Ihsan Squad Disaster Relief Mission: Post-Flood Aid convoy to Kelantan in Shah Alam yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 17 DEC 2024

FIRST IN MALAYSIA

DISASTER SIMULATION CENTRE READY BY FEBRUARY

RM33.4 million site will feature 10 disaster simulations for Smart personnel training

AMALIA AZMI
PUCHONG
news@nst.com.my

THE simulation site for the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team (Smart) in Pulau Meranti, near here, is set to be completed in February.

Deputy Works Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan said this would be the first disaster simulation centre in Malaysia and the second in Asean, after Singapore's.

"This is an excellent training initiative to prepare our country for disaster situations.

"The cost of building this centre is RM33.4 million... it will feature 10 disaster simulations, from which we can gather important information.

"The Public Works Department will continue to implement various projects for multiple agencies," he said following his site visit yesterday.

The training modules provided in this project include the cable car module (cable car accident

rescue) and a hazmat module (rescue in areas with hazardous materials).

Other rescue modules will cover scenarios such as underground train accidents, full building collapses, multiple building collapses, partial building collapses, leaning buildings and tower abseiling.

Ahmad said the purpose of this disaster simulation training centre was to enhance the skills of Smart's personnel, helping them to become a more efficient rescue team in the event of a disaster.

"If the personnel do not receive proper training, even regular

tasks cannot be carried out efficiently.

"There are about 150 people (Smart personnel) involved, and this number will grow over time.

"Our rescue teams not only face disasters within the country, but also (responses to crises) abroad," Ahmad said.

In a statement yesterday, the ministry said this centre would have the capability to conduct simulations of various disaster scenarios, forming the foundation for comprehensive training based on real disaster situations.

It said the centre's facilities and technology would support all the requirements necessary to help

Smart maintain its recognition by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (Insarag).

Insarag is an organisation under the United Nations that co-ordinates international rescue operations for cross-border disaster relief.

"The ministry hopes that the momentum of the work achieved so far will be maintained or enhanced.

"This project can be completed on time or even ahead of schedule, while ensuring the quality, cost and safety standards on the construction site are upheld," it said.



Deputy Works Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan (fifth from left) visiting the Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team simulation site in Pulau Meranti, Puchong, yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AMIRUDIN SAHIB

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