



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 18 JUN 2024 (SELASA)

ISU/ADUAN

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK	TINDAKAN JABATAN
1.	THE STAR	• PUCHONG RESIDENTS OPPOSE GIVING NEW DEVELOPMET ACCESS TO JALAN INTAN 2/1	Jabatan Perancang

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• Puchong Residents Oppose Giving New Developmet Access To Jalan Intan 2/1
2.	SELANGORKINI	• Sempena Aidiladha, DUN Seri Serdang Anjur Kenduri Rakyat 18 Jun • Kadar Baharu Cukai Selapas 40 Tahun, Penduduk Boleh Hantar Bantahan

MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• Puchong Residents Oppose Giving New Developmet Access To Jalan Intan 2/1

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3.	BERITA HARIAN	• Kukh jati diri anggota, pegawai kastam elak 'dirasuk'sindiket • Penjawat awam lapor kes rasuah diberi hadiah • Syor Pinda Akta SPRM 2009 Kembalikan Dana Diseleweng • Pasukan 'Duta Dalam Talian' Tak Babit Kos Tambahan • 'Sikap Tamak Pendorong Amalan Rasuah' • Pendekkan Tempoh Bertugas Bagi Jawatan Kritikal Kastam • AI PERMUDAH SPR Urus Pilihan Raya, Pengundi Tunai Tanggungjawab
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Puchong residents oppose giving new development access to Jalan Intan 2/1

By VIJENTHI NAIR



Taman Puchong Intan is already facing parking issues, claim residents who are worried the situation will worsen later. — Photos: ART CHEN/The Star

RESIDENTS of Taman Puchong Intan Phase 2 in Puchong, Selangor, are against the plan to give a new apartment project in their neighbourhood direct access to Jalan Intan 2/1.

Residents claim that Jalan Intan 2/1, which connects to Damansara-Puchong Highway (LDP), is heavily used by motorists, especially during peak hours.

The three-block apartment project comprises over 1,000 units.

More traffic would contribute to congestion, and compromise the safety and security of the terrace-house residents, they said.

Resident S. Devavarman said more vehicles would use Jalan Intan 2/1 once residents moved into the apartments.



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"The terrace houses are not gated or guarded.

"Residents are vigilant when we see unfamiliar vehicles entering our neighbourhood, because there have been robberies in the past," he said.



STARPICKS

Nurturing children's health with Morinaga Chil-kid's improved formula

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He also said that many children frequented the field and playground on Jalan Intan 2/1.

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"It may not be safe for the children to use the road if it is constantly busy," he said.

RK Ravindran said a complaint was lodged with Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) and the police regarding the road being linked to the apartment project.

"The residents were never consulted on the matter," he said.

"We objected to the apartment project too, citing reasons such as congestion and parking problems but these went unheard.

"If apartment residents are allowed access to Jalan Intan 2/1, we fear motorists will park their vehicles along the road," he added.

Devavarman said the neighbourhood was already facing parking issues due to a change of access for the existing apartments in their area in 2022.

"Intan Apartment's main access used to be on Jalan Intan 4, facing empty land," he noted.

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH: 18 JUN 2024



Puchong residents oppose giving new development access to Jalan Intan 2/1

By **VJENTHI NAIR**



"The access was moved to Jalan Intan 2, which faces housing and commercial areas, when the management extended its carpark in 2022.

"Since then, many Intan Apartment residents have been parking their vehicles along Jalan Intan 2, at the commercial area (opposite their apartments) and near the terrace houses.

"There have been many altercations regarding parking."

He said residents feared a similar situation could occur if the new apartment project's direct access was onto Jalan Intan 2/1.

MBSJ had yet to comment at press time.



Ahli Dewan Negeri (ADN) Seri Serdang Abbas Azmi mengedarkan kalendar 2024 kepada pengunjung program Jelajah Ehsan Rahmah (JER) peringkat DUN Seri Serdang, di pekarangan Surau Nurul Ikhlas, Seri Kembangan pada 18 Disember 2023. Foto SUHAILA SHAHRUL ANNUAR/SELANGORKINI

ADN SELANGOR

Sempena Aidiladha, DUN Seri Serdang anjur kenduri rakyat 18 Jun

by Suhaila Shahrul Annuar @ June 16, 2024 11:00 pm

SHAH ALAM, 16 JUN: Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Seri Serdang akan menganjurkan Majlis Kenduri Rakyat sempena Aidiladha pada 18 Jun ini.

Wakil rakyatnya Abbas Azmi berkata berlangsung di Dewan Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) Kampung Sri Aman Puchong, kira-kira 1,500 tetamu dijangka memeriahkan majlis kenduri bermula 8 malam itu.

Katanya dimulakan dengan program ibadah korban pada sebelah pagi secara gotong-royong bersama masyarakat Kampung Batu 12 dan Kampung Sri Aman Puchong, kenduri rakyat diteruskan pada sebelah malam.

"Jemput datang beramai-ramai memeriahkan majlis yang akan diserikan dengan pelbagai aktiviti termasuk persembahan qasidah

"Program ini bagi menghidupkan budaya rawang selain mengeratkan silaturrahim penduduk sekitar," katanya kepada Selangorkini

Selain itu, katanya sebanyak 10 ekor kambing dan empat lembu diperuntukkan Kerajaan Negeri untuk masjid dan surau sekitar DUN itu

"Tiga ekor lembu kita agih kepada masjid dan surau, 10 ekor kambing kepada surau kecil dan seekor lembu korban untuk majlis kenduri rakyat," katanya.

Sempena perayaan Aidiladha tahun ini, Kerajaan Negeri memperuntuk RM6 juta bagi sumbangan ibadah korban, membabitkan 1,000 kambing dan 700 lembu.

Haiwan berkenaan diagih kepada wakil rakyat, masjid, surau dan badan bukan kerajaan (NGO)



SELANGORKINI ONLINE

TARIKH: 18 JUN 2024



Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) membuka kaunter Ez-Pay di beberapa lokasi bagi memudahkan urusan pembayaran. Foto Facebook Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya

BERITA UTAMA **PBT** **SELANGOR**

Kadar baharu cukai selepas 40 tahun, penduduk boleh hantar bantahan

🕒 June 15, 2024 12:03 pm

OLEH SITI ROHAIZAH ZAINAL, SUHAILA SHAHRUL ANNUAR & FITRI HAZIM HAZAM

SHAH ALAM, 15 JUN: Lapan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) tidak membuat semakan kadar cukai taksiran antara kira-kira 20 hingga 40 tahun lalu.

Majlis Perbandaran Kajang (MPKJ) paling lama tidak menaikkan kadar itu selama 39 tahun sejak 1985, diikuti Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Langat (MPKL) 37 tahun sejak 1987 dan Majlis Perbandaran Selangor (MPS) 32 tahun sejak 1992.

Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) pula tidak menaikkan cukai taksiran selama 32 tahun sejak 1992 bagi kawasan Subang Jaya dan Bandar Sunway. Manakala kawasan USJ, Puchong, Seri Kembangan dan Serdang selama 28 tahun sejak 1996.

Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ) dan Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor (MPKS) pula selama 27 tahun sejak 1997, manakala Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor (MPHS) 28 tahun sejak 1996.

Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) pula tidak mengenakan sebarang peningkatan cukai taksiran selama 18 tahun sejak 2006.

Berdasarkan peruntukan Akta Kerajaan Tempatan 1976 (Akta 171), nilai baharu boleh dibuat setiap lima tahun atau dalam tempoh lanjutan yang diputuskan oleh Kerajaan Negeri.

Meski ada cadangan semakan jumlah cukai taksiran, pemilik hartanah boleh membuat bantahan kepada PBT masing-masing mengikut tarikh yang ditetapkan.

Tarikh akhir menghantar bantahan boleh disemak di portal atau media sosial pihak berkenaan. Tarikh bantahan juga dimuatkan dalam notis kepada pemilik.

MPKJ sudah menguat kuasa semakan sejak 1 Januari tahun ini tetapi hanya mengenakan bayaran sebanyak 50 peratus daripada kadar kenaikan setiap pemilik. Bayaran kadar penuh akan dikuat kuasa pada tahun depan.

Tarikh akhir bantahan MPS dan MPAJ berakhir pada 31 Mei, sementara MBSJ belum menetapkan tarikh.

Tarikh bantahan di PBT lain seperti berikut: MBSA sebelum atau pada 14 Jun, MPKL (24 Jun), MPKS (1 Julai), MPHS (5 Julai), Majlis Bandaraya Diraja Klang (16 Julai) dan Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (18 Julai).

Pada 30 Mei, Dato' Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari menjelaskan proses penilaian baharu yang dijalankan PBT penting demi memastikan keberkesanan perancangan bandar.

Menegaskan rumah kos rendah tidak dikenakan kenaikan meski menerima notis itu, beliau berkata semakan tersebut bertujuan mengetahui nilai dan mutu perbandaran sesebuah kawasan.

Katanya, pentadbiran negeri juga akan meneliti pelbagai faktor sebelum memberi kebenaran kepada PBT untuk membuat kenaikan ataupun sebaliknya.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE

TARIKH: 18 JUN 2024

By VIJENTHI NAIR
vijenthi@thestar.com.my

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World No.1 heading up PJ tower

Tower run at Menara MBPJ among events to mark city council's 18th anniversary

By HAZEL TAN YAN LING
metro@thestar.com.my

THE PJ Tower Run will be held for the second consecutive year on June 30 at Menara MBPJ.

Organised by the Malaysia Towerrunning Association and Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ), the run is to commemorate MBPJ's 18th anniversary.

It also aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and nurture new talents.

"This event is open to everyone and requires no special technique, just the determination to walk up the stairs of the whole tower," said Petaling Jaya mayor Mohamad Zahri Samingon during a press conference at PJ Smart Centre in Petaling Jaya.

Also present were MBPJ Deputy Secretary (Management) Mohd Fauzi Maarop and MBPJ Planning Development Department director Lee Lih Shyan.

World No.1 tower runner Soh Wai Ching was also at the event.

Fresh from his victory at the Taipei 101 tower running competition, Soh said he hoped to set a

"This event is open to everyone and requires no special technique, just the will to walk up stairs of the whole tower."

Mohamad Zahri Samingon

new record.

"There are three rounds in the competition.

"By the final round, only 10 participants will remain.

"Each round gets more exhausting, making it difficult to break my 1.58-minute world record but I will do my best," he said.

Malaysia Towerrunning Association co-founder and president Ravinder Singh said the



(From left) Mohamad Zahri, Soh and Ravinder at the press conference at PJ Smart Centre.

women's world record, held by Michele Tan Bee Kiang, stood at 2.58 minutes. She is currently ranked sixth worldwide.

The competition will feature Open and Veteran categories for men and women and will start at 7am with two knockout rounds.

There are 25 levels and 552 steps at Menara MBPJ.

The 10 fastest participants in the second round will compete for cash prizes, with RM1,000 for the Open category winners (men's and women's) and RM800 for the Veteran category winners.

An additional RM200 cash prize will be awarded to runners who set record time.

To register, scan the QR code displayed on banners around Menara MBPJ or go to <https://v2.checkpointspot.asia/registration/mbpj-towerrun-2024>

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Nalina (right) giving Dhanyasri pointers on local government issues. — Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI and AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

By AIDA AHMAD
and FARID WAHAB
metro@thestar.com.my

Youths step up for local government

Initiatives give students chance to learn the ropes by working with two young MBPJ councillors

A FIRST-of its-kind internship programme and new think tank to advocate progressive policies in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, are drawing young people into the world of local governance.

These initiatives are getting youths to experience first-hand the challenges that come with decision-making and policy implementation that directly impact their communities.

Leading the charge are two young councillors from Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) who are keen to show youths that getting involved in local government matters is anything but boring.

Local authority knowledge

Two-term councillor Nalina Nair told *StarMetro* that the internship programme provided insight into how local government policies were made and gave interns a first-hand look into what councillors deal with on a daily basis.

Nalina announced the internship programme on her social media pages earlier this month, calling for youths interested to learn about local governance to apply.

There is no age limit but those below 18 will need parental consent.

Her post stated that interns would be part of a process to learn about research, policy-making, public service, and office administrative assistance.

"Seven potential interns have sent in their applications and the first one has interned for a month," she said.

While there is no maximum limit placed on the internship duration, the minimum is one month.

"Some of the applicants have done impressive research on certain subjects and they know what I do as a councillor," said Nalina.

"I feel I can relate to these young people and be someone they can look up to," she added.



Kusaaliny taking her oath as a MBPJ councillor in January this year. — Filepic

According to Nalina, two applicants are law students studying overseas, who were back on their summer break.

"Both are young Indian women; I do think there is a lack of Indian women in politics now," she said.

Although this is the first internship programme of its kind among local councils, she said Kampung Tunku assemblyman Lim Yi Wei was instrumental in driving youth empowerment within local government.

"Lim saw that I wanted to help

with this initiative and improve policy-making at local council level in Petaling Jaya," explained Nalina at the Kampung Tunku assemblyman's service centre.

She said getting young interns on board would help councillors tremendously, especially in handling complaints from the community.

"Councillors are really bogged down every day handling complaints because the public prefers to call us rather than use the city council's public complaint management system (Sispaa).

"They see us as a 'complaint centre' but we don't have time to handle all of them," she said.

She added that the interns would receive a monthly allowance of up to RM800.

"I feel that the public do not see councillors as 'important people' because we do not have local council elections," she said, noting that councillors were not considered in a significant light like an assemblyman or MP.

"But our job affects people's daily lives. The interns who join us will help with improving cer-

02/6/24



Leong says the internship offers him insights into politics, which is related to his field of study.



Yixin is inspired by her father, who regularly communicates with MBPJ on neighbourhood issues.



Ng says the internship gives her transferable skills, which will be useful for future jobs.

tain aspects," said Nalina, who also chairs the MBPJ public health and safety subcommittee. "We want the interns to look into these issues and also give ideas on how to improve food waste management at food-and-beverage outlets in the city," she added.

Thinking outside the box

Before becoming the youngest female councillor in Selangor in January this year, Kusaaliny Mahendran, 24, acquired some experience as Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran's political secretary. More recently, she launched the Social Democracy Malaysia (SocDem) think tank in the city. SocDem is a platform for fact-based policy solutions and advocacy on three key issues - climate action, democracy and governance, as well as urban planning and housing.

"This is where youths can collaborate and engage in ideas as well as join forums and focus groups organised by SocDem. "We are not limiting our target audience to age groups, but youths have a platform where they can come and explore what they want for the city with our



Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong (third from left) and Rajiv (fourth from right) at the launch of the Social Democracy Malaysia think tank in Petaling Jaya. With them are interns at the organisation.



Matthew says the internship offers opportunity to see how theories he learned are put into practice.

guidance, through policy tools that already exist.

"For example, if youths want a beautiful park like Hyde Park in London, how do we make that happen and how do we implement that in Petaling Jaya in the next 25 years? Who do we need to lobby?"

"We will teach them these things as we also have platforms such as Selangor Young Assemblyman (Adun Muda)." Kusaaliny highlighted that SocDem was the only think tank where half of the participants were youths.

"About 80% of our team are 30 years old and under," she said.

Rajiv, who is SocDem chairman, said youths could join and advocate their ideas based on the platform's three focus areas.

"They can learn how to advocate for these issues to the right people in government to change policies in these three areas of focus, towards meaningful changes in society," he said.

He added that the youths could also focus on other pertinent issues, like healthcare.

Fresh perspectives

StarMetro spoke to several youths who took part in the internship programme to find out about their experience working in local government.

For Brian Matthew, 23, a finance graduate from a local university, the programme gave him an opportunity to see how the theories he learnt were put into practice.



Nalina is also MBPJ public health and safety sub-committee chairman. — Filepic

"I saw first-hand how taxpayers' monies are funnelled into city services and maintaining public facilities," he said.

The eldest of two children from Puchong, Selangor, was given a handful of duties under the guidance of Kusaaliny.

Among them, he recalled, was doing research on how to improve bus services in Petaling Jaya.

Matthew said the project gave him a chance to liaise with MBPJ personnel and also gave him an insight into how they worked.

"As someone from the younger generation, I have certain viewpoints on how to solve issues.

"However, the officials have to juggle many competing priorities, so we have to find a middle ground.

"I see this as a positive experience and an opportunity to learn," he said.

After finishing her A-Levels in Singapore, Esther Ng Yu Xuan, 20, wanted to learn more about public policy.

She was slated to further her studies in the United Kingdom in September and had been applying for an internship position in the meantime to gain experience.

"However, my applications kept getting rejected because I did not have a related degree," said Ng, who will be doing a degree in linguistics.

She considers herself lucky to be accepted into the internship programme under Kusaaliny, as this experience will give her transferable skills.

"I had the chance to be involved in community work," she added.

Similarly, Leong Hoy Kit, 20, who is flying to the UK in September to study philosophy and economics, said the internship offered insights into politics, which was related to his field of study.

He was prompted to apply for the internship after being accepted into the degree programme.

"I found that many of my university coursemates have experience in research and community work, which I didn't.

"During the internship, I learned how to conduct research and analyse data, while also dealing with the local community."

The Subang Jaya resident, who has a younger sibling, said his knowledge of local politics also improved as a result.

Unlike her peers who joined to enhance their resume, Wai Yixin, 18, said her father had signed her up for the programme.

"He said I was too pampered and wanted me to know about issues affecting my community."

The internship had given Yixin newfound appreciation for the things she learned in

secondary school.

"I used to think a lot of things in the history textbook were just for exams, but I now realise they are actually important," she said.

Yixin is inspired by her father, whom she said regularly communicated with MBPJ on various issues in their neighbourhood.

"He likes to submit complaints to the local councillor, but he also gives suggestions for improvements.

"He says it is important that we don't simply complain, but must also offer a solution," she added.

Another intern, Dhanyasri Nair, 19, who is a second-year law student in the UK, is currently back in the country on summer break.

She applied after encouragement from her father, who said she could benefit from the experience of working in local government.

Growing up in the Middle East most of her life, she also saw it as a chance to improve her command of the Malay language.

Before attending MBPJ meetings, Dhanyasri would do her research to ensure she was up to date on issues.

"Within days, I saw how councillors approached problems, dealt with people from all backgrounds and planned community events," added the intern who reports to Nalina.

Lifts replacement plan on hold

Story and photos by GRACE CHEN
gracechen@thestar.com.my

Delay due to disagreement between residents at Cheras condo, MPKJ investigates the RM6mil project

ATTEMPTS by the management committee (MC) of Venice Hill Resort Living in Cheras, Selangor, to replace faulty lifts are being hampered by some residents who are against the move.

Following a protest letter sent by a unit owner, Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) ordered the MC to postpone the RM6mil lift replacement project until its investigations are done.

Proponents for the lifts' replacement project fear a tragedy may happen if the matter dragged on.

Resident Sasikala Mathavan said some of the lifts, when in motion, would shake and the doors tend to open in between floors.

She said lift cabins were also known to suddenly plunge before slowing down at landings.

"Last November, a lift shot up and hit the roof. Luckily, no one was inside," said Sasikala.

Resident Ganesh Saunda said they had been experiencing lift issues for the past 10 years but the problem worsened over the last year.

"Although a maintenance company looks after the lifts, the problem is with spare parts as the models are obsolete.

"We are experiencing frequent breakdowns, lasting up to four hours or longer, daily," he said.

Following the volume of complaints, resident Bernard Beh said the MC called for a tender, from April 1 to 15, which attracted 13 companies.

"On April 21, an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) was held to approve the tender.

"However, some residents felt the approval was done on short notice, and protested to MPKJ and the Housing and Local Government Ministry on April 25," he said.



Cheah (left) and Ganesh taking a ride in the old and faulty lift which has the tendency to break down.

The reason given for the protest was that the MC did not have funds for the project.

"This is not true. We collect RM430,000 in maintenance and sinking fund fees a month. We have RM3.3mil in our sinking fund," said Beh.

"The MC found a company to change all 27 lifts in nine towers at a cost of RM6mil.

"The only parts which will remain are the counterweights, corner guides and landing doors.

"We are putting a downpayment of RM1.3mil, which will follow with the delivery of the first lift materials.

"The monthly instalments are RM86,000 for the next six years.

"The lifts come with a two-year warranty.



Sasikala (left) and Beh say the condominium's lifts are in very poor condition.

"As for claims regarding irregularities in the tender process, the tender committee comprised 23 residents," said Beh, adding that notices on the process were also put up in all towers.

The protest letter also stated that unit owners with outstanding payments, some with less than RM100, were denied voting rights at the EGM.

In response, MC chairman Ravishanker V. Thambiah said it was a struggle to get defaulters to settle their bills.

He said the MC had improved living conditions over the years and installed radio frequency identification (RFID) access.

"Our first concern is safety. Although not all lifts are in critical condition, they are of the same age and will eventually break down, forcing the MC to fork out extra for maintenance costs.

"Hence the decision to change all of them," he added.

To spruce up the 30-year-old condominium, the MC approved RM280,000 for broken fencing and RM280,000 to paint the buildings but these projects are now on hold until MPKJ's investigations are completed.

Resident Susan Cheah is hoping the council speeds up investigations because every time a lift breaks down, she has to take the stairs.

A resident, who did not want to be named, spoke of the plight faced by his neighbour who is in his 70s.

"He has no choice but to climb the stairs to his penthouse on the 17th floor," said the resident.

When contacted, MPKJ asked residents to be patient while investigations are being carried out based on the EGM minutes and MC's financial accounts.

Rooftops need care too for a clean Kuala Lumpur

Implement maintenance schedule and use automated systems to prevent buildup of dirt, algae

DURING breakfast recently at a hotel next to the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur, I noticed that the view from the 30th floor was distressing.

The roofs of several shophouses, mid-size office buildings and hotels were algae stained or had shrubs growing in some corners.

This neglected skyline is in contrast with the aspirations of Kuala Lumpur to provide a sustainable, healthy and liveable urban environment.

In contrast, during a visit to Singapore where I attended a friend's wedding and stayed in a hotel overlooking Serangoon Road, I was impressed by the immaculate condition of every structure which roofs were visible to anyone viewing from the 20th floor.

How can Singapore and Malaysia, sharing the same tropical climate, present such different visual narratives?

A conversation with a Singapore housing board officer revealed their practical strategies:

- > Regular cleaning schedules: Strict schedules prevent the buildup of dirt, debris and algae.
- > High-quality materials: Buildings use materials resistant to staining and discolouration.



An aerial view of some buildings in Kuala Lumpur. — Filepic

- > Professional cleaning services: Investment in professional cleaning ensure efficient maintenance.
- > Green initiatives: Rooftop gardens and green roofs enhance aesthetics and air quality.
- > Innovative technologies: Self-cleaning coatings and automated systems minimise manual cleaning.
- > Community involvement: Initiatives

encourage residents to participate in maintaining cleanliness.

> Enforcement of regulations: Strict adherence to maintenance guidelines ensures clean roofs.

Why does Kuala Lumpur lag despite similar weather conditions?

Is it due to budget constraints, ignorance or waiting for national or international events to happen before



STARMETRO MAIL

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Letters must carry the sender's full name, address, telephone number and signature. A pseudonym may be included. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity and other requirements.

cleaning up?

We should learn from our neighbours. Adopting Singapore's strategies requires conviction, commitment and passion.

We, the citizens, too, must play a role by voicing concerns and providing feedback to ensure the authorities are accountable.

If we wish to avoid negative impressions from tourists, office workers or residents, city planners must address the state of our rooftops urgently.

Implementing practical strategies similar to Singapore's will help us achieve a truly clean and liveable city.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) should urgently address this issue.

Anyone on the 35th floor of the DBKL building at Jalan Raja Laut would undoubtedly notice the neglected roofs of the shophouses and buildings along the road, which perfectly illustrate the problem at hand.

Let's take action now to ensure our city is clean.

RAVINDRAN RAMAN KUTTY
Kuala Lumpur

THE STAR
Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024

Bangi: Isu gangguan haiwan liar terutama anjing dalam perhatian Majlis Perbandaran Kajang (MPKJ) dengan operasi tangkapan secara berkala dilakukan di kawasan yang dikenal pasti.

Pengarah Unit Perancangan Korporat dan Perhubungan Awam MPKJ, Kamarul Izlan Sulaiman berkata, demi kesejahteraan penduduk, pihak berkuasa memasang jerat untuk menangkap haiwan liar yang memberi ancaman.

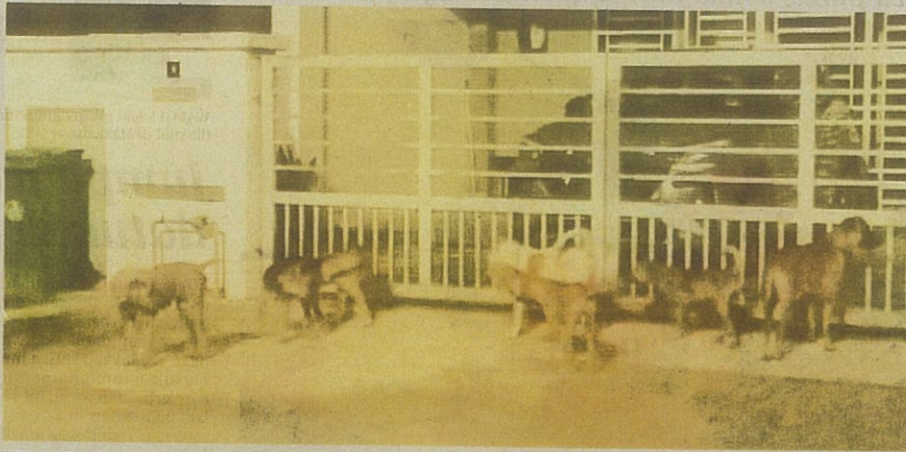
Katanya, kekerapan operasi menangkap haiwan liar akan dipertingkatkan, manakala pemasangan jerat ditambah bagi kawasan

**"Sisa makanan
dikhuatiri akan
mengundang
haiwan atau
serangga
pembawa
penyakit"**

Pengarah Unit
Perancangan Korporat
dan Perhubungan Awam
MPKJ, Kamarul Izlan
Sulaiman

Tambah jerat selesai isu anjing liar di Bangi

MPKJ
HM
18/6



TINJAUAN anjing liar berkeliraran di Taman Awani Bangi.

yang didapati berisiko.

"Langkah sama juga (diambil) di kawasan Taman Awani Bangi. Rondaan dan tangkapan ada dibuat (dalam operasi sebelum ini)," katanya ketika dihubungi.

Beliau mengulas laporan

Harian Metro semalam mengenai keluhan penduduk Taman Awani Bangi yang bimbang dan kurang selesa banjir anjing liar di kawasan mereka sejak beberapa tahun lalu.

Penduduk turut men-

dakwa anjing liar itu berlonggok di hadapan rumah dan meninggalkan najis yang menyebabkan mereka kurang selesa.

Menurut Kamarul Izlan, sebarang tindakan dan operasi tangkapan haiwan

liar dilakukan mengikut Undang-Undang Kecil (UUK) Pelesenan Anjing dan Rumah Pembiakan Anjing (MPKJ) 2007.

Katanya, pada Januari lalu MPKJ menerima dua aduan berhubung isu ber-

kenaan membabitkan perumahan Taman Awani Bangi dan sebagai tindakan, operasi tangkapan digerakkan.

"Bagaimanapun dalam dua operasi yang dilakukan ketika itu, tiada tangkapan dibuat kerana haiwan tiada di lokasi.

"Aduan terbaharu yang diterima berhubung isu sama ialah bulan lalu iaitu pada 29 Mei dan 31 Mei," katanya yang memaklumkan tindakan lanjut akan segera diambil.

Dalam masa sama, beliau menasihati orang ramai supaya sentiasa bekerjasama dan tidak memberi makan anjing liar kerana ia cenderung menyebabkan kehadiran lebih banyak haiwan itu terutama di kawasan perumahan.

"Sisa makanan juga boleh menyebabkan persekitaran menjadi kotor dan dikhuatiri mengundang haiwan atau serangga pembawa penyakit lain seperti tikus dan nyamuk Aedes," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024

SUBSIDI DIESEL TIDAK DIHAPUSKAN

HM
18/6

Masih tanggung RM7b

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Kuala Lumpur

Kerajaan menegaskan bahawa subsidi diesel tidak dihapuskan, malah negara masih menanggung sekitar RM7 bilion subsidi diesel di Semenanjung Malaysia.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (*gambar*) berkata, apa yang dilakukan kini adalah memastikan pengurusan subsidi lebih cekap, tidak tiris dan diperolehi rakyat yang disasarkan.

"Tujuan utama dalam dasar penyasaran subsidi diesel ini adalah memastikan pembaziran subsidi tidak lagi diteruskan sambil memastikan penjimatan mesti dipulangkan kepada rakyat terba-
nyak.

"Hasil penjimatan daripada penyasaran subsidi ini tentunya akan dikembalikan kepada rakyat dalam bentuk pendidikan, kesihatan, pengangkutan awam dan lain-lain sektor yang memberi dampak terbesar kepada rakyat," katanya, semalam.

Menurutnya, kerajaan melalui Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) menggerakkan Ops Tiris sejak 1 Mac lalu bertujuan membanteras penyelewengan diesel bersubsidi tatkala ia memanfaatkan pihak yang tidak layak.

"Hasil penjimatan daripada penyasaran subsidi ini tentunya akan dikembalikan kepada rakyat"

Anwar Ibrahim

"Sehingga 31 Disember tahun lalu, sebanyak 6,441,118 liter diesel dianggarkan berjumlah RM14,208,824 dirampas.

"Atas hasil dan perkembangan yang baik dari operasi ini, maka Ops Tiris 3.0 dijalankan dengan skop yang diperluas mencakup barang-barang kawalan lain iaitu gula putih bertapis (kasar dan halus), minyak masak bungkus polibeg satu kilogram (kg), petrol RON95 dan gas petroleum cecair (LPG).

"Sehingga 14 Jun lalu, sejumlah RM12,956,089.96 nilai barang kawalan dirampas dengan diesel menjadi barangan kawalan yang tertinggi yang diseludup dan diseleweng," katanya.

Katanya, kerajaan akan kekal komited menangani penyeludupan diesel sambil berusaha mengimbanginya dengan perihal bekalan dan kos sara hidup rakyat.

Anwar berkata, selain itu, kerajaan masih mengekalkan harga minyak masak sawit tulen kemasan botol pada harga RM6.90 (1kg), RM13.30 (2kg), RM19.60 (3kg) dan RM30.90 (5kg) sejak beliau mengambil alih tampuk kepimpinan negara walaupun harga minyak sawit mentah (CPO) dunia meningkat melebihi harga ambang RM3,890 juta tan (mt).

"Sebagai contoh harga CPO pada Mac adalah RM4,215/mt manakala April RM4,256/mt, harga minyak masak sawit tulen 5 kg boleh naik sehingga RM33 hingga RM35," katanya.



HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024



BEKALAN telur di sebuah pasar raya di Selayang dekat ibu kota kehabisan ketika tinjauan, semalam. Kerajaan memutuskan harga runcit bagi telur ayam gred A, B dan C di seluruh negara diturunkan 3 sen sebiji. Harga runcit baharu bagi telur ayam gred A, B dan C masing-masing ditetapkan 42 sen, 40 sen dan 38 sen sebiji berkuat kuasa semalam. - Gambar NSTP/ASYRAF HAMZAH

Harga runcit telur turun tiga sen sebiji

Kuala Lumpur: Harga runcit telur ayam gred A, B dan C diturunkan tiga sen sebiji selaras usaha mengembalikan hasil penjimatan penyasaran subsidi kepada rakyat.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, harga runcit bagi telur ayam gred A, B dan C masing-masing turun kepada 42 sen, 40

sen dan 38 sen sebiji berkuat kuasa semalam.

"Penampungan subsidi keperluan makanan rakyat sebanyak 10 sen bagi sebiji telur ayam ini membabitkan perbelanjaan RM100 juta, manakala pada

2023 peruntukan subsidi telur ayam adalah sebanyak RM927 juta," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini.

Katanya, harga runcit bagi telur ayam di Sabah, Sarawak dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan juga akan diselaraskan mengikut bahagian dan zon yang diwartakan.

"Ingin saya tegaskan, masalah atau isu terkait kos kehidupan rakyat akan terus ditangani kerajaan secara lebih proaktif dan berkesan sambil berusaha sebaiknya dalam memampatkan dampak yang buruk ke atas kehidupan harian rakyat," katanya.

Masalah atau isu terkait kos kehidupan rakyat akan terus ditangani kerajaan

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024



KECUR Kabel merupakan jenayah serius kerana menjejaskan mutu perkhidmatan komunikasi. — GAMBAR HIASAN

Hukuman lebih berat pencuri kabel

KUALA LUMPUR — Pencuri kabel bakal berdepan hukuman lebih berat selepas kerajaan melalui Jabatan Peguam Negara meminda undang-undang berkaitan jenayah itu.

Menteri Komunikasi, Fahmi Fadzil berkata, jabatan itu akan mencadangkan hukuman baharu itu yang diperincikan dalam pindaan Akta Komunikasi dan Multimedia 1998.

Katanya, pasukan di kementeriannya dan Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia diminta untuk meneliti dan memberi beberapa ulasan serta cadangan hukuman berikutan pindaan draf

akta itu melibatkan peruntukan mengenai aspek mutu perkhidmatan.

"Kecurian kabel dan vandalisme akan menjejaskan mutu perkhidmatan komunikasi dan masalah itu sering dibangkitkan oleh pengguna.

"Atas dasar itulah perincian pindaan dibuat sebelum dibawa ke Parlimen nanti," katanya ketika ditemui pada Program Korban Perdana Lembah Pantai, di sini semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Fahmi tiada masalah dengan langkah Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT)

menubuhkan pasukan duta online untuk menyampaikan maklumat dan menangkis fitnah di alam maya.

Tambahnya, penyelarasan dari segi maklumat perlu dilakukan walaupun penubuhan itu tidak bercampur dengan pihak-pihak lain.

"Saya akan meneliti perkara ini bersama Menteri KPKT, Nga Kor Ming," katanya.

Terdahulu, Kor Ming mengumumkan penubuhan pasukan duta online bagi menangkis fitnah dan menyampaikan maklumat sahih serta dasar-dasar kerajaan secara efektif.

KOSMO

Tarikh: **18 JUN 2024**

88 hot spot denggi di sekitar Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya

PETALING JAYA – Sebanyak 88 hot spot denggi dicatatkan di seluruh Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (WPKL) dan Putrajaya sepanjang tahun lalu hingga Mei lepas.

Daripada jumlah itu, lapan hot spot masih lagi aktif, manakala 80 lagi hot spot berjaya ditamatkan.

Mendedahkan perkara itu, Ketua Unit Vektor, Jabatan Kesihatan Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur & Putrajaya (JKWPKL&P), Dr. Norazman Mohd. Rosli berkata, daripada 88 hot spot yang dikesan sebelum ini, 21 adalah melibatkan kawasan di sekitar Pejabat Kesihatan (PK) Lembah Pantai.

Lebih membimbangkan katanya, kawasan itu juga mencatatkan tiga kematian sepanjang tempoh tersebut yang juga angka tertinggi bagi setiap PK.

Jelas beliau, kumulatif kes denggi bagi WPKL dan Putrajaya sepanjang tempoh berkenaan adalah sebanyak sebanyak 5,944 kes.

"Daripada jumlah ini, lima ke-



DEMAM denggi merebak melalui gigitan nyamuk Aedes.

matian denggi telah direkodkan termasuk tiga kes di PK Lembah Pantai.

"PK Lembah Pantai juga mencatatkan 1,544 kes iaitu 26 peratus daripada keseluruhan kes di WPKL dan Putrajaya," katanya kepada Kosmo!

Mengulas lanjut, Nor Azman berkata, selain Lembah Pantai, kawasan hot spot lain yang dikesan termasuklah di PK Titiwangsa 13 hot spot, PK Kepong (21), PK Cheras (32), dan PK Putrajaya (1).

Menurutnya, penularan kes



ORANG ramai dinasihatkan untuk menghapuskan tempat pembiakan nyamuk Aedes di kawasan masing-masing.

denggi ini berlaku kerana beberapa faktor antaranya disebabkan bangunan berstrata tinggi yang ada di sekitar ibu kota dan Putrajaya.

"Ini terbukti apabila lebih 70 peratus kes dicatatkan melibatkan kawasan ini seperti di kawasan perumahan flat, pangsapuri, kondominium yang mem-

punyai kepadatan penduduk yang tinggi.

"Menurut data Jabatan Perangkawan (DOSM) seramai 8,157 penduduk per kilometer persegi direkodkan di sekitar ibu kota.

"Selain itu, terdapat lebih dari 300 tapak bina di sekitar WPKL yang menyumbang kepada masalah pembiakan nyamuk

aedes,"ujarnya.

Tambah Nor Azman, bilangan penduduk negeri Selangor yang mencatatkan kes denggi tertinggi di Malaysia dan bekerja di WPKL dan Putrajaya turut menyumbang kepada peningkatan kes di ibu kota serta Putrajaya.

Faktor lain katanya adalah disumbangkan oleh pencemaran sisa sampah serta bekas takungan air terutamanya di kawasan kepadatan penduduk yang tinggi seperti di kawasan flat, pangsapuri dan kondominium.

Terdahulu, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) melaporkan kes kematian akibat demam denggi mengalami peningkatan sebanyak 48 kematian atau 41.2 peratus bermula Januari hingga 1 Jun tahun ini berbanding 34 kematian pada tahun sebelumnya.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, sebanyak 74 lokaliti hot spot dilaporkan pada Minggu Epidemiologi ke-22 dengan 46 lokaliti di Selangor, 11 lokaliti di Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: **18 JUN 2024**



MEREKA yang berani, cekal dan kuat semangat mampu melakukan kerja-kerja pembersihan demi memberi manfaat kepada masyarakat.



PEKERJA pembersihan dilatih untuk mengendalikan sisa bahan kotor bukan sahaja yang basah tetapi melibatkan segala bahan buangan lain daripada premis kediaman, komersial dan industri.

Oleh GHAZALI ALIAS

WALAUPUN hanya beberapa jam turun padang menjadi pekerja pembersihan Alam Flora di Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur, penulis tidak dapat membayangkan bagaimana mereka yang sudah bekerja puluhan tahun dapat bertahan dengan pelbagai ragam dan longgokan sampah di ibu kota.

Kagum dan bangga itulah pujian buat mereka yang selayaknya digelar 'adiwira' kerana rela berkorban deria bau, kudrat serta tenaga berdepan dengan aroma tidak menyenangkan hampir setiap hari.

Bagaikan diberi kuasa ajaib selepas menyarungkan seragam, salah seorang pekerja pembersihan Alam Flora, Sukumaran Dheventharan, 44, mengakui padanya menjalani tugas sebagai pengutip sampah tidak buruk yang disangkakan.

Menurutnya, meskipun ada yang berpandangan negatif terhadap tugas pekerja pembersihan, namun ia tidak mematahkan semangatnya untuk terus berkhidmat bagi memastikan kebersihan Kuala Lumpur terjaga.

"Ketika mula-mula bekerja 22 tahun lalu, memang ramai yang memandang rendah dan bertanya kenapa mahu bekerja sebagai pengutip sampah, tetapi saya hanya peka akan telinga dan jalani sahaja tugas dengan penuh dedikasi.

"Meskipun pada pandangan orang ia adalah pekerjaan kelas rendah atau menjijikkan, hakikatnya kami berkhidmat untuk memastikan setiap kawasan bersih daripada sampah yang orang ramai sendiri hasilkan setiap

Tukang sampah adiwira kebersihan Ibu Kota

hari," katanya ketika ditemu bual Kosmo! baru-baru ini.

Tambahnya, berdepan dengan sampah adalah satu cabaran yang tidak semua sanggup untuk hadapi, malah seperti kerjaya lain, hanya insan terpilih sahaja yang mampu menjalaninya. Ia dikategorikan di bawah pekerjaan 3D (Dirty, Dangerous & Difficult) ataupun Kotor, Bahaya dan Susah.

Tidak hanya itu, kerjaya ini juga yang telah menjadi sumber rezeki buat dirinya untuk menanggung keluarga hingga berjaya membiayai pendidikan kedua anaknya di universiti.

Tiada usaha yang sia-sia selagi kita bekerja dengan tulus dan ikhlas, itulah yang menjadi pembakar semangat buat lelaki asal Kuala Lumpur itu dalam menempuhi hari-hari sebagai pekerja am Alam Flora.

Begitu juga buat pemandu lori sampah Alam Flora, Shanmugathan Karuppiyah, 51, yang sebelum ini juga pernah berada di posisi sama seperti Sukumaran.

Katanya, sepanjang 34 tahun berkhidmat, stigma negatif bukan satu-satunya cabaran yang dihadapi sebagai tukang sampah, tetapi juga ragam masyarakat yang pelbagai serta sikap mereka terhadap pengurusan sampah.

"Apabila bekerja untuk masyarakat, kita tidak dapat lari daripada berdepan dengan ragam



PETUGAS media berpeluang merasai pengalaman menjadi pekerja Alam Flora dengan dibekalkan pakaian lengkap membantu membuat kerja-kerja pembersihan di Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur baru-baru ini - SHIDIQIN

mereka dan hal ini perlu ditangani dengan penuh rasional serta profesional.

"Kami tidak meminta banyak, hanya cukup faham dengan tugas kami dan beri kerjasama jika melihat lori sampah berada di kawasan anda, beri laluan dan paling penting, bungkus sampah dengan baik dan letak di dalam tong serta lokasi yang ditetapkan," ujarnya.

Tambahnya lagi, kerjasama semua pihak dapat membantu pekerja pembersihan Alam Flora melaksanakan tugas mereka dengan lebih baik sekali gus lancar mengikut jadual ditetapkan.

Bagi Penyelia Logistik Kutipan, Ahmad Umar Abd. Malik, 33, ke-

bajikan dan keselamatan pekerja-pekerja di bawah seliaannya, adalah keutamaan selain memberikan semangat buat mereka untuk bekerja setiap hari.

Dia mengakui bahawa pekerja pembersihan juga adalah manusia biasa yang punya hati dan perasaan, oleh itu setiap luahan serta permasalahan perlu diberikan penyelesaian terbaik.

"Kita sentiasa mengambil tahu permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh setiap pekerja dan mencari solusi terbaik agar mereka boleh bekerja dengan baik.

"Semua pekerja ada ragam masing-masing, tetapi apa yang boleh dikatakan ketika bertugas

mereka sentiasa lakukan yang terbaik bukan hanya untuk diri sendiri tetapi juga kepentingan orang awam," kongsi.

Katanya lagi, dia dan pekerja-pekerja am di Alam Flora juga amat terharu dengan sambutan Hari Pekerja Pembersihan (Garbage Man Day) yang disambut pada 17 Jun yang merupakan hari di mana jasa dan bakti mereka dihargai.

Sukumaran, Shanmugathan dan Ahmad Umar berkongsi rasa berterima kasih atas sambutan yang sangat bermakna buat mereka dan menjadi pembakar semangat untuk berkhidmat dengan lebih berdedikasi bagi menjamin kebersihan untuk kesejahteraan rakyat.



SHANMUGATHAN



SUKUMARA

Ikhlas laksana ibadah korban

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SHAH ALAM: Umat Islam diseru melakukan ibadah dengan ikhlas dan berkorban pada jalan Allah sebagaimana ditunjukkan oleh Nabi Ibrahim.

Timbalan Mufti Selangor, Datuk Dr. Miszairi Sitiris berkata, Islam mengajar umatnya untuk mengorbankan sesuatu yang sangat berharga sebagai bukti dan saksi kepada akidah demi kebahagiaan hidup di dunia serta akhirat.

"Orang yang berjaya adalah mereka yang melakukan pengorbanan masa, wang, jiwa raga, kepentingan diri, tenaga, fikiran dan perasaan kerana kejayaan tidak datang bergolek," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menyampaikan khutbah Hari Raya Aidiladha bertajuk *Ibadah Haji dan Eiduladha Kemuncak Zikrullah* di Masjid Tengku Ampuan Jemaah, Bukit Jelutong di sini, semalam.

Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah berkenan menunaikan solat sunat hari raya bersama lebih 5,000 jemaah.

Miszairi menambah, umat Islam diseru sentiasa berzikir muji kebesaran Allah supaya



Janganlah iman kita tergadai dengan harta benda, nama dan pangkat. Tetapkanlah hati kita kepada Allah."

MISZAIRI SITIRIS

Al-Kasbi

hati menjadi tenang dan mengukuhkan keimanan kepada-Nya.

"Umat yang menunaikan ibadah haji merupakan tanda zikir dan ingatan kepada Allah selain dapat mengambil pengajaran daripada pengorbanan Nabi Ibrahim.

"Janganlah iman kita tergadai dengan harta benda, nama dan pangkat. Tetapkanlah hati kita kepada Allah," katanya.

Turut berangkat, Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Norashikin dan Raja Muda Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah.

Sultan Sharafuddin turut bersalaman dengan jemaah yang hadir dan menyertai majlis santapan di masjid itu.



SULTAN Sharafuddin Idris Shah berkenan menunaikan solat sunat Hari Raya Aidiladha di Masjid Tengku Ampuan Jemaah, Bukit Jelutong, Shah Alam, Selangor, semalam.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 11 8 JUN 2024

Kukuh jati diri anggota, pegawai kastam elak 'dirasuk' sindiket

Secanggih manapun mesin pengimbas termasuk dilengkapi teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) di pintu masuk negara, ia tidak dapat menghalang salah laku dan jenayah rasuah sekiranya kakitangan serta pegawai mengendalikannya tidak menjunjung nilai integriti tinggi. Peringatan Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM), Tan Sri Azam Baki itu walaupun pedih, kebenarannya tak boleh disangkal kerana hakikatnya manusia mengawal dan menentukan proses dilakukan mesin, bukan sebaliknya.

Mesin pengimbas mempunyai limitasi dan had pemantauan sedangkan kelicikan pemberi serta penerima rasuah, terutama sindiket boleh 'mengakali' kecerdasan sesuatu teknologi. Malah, perbuatan rasuah boleh dilakukan bila-bila masa saja termasuk di luar waktu bertugas tidak dapat dijangkau sesuatu sistem digital, bahkan ada sahaja kelompokan boleh dieksploitasi penjenayah untuk sesuatu transaksi rasuah.

Hakikatnya, sistem canggih dan teknologi maju sudah lama digunakan di negara ini, tetapi kes rasuah berulang dengan terbaharu wang tunai RM4.4 juta dirampas SPRM daripada 11 pegawai Kastam Diraja Malaysia (KDRM) dikaitkan sindiket 'kontena terbang'. Kes rasuah membatikan ketirisan duti kastam itu dianggarkan RM3.5 bilion berlaku di Pelabuhan Klang, sekali gus membawa penahanan enam individu iaitu pengarah, pekerja syarikat, seorang *runner* dan kekasihnya.

Pada Mac lalu, 34 anggota dan pegawai JKDM bersekongkol dengan sindiket penyeludupan pengimporan dan penjualan arak serta rokok seludup membatikan ketirisan hasil cukai RM2 bilion ditahan SPRM dalam Ops Samba 2.0. Ini tidak termasuk rasuah membatikan puluhan ribu ringgit 'sahaja' dengan seorang dua kakitangan kastam didakwa setiap kes hingga tidak hairanlah jabatan itu menduduki tangga ketiga selepas imigresen dan Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan (JPJ) sebagai agensi penguat kuasa paling banyak aduan isu salah laku integriti diterima Suruhanjaya Integriti Agensi Penguatkuasaan (EAIC) pada tahun ini.

Malah, salah satu kes membatikan kastam turut mendapat perhatian Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim melahirkan rasa sedih dan terkesan dengan salah guna kuasa dilaporkan berlaku di bahagian kargo Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), Sepang hingga negara menanggung kerugian hampir RM2 bilion.

Justeru, kerajaan boleh memperkenalkan pelbagai mekanisme baharu termasuk memendekkan tempoh penugasan dan penempatan bagi perjawatan kritikal untuk mengurangkan pengaruh dan hubungan mungkin terbentuk, tetapi benteng utama masih tetap sikap amanah dan integriti kakitangan serta pegawai agensi penguat kuasa termasuk kastam. Malah, usaha menghalang daripada seseorang 'dirasuk' godaan sindiket dan tarikan kemewahan juga tidak boleh dilaksanakan secara individu, sebaliknya program pembentukan ketahanan jiwa perlu berlaku dengan kolektif.

Selain memanfaatkan pendekatan agama dan kerohanian untuk membina jati diri anggota dan pegawai yang membenci rasuah, kerajaan boleh mencontohi mekanisme digunakan di negara seperti Singapura yang kastamnya dikategorikan sebagai paling rendah risiko rasuah untuk perniagaan oleh Global Enabling Trade Report (GETR) sebelum ini. Pada masa sama, kakitangan terbukti amanah dan berintegriti pula perlu diberikan kredit, sekali gus dapat memastikan motivasi serta semangat kerja tidak luntur disebabkan setitik nila yang merosakkan imej kastam keseluruhan.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 11 JUN 2024

Penjawat awam lapor kes rasuah diberi hadiah

Kuala Lumpur: Penjawat awam yang melaporkan kes rasuah sehingga membawa kepada sabitan boleh diberi ganjaran wang, kata Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah (SPRM), Tan Sri Azam Baki.

Beliau berkata, pemberi maklumat kepada kerajaan akan diberi ganjaran sama seperti tawaran suapan kerana mereka membantu dalam membanteras kegiatan rasuah.

"Ia ringgit untuk ringgit, jika anda ditawarkan RM100, kerajaan akan beri anda RM100. Jika anda ditawarkan RM1 juta, kerajaan akan kembalikan RM1 juta kepada anda," katanya ketika menjadi tetamu program audio siar *Beyond the Headlines* kendalian New Straits Times (NST).

Tambahnya, melalui dasar sedia ada, seramai 514 penjawat awam sudah diberi ganjaran berjumlah lebih RM1 juta antara 2012 hingga 2023 kerana mendedah serta melaporkan kes rasuah yang membawa kepada sabitan.

Di bawah Strategi Pencegahan Rasuah Kebangsaan 2024-2028 yang baru diumumkan Mei lalu, Azam menjelaskan, skim sama boleh diperluaskan kepada masyarakat umum, namun ia masih dalam peringkat cadangan.



Penjawat awam digalakkan membantu kerajaan dalam menangani ketirisan dan rasuah.

(Foto hiasan)

"Perkara itu masih dalam cadangan, prosedur khusus dan optimum bersama agensi peneraju masih belum diputuskan. Itu di bawah Bahagian Hal Ehwal Undang-Undang (BHEUU) Jabatan Perdana Menteri (JPM).

"Pertama sekali, Akta Perlindungan Pemberi Maklumat 2010 perlu diperbaharui dan kami ber-setuju, BHEUU kini sedang dalam proses meminda undang-undang," katanya.

Katanya, SPRM satu-satunya agensi penguat kuasa yang menggunakan sepenuhnya undang-undang itu dan sejak tujuh tahun lalu, sudah mempromosikannya kepada orang ramai bahawa mereka harus menjadi pemberi maklumat.

"Ada tiga kategori yang tampil ke SPRM, iaitu pengadu, pemberi maklumat dan *informan*. Pengadu sebagai contoh, perlu ke mahkamah, namun saya boleh ka-

takan kurang daripada lima peratus mereka yang tampil ingin membuat aduan bersedia untuk beri keterangan di mahkamah.

"Bagi pemberi maklumat dan *informan*, identiti mereka dilindungi dengan baik. Sekarang, BHEUU ingin memberi ganjaran kepada mereka dan saya fikir ia idea yang baik, boleh menggalakkan lebih ramai tampil membuat aduan, terutama kepada SPRM," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 18 JUN 2024

Syor pinda Akta SPRM 2009 kembalikan dana diseleweng

Pindaan termasuk penambahbaikan DPA bagi wujud kaedah 'penyelesaian' kes liabiliti korporat

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Kuala Lumpur: Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) bercadang meminda beberapa peruntukan dalam Akta SPRM 2009 antara lain bagi membolehkan kerajaan memperoleh semula dana yang diseleweng.

Ketua Pesuruhjaya SPRM, Tan Sri Azam Baki, berkata ia membabitkan penambahbaikan beberapa perkara, termasuk perjanjian penangguhan pendakwaan (DPA) bagi mewujudkan kaedah 'penyelesaian' dalam kes liabiliti korporat.

"Kita berpandangan kes sede-



Kita berpandangan kes sedemikian tidak perlu melalui prosiding mahkamah yang agak panjang

Azam Baki,
Ketua Pesuruhjaya SPRM

mikian tidak perlu melalui prosiding mahkamah yang agak panjang. Kes di United Kingdom di mana perusahaan mega seperti Rolls Royce yang membabitkan dana berskala besar boleh menjadi panduan.

"Pendakwaan ke atas organisasi terbabit ditangguhkan selepas siasatan selesai, ada sistem pemantauan untuk memastikan mereka mematuhi setiap prosedur ditetapkan," katanya men-

jelaskan prosedur itu bertujuan mendapatkan semula dana yang diseleweng.

Jimat kos prosiding

Menjelaskan demikian ketika menjadi tetamu audio siar *Beyond the Headlines* kendalian *New Straits Times* (NST), beliau berkata, kos bagi prosiding kes yang mungkin berlarutan beberapa tahun mampu diijimatkan walaupun mengakui penting me-

lakukan pendakwaan ke atas penjenayah.

"Inisiatif ini antara lain mampu menjimatkan tempoh untuk mendapatkan semula dana yang diseleweng menerusi saluran perundangan sedia ada," katanya.

Pada 30 September lalu, SPRM dilaporkan mengkaji untuk memperkenalkan DPA ke atas individu yang didakwa, bertujuan membolehkan kes terbabit digantung bagi suatu tempoh ditetapkan supaya kerajaan berupaya memperoleh semula dana diselewengkan.

Selain DPA, Azam memaklumkan, SPRM juga bercadang memperkenalkan undang-undang yang mampu menghukum penjawat awam yang mengakibatkan kerugian berdepan kerugian dalam pendapatan.

"Hong Kong ada peruntukan sedemikian dan SPRM meneliti tahap keberkesanannya. Inilah antara beberapa inisiatif yang sedang dipertimbangkan, tetapi semuanya akan mengambil masa.

"Kita perlu melaksanakan kajian dan tinjauan dengan proses berkenaan mungkin mengambil masa hingga tiga tahun," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 11 8 JUN 2024

Pasukan 'duta dalam talian' tak babit kos tambahan

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) menjelaskan, pelaksanaan Program Sentuhan Maya atau pasukan 'duta dalam talian' tidak membabitkan sebarang kos tambahan.

Menterinya, Nga Kor Ming, berkata ini kerana 'duta' berkenaan terdiri daripada kakitangan KPKT bertujuan mempromosikan produk dan perkhidmatan kementerian itu dengan lebih baik.

Beliau berkata, program itu antara lain bertujuan membina kapasiti penggunaan media sosial dan teknologi baharu dalam kalangan penjawat awam, terutama pada era digitalisasi ketika ini.

"Duta dalam talian atau pengaruh (KOL) KPKT ini adalah sukarelawan kementerian yang teruja untuk turut serta daripada pelbagai jabatan dan agensi seliaan KPKT.

"Ia bertujuan menyampaikan mesej jelas kepada rakyat mengenai program, produk dan perkhidmatan ditawarkan KPKT serta agensi di bawahnya.

"Selain itu, ia dapat memberi ruang untuk mereka menyuarakan pendapat secara terbuka dan kreatif mengenai perkhidmatan Kerajaan MADANI," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Beliau mengulas kenyataan bekas Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Datuk Zuraida Kamaruddin yang dilapor mempersoalkan pelaksanaan program berkenaan.

Kelmarin, Zuraida dipetik berkata, pelantikan 200 duta dalam talian membabitkan kakitangan KPKT dilihat sebagai tindakan merugikan kerana masa penjawat awam terbabit seharusnya diguna untuk mengendalikan tugas hakiki.

Zuraida antara lain mengetengahkan kebimbangan mengenai kemungkinan fungsi kakitangan kerajaan terbabit akan berubah menjadi jentera politik kepada parti pemerintah.

Beliau berpendapat pelantikan itu tidak perlu, apatah lagi pentadbiran Kerajaan MADANI mempunyai jentera komunikasi mencukupi yang tidak memerlukan 'pertolongan' daripada penjawat awam.

Mengulas lanjut, Kor Ming berkata, latihan susulan kepada KOL KPKT disediakan oleh Unit Komunikasi Korporat kementerian untuk membantu penjawat awam menguasai media sosial masing-masing.

Beliau berkata, inisiatif itu antara lain mampu menjadi instrumen untuk mengisi masa terluang penjawat awam terbabit selepas waktu kerja.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 18 JUN 2024

'Sikap tamak pendorong amalan rasuah'

Kuala Lumpur: Kesatuan Perkhidmatan Imigresen Semenanjung Malaysia (KPISM) mengakui kenaikan gaji bukan jaminan untuk membendung gejala rasuah.

Presidennya, Ajeet Singh Gurbax Singh, berkata ini dibuktikan apabila kegiatan rasuah turut dilakukan penjawat awam ber-pangkat tinggi dan bergaji besar.

Katanya, faktor utama berlaku gejala rasuah didorong keinginan untuk memuaskan nafsu yang tinggi dan sikap tamak ha-loba.



Ajeet Singh

"Oleh itu, pendidikan moral dan agama perlu dipertingkatkan dan diberi perhatian segera. Pendidikan ini perlu diperkenalkan pada peringkat sekolah rendah dan diingatkan secara berterusan di semua peringkat (pendidikan).

"KPISM tidak akan berkompromi berkaitan isu salah guna kuasa atau rasuah dalam kalangan pegawai Imigresen," katanya kepada BH.

Sebelum ini, Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah (SPRM), Tan Sri Azam Baki

memaklumkan bahawa dengan menaikkan gaji penjawat awam tidak semestinya berkesan dalam membendung penularan rasuah dalam struktur kerajaan.

Kemiskinan bukan alasan

Katanya, berdasarkan pengalaman hampir 41 tahun berkhidmat dalam Badan Pencegah Rasuah (BPR) dan kini dikenali SPRM, beliau melihat kadar gaji rendah atau kemiskinan bukan alasan utama wujudnya rasuah dalam sistem.

"Ia (rasuah) disebabkan sifat tamak dan peluang (yang terhidang). Misalnya, orang politik (terbabit rasuah) adakah mereka ini miskin? (Bagaimana pula) menteri Kabinet, ketua setiausaha

ha kementerian, timbalan ketua setiausaha?

"Jika saya bercakap mengenai (rasuah) dalam sektor swasta, apa boleh saya katakan (kebanyakan terjebak) pegawai bank... adakah mereka ini miskin.

"Jadi, jangan asyik fikir naik gaji semata-mata (dengan) memikirkan ia mengurangkan rasuah.

"Walhal banyak lagi faktor perlu dilihat... contohnya mengenai sifat tamak, peluang, sistem, prosedur dan isu tadbir urus," katanya seperti dilaporkan.

Bagaimanapun, Ajeet Singh, berkata kesatuannya tetap berse-tuju ganjaran upah perlu setimpal dengan beban tugas serta selaras kenaikan harga barang asas.

Pendekkan tempoh bertugas bagi jawatan kritikal kastam

Cadangan MCW tutup ruang undang salah laku jejas integriti kakitangan JKDM

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Kuala Lumpur: Tempoh penugasan dan penempatan bagi perjawatan kritikal Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM) wajar dipendekkan selepas terpalit pelbagai krisis membabitkan tahap integriti kakitangannya.

Presiden Pemerhati Rasuah Malaysia (MCW), Jais Abdul Karim, berkata ia bagi mengurangkan pengaruh dan hubungan yang mungkin terbentuk, selain wajar dilaksanakan susulan tahap integriti kakitangan JKDM dikatakan pada tahap kritikal.

Beliau berkata, isu integriti kakitangan JKDM turut didorong pendedahan sindiket kontena lari cukai (kontena terbang) serta pelbagai kes terkini yang masih dalam siasatan pihak berkuasa.

Katanya, tindakan tegas yang konsisten dan adil terhadap pelaku kesalahan mampu memperbaiki imej dengan menunjukkan komitmen untuk menegakkan integriti dan memulihkan kepercayaan awam terhadap JKDM.

"MCW berpendapat, terdapat hubungan erat di antara rasuah



dan penguat kuasa ekoran kuasa dan tanggungjawab besar dimiliki mereka.

"Kes rasuah membabitkan penguat kuasa menunjukkan kelemahan dalam sistem pengawasan negara dan perlunya reformasi integriti dilaksanakan segera.

"JKDM juga wajar memperketatkan prosedur pengawasan dan audit dalaman, meningkatkan penggunaan teknologi untuk memantau aktiviti harian, menyediakan latihan berterusan mengenai etika dan integriti.

"Selain itu, jabatan berkenaan wajar mengenakan hukuman tegas terhadap kakitangannya yang disabitkan bersalah," katanya kepada BH.

Beliau mengulas penegasan JKDM yang tidak akan berkompromi dan melindungi mana-mana pihak jika terdapat dakwaan berasas yang terbukti benar berlaku salah laku membabitkan pegawai dan anggotanya.

Minggu lalu, tujuh individu termasuk pegawai JKDM terabit dalam kes kontena terbang yang bergiat aktif di Pelabuhan Klang, Selangor ditahan dalam Op Transit.

Semua yang ditahan disyaki

bersekongkol dengan sindiket penyeludupan barangan import di Pelabuhan Klang, mengakibatkan ketirisan cukai, dianggarkan bernilai RM3.5 bilion.

Hasil operasi dijalankan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah (SPRM) dan JKDM itu menahan 19 kontena yang mengandungi pelbagai barangan import.

Susulan itu, SPRM menghubungi Biro Siasatan Amalan Rasuah (CPIB) Singapura dalam usaha menjejak seorang warga negara berkenaan yang disyaki dalang utama kes terbabit.

Jumaat lalu, Ketua Pesuruhjaya SPRM, Tan Sri Azam Baki, berkata SPRM sedang menyiasat lebih 100 syarikat penghantar yang dikesan terbabit dalam menyeludup barangan import.

Syarikat terbabit disyaki membuat pengisytiharan cukai palsu susulan tangkapan kes rasuah di Pelabuhan Klang serta satu lagi kes ketirisan hasil cukai sebanyak RM2 bilion di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), sebelum ini.

Mesej jelas atasi rasuah

Sementara itu, Jais berkata, komitmen Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia mengenakan tindakan pecat, turun pangkat atau tahanan gaji jika kakitangan terbabit salah laku integriti adalah mesej jelas agensi itu bagi mengatasi isu terbabit.

"Tindakan sedemikian mahupun pendakwaan di mahkamah mempunyai kelebihan masing-masing.

"Tindakan dalaman seperti pemecatan atau penurunan pang-

JKDM juga wajar memperketatkan prosedur pengawasan dan audit dalaman, meningkatkan penggunaan teknologi untuk memantau aktiviti harian, menyediakan latihan berterusan mengenai etika dan integriti

Jais Abdul Karim,
Presiden MCW



kat boleh diambil dengan lebih cepat dan memberikan kesan segera.

"Bagaimanapun, pendakwaan di mahkamah penting untuk memberi kesan jangka panjang dan memastikan pelaku mendapatkan hukuman setimpal dengan kesalahan mereka.

"Gabungan kedua-dua pendakwaan tindakan punitif itu adalah yang terbaik untuk menangani isu integriti secara menyeluruh," katanya.

AI permudah SPR urus pilihan raya, pengundi tunai tanggungjawab

- SPR boleh menggunakan AI untuk melihat keseluruhan perjalanan pilihan raya secara mikro dan makro, selain memberi cadangan untuk menyelesaikan masalah yang timbul

- Capaian kepada aplikasi AI perlu secara inklusif tanpa terhad kepada penggunaan peranti pintar tertentu sahaja, sebaliknya boleh diguna pakai sebarang telefon pintar



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Pengurusan pilihan raya masih mempunyai ruang untuk penambahbaikan. Sekali gus boleh diperkasa dengan kewujudan pelbagai kemudahan teknologi dan sistem pintar yang kini dimiliki semua pihak berkepentingan.

Justeru, penggunaan teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) sangat penting untuk memudahkan Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR) mengendalikan instrumen demokrasi itu, selain meningkatkan mutu perkhidmatan termasuk pilihan raya kecil (PRK) yang perlu diadakan dari semasa ke semasa.

Sebagai contoh, pengurusan pilihan raya seperti pendaftaran pengundi dan calon bertanding dapat diurus dengan sistematik dan dicapai dalam talian melalui sistem notifikasi ke alat pintar kepada pihak terbabit seperti parti politik bertanding dan pengundi.

Capaian kepada sistem ini oleh pihak berkepentingan juga dapat dilakukan melalui peranti pintar pada setiap masa dan di mana sahaja mereka berada.

Selain itu, keupayaan teknologi AI membantu proses pemantauan dan pelaksanaan pengundian terutama untuk mencari, mengesan dan menggalakkan pengundi yang masih belum menunaikan tanggungjawab untuk mengundi.

Ini dapat meningkatkan jumlah keluar mengundi, terutama ketika pilihan raya negeri (PRN) dan PRK yang sering menyaksikan penurunan kadar itu.

Di samping itu, teknologi AI berupaya memastikan proses pentadbiran lancar dan sistematik, lebih-lebih lagi mengeluarkan laporan secara automatik sama ada secara berkala atau *ad hoc* seperti laporan peratusan kelulusan ceramah dibenarkan kepada parti bertanding.

Malah, SPR juga boleh menghantar peringatan secara automatik kepada pengundi mengenai masa dan tempat pengundian mengikut saluran ditetapkan di kawasan pilihan raya berkenaan.

Terdapat pelbagai perspektif boleh diketengahkan dalam merealisasikan dan memperkasa teknologi AI dalam sistem pengurusan pengurusan pilihan raya terutama kepada pemegang taruh dan pengundi yang menjadi 'pemain utama' pilihan raya.

Teknologi AI boleh digunakan bersama internet benda (IoT) untuk membolehkan mereka mendapat maklumat dan memantau pergerakan pilihan raya secara komprehensif.

Sekiranya berhadapan masalah di tempat pengundian, kombinasi aplikasi AI dan IoT akan memberi maklum balas automatik dan cadangan tindakan termasuk berkaitan pengundian.

Malah, sistem juga boleh memberikan jangkaan tempoh seseorang pengundi menunaikan tanggungjawab berdasarkan pelbagai faktor setempat termasuk cuaca, kesesakan jalan raya dan jumlah semasa di tempat pengundian, sekali

gus dapat memberikan cadangan masa sesuai kepada mereka.

Bagi SPR pula, mereka boleh menggunakan teknologi AI untuk melihat keseluruhan perjalanan pilihan raya secara mikro dan makro, selain memberikan cadangan untuk menyelesaikan masalah timbul.

Atasi cabaran dan isu guna AI

Teknologi AI boleh digunakan untuk membuat analisis data secara sistematik merangkumi peraturan kemenangan setelah semua data diterima secara dalam talian dari pusat pengundian dan dikira secara automatik melalui sistem aplikasi pintar untuk penjumlahan undi sentiasa aktif pada setiap masa.

Bagaimanapun, penggunaan teknologi seperti AI berdepan dengan pelbagai isu dan cabaran, terutama isu infrastruktur yang menjadi perkara asas perlu diselesaikan.

Dalam hal ini, penggunaan teknologi rangkaian komunikasi 5G perlu ditingkatkan, termasuk di pedalaman untuk memastikannya ia boleh diakses dengan pantas menggunakan apa-apa sahaja peralatan pintar seperti telefon pintar bagi memperoleh maklumat dan bahan pilihan raya dalam talian.

Di samping itu, capaian kepada aplikasi AI perlu secara inklusif tanpa terhad kepada penggunaan peranti pintar tertentu sahaja, sebaliknya boleh diguna pakai sebarang telefon pintar.

Pada masa sama, isu keselamatan data perlu dititikberatkan, terutama untuk menjaga kerahsiaan pengguna agar tidak diceroboh dan disalah guna.

Tahap kesedaran atau promosi mengenai penggunaan sistem pengurusan pilihan raya diperkasa dengan teknologi AI perlu ditingkatkan supaya pengundi memanfaatkan aplikasi diperkenalkan sampai mereka cakna mengenai bermula proses penamaan calon hingga pengundian dan pengumuman pemenang bagi pilihan raya dilaksanakan tidak kira pilihan raya umum (PRU), PRN atau PRK.

Realitinya, teknologi AI dapat meningkatkan kualiti pengurusan pilihan raya kerana menyediakan perkhidmatan kepada pemegang taruh seperti parti, jentera dan calon bertanding, pengundi dan media yang bersifat automatik serta sistematik.

Malah, teknologi AI juga memudahkan SPR menganalisis data dan membuat keputusan serta maklum balas dilakukan dengan pantas. Di samping itu, teknologi itu mampu membantu semua pihak terbabit kerana memahami keperluan dengan lebih baik, mengadaptasi strategi penyelesaian masalah dengan lebih berkesan dan bersistematik.

Bagaimanapun, capaian kepada sistem pintar perlu bersifat inklusif tidak kira sama ada pengguna berada di bandar, luar bandar mahupun pedalaman, manakala keselamatan data dan privasi yang menjadi kebimbangan utama dalam era digital ini perlu dilindungi sebaik-baiknya.

Oleh itu, langkah keselamatan ketat perlu dilaksanakan bagi memastikan penggunaan AI dengan lancar dan selamat.

“Teknologi AI juga memudahkan SPR menganalisis data dan membuat keputusan serta maklum balas dilakukan dengan pantas teknologi itu mampu membantu semua pihak terbabit kerana memahami keperluan dengan lebih baik”





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MALAYSIA kini berhadapan dengan lanskap ekonomi yang semakin mencabar dipengaruhi oleh faktor dalam mahupun luaran.

Senario defisit fiskal, peningkatan pergantungan kepada hutang negara dan potensi hasil negara semakin terhad merupakan antara faktor dalam yang telah bermula semenjak 20 tahun lalu tetapi masih belum berkesudahan.

Pandemik Covid-19, persaingan sengit ekonomi serta peperangan antara beberapa negara berkuasa besar telah memaksa Malaysia berhadapan dengan cabaran berganda.

Justeru, antara tunjang utama kepada inisiatif yang direncanakan oleh kerajaan adalah Penstrukturan Semula Ekonomi bagi mencapai pertumbuhan dan kestabilan ekonomi mampan serta berdaya saing.

Namun menurut Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli dalam Program Bual Bicara Menteri Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN) (IMC) 2024, pada 3 Mei lalu, Penstrukturan Semula Ekonomi ini tidak berlaku hanya melalui beberapa arahan dan kerangka ekonomi yang disampaikan kepada rakyat.

Sebaliknya, ia memerlukan empat pemboleh daya strategik merentasi bidang ekonomi dan ini merupakan cabaran utama negara yang menuntut penyelesaian segera.

IMC adalah sebuah Program Bicara Intan membabitkan pemimpin tinggi kerajaan dan juga perkhidmatan awam yang membincangkan perkara berimpak tinggi berkaitan isu dan dasar semasa negara, serta berskala besar dengan tema tertentu.

Empat cabaran tersebut adalah:

Kesanggupan melepaskan sesuatu untuk landskap ekonomi lebih sihat

Cabaran kepada pemboleh daya pertama yang dinyatakan adalah kesanggupan melepaskan sesuatu seiring dengan keperluan semasa walaupun terpaksa mengambil langkah tidak popular dan berhadapan dengan pelbagai stigma negatif. Sesuatu perlu dikorbankan dan aturan semasa perlu ditukar kerana sudah tidak bersesuaian.

Sahut cabaran struktur semula ekonomi negara

DR N. Farahin Ali

PENSTRUKTURAN semula tidak hanya melibatkan amalan dari perspektif ekonomi semata-mata tetapi perlu ditangani secara holistik dan terangkum meliputi bidang antropologi dan sosiologi.
- UTUSAN/SYAKIR RADIN



Contohnya, pemberian subsidi diesel memberikan bebanan yang semakin tinggi kepada kerajaan. Bagi tempoh 2018 hingga 2022, kerajaan menanggung subsidi diesel melebihi RM35 bilion, dengan purata tahunan sebanyak RM7 bilion.

Subsidi ini mencecah RM14.3 bilion pada tahun lalu walaupun trend penggunaan dalam kalangan pengguna individu secara umumnya tidak berubah. Adakah terdapat pihak yang mengambil kesempatan ke atas kelemahan dalam aturan semasa? Situasi ini memaksa kerajaan melaksanakan penyesaran semula subsidi diesel.

Dalam hal ini, inisiatif penstrukturan semula ekonomi memerlukan perubahan yang melibatkan dua keputusan penting. Pertama, mengenal pasti pihak yang perlu menyumbang atau pihak yang melepaskan sesuatu yang biasanya diterima dan kedua, mekanisme terperinci untuk menguruskannya secara sistematis.

Kedua-dua keputusan kritikal tersebut perlu dibuat secara berhati-hati agar pelaksanaan perubahan tidak memburukkan keadaan ekonomi semasa negara. Sebarang perubahan kepada dasar semasa juga mengambil masa kerana tidak mudah difahami dan diterima.

Justeru, kerajaan memerlukan data

komprehensif seperti ditawarkan oleh Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) dan tempoh lebih panjang untuk menangani perkara ini.

Menteri Ekonomi turut menyeru agar para menteri dan penjawat awam bersiap siaga dalam memberi penjelasan serta sanggup memperbaiki kelemahan dari semasa ke semasa.

Anjakan minda dan budaya merentasi skop ekonomi

Inisiatif Penstrukturan Semula Ekonomi negara juga memerlukan anjakan minda yang berupaya mengubah sikap dan budaya. Namun, anjakan di peringkat nasional terutamanya sukar bagi amalan yang telah dilaksanakan selama berdekad.

Selain itu, penstrukturan semula ini tidak hanya melibatkan amalan dari perspektif ekonomi semata-mata tetapi perlu ditangani daripada perspektif holistik dan terangkum meliputi bidang antropologi dan sosiologi.

Contohnya, budaya makanan mewah dan pelbagai lagi aktiviti dengan skala besar akan melumpuhkan usaha kerajaan dalam mengoptimumkan sumber yang semakin berkurangan.

Walaupun budaya tersebut berupaya menarik ramai pengunjung atau memeriahkan sesebuah majlis namun ia membuka ruang pembaziran yang boleh

melonjakkan belanjawan kerajaan melalui pemberian subsidi beras dan minyak masak, kos pemprosesan sampah serta pengimportan bahan makanan yang seterusnya mampu menggugat kedudukan ekonomi dan keterjaminan makanan di Malaysia.

Reka bentuk program kalis masa dan berimpak tinggi

Pengubalan dasar kerajaan memerlukan reka bentuk program yang mampu mengikut peredaran zaman dan memenuhi keperluan di setiap peringkat. Contohnya, reka bentuk Program Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) perlu disesuaikan dengan perubahan dan pembangunan teknologi yang menyokong industri pembuatan dan kejuruteraan pelbagai bidang.

Namun, reka bentuk program bersifat kalis masa memerlukan pemikiran di luar kebiasaan dan penelitian ke atas data terperinci sekurang-kurangnya 20 tahun lalu sebelum dinaiktaraf menggunakan inovasi dan teknologi terkini bagi membolehkan ia mendepani cabaran yang lebih besar.

Fokus turut perlu diberikan kepada program yang mendatangkan impak kegagalan yang sangat merugikan dalam skala besar dan bukannya kejayaan kecil dengan impak berskala rendah.

Bersepadu merealisasikan perubahan

Proses perubahan juga menuntut gandingan utuh semua pihak di pelbagai peringkat agar jentera penstrukturan semula ekonomi dapat bergerak secara kolektif dan berkesan.

Sentimen perbezaan kaum dan fahaman politik akan mengancam semangat federalisme yang boleh menyebabkan kegagalan integrasi nasional bagi membentuk satu negara bangsa.

Dalam hal ini, menteri menekankan gandingan seiring ke arah perubahan dapat mengelakkan 'akibat yang tidak diinginkan' serta memastikan perancangan, penyusunan dan pelaksanaan sesuatu program dapat berada di landasan yang betul.

Inisiatif penstrukturan semula ekonomi memerlukan kerjasama secara satu bangsa.

Perancangan, penyusunan dan pelaksanaan dasar dengan keterlibatan secara bersepadu dalam merealisasikan sesuatu yang direncanakan melebihi jangkaan diperlukan untuk memastikan limpahan impak positif terhadap kedudukan ekonomi negara yang akhirnya menjadi wadah kepada kesejahteraan rakyat secara keseluruhan.

DR. N. Farahin Ali@ibrahim ialah Perunding Latihan Kanan di Pusat Pengajian Ekonomi dan Kewangan Awam (PEKA) Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN).

NETWORK QUALITY AFFECTED

HARSHER PENALTIES FOR CABLE THIEVES

NSI
18/6

Communications
Ministry, MCMC
working on
recommendations,
says Fahmi

KUALA LUMPUR

THE government is considering imposing heavier penalties on those who steal telecommunication cables and cause service disruptions.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said the punishments would be proposed in the amendment to the Communications

and Multimedia Act 1998, which is being studied by the Attorney-General's Chambers.

"I will ask the team at the Communications Ministry and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to examine and provide recommendations (on punishments) because at this time, the draft amendment involves several provisions on network service quality.

"We are making these amendments not only because we saw a rise in incidents of cable theft and vandalism, but also because of (the disruption to) the quality of telecommunication services as this is one of the items often raised by users, and therefore, it is being scrutinised before we bring it to Parliament," he said at the Program Korban Perdana in

his constituency of Lembah Pantai here yesterday.

Fahmi said this in response to a question about the government's effort to curb the theft of telecommunication cables, which was becoming prevalent nationwide.

Regarding the move by the Housing and Local Government Ministry to establish a team of "online ambassadors" to deliver information and ward off slander in cyberspace, Fahmi said his ministry was not against the effort.

"I do not see that the (move) will cause them to (touch) the jurisdiction of other parties, but co-ordination in the information to be conveyed must be done.

"I will look into this matter with the minister (Nga Kor Ming)," he said. **Bernama**

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024

Depression on the rise in Malaysia

THE National Health and Morbidity Survey 2023 indicates that the number of people with depression has doubled in the last four years. Around one million people in the country aged 16 and above (4.6 per cent) have depression, compared with half a million adults (2.3 per cent) in 2019.

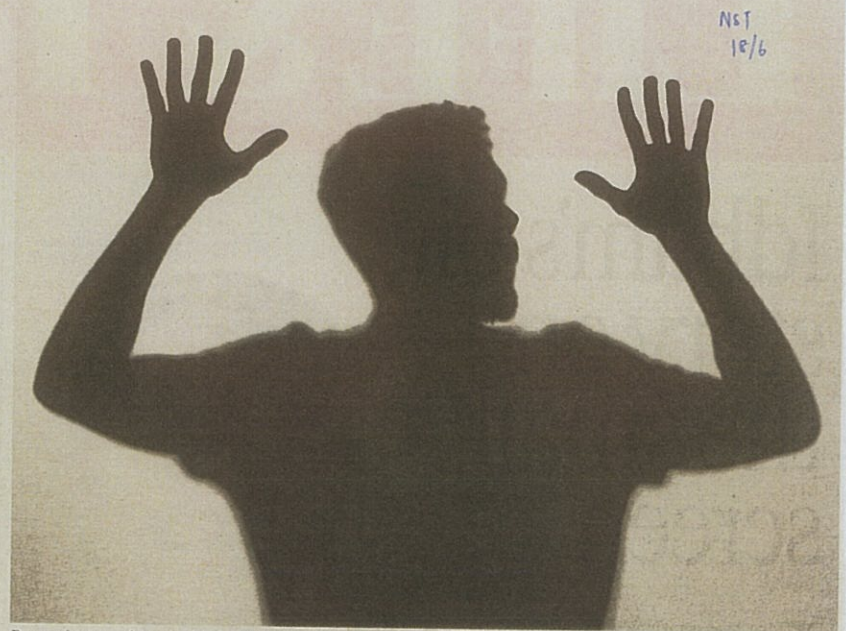
This raises the question of why mental illness is on the rise and whether enough is being done to support those struggling with such conditions. Mental health issues like depres-

sion have been around since time immemorial, says counselling psychologist Prem Kumar Shanmugam, who's also Solace Asia founder and chief executive officer.

The difference now is that we have become more aware of such issues and have better tools to diagnose them. However, these issues may also be overdiagnosed or even misdiagnosed, he says.

For example, there is a huge difference between depression and feeling sad.

"Depression is a clinical diagnosis



Depression cases have doubled in Malaysia over the last four years. PICTURE CREDIT: FREEPIK.

INSUFFICIENT HELP

MALAYSIA still has a very low number of psychiatrists, not enough to cater to its population, whether in urban or rural areas.

Prem says psychiatry is a field not often chosen by doctors because it is stressful, the returns are not as great and it requires a lot of passion.

Mental health is a constant battle due to high relapse rates, he adds, and in Malaysia today, we have about 500 psychiatrists, which does not meet World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations.

WHO recommends one psychiatrist per 10,000 people, but the country has only 0.52 psychiatrists per 100,000 people. We also don't have enough psychologists in the country, he adds.



Dr Prem Kumar Shanmugam

with symptoms like inability to sleep, massive weight loss and constant crying for no reason. Sadness, on the other hand, is just an emotion."

Due to easy access to information on the Internet, people can overdiagnose or misdiagnose themselves too.

Prem says there is a tendency for people to check their symptoms on Google or even self-medicate.

"This free flow of information hasn't always been helpful in this sense. However, the stressors of today are more intense than those of previous decades, and people may be less-equipped to manage these stressors."

Prem says during the pandemic, people began to realise how difficult it was to manage simple things. For example, living together in a home locked in for 24 hours, for two to three

weeks, or even a month during the Movement Control Order period.

The stress of communicating with each other and managing relationships became apparent.

"We were too busy chasing things outside like working and paying bills, and suddenly, we needed to learn how to manage each other. So yes, the pandemic has definitely left an impact on mental health."

Now, as we adapt to Covid-19, people have started getting back to normal life.

But there is also a need to quickly jump back into action, which definitely increases the number of stressors.

This has led to a rise in mental health cases, especially for those predisposed to the condition.

Mental health issues affect people

who are vulnerable, just like other diseases, explains Prem.

Some people are more susceptible due to genetic influence.

The most affected are usually young adults. Data indicates that these people are highly competitive in trying to start or restart their lives.

The pandemic has robbed us of productive time, disrupted lives and created the need to catch up, causing stress.

Additionally, economic and sociopolitical developments in the country have made things even more stressful.

Prem says this is compounded by the fact that today's youth have been relatively "pampered" compared with previous generations, making it harder for them to navigate life's challenges.

NST
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RESILIENT ECONOMY

FAVOURABLE FDI DESTINATION

Malaysia's energy security, lower natural disaster risk, attractive investment policies and political stability are among factors that will continue to attract investors, say experts

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THE recent surge of substantial foreign direct investment (FDI) indicates several positive trends and potential developments for Malaysia, according to market experts.

Zerin Properties chief executive officer and founder Previndran Singhe said high-profile investments, such as Apple's new store and those from Microsoft and Google, can elevate Malaysia's status as an attractive destination for FDI.

These developments are expected to enhance Malaysia's international standing, showcasing a dynamic and resilient economy with a bright future fuelled by technological advancements, diversified growth and improved global connectivity, he told 'Business Times'.

"With all the investments coming in, Malaysia is gaining enhanced global visibility and building investor confidence. The influx of blue-chip companies signals a stable and promising business environment, potentially attracting other savvy investors," he said.

Malaysia has seen a notable wave of investments from major foreign companies and tech giants this year.

Prominent entities such as Google, Apple, Microsoft, ByteDance and BlackBerry are among those investors.

These investments highlight Malaysia's appeal as a key hub for global business and technology ventures.

Google plans to invest US\$2 billion in a data centre and cloud region in Malaysia.

It said its investment is estimated to support more than US\$3.2 billion in positive economic impact and create 26,500 jobs by 2030.

Apple, meanwhile, will open its inaugural store at The Exchange TRX on June 22.

BlackBerry also opened its Asia Pacific Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence in Cyberjaya.

Microsoft chairman and chief executive officer Satya Nadella unveiled a significant investment of US\$2.2 billion to advance new cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Malaysia during the Microsoft Build AI Day held in Kuala Lumpur.

Concurrently, Microsoft is in the process of constructing a substantial data centre in Cyberjaya.

ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, based in China, plans to invest US\$2.13 billion to establish an AI hub in Malaysia.

In addition, ByteDance intends to expand its data centre in Johor with an additional investment of RM1.5 billion.

Previndran said investments in sectors like technology, AI, cybersecurity, distribution and sustainable energy will reduce Malaysia's reliance on traditional sectors such as manufacturing and oil.

These new investments are expected to create more jobs for Malaysians.

Skills enhancement initiatives by companies like ByteDance, which focus on AI hubs, can elevate local expertise in high-tech industries.

He said investments by Google, Microsoft and others will modernise Malaysia's infrastructure, increasing its global competitiveness.

Tan Wee Tiam, a research head, said these investments, whether realised or in the planning stage, are beneficial for Malaysia.

He said the surge in investments can be attributed to several factors.

"First, Malaysia has traditionally been strong in the electrical and elec-

tronics sector but it has stagnated at the low to mid-end of the production and supply chain.

"The US-China trade war has led to friend-shoring and de-globalisation, prompting many companies to adopt the 'China + 1' strategy.

"Malaysia's strong infrastructure, reliable power and water supply, skilled workforce, widespread use of English and robust legal system make it an attractive destination for global corporations," he said.

On the influx of data centres, especially in Johor, Tan said this trend may be due to Singapore's stringent guidelines on these centres.

Johor's proximity to Singapore, lower power and water tariffs and abundant land have expedited these decisions, he said.

"We can expect more investments to flow into Malaysia, particularly Johor, due to the foresight of both the Malaysian and Singaporean governments in collaborating on initiatives such as Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, Special Financial Zone and RTS link."

Sunway University economics professor Dr Yeah Kim Leng said the surge in investments is due to a combination of geopolitical, economic and strategic factors.

He noted that multinational corporations are "trans-shoring" - transferring their offshore production facilities to other countries in Asia to shield them from potential US-China trade conflict escalation.

"Chinese companies are investing overseas to diversify from US markets and capitalise on the expanding markets in Asia.

"Malaysia is being strategically



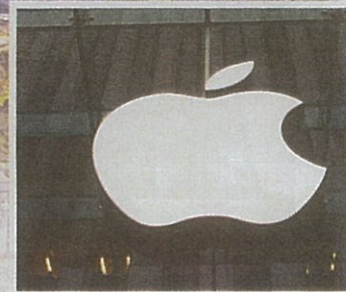
Tan Wee Tiam



Previndran Singhe



Dr Yeah Kim Leng



INTEGRITY ISSUES

NSI
18/6

Customs told to shorten staff placements in critical posts

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Corruption Watch (MCW) wants the duration of placements in critical positions in the Customs Department to be shortened following instances of corruption.

MCW president Jais Abdul Karim said this was necessary to reduce potential issues that might affect the integrity of the department's top officers.

He said integrity issues among Customs Department staff members had been exposed by reports on the "flying container" syndicate and investigations into the department.

"We believe there is a close relationship between corruption and enforcement powers due to the significant authority and responsibilities they hold.

"Corruption cases involving enforcement authorities indicate weaknesses in the national surveillance system and necessitate immediate integrity reforms.

"The Customs Department should also tighten internal supervision and audit procedures, increase technology use for daily activity monitoring and provide continuous training on ethics and integrity," he said.

He was responding to the Customs Department's assertion that it would neither compromise nor protect any party in cases where substantiated allegations of misconduct arise.

Last week, the "flying container" case came to light following the arrests of seven individuals, including Customs Department officers, for suspected collusion with a smuggling syndicate in Port Klang that resulted in tax leakages valued at around RM3.5 billion.

The operation, conducted by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and Customs Department, resulted in the seizure of 19 containers containing various imported goods.

MAY BE EXPANDED

NST
18/6

GRAFT REPORTING SCHEME **PAYS OFF**

Ringgit-for-ringgit incentive for civil servants who report cases that lead to conviction effective, says MACC chief

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THE whistleblower incentive scheme, where civil servants are rewarded ringgit-for-ringgit for reporting corrupt practices, is showing some success.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said 514 civil servants had been rewarded with over RM1 million in total between 2012 and last year for revealing and reporting corruption cases that led to conviction.

To address corruption on a wider scale, the government, he said, was looking at expanding the scheme to the general public.

Azam said civil servant who became whistleblowers were rewarded the same amount they were offered as gratification for taking part or aiding in corrupt activities.

"If you've been offered RM100, the government will give you RM100."

"If you've been offered RM1 million, the government will give you RM1 million back," he said in the 'New Straits Times' Beyond the Headlines talk show.

Under the new National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2028 announced last month, he said,



Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki (left) speaking during his appearance on the 'New Straits Times' Beyond the Headlines talk show. With him are NST Associate Editor for Digital and Print Najmuddin Najib and journalist Hana Naz Harun. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

there was a proposal to expand the scheme to the general public.

However, the matter was still just a proposal and the specific and optimal procedures with lead agencies were still being ironed out.

"That is under the Legal Affairs Division (BHEUU) of the Prime Minister's Office.

"Firstly, the Whistleblower Pro-

tection Act 2010 needs to be reformed and we agree to this.

"The BHEUU is in process of amending the law," he said.

Azam added that the MACC was the only law enforcement agency making full use of the legislation, and said he had been encouraging the public to become whistleblowers for the past seven years.

He explained that there were three types of people who came forward to the MACC — complainants, informants and whistleblowers.

"Complainants would have to go to court.

"I can say that less than five per cent of people who come forward wanting to lodge a complaint would say they were ready to tes-

tify in court.

"For informants and whistleblowers, their identities are well protected.

"Now, the BHEUU wants to reward these people and I think that it is a good idea.

"This could encourage more people to come forward and lodge complaints, especially to the MACC," said Azam.

Changes to MACC Act 2009 to enable deferred prosecution

NST
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is looking into amending the MACC Act 2009 to include several improvements, including a provision on deferred prosecution agreements (DPAs).

Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the reform to the act would allow a "settlement" for corporate liability cases, allowing the government to recover as much embezzled funds as possible.

"We don't want a longer trial. There is an example in the United Kingdom involving a large organisation, where a big chunk of money was involved.

"After the organisation was investigated, the prosecution was deferred and there was a monitoring system established for them to follow all kinds of procedures that were placed upon them (to recover funds)," he said in the *New Straits Times* 'Beyond the Headlines' talk show

last Friday.

On Sept 30 last year, it was reported that the MACC was looking into negotiating DPAs with accused persons to allow a case to be suspended for a defined period so the government could retrieve as much of the siphoned funds as possible.

He said while charging criminals was important, the cost of conducting a trial lasting years could be saved and the time could be used to repatriate the

funds instead.

In addition to the DPAs, Azam said the MACC also aimed to introduce legislation criminalising misconduct by public officers that leads to loss in government revenue.

"Hong Kong has this law, and we want to look at how effective it is. These are just some of the initiatives, but all of this will take time. We need to conduct research and surveys, and it could take up to three years."

There is an example in the United Kingdom involving a large organisation, where a big chunk of money was involved.

TAN SRI AZAM BAKI
Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission chief commissioner

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024

OP TIRIS

RM13M IN SMUGGLED GOODS SEIZED

NST
18/6

Diesel the top controlled item smuggled out of country, says PM

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NEARLY RM13 million in controlled goods were seized from smugglers up to last Friday, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Op Tiris had been expanded to curb the smuggling and misuse of controlled items.

The items, he said, mainly comprised refined white sugar (coarse and fine), 1kg polybag cooking oil, RON95 petrol, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas.

He said RM12,956,089.96 worth of controlled items had been seized, with diesel being the top item smuggled out of the country.

Op Tiris 3.0, he added, was carried out as a result of positive outcomes and developments from previous operations, which began on March 1 last year.

In previous operations, the government seized 6,441,118 litres of diesel worth RM14,208,824.

"The Madani government remains committed to addressing diesel smuggling while striving to balance supply issues and alleviate the rising cost of living for the people.

"Subsidies are not being abolished.

"Instead, the focus is on ensuring efficient management, preventing leakage, and directing subsidies to rightful groups.

"The government still has to bear around RM7 billion for diesel subsidies in Peninsular Malaysia."

He added that the goal of the targeted diesel subsidy was to prevent wastage and ensure that savings were returned to the wider population.

"Savings from this targeted subsidy will be reinvested in education, healthcare, public transportation and sectors that have the greatest impact on the public."

Anwar also announced that the retail price of grades A, B and C eggs would be reduced by three sen per egg effective yesterday.



Johor police with a lorry seized for smuggling diesel in Tampoi recently. PIC BY NUR AISYAH MAZALAN



The retail price of grades A, B and C eggs has been reduced by three sen per egg effective yesterday. Last year, the government spent RM927 million on subsidies for chicken eggs. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

He said the retail price for grades A, B and C eggs would be 42 sen, 40 sen and 38 sen, respectively.

He said the provision of subsidies of 10 sen per chicken egg involved an expenditure of RM100 million, and last year, the government spent RM927 on subsidies for chicken eggs.

"The retail price of eggs in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan will also be adjusted according to the gazetted zones and divisions.

"I want to emphasise that the issues relating to the high cost of living will continue to be addressed by the government, while striving to mitigate the ad-

verse impacts on the lives of the people," he said.

Anwar, who is finance minister, added that the government had maintained the price of bottled palm cooking oil at RM6.90 (1kg), RM13.30 (2kg), RM19.60 (3kg) and RM30.90 (5kg).

This, he said, was despite the global crude palm oil (CPO) prices rising above the threshold price of RM3,890 per tonne.

For example, he said, the price for a bottle of 5kg cooking oil could increase to between RM33 and RM35 with the CPO prices in March and April, which were at RM4,215 per tonne and RM4,256 per tonne, respectively.

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024

THE recent discovery by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) of the "flying containers" syndicate actively operating in the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and Port Klang causing multibillion ringgit tax leakages is shocking to say the least.

Actually, it's more than shocking because according to the MACC, the syndicate, which involved over 100 companies, had been operating for more than 10 years.

It is corruption of this pheno-

Beef up Customs' preventive system

menal magnitude that had gone undetected internally within one of Malaysia's frontline government departments for over a decade that begs the biggest question: Why?

It was only with the surveillance capability of the MACC that this syndicate – which has ripped off the nation to the tune of RM3.5bil – was uncovered.

This led to the arrests of 34 Customs officers at KLIA and

another 11 officers at Port Klang, both of which are the nation's biggest airport and port respectively.

Customs director-general Datuk Anis Rizana Mohd Zainuddin, who described the offences as "unforgivable", should initiate an extensive probe into why and how the department's internal check and balance system failed to detect such a massive fraud for such a

prolonged period.

Anis Rizana, the first woman to head one of Malaysia's largest tax collectors, was merely saying the obvious when the media reported that the department would not protect its personnel found guilty of corruption and abuse of power for personal gain. There's actually little or no news value in such statements because the rakyat at large expects early warning preventive alarms to

trigger automatically.

This incident raises concern too of tax leakages elsewhere, including in remote and unglamorous places.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has warned top bosses of government departments that they will not be entitled to promotion if they fail to detect corrupt practices among their staff. How much this will help remains to be seen.

AZMAN UJANG
Kuala Lumpur

Tarikh: 18 JUN 2024

Students gushing with glee over new toilets

► Initiative part of programme with RM630m allocation to reconstruct, repair and refurbish govt schools nationwide

Sun
18/6

KOTA KINABALU: Students at three schools in Sabah are delighted they no longer have to put up with burst pipes, broken doors, unhygienic conditions and unpleasant odour as spanking new toilets have been installed for them.

The schools are Sekolah Menengah Maktab Sabah and Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Inanam Dua here and SK Simpang located in the interiors of Tenom.

The new toilets have the feel of a five-star hotel restroom, each featuring brightly coloured tiles and better lighting, complemented with framed pictures and decorative plants as well as air fresheners.

The situation has motivated the students to collectively adopt a responsible attitude towards maintaining the cleanliness of their school toilets, Bernama reported.

The three schools are among 8,354 schools nationwide that had their toilets renovated under a programme that kicked off in mid-July last year, for which an allocation of RM630.77 million was made by the federal government.

The initiative came about after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim raised the issue of school toilets last June, saying he was aware they were mostly dirty and damaged, so much so students refrained from using the toilets.



The new toilets are decorated with patterned tiles and potted plants, and have a 'five-star hotel feel'.
— BERNAMAPIC

The smooth and speedy implementation of the school toilet renovation programme and its positive outcome have renewed hopes of the Sabah education authorities of seeing the dilapidated schools in the state reconstructed, repaired and refurbished soon.

According to State Education Department director Datuk Raisin Saidin, the toilet renovation initiative could serve as a benchmark in the context of dilapidated schools in Sabah, which are currently being reconstructed or renovated to improve the state of their buildings and facilities.

He said accelerating its implementation and completing the reconstruction and renovation

works in accordance with the schedule set by the authorities will allow students to enjoy improved infrastructure sooner as well as enable the department to realise its zero-dilapidated school target by 2029.

"It is essential for schools to have good infrastructure in order to provide a quality environment for their students. Not only that, schools are also the foundation for the balanced development of human capital in terms of physical, emotional, spiritual, moral and intellectual aspects," he said in an interview.

Sabah has over 1,200 schools across the state, some of which are in good condition, some in need of maintenance and others

categorised as dilapidated.

Raisin said the department is also determined to shape a new educational landscape under its "Sepakat Sabah Hebat" strategic plan launched in January, adding it has already identified nine strategic focal points to realise its plan.

Recognising that schools must have complete and conducive infrastructure to strengthen the state education system, one of the primary focuses of the department will be infrastructure development and procurement. This is to ensure the funds allocated for reconstruction and maintenance projects involving dilapidated schools are spent efficiently and effectively.

Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek told the media in April that 218 out of 338 projects to reconstruct dilapidated schools in Sabah have been completed.

She said 60 projects are currently under construction and expected to be completed soon, while another 60 are in the planning stage.

Raisin said dilapidated school numbers in Sabah have reduced since 2020, when 414 schools were found to be on Scale 6 and 7 following comprehensive efforts to identify school buildings that were in bad shape.

(Scale 6 buildings are structures certified unsafe by the district education office and the department, while Scale 7 buildings are certified unsafe by the Public Works Department.)

"This further demonstrates the federal government commitment, through the Education Ministry, to address the issue (of dilapidated schools) in Sabah," he said.

Currently, 514,070 Sabah students are enjoying better facilities after their previously dilapidated schools were upgraded.

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Heavier penalties for telco cable theft mulled

Snn
16/6

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is considering imposing heavier penalties on those involved in stealing telecommunication cables and causing disruption to services.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said the punishment would be proposed in an amendment to the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, which is being studied by the Attorney-General's Chambers.

"I will ask the team at the Communications Ministry and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to examine it and provide comments and recommendations (on the punishment) because at this time, the draft amendment is being examined and studied involving several provisions on the aspects of network service quality (telecommunications).

"We are making the amendment not only because we saw incidents of cable theft and vandalism but also because of (disruption to) the quality of telecommunication services as this is one of the items often raised by users. Therefore, it is being scrutinised before we take it to Parliament later," he said at the *Lembah Pantai Program Korban Perdana* event yesterday.

Fahmi, who is also *Lembah Pantai* MP, was responding to a question about government action to stop the theft of telecommunication copper cables, which is becoming prevalent.

Regarding a move by the Housing and Local Government Ministry to establish a team of online ambassadors to deliver information

and ward off slander in cyberspace, Fahmi said his ministry is not against the effort.

"I do not think that the establishment would cause them to enter (overlap) the jurisdiction of other parties, but coordination in terms of the information to be conveyed must be done.

"God willing, I will look into this matter with the minister (Nga Kor Ming) because I have not had the opportunity to get a full briefing from the Housing and Local Government Ministry regarding the effort."

On Thursday, Nga announced the establishment of a team of 200 ministry staff to address defamation issues and disseminate authentic information and government policies. - Bernama

THE SUN

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Exploring use of ChatGPT among university students

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► While following set guidelines, local institutions studying how AI can enhance student learning

BY SIVANISVARRY MORHAN
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PETALING JAYA: While the verdict is still out on whether university students should be allowed to use ChatGPT to help generate their assignments and theses, a version of it built for academics has been released.

Called ChatGPT Edu, it was launched on May 30 by American AI research organisation OpenAI, which said it provides cost-effective, high-security features tailored for educational institutions.

The AI-driven tool is currently used at universities such as Oxford, Wharton, Texas, Arizona State and Columbia, and is said to "responsibly apply AI across students, faculty, researchers and campus operations".

In March 2023, former higher education minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said Malaysia will not restrict the use of ChatGPT, but its implementation must adhere to established guidelines.

He said the guidelines, specifically tailored for the use of ChatGPT, have been formulated and disseminated among higher learning institutions across Malaysia.

The Malaysian Qualifications Agency, which is responsible for ensuring higher education quality, also issued guidelines stressing the careful use of generative AI in universities.

"The guidelines emphasise the need to uphold academic honesty and manage risks such as plagiarism and protection of data privacy," it said.

National Association of Private Educational Institutions secretary-general Dr Teh Choon Jin said Malaysian universities are increasingly signalling their readiness to integrate AI into educational practices.

He said the guidelines that have so far been issued provide clear instructions for students and staff on how to use generative AI tools responsibly.

"They promote academic integrity and foster a community-wide understanding of the implications of AI technology. However, many still suspect ChatGPT of impacting academic integrity."

"However, by following the guidelines, local universities are exploring how AI can enhance student learning while academics have started to set additional guidelines



Teh said advancing AI is essential in its transformative journey as it has the potential to revolutionise various industries and sectors. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THE SUN

as well."

He said many universities have also started offering special AI courses in which students study machine learning, data analysis, AI ethics and how computers understand human language.

While AI technologies benefit students in various ways, Teh welcomed ChatGPT Edu and emphasised the need to further support academics who shoulder multiple responsibilities.

"Academics have to develop syllabuses, lesson plans, course materials, and organise class schedules and meeting times. Lecturers also focus on achieving their key performance indicators, and participate in departmental and university committees."

"All these tasks can distract them from their primary focus, which is teaching, grading and carrying out research."

Hence, Teh said advancing AI is essential in its transformative journey as it has the potential to revolutionise various industries and sectors.

On this, he drew parallels with Google's evolution and stressed how the initial scepticism about its reliability gave way to widespread adoption for information retrieval.

"Similarly, the presence of AI does not imply replacing human roles but rather strategically augmenting them."

"It is crucial that AI tools such as ChatGPT Edu support educators rather than supplant them. By embracing such technologies, lecturers can enhance their teaching methodologies and administrative efficiency," he said.

In addressing the technical and ethical considerations of AI integration, Teh underscored the need for robust infrastructure to support it.

"This includes high-speed internet and secure data management systems that are compliant with local regulations such as the Malaysian Personal Data Protection Act."

"Comprehensive training programmes for faculty and staff are also pivotal to ensuring responsible AI use and maintaining academic integrity," he said.

By aligning technical advancements with ethical standards, Teh said national universities are poised to harness AI's benefits while upholding educational excellence.

He added that these initiatives reflect a broader trend in Malaysian higher education to balance the benefits of AI with careful oversight and ethical considerations.

"By preparing our institutions with the right infrastructure, training and ethical frameworks, we can ensure AI enhances learning outcomes and supports educators effectively."

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Diesel subsidy aid shows govt concern for people

SUN
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ARAU: The *Madani* Subsidy Assistance (*Budi Madani*) of RM200 per month to eligible groups following the implementation of the targeted diesel subsidy shows that the government is not "washing its hands" and leaving the people to face the rising cost of living on their own.

A retiree, Nasarudin Noh, 51, from Pauh, near here, said the RM200 cash aid might be negligible to some, but he feels that people should be grateful for the assistance, which is better than nothing.

"Even though the diesel price has increased, the government still provides RM200 aid to those using diesel daily. In my opinion, receiving RM200 every month is better than not getting any assistance," he said.

Nasarudin, who earns his living by repairing furniture such as sofas and leather chairs, said he drives his pickup truck to deliver goods to his customers and travels to Perak every weekend for family matters, adding that his application for the assistance has been approved.

He said he supports the government's targeted diesel subsidy initiative as it is in the nation's long-term interest, adding that he believes in line with this move, the government will also hold more *Rahmah* and *Agro Madani* sales to help the people.

Sharing the same sentiment, a farmer from Simpang Empat who wished to be known as Hasbullah, 39, said he has applied for the *Budi Agri-Komoditi* and is eagerly awaiting the RM200 monthly cash aid as it will help to lighten his burden.

"I often use my lorry to transport equipment for planting padi such as fertilisers. So I need this RM200 aid. Even though now (after implementation of the targeted diesel subsidy) filling up the tank costs me RM230, I am still grateful for this assistance."

Hasbullah said the RM200 aid demonstrates the government's concern for the people's difficulties amid the surge in diesel prices, adding that he hopes the government will increase the amount to RM300 in the future.

The diesel price at all retail petrol stations in Peninsular Malaysia is RM3.35 per litre, the unsubsidised market price starting June 10.

The government introduced the *Budi Madani* initiative to ensure subsidy allocations target eligible groups and reduce the burden on those in need.

The application can be made at budimadani.gov.my and there is no closing date. — Bernama

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Egg prices reduced by three sen nationwide

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► In line with efforts to pass on savings from implementing targeted subsidies to people, new retail prices for Grade A, B and C eggs are 42, 40 and 38 sen each respectively: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: The government has decided to reduce the retail prices of Grade A, B, and C eggs by three sen each across the country in line with efforts to pass on the savings from implementing targeted subsidies to the people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said that the new retail prices for Grade A, B, and C eggs are 42 sen, 40 sen and 38 sen each respectively, effective yesterday.

"The subsidy coverage for the people's food needs of 10 sen per egg involves an expenditure of RM100 million, while the allocation for chicken egg subsidies in 2023 amounted to RM927 million," he said in a statement yesterday.

Anwar said the retail prices for eggs in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan would also be streamlined according to the gazetted areas and zones.

He said this measure aligns with a drop in the input costs of egg production, particularly the basic ingredients for chicken feed.

"I want to emphasise that the government will continue to more proactively and effectively address issues related to the cost of living while striving to mitigate any negative impact on the people's daily lives."

On the issue of diesel smuggling cases, Anwar said the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry had launched *Ops Tiris* on March 1, 2023 to combat the misappropriation of subsidised diesel to benefit parties not eligible for subsidies.

As of Dec 31, 2023, a total of 6.44 million litres of diesel estimated to be worth RM14.12 million have been seized.

Anwar said due to the positive results and developments of the operation, *Ops Tiris 3.0* has been launched with an expanded scope covering other controlled goods, namely refined white sugar, 1kg polybag cooking oil, RON95 petrol and liquefied petroleum gas.

"As of June 14, controlled goods worth RM12.96 million have been seized, with diesel accounting for the bulk of smuggled and

misappropriated controlled items."

He said the price of pure palm cooking oil in bottled packaging has been maintained at RM6.90 (1kg), RM13.30 (2kg), RM19.60 (3kg) and RM30.90 (5kg) since the *Madani* government took over leadership, although world crude palm oil prices have exceeded the threshold price of RM3,890 per tonne.

Anwar said the government still bears around RM7 billion in subsidies related to diesel in Peninsular Malaysia.

He added that subsidies were not abolished and the diesel subsidy rationalisation is to ensure more efficient management of subsidies so that they are not misused, and reach the appropriate groups, *Bernama* reported.

"The main goal of the diesel subsidy rationalisation policy is to ensure that subsidy wastage no longer continues while ensuring that the savings are returned to the wider population."

Anwar said savings from the implementation of targeted subsidies would certainly be returned to the people for education, health, public transport and others.

He said the *Madani* government would also remain committed to combating diesel smuggling while striving for a balance between the government's efforts and issues of supply and cost of living.

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