



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 19 APRIL 2024 (JUMAAT)

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By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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PETALING Jaya, Selangor will soon have an upgraded venue to host football matches, following RM8mil repair and renovation works at Stadium MBPJ (Petaling Jaya City Council stadium) in Kelana Jaya.

Mayor Mohamad Zahri Samingon, 54, said the facility was expected to be ready by the end of May.

Upgrade works started about three years ago and upon completion, the stadium would solely be used for football matches, he said.

Mohamad Zahri added that the facility's reopening was one of his top priorities this year after being appointed Petaling Jaya mayor.

The sitting capacity, he said, has been reduced to 10,700, from 13,000 previously, for the comfort of visitors.

The upgrade consists of changes to the stadium seating, sound system, public address system (PA system), underground piping and bathroom amenities.

"However, the electric wiring works will continue until the end of the year," he said.

The stadium, which opened in 1996, has over the years played host to rugby and football matches as well as concerts and election rallies. It also hosted several rugby matches during the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

But over the years, the facility has deteriorated, especially the condition of the field.

Mohamad Zahri said the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah visited the stadium, accompanied by himself and MBPJ officers, on March 6.

The stadium is the temporary "home" of the Selangor Football Club, following the closure of Shah Alam Stadium for renovations, and will host Selangor FC home matches in the M-League among other tournaments.

"The Raja Muda, who is president of the Selangor Football Association, visited the stadium to see the progress of the renovation work.

"We hope the stadium will be ready by the end of May so that it can once again be used for matches," said Mohamad Zahri, who served as Selangor deputy secretary (management) prior to his appointment as mayor on Feb 1.

Hands-on mayor

Mohamad Zahri is passionate about going to the ground to understand problems faced by residents in Petaling Jaya, who number over 800,000.

The more-than-30 issues run the gamut of poorly maintained public toilets, parking woes and problems faced in low-cost flats to upgrades of existing MBPJ facilities like the stadium.

"I just wanted to see for myself with my officers how things are going.

"I want to have a better understanding of the situation," he said in an interview with *StarMetro*.

To this end, he practises "*santuni rakyat*", a concept of engaging with residents, and aims to prioritise tasks identified as crucial to them.

He has also laid out an ambitious agenda to revitalise the

Stadium reopening a priority for Petaling Jaya

Facility's RM8mil upgrade first of many milestones mayor hopes to achieve under his 'santuni rakyat' ethos (MBPJ)



Tengku Amir Shah during his visit to the Stadium MBPJ watched by Mohamad Zahri (right).



Mohamad Zahri believes in staying approachable.

city's infrastructure and public spaces.

Apart from focusing on completing the MBPJ Stadium renovation, he also wants to improve pedestrian safety and public transport accessibility, upgrade public facilities and ensuring efficient digital transformation, and improving the management of the city's various services.

Among them is the construction of a walkway for the public to safely get to the Phileo Damansara MRT train station in Section 16.

This, he said, was under the



Many low-cost housing developments in Petaling Jaya, such as the PKNS flats in Section 17, face issues such as dumping of rubbish, poor maintenance and illegal extensions.

city council's first and last-mile project initiative.

"At the moment, pedestrians heading to and from the station are at risk as they have to walk along a narrow, heavily trafficked road.

"A proper walkway is important so that pedestrians are safe in the city," he added.

The mayor recently paid a visit to the Phileo area with Petaling Jaya MP Lee Chean Chung to see for himself the difficulties faced by pedestrians and how best to solve the issue.

A related issue is the poor condition of the city's bus stops.

To this, Mohamad Zahri said MBPJ had plans to upgrade the

stops based on the standardised design provided by the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

But he did not provide a timeline or budget for the upgrade.

During the interview, the mayor touched on several other matters he hoped to address, including the condition of the public toilets at Taman Tasik

Finger-pointing on upkeep of KL heritage building

By BAVANI M
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IT HAS been several days since part of the ceiling and wall of the former Federated Malay States (FMS) Survey Department building in Kuala Lumpur collapsed, but confusion over ownership is affecting its repairs.

Situated at the intersection of Jalan Raja and Jalan Tun Perak, alongside the Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad complex, the FMS building has been abandoned for over 20 years.

StarMetro had highlighted the matter in its report on April 17, "Heritage building in KL getting from bad to worse."

National Heritage Department (JWN) commissioner Mohamad Muda Bahadin acknowledged the building's poor condition.

He said Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) was responsible for repairs and maintenance of the building.

"This building is under DBKL, you should be checking with them," he said, adding that the department had been liaising with DBKL all these while for its

Heritage building in KL getting from bad to worse

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



Flashback to StarMetro's report on April 17.

exterior maintenance.

In a statement, DBKL said the FMS building formed a segment of Block D within the Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad complex and was under the jurisdiction of the Federal Land Commissioner.

DBKL clarified that it did not bear responsibility for maintaining the entire Block D.

"Our responsibility on maintenance is only for the upkeep of Panggung Bandaraya, which is a component of Block D."

The Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad comprises four compo-

nents - Block A, B, C and D.

The JWN office is located at Blok A and B of the complex.

The FMS building is under the purview of Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (Motac).

Previously, DBKL was maintaining the facade.

In a statement, Badan Warisan Malaysia (BWM) is calling on JWN to assume a leadership role in addressing similar issues.

"It is imperative that a steering committee comprising all pertinent agencies, including relevant ministries, be established

promptly to supervise the conservation and preservation efforts of these historical structures.

"Time is of the essence, and proactive measures must be taken to safeguard these landmarks before irreversible damage occurs.

"The recent collapse of some of the ceilings and walls of this heritage building after years of neglect, including not repairing one of its dome spires, does not bode well for its future.

"As these matters keep coming up with alarming regularity, with no agency taking or wanting to take responsibility, we urge JWN to take the lead."

Constructed in 1910, the building was designed by British engineer AB Hubback.

After the FMS Survey Department, the building had been occupied by several government bodies over the years, including the magistrate's courts.

The structure was designated as a heritage building under the National Heritage Act 2005 in 2012 as "Bangunan Jabatan Penerangan".

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Wild boar sighting frequent in Shah Alam housing area

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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WILD boars have been spotted rummaging through rubbish looking for food in Bukit Bandaraya, Shah Alam.

One resident who saw a wild boar eating food scraps from a toppled rubbish bin outside a house managed to capture the scene on his smartphone.

Bukit Bandaraya Residents Association (BBRA) chairman Hasnor Mohd Jan said one adult wild boar with several young ones were often seen along Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/26 and U11/32.

"We have seen them run up a hillock off Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/36.

"They seem to be coming from a private land that has a path linked to Bukit Cherakah and the Shah Alam National Botanical Gardens," he said.

Hasnor added that a motorist nearly got into an accident and had to swerve to avoid a wild boar crossing Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/36.

Bukit Bandaraya in Section U11 has 208 houses known as Emillia and Collaris.

Emillia Community chairman Mohd Fazrul Mohd Rashid said residents have had to put up with wild boars since 2014 but the frequency of such occurrences had increased.

"People used to spot them once in a while but now it is a weekly affair and they can now be seen even in the afternoons."

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) councillor Vincent Chow, who is in charge of the area, said he had several discussions with

Perhilitan: Animals will be translocated to thin herd at outermost perimeter of nearby forest 19/4/24

residents on the issue.

"I had written to the owner of the private land on Feb 8 with a suggestion to fence up a 280m stretch along Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/36.

"This is the only unfenced part bordering the forested area and we hope the landowner will instal it soon," he said.

Selangor Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) director Wan Mohd Adib Wan Mohd Yusoh said the wild boars' natural habitat was the Bukit Cherakah forested area.

"Our approach is to manage the situation as we cannot eradicate them.

"We understand that the boars enter through a parcel of land off Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/36."

Wan Mohd Adib added that the department had placed traps to capture and translocate the wild boars, with the aim of thinning the herd at the outermost perimeter of the forest.

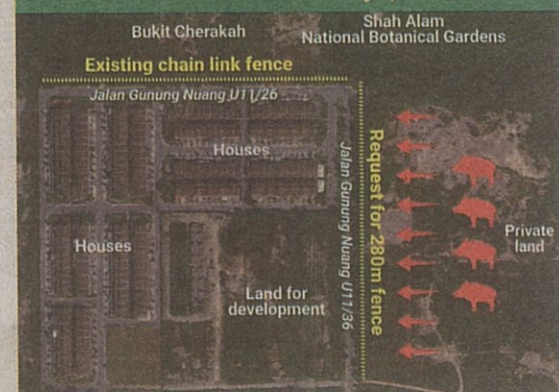
"To manage conflicts between humans and wild boars, we advise people not to feed the animals and to dispose of their rubbish properly.

"If this is not done, it may lead to boars relying on people as an easy source of food," he said.



Chow (third from left) says residents have suggested that part of Jalan Gunung Nuang U11/36 in Bukit Bandaraya, Shah Alam be fenced up. — MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

Wild boars in Bukit Bandaraya, Shah Alam



THE STAR

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

'Follow the rules for flexible work'

NCCIM: Employers open to idea as long as approval rests with them

By ALLISON LAI
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PETALING JAYA: With the government showing an openness to flexible work arrangements (FWA), employers say they see no major issues with their staff applying for it as long as clear policies and guidelines on the practice are in place.

Bosses say that to make it work, such arrangements, which have proven to benefit both employees and employers, should not be misused.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress president Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani said the Covid-19 pandemic had shown that remote work was possible and effective for many roles.

"Employees and employers have adapted to virtual collaboration tools, making flexible work hours more manageable.

"In addition, flexible work hours help to reduce traffic congestion.

"With the government showing an openness to FWA, policies and guidelines to support telecommuting have been introduced," he said when contacted yesterday.

Mohd Effendy was responding to Human Resources Minister Steven Sim's announcement that workers in Malaysia can apply to their employers for FWA based on time, days and location of work according to Sections 60P and 60Q of the Employment Act 1955.

On Wednesday, Sim said on X that such requests should be submitted to employers for feedback within 60 days, and if rejected, employers must provide reasons.

Mohd Effendy noted that some industries such as financial services, consulting, education institutions, telecommunications, startups, creative industries and customer support or service providers are more likely to adopt FWA.

Though other industries such as manufacturing or healthcare may face challenges, these sectors can modify their schedules, he said.

"Even healthcare and biotech, to a limited extent, have explored flexible work options for administrative and research positions.

"It's important to consider individual company needs, technological capabilities and employee preferences when assessing the

feasibility of FWA."

He said many employees now prefer FWA after experiencing its benefits during the pandemic.

And with proper implementation, it can be a positive and sustainable arrangement that benefits both employees and the organisation, he added.

Mohd Effendy called on employees who are allowed to work remotely to treat it as a privilege and perform their tasks responsibly and professionally.

"Abusing the flexibility of remote work can undermine trust and impact both individual performance and team dynamics.

"Workers need to approach remote work with integrity and a commitment to fulfil their responsibilities effectively."

National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) president Tan Sri Soh Thian Lai said most employers are agreeable to implementing Sections 60P and 60Q of the Act, so long as the right to grant such requests rests with the employers.

"The determination of hours of business operations is - and has always been - the prerogative of the employer.

"Under Section 60Q, employers

are not obligated to grant such requests but they must provide grounds for refusal in writing," he said.

Soh noted that businesses have taken on a multipronged approach in terms of work operations as well as focusing on and accelerating the adoption of automation, artificial intelligence and digitalisation to help them to operate core activities remotely where possible.

"These efforts reduced the need for the physical presence of workers or lowered the density of workers for a particular production process."

Soh, who is also the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) president, said with the pandemic and lockdowns having changed the concept of work-from-home for all industries, including the manufacturing sector, adopting a more permanent or semi-permanent FWA differs from company to company and depends on the nature of their operations.

"For employers, there have to be clear policies and guidelines outlining the parameters of FWA," he said.

The parameters include eligibil-

ity, approval processes, communication expectations and performance metrics.

"They also have to ensure their employees have access to the necessary technology and infrastructure to effectively work remotely including reliable internet connection, appropriate software and secure access and connectivity to company systems."

Soh said there are legal and compliance requirements relating to FWA to be considered as well as such as labour laws, employment contracts, tax implications and health and safety regulations.

"Careful consideration of these factors can create a supportive and flexible work environment that benefits both the organisation and its employees," he said.

NCCIM is the country's apex trade organisation and a federation of five major national trade organisations - Associate Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, Malaysian Chamber of Commerce, Malaysian Associated India Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry and FMM.

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We are recycling toxins 92 19/4/24

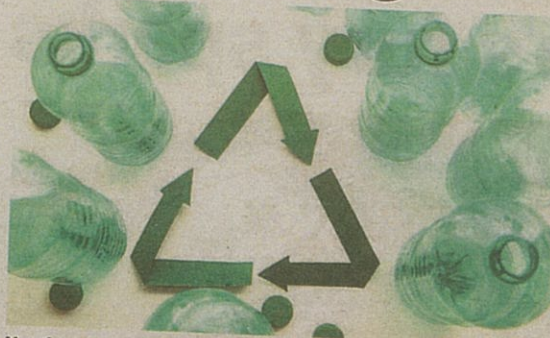
RECENTLY published data from 13 countries, including Malaysia, identified nearly 500 chemicals in recycled plastic pellets, including pesticides, industrial chemicals, PCBs, and other toxic substances.

In pellets from Malaysia, 123 chemicals were detected in two samples that were analysed. The data is especially relevant now as Malaysian government officials will be participating in the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations in Ottawa from April 23 to 29.

The International Pollutants Elimination Network (Ipen) is a global network of public interest groups working for a toxic-free future. As a participating organisation, the Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) acquired recycled plastics (called plastic pellets) from recycling companies in Penang and had them analysed for toxic chemicals. The testing was conducted by scientists in Denmark, Germany and Sweden, and the data was recently published.

In the first sample from Malaysia, 107 chemicals were detected; in the second sample, 111 chemicals were detected; 95 of these chemicals were present in both samples.

Out of the 30 chemicals detected at the highest concentration, half were traces from various stages of the production of different types of plastics. These 30 chemicals also include several bioactive substances, including



Not the way: The process of plastics recycling can create new toxic substances, adding even more chemicals that could endanger human health. — 123rf

pesticides such as chlorpyrifos, and pharmaceuticals. In addition, they include three polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (carcinogenic and may affect eyes, kidneys and liver).

At the three global plastics treaty talks held so far, some countries favour approaches that would rely on plastic recycling as a significant tool for resolving the plastics crisis. But this new data adds to increasing evidence that plastics recycling is a vector for the spread of toxic chemicals and therefore should not be considered a means of dealing with plastic pollution.

Plastics are made with toxic chemicals, so when they are recycled, these chemicals end up

in the recycled material. An effective plastics treaty needs to address the health and environmental threat from plastics chemicals and include approaches to control plastics production. We cannot recycle our way out of the toxic plastics problem.

Recycled plastics can also contain chemical contaminants from the way the original plastics are used. For example, if plastic pesticide containers are recycled, the toxic pesticides can end up in the recycled material.

Also, the process of plastics recycling can create new toxic substances, adding even more chemicals to recycled plastic. This means that workers in plastics recycling facilities, consu-

mers who use recycled plastic products, waste workers who handle recycled plastics, and communities near recycling and waste operations are all at risk from exposure to a stew of toxic chemicals.

Currently, there are no international requirements to monitor chemicals in recycled plastics or make the chemical content of plastic materials and products publicly available and accessible. This means that the spread of chemicals from recycled plastics is currently untraceable and uncontrollable. International controls are needed due to the extensive international trade in chemicals, plastics, and plastic waste.

The new plastics treaty will be an important instrument to address toxic chemicals in plastics in many ways. To do so, it is important that the treaty contains strong, legally binding control provisions that call for:

- > The elimination of toxic chemicals throughout the full lifecycle of plastics.
- > Mandatory, publicly available and accessible disclosure of information on chemicals.
- > Measures to control plastic production volumes.

The Ipen report can be accessed at bit.ly/3Jo88GJ.

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THE STAR

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

EPF Account 3 draws concerns over dividends

Payout may be lower but impact won't be severe

INVESTMENT

By DANIEL KHOO
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KUALA LUMPUR: A lower Employees Provident Fund (EPF) net dividend rate could materialise from its decision to introduce Account 3.

However, experts said the dividend rate is unlikely to be severely impacted from this move, given the stronger state of the economy today and lesser urgency of needing to withdraw funds for emergencies unlike during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

The soon-to-be introduced Account 3 or "flexible account" will allow withdrawal by members at any time with a minimum withdrawal amount of RM50 and a maximum of 10% of their savings.

There are concerns that dividends will be impacted since Account 3 is a shorter-tenured account type that requires funds to be on standby – and this is similar to a savings or current account in a bank which gives a near-zero return rate at present interest rates.

However, overall net dividend returns may be negligibly impacted since Account 3 would form only 10% of a person's overall contribution.

Details of the EPF Account 3 are expected to be announced on April 25 and after this account goes live, new contributions into the EPF will be split where 75% will be put into Account 1, 15% into Account 2 and 10% into Account 3.

Currently, for members aged below 55, 70% of their EPF contributions will go into Account 1 and 30% into Account 2.

The expectations of potentially lower dividends from this move also aligns with former finance minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz's earlier statement that

"I believe the dividend that the EPF will declare will not be affected significantly by Account 3's introduction. If anything, it would shave off marginal basis points only."

Ng Zhu Hann

the EPF dividend rate in 2021 should have been higher at 6.7% compared with the 6.1% announced then.

He said this dividend would not have been impacted if there was no outflow of savings by its members.

Tengku Zafrul also reportedly said in March 2022 that an additional dividend of RM5.4bil could be distributed to all EPF members if previous withdrawals were not made.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan said in February 2023 that a total of RM145bil was withdrawn from the EPF by 8.1 million members during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tradeview Capital chief executive officer and founder Ng Zhu Hann acknowledged that there were concerns, especially among savers, of a potentially lower dividend rate from this move to introduce Account 3.

"While this concern is valid, it is not serious."

"Unlike what happened in 2021-2022 when there was a series of withdrawals allowed by the government, leading to an outflow from the EPF amounting to more than RM100bil and causing a knee-jerk reaction, the current scheme is limited to only 10% contribution sum and flexible withdrawals are only allowed for this account," Ng told *StarBiz*.

"So the short-term impact will be mini-

mal and if any, I foresee the EPF will be able to better manage the fund allocation via the strategic asset allocation means to meet flexible withdrawals demands in the long term.

"This is also helpful for them to make planning or forecast when projecting returns and dividend payout," he added.

While the official details are not out yet, he said it would be good if the EPF can provide an option to members to move monies from Account 3 to Account 2 or Account 1.

"I believe the dividend that the EPF will declare will not be affected significantly by Account 3's introduction. If anything, it would shave off marginal basis points only," Ng said.

He also said maintaining the status quo of only Account 1 and Account 2 would be the best case and instead of introducing Account 3, providing additional grounds for withdrawals under Account 2 may potentially be a better way forward.

"The EPF remains one of the best managed schemes in our country. Under the law, Clause 27 of EPF Act also provides a minimum guaranteed dividend per annum for EPF conventional accounts."

"That alone offers certainty and protection to members."

"There is no other scheme quite like it in the world," Ng noted.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

28,531 calon UPPK dapat 8A

Sinar 19/4

PUTRAJAYA - Seramai 28,531 daripada 230,587 calon yang menduduki Ujian Penilaian Kelas KAFA (UPPK) 2023 berjaya mencatatkan keputusan cemerlang dengan memperoleh A dalam kesemua lapan mata pelajaran peperiksaan itu.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar berkata, 88 peratus calon mencatat lulus keseluruhan manakala pencapaian Gred Purata Skor UPPK secara keseluruhan ialah 1.89 mata.

"Suka saya nyatakan kemenjadian murid bukan diukur kepada jumlah bilangan A yang diperolehi tetapi melalui amalan dan cara hidup Islam yang boleh diaplikasikan dalam kehidupan.

"Harapan kami agar murid-murid yang mengikuti kelas KAFA (Kelas Al-Quran dan Fardu Ain) ini akan menjadi tonggak dan permata yang akan menyemarakkan lagi syiar Islam pada masa akan datang," katanya pada majlis pengumuman keputusan UPPK 2023 di sini pada Khamis.

Beliau berkata, seramai 230,587 daripada 233,776 calon yang mendaftar bagi menduduki UPPK 2023 telah hadir menduduki peperiksaan itu di 6,173 pusat peperiksaan, berbanding 234,931 calon pada 2022.

"Sepertimana peperiksaan lain, kehadiran tidak boleh dikawal. Tetapi, apa yang kita boleh buat adalah sentiasa beri kesedaran dan penekanan kepada ibu bapa melalui penyelia di negeri untuk bertindak. Kita juga kena tambah baik kaedah pendaftaran calon pada masa hadapan," katanya.

Mohd Na'im berkata, keputusan boleh disemak secara dalam talian di <https://semakan.islam.gov.my> dan menerusi khidmat pesanan ringkas (SMS) dengan menghantar maklumat tahun peperiksaan, nombor MyKad dan angka giliran ke 15888.

Semakan boleh dibuat mulai Khamis bermula jam 12 tengah hari manakala slip keputusan penuh boleh diperolehi di sekolah masing-masing hari ini mulai jam 9.30 pagi. - Bernama

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

Rasuah: Bekas pegawai, pegawai bank direman

Sinar 19/4

MELAKA - Seorang pegawai dan bekas pegawai sebuah bank direman kerana disyaki meminta dan menerima rasuah berjumlah RM316,064.33 antara 2018 hingga 2022.

Perintah reman selama empat hari bermula Rabu sehingga Ahad ini terhadap kedua-dua tertuduh dikeluarkan oleh Majistret Nabilah Nizam.

Sumber berkata, suspek berumur 35 tahun merupakan bekas pegawai bank negeri ini manakala suspek 43 tahun masih bekerja di ibu pejabat bank sama di Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Difahamkan, mereka disyaki menerima suapan dalam membantu memberikan rujukan kes kepada beberapa firma guaman untuk urusan dokumentasi pinjaman hartanah daripada institusi kewangan tersebut.

Pengarah Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) Melaka, Adi Suplan Shafie mengesahkan tangkapan ke atas kedua-dua suspek.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

Sinar 19/4

Pemotongan subsidi bahan api diteruskan tahun ini - Rafizi

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan akan meneruskan tindakan untuk memotong subsidi bahan api pada tahun ini bagi mengurangkan defisit fiskal negara.

Memetik laporan *Bloomberg*, Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli memaklumkan, langkah itu perlu dibuat bagi menguruskan kesan berantai daripada pemotongan subsidi berkenaan dengan mengambil kira kemungkinan berlaku peningkatan inflasi sebelum pelaksanaannya.

"Kerajaan akan laksana pengurangan subsidi secara berperingkat dengan risiko inflasi meningkat sebelum rancangan itu dilaksanakan, susulan jangkaan rasionalisasi bahan api tersebut.

"Kita berada pada landasan yang tepat untuk memberi bantuan bersasar kepada golongan memerlukan. Kerajaan tetap akan melaksanakan tindakan berkenaan," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Rafizi turut memaklumkan bahawa garis masa yang ditetapkan perlu dipatuhi bagi mencapai sasaran fiskal 4.3 peratus.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan

di bawah pimpinan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim perlu membatalkan subsidi besar dan meluaskan asas pendapatan untuk meningkatkan keyakinan pelabur di negara ini.

"Walaupun ringgit merosot kira-kira 4 peratus tahun ini dan menghampiri paras paling lemah sejak krisis kewangan Asia 1998. Saya tidak terlalu ambil berat tentang prestasi mata wang kerana ia tidak menjejaskan minat pelabur asing dan tidak menghalang hasrat kerajaan," ujarnya.

Menurut Rafizi, kaedah kepada alternatif tersebut adalah untuk membuat perubahan struktur kepada ekonomi dengan mewujudkan salah satu ekosistem permulaan terbaik dunia di Malaysia.

Katanya, kerajaan berusaha menjadikan Kuala Lumpur sebagai destinasi pilihan bagi syarikat baharu global untuk memanfaatkan pembiayaan dan juga memberi perkhidmatan kepada pasaran Asia Tenggara yang lebih besar.

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Dua negeri masih terkesan banjir

Kedah
19/4

PETALING JAYA - Seramai 703 mangsa daripada 175 keluarga masih ditempatkan di lima buah pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) di Selangor dan Negeri Sembilan akibat banjir.

Menurut *InfoBencana/JKM*, setakat pukul 2 petang semalam, seramai 628 mangsa daripada 164 keluarga masih ditempatkan di PPS di Selangor membabitkan daerah Klang dan Shah Alam.

"Sebanyak 253 mangsa masih ditempatkan di PPS Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Sungai Binjai di Klang, manakala seramai 375 mangsa masih berlindung di

PPS SK Merbau Sempak.

"Di Negeri Sembilan, masing-masing seramai 58 dan sembilan mangsa masih berada di PPS Balai Raya Kampung Permatang Pasir dan PPS Balai Raya Kampung Linggi di Port Dickson," katanya semalam.

Katanya, selain itu, lapan mangsa daripada tiga buah keluarga masih berlindung di PPS Surau Kampung Nerambai Lubok China di Rembau.

Dalam pada itu, keadaan banjir kilat yang melanda Melaka telah pulih sepenuhnya dengan semua PPS telah ditutup semalam.



MANGSA banjir menjamu selera di PPS Balai Raya Permatang Pasir, Linggi, Port Dickson kelmarin. - MOHD. SHAHJAHAN MAAMIN.

KOSMO

Tarikh:19 APR 2024



KEADAAN jalan raya yang dinaiki air akibat limpahan Sungai Binjai di Jalan Paip, Meru, Klang kelmarin.

Dua sungai lepassi tahap bahaya

PETALING JAYA – Hujan lebat yang berterusan pada sebelah petang di Pahang dan Selangor kelmarin mengakibatkan bacaan aras air Sungai Telom, Blue Valley, Cameron Highlands dan Sungai Binjai di Pekan Meru, Klang melepasi tahap bahaya setakat pukul 11 pagi semalam.

Menerusi laman web info banjir Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS), paras air Sungai Telom mencatatkan bacaan 1,405.84 meter (m) melebihi aras bahaya 1,400.00m, manakala Sungai Binjai juga berada di tahap bahaya

walaupun berlaku trend menurun dengan aras air 4.36 meter dicatatkan melebihi paras 4.20m.

Selain itu, bagi aras air sungai tahap waspada pula dicatatkan di Sungai Buloh, Parit Mahang, Kuala Selangor dengan trend menurun serta Sungai Anak Bukit, Kota Setar dengan trend kenaikan aras air pada bacaan 1.41m.

Dalam pada itu, aras air Sungai Kapit di New Headworks Sarawak mencatatkan trend menaik dengan bacaan aras air 1.08m melebihi tahap waspada.

Terdahulu, Jabatan Meteorologi (MetMalaysia) mengeluarkan amaran cuaca buruk dengan hujan lebat, ribut petir dan angin kencang yang melibatkan beberapa kawasan di seluruh negara termasuk Klang dan Kuala Langat, Selangor.

"Dalam pada itu, turut sama terkesan dengan cuaca buruk itu beberapa kawasan di Terengganu melibatkan Hulu Terengganu dan Dungun serta Cameron Highlands, Jerantut, Kuantan, Pekan dan Rompin di Pahang termasuk Kelantan," katanya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 1..9..APR..2024

Penduduk rugi, kesal masalah saliran tidak pernah selesai sejak 2018

KOSMO 19/4

Tak sanggup lagi hadap banjir kilat

Oleh MOHD. YUNUS YAKKUB

KLANG – Penduduk di sekitar Meru tidak sanggup lagi menghadapi banjir kilat yang kerap berlaku setiap tahun sehingga menjejaskan kediaman mereka.

Malah, ramalan menyatakan fenomena banjir kilat berlarutan ke pertengahan Mei khususnya di pantai barat Semenanjung membuatkan mereka mahu tindakan segera dilakukan pihak berkuasa.

Menurut seorang penduduk, Iffa Asnita Abd. Hadi, 26, banjir kilat sememangnya telah tidak boleh dipisahkan sejak dia menetap di lokasi tersebut empat tahun lalu.

Katanya, parit yang kecil dan tidak dalam menyebabkan kira-kira 30 buah rumah di Lorong Haji Sahran, di sini, mudah digenangi air apabila hujan lebat.

"Ada kalanya apabila siap membasuh akibat banjir pada waktu pagi, namun petang kotor semula sebab rumah dimasuki air.

"Hari ini (semalam) pulang rumah pun sudah nampak dua tong gas 'berenang' di bahagian dapur. Takkan setiap kali hujan lebat, kami nak hadap banjir kilat," katanya ketika ditemui *Kosmo!* di



KERATAN *Kosmo!* semalam.

KAWASAN perumahan di Jalan Paip, Meru dinaiki air berikutan limpahan Sungai Binjai kelmarin. – SADDAM YUSOFF

sini semalam.

Kata suri rumah itu, lokasi perumahannya masih berdepan banjir termenung ketika ini, se-

hingga dia terpaksa tinggal di rumah saudara di Rantau Panjang, di sini.

Peniaga pakaian terpakai, Ju-

hairi Mazlan, 37, berkata, dia kecewa apabila isu banjir kilat tidak dapat diatasi sehingga kini.

"Memang sedih sebab sejak 2018 tidak pernah selesai masalah ini. Tambahan, ketika saya berhadapan dengan parit bagi Sungai Binjai di Meru.

"Kali ini, anggaran kerugian saya hampir RM5,000 dengan terdapat beberapa guni baj tidak sempat dialihkan," ujarnya.

Kosmo! semalam melaporkan ribut petir dan hujan lebat dalam tempoh singkat yang berlaku di beberapa kawasan di Semenanjung akan berlarutan ke pertengahan Mei sebelum Monsun Barat Daya bermula.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Operasi), Jabatan Meteorologi (MetMalaysia), Dr. Mohd. Hishar Mohd. Anip berkata, sebelum ini negara mengalami Monsun Timu Laut di mana banyak hujan terutamanya di Pantai Timur.

Ujarnya, sebelum memasuki Monsun Barat Daya, negara sedang berada dalam fasa peralihan monsun di mana ciri-ciri utama keadaan cuaca ketika ini adalah terbentuknya awan ribut petir yang menyebabkan hujan lebat dan angin kencang.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

Kerajaan digesa perkenal segera SKBBK lindungi hak pekerja

PETALING JAYA – Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC) menggesa kerajaan menyegerakan pengenalan Skim Kemalangan Bukan Bencana Kerja (SKBBK).

Presidennya, Mohd. Effendy Abdul Ghani berkata, skim itu adalah sebagai langkah proaktif melindungi hak-hak pekerja terutamanya selepas melihat peningkatan kes kemalangan jalan raya di luar waktu bekerja.

Tegasnya, perlindungan pekerja di luar waktu bekerja perlu diperkenal seiring dengan hasrat kerajaan memperkasa kesejahteraan rakyat meliputi pelbagai golongan.

"Kita perlu berganding bahu agar pewujudan satu lagi skim keselamatan sosial yang khusus dengan skop perlindungan yang lebih luas di luar waktu bekerja."

"Ia berupaya memberi perlindungan menerusi bayaran pampasan untuk rawatan perubatan, gantikan pendapatan dan sokongan kewangan kepada mereka yang terjejas," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Menurut Mohd. Effendy, sekiranya kerajaan merealisasikan skim berkenaan, ia tidak hanya akan meningkatkan taraf kesejahteraan pekerja sebaliknya memantapkan usaha memastikan keselamatan dan kebajikan rakyatnya.



SKBBK mampu melindungi hak pekerja selepas ramai terlibat kemalangan jalan raya ketika di luar waktu kerja. — GAMBAR HIASAN

"Ia langkah progresif yang perlu dititikberatkan memandangkan banyak bencana berlaku ke atas pekerja dalam kes tuntutan faedah di bawah Akta Keselamatan Sosial Pekerja (Akta 4) ditolak berikutan ia tidak diiktiraf sebagai bencana kerja."

"Pada masa sama, perlindungan bagi SKBBK ini adalah seiring dengan Konsep 3K Kementerian Sumber Manusia (KESUMA) iaitu Kebajikan, Kemahiran dan Keberhasilan pekerja yang dicetuskan oleh Menteri KESUMA, Steven Sim Chee Keong," katanya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 1.9.APR.2024

Meningkat kepada 9,265 dapat semua A pada 2022

28,531 calon UPKK peroleh 8A

Kosmo
19/4

Oleh MOHD. HUSNI MOHD. NOOR

PUTRAJAYA – Seramai 28,531 daripada 230,587 calon yang menduduki Ujian Penilaian Kelas Kafa (UPKK) 2023 berjaya mencatat keputusan cemerlang A dalam kesemua lapan mata pelajaran peperiksaan itu.

Jumlah itu dilihat meningkat berbanding 19,266 calon memperoleh 8 A pada tahun 2022.

Lapan mata pelajaran terbabit ialah pelajaran al-Quran, Ulum Syariah (Akidah dan Ibadah), Sirah, Adab (Akhlak Islamiah), Jawi dan Khat, Lughatul Quran, Penghayatan Cara Hidup Islam serta Amali Solat.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Dr. Mohd. Na'im Mokhtar, berkata, 88 peratus calon mencatat lulus keseluruhan iaitu peratusan sama pada tahun sebelumnya.

Katanya, pencapaian Gred Purata Skor UPKK secara keseluruhan pula menunjukkan peningkatan iaitu 1.89 mata berbanding 1.99 mata tahun sebelumnya.

"GPS mata pelajaran UPKK 2023 turut meningkat iaitu al-Quran sebanyak 1.35 mata, Ulum Syariah (2.52), Sirah (2.31), Adab (2.03), Jawi dan Khat (1.97), Lughatul Quran (2.56), Penghayatan Cara Islam (1.17) dan Amali

Solat (1.17).

"Calon yang mendapat 8A berjumlah 28,531 calon dengan peratusan 12.37 peratus, manakala calon yang mendapat 7A berjumlah 18,185 calon dengan peratusan 7.89 peratus.

"Calon yang mendapat 6A berjumlah 19,606 orang dengan peratusan 8.50 peratus, manakala calon yang mendapat 5A berjumlah 25,697 orang dengan peratusan 11.14 peratus," katanya pada majlis pengumuman keputusan UPKK 2023 di sini semalam.

Katanya, secara keseluruhan, majoriti semua mata pelajaran menunjukkan peningkatan peratusan kelulusan.



MOHD. NA'IM menunjukkan tanda bagus berikutan peningkatan calon UPKK mendapat 8 A pada majlis pengumuman keputusan UPKK 2023 di Putrajaya semalam.

KOSMO

19 APR 2024

Tarikh:

OPR kekal, tingkat margin pendapatan HWI 19/4

Kuala Lumpur: Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd berjaya mengurangkan impak kadar dasar semalaman (OPR) yang tidak berubah seterusnya membawa kepada margin pendapatan bersih (NIM) yang bertambah baik pada tahun lepas.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Datuk Mohd Muazzam Mohamed berkata, terdapat peningkatan berurutan dalam NIM Bank Islam daripada 2.06 peratus pada suku pertama 2023 kepada 2.11 peratus pada suku kedua 2023 dan 2.17 peratus pada suku ketiga 2023.

Beliau berkata, bank itu mengekalkan momentum

untuk mencapai NIM pada 2.13 peratus pada suku keempat 2023, menjadikan keseluruhan NIM sebanyak 2.12 peratus bagi 2023.

"OPR kekal tidak berubah pada bulan-bulan awal 2023, membawa kepada peningkatan kos deposit dan seterusnya pengurangan NIM kami pada suku pertama 2023 daripada 2.28 peratus pada 2022.

"Perkembangan luar jangkaan ini memerlukan tindak balas strategik dan segera bagi menyelaraskan kos pembiayaan kami dengan kadar semasa, sekali gus melindungi ke-

untungan kami," katanya dalam laporan tahunan Bank Islam 2023 yang dimaklumkan kepada Bursa Malaysia pada Selasa.

Mohd Muazzam berkata bank itu 'menangani penurunan sedikit NIM itu secara cekap, mencerminkan langkah-langkah proaktifnya bagi menyelaraskan kos kewangan dengan persekitaran OPR yang kekal tidak berubah.'

Sementara itu, kumpulan tersebut mencatatkan keuntungan bersih sebanyak RM553.1 juta bagi tahun kewangan berakhir 31 Disember 2023, peningkatan 12.5 peratus berbanding tahun sebelumnya.

Mengenai prospek masa depan, Bank Islam berhasrat untuk menyelaraskan strateginya dengan matlamat ekonomi dan alam sekitar negara dengan memberi tumpuan terutamanya kepada sektor yang dikenal pasti bagi pertumbuhan dan kemampanan.

"Kami akan memberi penekanan menyesuaikan produk dan perkhidmatan kami bagi memenuhi permintaan pasaran yang berubah-ubah, meningkatkan keupayaan digital kami, dan melabur dalam kemahiran dan teknologi yang diperlukan untuk masa depan," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh:19 APR 2024.....

HM
19/4

Kes nahas harian catat 2,096 kes kelmarin

Kuala Lumpur: Kes kemalangan harian menunjukkan peningkatan apabila merekodkan sebanyak 2,096 kes di seluruh negara, kelmarin.

Berdasarkan statistik di Facebook rasmi Jabatan Siasatan dan Penguatkuasaan Trafik (JSPT) Bukit Aman semalam menunjukkan peningkatan sebanyak 148 kes berbanding 1,948 kes dilaporkan pada Selasa.

Bagaimanapun, jumlah kematian menurun enam kes daripada 16 kepada 10 kematian, kelmarin.



Terdahulu, Harian Metro melaporkan kerajaan akan menyiarkan statistik kematian akibat kemalangan secara *real time* setiap hari sebagai langkah baha-ru bagi meningkatkan kesedaran pengguna jalan raya dan orang ramai.

Menteri Pengangkutan Anthony Loke (*gambar*) dipetik berkata, tindakan itu dilaksanakan dengan pelaporan dibuat Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) sama seperti pelaporan kes harian jangkitan Covid-19 sebelum ini.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh:1..9..APR 2024

Trafik internet Malaysia meningkat enam peratus

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia mencatatkan peningkatan trafik internet keseluruhan sebanyak enam peratus pada suku pertama 2024 daripada suku keempat 2023, menurut firma ketersambungan awan, Cloudflare.

Menerusi laporan sukuannya bertajuk Global Internet Trends and Insight, Cloudflare menjelaskan kesesakan trafik berasal dari Malaysia yang dapat dikurangkan semasa tempoh itu meningkat 19 peratus.

"Pada suku pertama 2024, Cloudflare memenuhi purata 23 bilion permintaan kandungan harian kepada Malaysia.

"Daripada permintaan harian itu, purata 929 juta atau empat peratus disekat

sebagai serangan siber setiap hari, diklasifikasikan terutama sebagai serangan Penafian Perkhidmatan Teragih (DDoS) berasal di Malaysia, peningkatan 19 peratus suku ke suku," tambah firma itu.

Berkongsi maklumat lanjut mengenai DDoS, Cloudflare memaklumkan industri yang paling menjadi sasaran di Malaysia pada suku pertama 2024 termasuk perjudian, mata wang kripto, teknologi maklumat dan perkhidmatan serta penerbangan.

Pertahanan utama terhadap serangan lapisan aplikasi itu adalah peraturan tembok keselamatan aplikasi web (WAF) dan mitigasi DDoS, masing-masing menyumbang 48 peratus, menurutnya.

HM
19/4

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh:1.9..APR..2024.

RM5.21j untuk penduduk sekitar Hulu Selangor

(MPKS)

BH 19/4

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Pembangunan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) memperuntukkan RM5.21 juta kepada Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor (MPHS) bagi menambah baik infrastruktur awam di bawah kelolaannya, untuk kesejahteraan penduduk sekitar Hulu Selangor.

KPKT dalam satu kenyataan berkata peruntukkan itu memba- bitkan 14 projek bernilai RM4.82 juta yang akan dilaksanakan oleh MPHS dan Majlis Penguru- san Komuniti Kampung (MPKK).

Katanya, daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak RM4.16 juta disalur- kan melalui MPHS, manakala RM664,000 kepada MPKK di Hulu Selangor.

"Projek ini termasuk mem- baihi dan menaik taraf 10 unit gerai MPHS di Jalan Abdul Ha- mid berhadapan Pejabat Pos, Kuala Kubu Bharu; Pasar Awam Rasa dan Hulu Selangor.

"Selain itu tandas astaka Ta- man Tasik Millenium di Kuala Kubu Bharu, tandas Padang B Taman Tasik Millenium di Kuala Kubu Bharu dan tandas Taman Awam Jejarum di Bukit Beruntung.

"Peruntukan itu juga mem- babitkan projek membaiki dan menaik taraf tandas awam Me- dan Selera Batang Kali, tandas awam Pasar Batang Kali, me- naik taraf tandas awam Pejabat Utama MPHS kepada tandas pin- tar, kerja menurap semula jalan yang sedia ada dan menaik taraf longkang di Kampung Baru Kuala Kubu Bharu Chuang Rasa di Hulu Selangor dan beberapa lagi," katanya.

KPKT berkata peruntukkan terbabit diumumkan menteri, Nga Kor Ming dalam lawatan kerja sempena Program Sentu- han Kasih KPKT ke Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor, semalam.

Dalam lawatan itu, beliau turut menyempurnakan pe- rasman Bomba Sukarela Jalan Padang Tembak di Kuala Kubu Bharu dan menyalurkan perun- tukan RM10,000 dalam usaha meningkatkan kecekapan pasu- kan bomba sukarela.

Selain itu, Kor Ming turut meninjau projek Program Ru- mah MADANI rakyat di Kam- pung Air Panas, Selangor, yang sudah siap dan diserahkan ke- pada penduduk yang memerlu-



Kor Ming beramah mesra bersama peniaga ketika lawatan kerja sempena Program Sentuhan Kasih KPKT ke Kuala Kubu Bharu, Selangor, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

kan bagi menggantikan rumah usang dan tidak lagi selamat un- tuk didiami.

Kor Ming dalam kenyataan sama berkata, pihaknya terus komited meneruskan Program Sentuhan Kasih KPKT ber- dasarkan keperluan dan sebagai salah satu inisiatif KPKT dalam

memastikan keselesaan dan kesejahteraan penduduk Hulu Selangor.

"Peruntukan berlandaskan pelaksanaan ini bagi memas- tikan perkhidmatan dan fokus KPKT terhadap kesejahteraan rakyat dapat terus dipertingat- kan.

"KPKT melalui Jabatan Kera- jaan Tempatan (JKT) akan sen- tiasa bekerjasama dengan Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT) di se- luruh negara bagi merealisasi- kan perancangan pembangu- nan demi meningkatkan mutu perkhidmatan dan kesejahtera- an rakyat," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....1.9.APR.2024.....

Dasar kredit subsidi benarkan pengguna jual, tukar untuk khidmat kesihatan dan pendidikan

● Ketidakecekapan pasaran boleh terjadi apabila mekanisme harga gagal ambil kira kos dan manfaat sosial daripada subsidi bahan api dibelanjakan kerajaan

● Bagi mengurangkan impak rasionalisasi ini, bantuan perlu disalurkan terus kepada golongan paling terjejas



Pensyarah Kanan
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Bahan api dikategorikan sebagai barangan keperluan asas sama pentingnya dengan makanan kerana diperlukan pengguna untuk membolehkan mereka melakukan aktiviti harian, malah ketiadaannya akan menyebabkan pergerakan akan terbatas, sekali gus mengecilkan peluang menjana lebih pendapatan.

Justeru, kerajaan sekian lama memberi subsidi bahan api bertujuan meringankan kos sara hidup rakyat, tetapi peningkatan harga dunia memberi bebanan sangat besar kepada kewangan negara.

Disebabkan sumber terhad, pilihan yang ada adalah memberi keutamaan kepada jenis perbelanjaan bagi tujuan pembangunan, hingga memerlukan subsidi dirasionalisasikan.

Peruntukan sumber dengan cekap amat penting bagi menjamin daya saing dan mengelak pembaziran. Sering kali dalam ekonomi, isyarat utama digunakan bagi mengukur kecekapan ialah tingkat harga. Kegagalan atau ketidakecekapan pasaran boleh terjadi apabila mekanisme harga gagal mengambil kira kos dan manfaat sosial daripada subsidi bahan api dibelanjakan kerajaan.

Dasar subsidi dan kawalan harga sebenarnya membawa kepada herotan harga pasaran. Namun, dasar ini masih antara alat penting sering digunakan kebanyakan kerajaan bagi meningkatkan kesejahteraan dan memastikan keterangkuman hasil mahsul negara lebih adil.

Hujah biasa diketengahkan bagi menggambarkan kesan negatif subsidi dan kawalan harga ialah herotan dalam peruntukan sumber serta kesan buruk jangka panjang daya saing ekonomi. Namun, kegagalan mengambil kira kos dan faedah daripada dasar ini akan menyebabkan kegagalan polisi berkenaan.

Subsidi pukal tidak lagi berkesan kerana tidak memberi banyak manfaat kepada golongan miskin. Harga bersubsidi lebih rendah daripada harga sebenar akan membawa kepada pembaziran dan penggunaan berlebihan, dengan itu menyebabkan herotan dalam peruntukan sumber.

Oleh itu, dasar subsidi bahan api perlu berubah ke arah bantuan lebih bersasar dan mempunyai had masa.

Walaupun penghapusan subsidi boleh meningkatkan prestasi makroekonomi dan fiskal negara serta

membawa kepada merendahkan penggunaan tenaga seterusnya mengurangkan pelepasan bahan cemar, kesan langsung dasar ini adalah kenaikan harga.

Bagi mengurangkan impak rasionalisasi ini, bantuan perlu disalurkan terus kepada golongan paling terjejas.

Kajian pernah dilakukan penulis mendapati golongan B40 membelanjakan secara purata 9.6 peratus daripada pendapatan untuk bahan api; M40 (6.9 peratus) dan T20 (4.3 peratus). Secara purata, perbelanjaan bahan api bagi B40 sekitar RM273.33 hingga RM421.87 sebulan; M40 (RM506.32 - RM818.81) dan T20 (RM798.72 - RM1,234.87).

Pada 2022, kerajaan membelanjakan RM37.3 bilion subsidi bahan api. Jika dihitungkan jumlah subsidi diterima, B40 hanya menikmati subsidi 16.5 peratus, diikuti M40 (34.9 peratus), manakala T20 menikmati subsidi paling tinggi (48.6 peratus). Dapatkan ini mengesahkan pemberian subsidi pukal hanya memberi faedah kepada kumpulan pendapatan tinggi.

Persoalan lebih kritikal adalah bagaimana kerajaan dapat melaksanakan subsidi bersasar ini? Isu ini kelihatan remeh, namun apabila kita cuba melaksanakannya, ia tidak semudah disangka.

Dorong penggunaan bahan bakar lebih cekap

Masalah utama adalah bagaimana untuk kita mengasingkan individu miskin dan kaya. Walaupun kerajaan berjaya membina sistem Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU), ia masih belum mampu menyalurkan subsidi secara berkesan.

Pendekatan paling mudah adalah mengapungkan harga bahan api dan memberi subsidi secara tunai kepada golongan miskin. Semua individu akan membayar harga bahan api sama di pasaran, namun golongan miskin akan diberi bantuan tunai.

Membina satu dasar cekap dan berkesan memerlukan kreativiti dan pengetahuan ekonomi tingkah laku. Di sini penulis ingin cadangkan satu dasar bahan api mungkin boleh dikembangkan kerajaan. Dasar seumpama ini banyak dilakukan di Eropah, tetapi dalam konteks berbeza. Dasar ingin dicadangkan ialah Dasar Perdagangan Kredit Bahan Api.

Dasar ini membolehkan subsidi bahan bakar dapat diperdagangkan dalam bentuk kredit atau kuota. Kerajaan akan menetapkan satu had subsidi sesuai kepada semua individu layak.

Masyarakat dan perusahaan menggunakan bahan bakar berdasarkan peruntukan diberi dan mereka dapat menjual lebihan kuotanya jika tidak digunakan, sekali gus akan memberi sumber pendapatan kepada pengguna.

Sebaliknya, mereka menggunakan bahan bakar melebihi kuota dan memerlukan bahan api tam-

bahan boleh membeli kredit subsidi daripada pihak lain. Kerajaan hanya perlu memberi subsidi dan menetapkan sejumlah kuota berdasarkan keperluan. Ini akan memberi lebih banyak penjimatan sumber awam.

Manfaat dasar ini mendorong penggunaan bahan bakar secara lebih cekap. Insentif ini akan mendorong pengguna berhemat dalam penggunaan bahan bakar agar dapat menjual kelebihan kuota.

Di samping itu, dasar ini mampu mencipta kesadaran dan perubahan perilaku masyarakat dalam menggunakan bahan bakar, sekali gus dapat meningkatkan ketelusan dan kebertanggungjawapan dengan setiap transaksi perdagangan kredit subsidi dapat dipantau serta disahkan, selain mencegah penyalahgunaan dan kebocoran subsidi.

Mekanisme pelaksanaan sistem ini perlu diperhalusi dengan mengambil kira pelbagai aspek. Umpamanya, bagaimana menentukan jumlah kredit atau kuota sesuai dengan keperluan atau bagaimana menyalurkan kredit kepada mereka yang layak.

Membina satu platform urus niaga kredit secara dalam talian dengan penggunaan teknologi bersestiaan juga boleh membuka peluang pekerjaan baharu tanpa biaya tinggi daripada kerajaan.

Dasar perdagangan kredit subsidi bahan bakar ini perlu diintegrasikan dengan sistem kesihatan, pendidikan, pengangkutan dan jaminan sosial sedia ada. Umpamanya lebihan kredit subsidi bahan bakar dapat ditukarkan untuk mendapatkan akses layanan kesihatan, secara tidak langsung membantu dalam meringankan beban kewangan masyarakat.

Kredit subsidi dapat digunakan untuk tujuan membiayai pendidikan seperti wang sekolah, buku pelajaran atau program latihan. Ini dapat membantu meningkatkan akses serta kualiti pendidikan.

Dasar ini juga perlu diintegrasikan dengan dasar alam sekitar negara. Bagi meningkatkan kualiti alam sekitar, kenderaan mempunyai enjin cekap pembakaran perlu digalakkan. Cukai jalan berdasarkan kuasa enjin perlu diganti kepada bentuk cukai berdasarkan kecekapan enjin dan pelepasan karbon.

Integrasi skim perdagangan kredit subsidi ini tidak hanya mendorong kecekapan penggunaan bahan bakar, bahkan dapat meningkatkan kesejahteraan masyarakat secara holistik. Hal ini dapat menjadi model yang menarik bagi Malaysia untuk dipertimbangkan.

Semua artikel penulis tamu adalah pendapat peribadi, bukan pendirian rasmi BH

28,531 calon UPKK 2023 raih 8A

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Slip keputusan penuh boleh diambil di sekolah mulai jam 9.30 pagi

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
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Putrajaya: Seramai 28,531 daripada 230,587 calon yang menduduki Ujian Penilaian Kelas KAFA (UPKK) 2023 memperoleh keputusan cemerlang dengan memperoleh A bagi semua lapan mata pelajaran.

Mata pelajaran berkenaan adalah Bidang al-Quran, Ulum Syariah (Akidah dan Ibadah), Sirah, Adab, Jawi dan Khat, Lughatul Quran, Penghayatan Cara Hidup Islam dan Amali Solat.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, berkata 88 peratus calon mencatat lulus keseluruhan, manakala pencapaian Gred Purata Skor UPKK secara keseluruhan pula ialah 1.89 mata.

Katanya, Gred Purata Skor



Mohd Na'im bersama Hakimah pada sidang media pengumuman keputusan UPKK 2023 di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

bagi mata pelajaran al-Quran adalah 1.35 mata, manakala Ulum Syariah (2.52 mata), Sirah (2.31 mata), Adab (2.03 mata), Jawi dan Khat (1.97 mata), Lughatul Quran (2.56 mata), Penghayatan Cara Hidup Islam (1.17 mata) dan Amali Solat (1.17 mata).

"Calon yang mendapat 8A adalah sebanyak 12.37 peratus, manakala 7A adalah seramai 18.185 calon atau bersamaan 7.89 peratus diikuti 6A berjumlah 19,606 calon iaitu 8.5 peratus.

"Calon yang mendapat 5A

seramai 25,697, 4A (28,422), 3A (48,031), 2A (28,460) dan 1A (22,302)," katanya pada sidang media pengumuman keputusan UPKK 2023 di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM), Datin Paduka Hakimah Mohd Yusoff dan Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Operasi) JAKIM, Dr Ruslan Said.

Semarak syiar Islam

Mengulas lanjut, Mohd Na'im berkata, calon yang tidak mendapat sebarang gred A seramai

22,302, manakala calon mendapat semua D adalah seramai 14.

"Suka saya nyatakan, menjadikan murid bukan diukur kepada jumlah bilangan A diperolehi, tetapi melalui amalan dan cara hidup Islam yang boleh diaplikasikan dalam kehidupan.

"Harapan kami supaya murid yang mengikuti kelas KAFA ini menjadi tonggak dan permata yang menyemarakkan lagi syiar Islam pada masa akan datang," katanya.

Mohd Na'im berkata, murid yang menduduki peperiksaan

UPKK 2023 boleh menyemak keputusan dalam talian melalui laman sesawang <http://semakan.islam.gov.my> dengan menggunakan nombor MyKad serta angka giliran atau melalui khidmat pesanan ringkas (SMS) iaitu UPKK<jarak>nombor MyKad<jarak>nombor angka giliran dan hantar ke 15888.

Semakan boleh dibuat bermula semalam bermula jam 12 tengah hari dan keputusan dipaparkan berbentuk rumusan secara umum, manakala slip keputusan penuh boleh diambil di sekolah masing-masing bermula jam 9.30 pagi hari ini.

Dalam pada itu, ketika ditanya mengenai lebih 3,000 calon yang tidak hadir menduduki peperiksaan itu, Hakimah berkata, pihaknya akan berusaha menambah baik kadar kehadiran calon pada masa akan datang.

"Seramai 233,776 calon mendaftar untuk UPKK 2023, namun hanya 230,587 hadir menduduki peperiksaan ini. Ketidakhadiran calon ini adalah sesuatu yang tak boleh dikawal sama seperti peperiksaan lain.

"Namun, kita akan memperbaiki termasuk memberi kesedaran kepada ibu bapa dan penyelia KAFA negeri bagi meningkatkan jumlah kehadiran calon," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
19 APR 2024
Tarikh.....

Mekanisme harga bahan api bersesuaian dilaksanakan

Malaysia menasarkankan mencapai keseimbangan dalam menyambut usaha tindakan perubahan iklim global melalui pelaksanaan mekanisme penetapan harga bahan api yang bersesuaian bagi mendorong penggunaan tenaga yang lebih cekap dan peralihan kepada tenaga boleh baharu.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, berkata pada masa sama, kerajaan mengambil kira impak sosioekonomi terhadap rakyat.

"Pendekatan ini sejajar dengan komitmen Malaysia untuk mengurangkan pelepasan gas

rumah hijau dan menggalakkan amalan lestari tanpa membebankan rakyat," katanya dalam satu kenyataan dikeluarkan Kementerian Kewangan semalam.

Amir Hamzah mengetuai delegasi Malaysia ke Mesyuarat Musim Bunga IMF dan WBG 2024 di Washington, Amerika Syarikat (AS) dari 17 April hingga 19 April 2024.

Mesyuarat itu adalah platform untuk membincangkan hal ehwal berkaitan hubungan dua hala dan pelbagai hala antara Malaysia dengan WBG dan IMF serta negara anggota

yang lain.

Negara anggota juga akan berkongsi pendapat berhubung pelaksanaan strategi dan dasar negara masing-masing dalam menangani isu semasa ekonomi dan kewangan global dalam sidang plenari dan sesi perbincangan semasa Mesyuarat Mengenai Persefahaman Tindakan Iklim Menteri-Menteri Kewangan (CFMCA).

Pada sela-sela Mesyuarat Musim Bunga itu, Amir Hamzah mengadakan sesi libat urus dengan agensi penarafan kredit (CRA) antaranya Standard and Poors (S&P), Moody's

dan Fitch.

Beliau turut berkongsi dan bertukar pandangan dengan ketua delegasi daripada negara anggota lain berkenaan perkembangan ekonomi negara dan global melalui mesyuarat-mesyuarat dua hala yang telah dijadualkan.

Amir Hamzah mengadakan perjumpaan dengan pegawai kanan IMF dan WBG untuk membincangkan hala tuju program dan aktiviti yang dilaksanakan di bawah kerjasama Malaysia dengan IMF dan WBG.

Penyertaan Malaysia dalam Mesyuarat Musim

Bunga IMF dan WBG itu penting sejajar dengan komitmen berterusan negara dalam usaha menggiatkan pertumbuhan secara bersama, khususnya dalam perkembangan ekonomi serantau dan global.



Amir Hamzah Azizan

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 19 APR 2024

Harga RON95

Pengapungan berperingkat elak rakyat, peniaga panik

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17/4



Pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar beransur-ansur bendung kenaikan mendadak inflasi

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Pengapungan harga bahan api RON95 mengikut harga pasaran secara beransur-ansur adalah kaedah terbaik bagi mengelakkan kejutan yang boleh menyebabkan situasi panik dalam kalangan rakyat dan peniaga.

Dalam masa sama, aktiviti penguatkuasaan juga perlu diperhebatkan bagi memastikan pihak tidak bertanggungjawab yang menyebabkan kenaikan harga secara mendadak diambil tindakan sewajarnya, demikian menurut penganalisis.

Ketua Ekonomi dan Kewa-

ngan Sosial Bank Muamalat Malaysia, Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, berkata harga RON97 adalah RM3.47 satu liter pada masa ini adalah mengikut harga pasaran, manakala harga runcit di pam RON95 adalah RM2.05 satu liter selepas mendapat subsidi kerajaan, menjadikan perbezaan antara kedua-dua jenis petrol itu sekarang agak besar iaitu RM1.42 satu liter.

Beliau berkata, harga silling RON95 ditetapkan pada paras RM2.05 satu liter bermula 27 Februari 2021 dan pada ketika itu, perbezaan antara RON97 dan RON95 adalah kira-kira 30 sen satu liter.

"Sekiranya kita mengambil angka ini sebagai penanda aras bagi melaraskan harga RON95, maka perbezaan yang besar dengan harga RON97 iaitu RM1.42 satu liter perlu dirapatkan. Namun, ia perlu dilakukan secara beransur-ansur agar tidak menyebabkan kenaikan inflasi yang mendadak," katanya kepada BH.

Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ram-

li dalam satu temu bual bersama Bloomberg kelmarin berkata kerajaan akan mengurangkan subsidi petrol tahun ini dalam usaha untuk mengecilkan defisit fiskal negara.

Susulan jangkaan rasionalisasi bahan api itu, kerajaan akan melaksanakan pengurangan subsidi secara berperingkat dengan risiko inflasi meningkat sebelum rancangan itu dilaksanakan.

Kurangkan subsidi

Sementara itu, Mohd Afzanizam berkata pengapungan mendadak harga bahan api pernah berlaku di negara ini apabila harga RON97 dinaikkan sebanyak 78 sen satu liter pada 5 Jun 2008 menyebabkan kadar inflasi melonjak ke paras 7.7 peratus pada bulan itu berbanding 3.8 peratus pada bulan sebelumnya.

"Ada beberapa perkara yang perlu diperhatikan dalam isu pengurangan subsidi minyak ini dengan yang pertama adalah isu kuantum kenaikan harga minyak yang diperlukan bagi men-

gurkan perbelanjaan subsidi. Sebaiknya kuantum kenaikan perlu dalam keadaan yang tidak mendadak.

"Isu kedua pula dari segi kerapuhan untuk menaikkan harga minyak petrol bagi mengurangkan subsidi. Justeru, penggunaan kaedah 'Automatic Pricing Mechanism' (APM) mungkin cara yang dilihat sesuai yang mana setiap minggu harga minyak petrol yang baharu akan diumumkan.

"Dengan kaedah ini, rakyat boleh merancang kewangan mereka dengan lebih teratur," katanya.

Penganalisis Ekonomi UniKL Business School, Prof Madya Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid sebaliknya berpendapat pengapungan harga bahan api sekiranya dilaksanakan secara beransur-ansur tidak membantu menyelesaikan masalah kenaikan kadar inflasi.

Katanya, hal ini kerana pasti ada peniaga dalam rantaian nilai perniagaan yang akan mengambil kesempatan menaikkan

harga barangan berkali-kali atas alasan kenaikan harga bahan api, selain masalah penguatkuasaan memandangkan kekurangan anggota agensi kerajaan untuk memantau semua stesen minyak di seluruh negara terutama sekali dengan kawalan pembelian dan mekanisme di stesen.

Justeru, beliau berpendapat bahawa pengapungan itu perlu dibuat terus mengikut harga semasa, bukan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat.

"Dengan hanya satu kenaikan adalah lebih mudah menyelaraskan kenaikan harga barangan lain kerana masih ada barangan subsidi lain yang dikawal harganya oleh kerajaan seperti gula.

"Kenaikan yang mendadak pasti membimbangkan kerana harga minyak mentah semasa di dalam trend meningkat kesan daripada krisis di Asia Barat, namun penangguhan beransur juga tidak memadai untuk mencapai usaha kerajaan menurunkan defisit perbelanjaan negara dan hutang semasa," katanya.

Hanya 18 peratus rakyat ada pelan simpanan persaraan

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Golongan milenial miliki tahap kewangan paling berdaya tahan

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Hanya 18 peratus rakyat Malaysia mempunyai pelan simpanan persaraan untuk menyokong matlamat kewangan mereka, demikian menurut Indeks Daya Tahan Kewangan Asia-Malaysia yang diterbitkan oleh Sun Life.

Penyedia perkhidmatan insurans hayat dan takaful itu berkata, indeks berkenaan juga mendapati, di Malaysia 66 peratus responden yakin dapat memenuhi matlamat kewangan jangka panjang mereka, namun hanya 38 peratus mempunyai pelan kewangan melangkaui satu tahun ke hadapan.

"Rakyat Malaysia menyenaraikan persaraan dan simpanan sebagai keutamaan kewangan kedua tertinggi, namun hanya 18 peratus yang mempunyai pelan persaraan atau pencen bagi menyokong matlamat mereka," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Presiden dan Ketua Negara Sun Life Malaysia, Raymond Lew, berkata indeks yang mengkaji 1,000 responden di Malaysia itu mendapati golongan milenial iaitu berusia antara 28 hingga 43 tahun adalah generasi yang mempunyai tahap kewangan paling berdaya tahan. Beliau berkata, berbanding

dengan generasi lain, golongan itu lebih yakin (69 peratus) dengan masa hadapan kewangan, malah mungkin lebih besar untuk membuat keputusan kewangan berdasarkan kajian (65 peratus) berbanding generasi lebih tua (62 peratus).

Katanya, golongan milenial juga lebih yakin untuk dapat memenuhi matlamat kewangan jangka panjang (71 peratus) berbanding generasi lebih tua (57 peratus), namun hanya 40 peratus responden milenial mempunyai pelan kewangan melangkaui satu tahun ke hadapan, sekali gus meletakkan matlamat kewangan mereka dalam keadaan berisiko.

Generasi celik teknologi

"Sebagai generasi celik teknologi, golongan milenial mempunyai lebih banyak alat yang boleh diguna untuk merancang kewangan dan mungkin bagi meletakkan asas keputusan mereka berdasarkan penyelidikan.

"Namun, kajian ini juga menonjolkan fenomena membimbangkan tidak ramai yang mempunyai pelan kewangan jangka panjang bagi memenuhi matlamat hidup mereka.

"Memiliki pelan tersusun perlu menjadi keutamaan bagi mereka yang mahu membina masa hadapan kewangan sela-

mat, terutama dalam landskap pelaburan yang sering berubah dan dinamik hari ini," katanya.

Kaji selidik oleh Sun Life itu juga mendapati responden paling kaya turut memiliki jurang dari segi persediaan, tidak cermat berbelanja dan kurang mempunyai perancangan kewangan jangka panjang.



Golongan milenial lebih yakin penuhi matlamat kewangan jangka panjang berbanding generasi lebih tua.
(Foto hiasan)

Ini dibuktikan apabila responden berpendapatan rendah dan tinggi kedua-duanya mungkin berbelanja melebihi bajet bulanan mereka, malah hanya 46 peratus responden berpendapatan tinggi mempunyai pelan kewangan melebihi setahun.

Kaji selidik itu turut mendapati 54 peratus responden berpendapatan tinggi dapat menyimpan untuk matlamat jangka panjang sambil memenuhi keperluan jangka pendek, hanya tinggi sedikit berbanding 49 peratus responden berpendapatan lebih rendah.

Indeks Daya Tahan Kewangan Asia Sun Life dibuat untuk memahami cara individu merancang dan mengatasi impak daripada situasi kewangan tidak diduga.

Kaji selidik itu mengukur daya tahan kewangan terhadap lima tonggak iaitu keyakinan, tabiat, perancangan, alat dan sumber.

Ia berdasarkan kaji selidik yang dibuat pada Oktober 2023 di lapan pasaran iaitu Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, India, Singapura, Filipina dan Vietnam.



Raymond Lew

PBT perlu pantau kilang haram

UM 19/4

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PUTRAJAYA: Mana-mana kerajaan negeri dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) diminta memberikan kerjasama untuk memantau sekali gus mengambil tindakan terhadap kilang-kilang yang beroperasi secara haram sehingga mengundang pencemaran alam sekitar.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Menteri Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam, Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad berkata, pihaknya melalui Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) hanya berperanan memantau dan mengesan kes-kes pencemaran alam sekitar dan mengambil tindakan terhadap penjenayah alam sekitar.

Menurut beliau, JAS menguatkuasakan di bawah fasal pindaan Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling dengan meningkatkan penalti, denda dan hukuman penjara untuk jenayah-jenayah alam sekitar.

"Namun, kewujudan premis-premis (sama ada berlesen atau tidak) pihak berkuasa negeri dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) kena memainkan peranan sebab kita (JAS) tidak ada kuasa.

"Kita boleh kesan pencemaran dan kita ambil tindakan tapi dari segi pengoperasian kilang dan sebagainya, kita harapkan peranan dimainkan oleh kerajaan negeri dan PBT," katanya di sini baru-baru ini.

Utusan Malaysia semalam melaporkan sekurang-kurangnya tiga buah kilang pemprosesan tayar terpakai didapati beroperasi secara mencurigakan tanpa mengikut prosedur

Tiga kilang proses tayar terpakai dicurigai

Daruloh
Kilang pemrosesan tayar terpakai di pedalaman di kawasan di sekitar bandar tiga kilang pemrosesan tayar terpakai yang didapati beroperasi secara tidak sah di Kulai, Johor.



Pemandangan dari udara kawasan di sekitar bandar tiga kilang pemrosesan tayar terpakai yang didapati beroperasi secara tidak sah di Kulai, Johor.

sekitar 200 meter dari jalan raya. Longgkahan ribut tayar terpakai dicerai bersempit di tempat terbuka tanpa bumbung yang akan jadi pencemaran udara.



UTUSAN Malaysia
18 April 2024.

pengoperasian dan peraturan betul dikesan di sekitar Kulai, Johor.

Kewujudan kilang-kilang terbabit dikhuatiri boleh mengundang satu lagi pencemaran alam sekitar di negeri berkenaan selepas berlaku isu pencemaran sungai Kim-Kim di kawasan Pasir Gudang sehingga menjejaskan kesihatan lebih 2,000 orang awam dan menyebabkan 111 buah sekolah di daerah itu ditutup ekoran pembuangan sisa toksik.

Berdasarkan siasatan *Utusan Malaysia* kira-kira tiga bulan lalu ke atas ketiga-tiga kilang itu, ia didapati beroperasi secara bersembunyi bagi mengaburi mata pihak berkuasa apabila kawasan kilang tanpa nama ini bertutup dan berkunci dikelilingi zink, jika dilihat dari luar.

Pengoperasian kilang tayar terpakai itu juga adalah satu daripada bahan buangan berisiko kerana mengandungi toksik jika tidak dikendalikan dengan betul. Tindakan penyimpanan, pembuangan, pembakaran tayar yang tidak terurus boleh menyumbang kepada pencemaran selain pembiakan nyamuk aedes.

Dalam pada itu, Nik Nazmi berkata, banyak langkah penguatkuasaan pihaknya dibuat secara menyeluruh dengan membabitkan pelbagai agensi bagi menangani kes-kes pencemaran alam sekitar.

"Kita babitkan agensi-agensi lain bukan secara silo, bukan JAS semata-mata, tetapi tanpa peranan proaktif daripada kerajaan negeri, kita tak dapat atasi masalah tersebut," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:1..9..APR..2024...

UPKK 2023: Raih 8A selepas gigih belajar sambil dibantu ibu bapa

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SEREMBAN: Kegigihan mengulang kaji pelajaran sambil dibantu ibu bapa membuahkan hasil kepada tiga orang murid dari Sekolah Rendah Islam (SRI) Seremban dan SRI Seremban. Nilai di sini apabila masing-masing memperoleh keputusan 8A dalam Ujian Penilaian Kelas KAFU (UPKK) 2023.

Tiga murid berkenaan, Nik Ufaira Nik Muhammad Hafiz, Harith Amrullah Almuhammad dan Muhammad Saif Zakwan Shahrul Zaim, 12, bagaimanapun mengakui tidak menyangka mampu mencapai keputusan yang cemerlang dalam peperiksaan itu.

Berkongsi kejayaannya, Nik Ufaira berkata, sokongan daripa-

da ibunya banyak membantunya bagi meraih keputusan terbaik.

"Terima kasih juga kepada ustaz serta ustazah di sekolah kerana tidak jemu-jemu membimbing saya. Ada ketikanya saya hilang fokus ketika belajar dan tanpa teguran daripada mereka dalam kelas, tidak mungkin saya mampu mencapai kecemerlangan pada hari ini," katanya.

Bagi Harith Amrullah pula, memang menjadi hasratnya untuk membanggakan keluarga menerusi keputusan cemerlang dalam peperiksaan itu.

"Alhamdulillah, berkat usaha selama ini, saya capai keputusan yang baik. Selain belajar di sekolah, ibu bapa banyak membantu.

"Saya boleh katakan keputusan pada ini adalah hadiah buat ibu bapa, ustaz serta ustazah bagi jasa mereka selama ini. Saya harap kejayaan seperti ini dapat dikekalkan ketika sekolah menengah nanti," katanya yang bercita-cita menjadi seorang doktor.

Muhammad Saif Zakwan pula berkata, mengulang kaji secara santai pada waktu malam turut memudahkan proses pembelajarannya.

"Ibu bapa saya juga sentiasa mengingatkan supaya tidak meninggalkan solat. Saya tidak menyangka akan memperoleh keputusan cemerlang itu walaupun pada awalnya agak ragu-ragu terutamanya bagi mata pelajaran Bahasa Arab," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:19 APR 2024

28,531 calon UPKK 2023 dapat 8A

UM 19/4

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PUTRAJAYA: Seramai 28,531 daripada 230,587 calon yang menduduki Ujian Penilaian Kelas KAFA (UPKK) 2023 mencatat keputusan cemerlang A dalam kesemua lapan mata pelajaran peperiksaan itu.

Jumlah itu meningkat berbanding 19,266 calon memperoleh 8A pada tahun 2022.

Mata pelajaran terbabit ialah Bidang al-Quran; Ulum Syariah (Akidah dan Ibadah); Sirah; Adab (Akhlak Islamiah); Jawi dan Khat; Lughatul Quran; Penghayatan Cara Hidup Islam; serta Amali Solat.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama), Datuk Dr. Mohd. Na'im Mokhtar berkata, 88 peratus calon mencatat keputusan lulus keseluruhan iaitu peratusan sama pada tahun sebelumnya.

Beliau berkata, pencapaian Gred Purata Skor UPKK secara keseluruhan pula menunjukkan peningkatan iaitu 1.89 mata berbanding 1.99 mata pada tahun sebelumnya.

"GPS mata pelajaran UPKK 2023 turut meningkat iaitu al-Quran sebanyak 1.35 mata; Ulum Syariah (2.52); Sirah (2.31); Adab (2.03); Jawi dan Khat (1.97); Lughatul Quran (2.56); Penghayatan Cara Islam (1.17)



PELAJAR Sekolah Rendah Islam (SRI) Seremban dan SRI Seremban, Nilai menunjukkan keputusan cemerlang dalam UPKK 2023 di Seremban semalam. - UTUSAN/MOHD. SHAHJEHAN MAAMIN

dan Amali Solat (1.17).

"Calon yang mendapat 8A berjumlah 28,531 calon dengan peratusan 12.37 peratus manakala, calon yang mendapat 7A berjumlah 18,185 calon dengan peratusan 7.89 peratus.

"Calon yang mendapat 6A berjumlah 19,606 calon dengan peratusan 8.50 peratus, manakala calon yang mendapat 5A berjumlah 25,697 calon dengan peratusan 11.14 peratus," katanya pada majlis pengumuman keputusan UPKK 2022, di sini.

Katanya, secara keseluruhan, majoriti semua mata pelajaran menunjukkan peningkatan peratusan kelulusan.

Ditanya mengenai lebih 4,000 calon tidak hadir peperiksaan pada UPKK 2023 lalu, Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim), Datuk Hakimah Mohd Yusoff berkata, ia berlaku di luar kawalan pihaknya sepertimana peperiksaan utama lain.

Secara keseluruhannya, seramai 4,721 calon tidak hadir pada UPKK tahun lalu.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

Workers' rights group wants progressive labour laws

KUALA LUMPUR: The Social Protection Contributors Advisory Association Malaysia (SPCAAM) has called on the government to amend labour laws to allow for better workplace flexibility.

In a statement, SPCAAM International Labour Advisor Callistus Antony D'Angelus said although Human Resources Minister Steven Sim said Malaysian workers could apply to their employers for flexible work arrangements, employers still had the final say on the matter.

"What all parties need to recognise is that it is still the prerogative of the employer, almost entirely, to approve or disapprove such applications.

"Flexible work arrangements, including working from home, is clearly not something which can be easily legislated as the nature of some businesses would simply not allow for it."

He said, as such, policy-makers or ministers should not merely regurgitate provisions of the law.

"They should instead be constantly challenging the adequacy of the system to progress with the times.

"The provisions in law for accommodations due to circumstances such as elderly care, disability and childcare have not



Human Resources Minister Steven Sim says workers could apply to their employers for flexible working arrangements. FILE PIC

kept up with the progress made globally over the past few decades.

"There has been a lot more awareness of mental health and its impact at the workplace, as an example, and local laws need to progress with time."

He also said the Employment Act was a colonial legacy that seemed to be inextricably linked to the master-servant relationship in the workplace.

"Why is it that despite Malaysia being formed in 1963, the workers

of Sabah and Sarawak are in an inferior position in many regards as compared to their counterparts in West Malaysia?

"The biggest problem with the unity government at this point is that despite the promise of reform, they continue to pander to the interests of big business."

"Unless there is a fundamental shift philosophically and policy-wise, we cannot expect change that would benefit the common people of Malaysia," he said.

On Wednesday, in a post on X,

Sim said workers in Malaysia could apply to their employers for flexible working arrangements based on time, days, and location of work according to Sections 60P and 60Q of the Employment Act 1955.

He said such requests should be submitted to employers for feedback within 60 days, and if rejected, employers must provide reasons.

According to Section 60P (1) of the act, an employee has the right to request from their employer for a flexible working arrangement to vary the hours of work, days of work or place of work in relation to their employment, subject to Part XII or anything contained in the contract of service.

The act also stated that application for flexible working arrangement under 60Q (1), the employee shall make an application for flexible working arrangement under section 60P in writing and in the form and manner as may be determined by the Director-General of Labour.

Sim said this in response to a post by a portal on workers in Singapore now being able to apply to work four days a week, more working days from home, and phased working hours starting from Dec 1.

NST
19/4

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh:19 APR 2024....



Nga Kor Ming

FRESH ALLOCATION

Hulu Selangor gets RM5.21 mil for infrastructure projects

KUALA LUMPUR: The Housing and Local Government Ministry has announced an allocation of RM5.21 million for Hulu Selangor residents, to be used for infrastructure projects in the area.

Its minister, Nga Kor Ming, announced this during a Program Sentuhan Kasih KPKT in Kuala Kubu Bharu yesterday.

During the visit, Nga had gone on-site to inspect the BP.1 project to improve public infrastructure under the Hulu Selangor Municipal Council (MPHS) and the Chinese new village project.

These include the construction of 12 kiosks in Taman Tasik Millennium in KKB; repairing and upgrading 10 units of MPHS stalls at Jalan Abdul Hamid; Madani People's Housing Programme project in Kampung Air Panas; and repairing the badminton court and putting up a fence at the Kampung Asam Kumbang playground.

"The allocation covers 14 projects worth RM4.82 million to be implemented by the MPHS and the Majlis Pengurusan Komuniti Kampung.

"From this total amount, RM4.16 million is allocated through MPHS, while RM664,000 is allocated to MPKK in Hulu Selangor," the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

While there, Nga also announced the allocation of RM10,000 to enhance the efficiency of the volunteer fire brigade, and allocated a total of RM127,050 to the Sri Sithi Vinayagar Temple Association for maintenance work.

The ministry also approved RM250,000 for the Siaw Kong and Lee Ma Deities Worshippers Association to improve the conditions of old and dilapidated buildings of worship.

"This is part of the RM50 million government assistance channelled by the unity government to non-Muslim houses of worship nationwide, whether for Hindus, Buddhas, Christians, Sikhs, and Taoists."

NEW STRAITS TIMES
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'PJD LINK CAN GENERATE RM31 BIL'

Concessionaire defends contested project, claims it can bring about benefit to the people

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PJD Link (M) Sdn Bhd, the concessionaire for the Petaling Jaya Traffic Dispersal Link (PJD Link) highway construction project, has defended the project, citing significant and socio-economic advantages.

In a statement yesterday, the company said the PJD Link was a RM4.4 billion project with "vast economic spillovers", and would provide an estimated 12,000 jobs

and generate RM31 billion in total economic output.

"We believe that this remains a viable project that benefits the people.

"PJD Link is also intended to be fully privately funded, with no expenditure from the state or federal government," it said, adding that it had yet to be officially informed on the discontinuation of the project.

It described the project as a "crucial infrastructure" that coincided with the rapid development in Selangor, which needed a congestion-free connection between Kinrara and Damansara.

"The highway is designed as a traffic dispersal system, to connect with seven major highways

and 11 interchanges to boost connectivity among townships and reduce congestion."

The project, owned by the federal government through the works ministry, it added, had gone through detailed scrutiny by all relevant ministries and regulatory agencies.

These include the approvals of the Environment Impact Assessment, Traffic Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment.

"The unfulfilled conditions, as mentioned by Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, were due to the conditions precedent which had taken longer than expected because of the complexities of the project.

"While we acknowledge there are concerns from the public, the project also garnered widespread support from stakeholders along the alignment.

"Its holistic economic and social benefits promise to significantly enhance sustainability and wellbeing across Selangor and the broader Klang Valley region," it said, adding that they were studying requests to review the alignment of the highway.

On Wednesday, Fahmi, who is also the unity government spokesman, said the cabinet had decided not to proceed with PJD Link.

"The cabinet agreed there would be no extension of time to meet the remaining requirement precedents.

"Previously, the company applied twice for an extension to meet the set conditions. As a result of that failure, the project was not continued," he told a press conference on Wednesday.

The highway is designed as a traffic dispersal system, to connect with seven major highways and 11 interchanges to boost connectivity among townships and reduce congestion."

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

No change to petrol, diesel prices

KUALA LUMPUR: The retail prices of RON97 and RON95 petrol as well as diesel will remain unchanged at RM3.47, RM2.05 and RM2.15 per litre respectively for the April 18 to 24 period.

The Finance Ministry said the prices were set based on the weekly retail prices of petroleum products using the Automatic Pricing Mechanism formula.

"To protect consumers from the impact of the actual rise in global oil prices, the government is maintaining the retail price of RON95 petrol at the ceiling price of RM2.05 per litre and that of diesel at RM2.15 per litre, although the market prices of both products have exceeded the set ceiling price," it said in a statement.

It said the government would continue to monitor the trend of world crude oil prices and take measures to ensure that the people's welfare and well-being are protected. — Bernama

THE SUN

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024



The new Account 3 allows contributors to withdraw savings whenever needed, rendering easier access to funds. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

EPF contributors give third account thumbs up

SUN 19/4

► Members view flexible initiative as lifeline to ease financial burden and help bolster retirement savings

■ BY SIVANISVARRY MORHAN
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PETALING JAYA: The much-anticipated introduction of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) new Account 3, also known as the "Flexible Account," which is set to be announced by the end of April, has garnered public support.

Under the revised system, monthly contributions will be distributed across three accounts — 75% into Account 1, 15% into Account 2, and the remaining 10% into the new Account 3.

Account 3 is likened to a savings account, facilitating easy withdrawals, though members have the option to transfer funds to Accounts 1 and 2 to optimise capital gains.

Among those eagerly waiting for the announcement is 42-year-old industrial engineer Ahmad Mustakim Ainuddin. He welcomed the introduction of Account 3 as a means to bolster his retirement savings.

"Balancing my children's educational expenses and my parents' medical costs with just my income and my wife's salary is challenging. Despite our efforts, there are times when we struggle. I have been employed for nearly 20 years and I am considering withdrawing from my EPF for the first time."

Ahmad Mustakim hopes that the funds from Account 3 will provide some relief, whether it is

to cover his children's tuition fees or his parents' monthly medical bills.

Similarly, single parent Nur Roslyana Abdul Manaf, 38, who is raising two children, said she views Account 3 as a lifeline to overcome her financial strain.

"With two children to support on a single income, managing household expenses and their educational expenses is difficult. There are days when I worry about not being able to foot all my bills, so this account brings me a ray of hope."

In expressing support for the initiative, Nusantara Strategic Research Academy senior fellow Prof Dr Azmi Hassan said with Account 3, EPF contributors can withdraw funds whenever they need, making access to money easier.

"The allocation to Account 1 has increased from 70% to 75%, while Account 2's share has decreased from 30% to 15%."

"With Account 1's share now increased, the overall retirement security for contributors is preserved. This is a critical aspect for retirement savings."

While Azmi stressed that the primary focus of EPF savings should be on bolstering retirement funds, "reducing the allocation to Account 2, which is earmarked for matters such as education, simplifies the withdrawal process."

"Maintaining retirement funds is crucial because when individuals have sufficient savings to support themselves in retirement, it

reduces the strain on public resources and allows the government to allocate budgets for other pressing needs and priorities.

"Furthermore, investing in retirement funds fosters a culture of financial literacy and responsibility. It empowers individuals to take control of their financial future and make informed decisions about their retirement plans."

Malaysian Coalition on Ageing chairman Cheah Tuck Wing said as the country's demographics shift towards an ageing population, it becomes increasingly crucial to ensure one has adequate financial security.

Cheah said Malaysians tend to spend now and save later, which has long-term consequences, often felt after retirement.

"The focus on bolstering retirement funds reflects a commitment to promoting individual financial security, resilience, and dignity in later life. Strengthened retirement funds contribute to broader societal well-being by reducing reliance on social welfare systems and government assistance programmes."

"As such, the public and the government should prioritise enhancing the retirement funds so that they can have enough savings to face the financial challenges that often accompany retirement, such as healthcare expenses and daily living costs," he said.

While further details are yet to be officially announced, it has been reported that EPF contributions made from May onwards will be allocated to Account 3, which kicks off with a zero balance. Account 3's introduction comes in response to substantial withdrawals during the Covid-19 pandemic, reportedly depleting RM145 billion from the EPF's coffers.

THE SUN

Tarikh: 19 APR 2024

Ringgit continues to gain ground against US dollar

THE ringgit continued to close higher versus the US dollar yesterday in tandem with the 0.1% decline in the US Dollar Index (DXY) to 105.845 points, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit rose to 4.7840/7870 against the greenback from Wednesday's closing of 4.7910/7950.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said concerns over the Middle East conflict have somewhat receded, judging from the decline in Brent crude oil prices to US\$86.90 per barrel.

"However, markets are still wary of the geopolitical risks and, above all, the uncertain outlook on the US interest rates," he told Bernama.

He also said the focus on the local front will be on Malaysia's advance gross domestic product estimate for the first quarter of 2024, which is slated to be released today.

"Positive surprises should be good for the ringgit the way we see it," he added.

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

It eased against the euro to 5.1050/1082 from 5.0981/1024 at Wednesday's close, but edged up vis-a-vis the Japanese yen to 3.0980/1002 from 3.0990/1018 and gained versus the British pound to 5.9671/9708 from 5.9720/9770 previously.

The local note was traded mixed against Asean currencies.

It appreciated versus the Thai baht to 13.0053/0188 compared with 13.0194/13.0373 at Wednesday's close and improved against the Philippine peso to 8.36/8.37 from 8.37/8.39 previously.

However, the ringgit fell vis-a-vis the Indonesian rupiah to 295.6/296.0 from 295.3/295.7 yesterday and slipped against the Singapore dollar to 3.5176/5201 from 3.5171/5200.

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Tarikh: