



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 22 APRIL 2024 (ISNIN)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• KLANG VALLEY LEMANG SELLERS TOLD TO ABIDE BY REGULATIONS • FOSTERING SAFETY EDUCATION, COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
2.	THE STAR	• KLANG VALLEY LEMANG SELLERS TOLD TO ABIDE BY REGULATIONS • FOSTERING SAFETY EDUCATION, COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

LAIN-LAIN PBT

BIL	AKHBAR	PBT	TAJUK
1.	SELANGORKINI	MBPJ MBSA MPAJ	• MBPJ TAWAR REBAT CUKAI • TAMBAH BAIK KENDALI HAIWAN LIAR, CEGAH DENGGI • RM10,000 HADIAH FOTOGRAFI MBSA • PETROL PERCUMA DEKATI MASYARAKAT • PUSAT URUS KERETA USANG
2.	THE STAR	DBKL	• BE GOOD PET OWNERS • STRATA RESIDENTS RAISE ISSUE OF COHABITATION EITH PETS • ICONIC BUILDING TO BE RESTORED • SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING DRUMS SPOTTED IN TMN MALURI
3.	HARIAN METRO	MBSA DBKL	• PETAK PARKIR 'DICOP' PEMILIK BANGUNAN! • DBKL BAKAL TUNDA KERETA BURUK, TERSADAI

UMUM

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	SELANGORKINI	• 20,000 MANFAAT KHIDMAT VAN TRANSIT
2.	THE STAR	• NEW AREA NOT COMMERCIALY VIABLE • POTENTIAL DANGER POSED BY OLD TREES IN TTDI • AI AWAKENING • TECH INDUSTRY NEEDS ECO EQUATION • EARTH DAY : GOING FULL CIRCLE WITH PLASTIC • RECIPE FOR REDUCING FOOD WASTE
3.	SINAR HARIAN	• RINGGIT DIJANGKA KEKAL PARAS SEMASA
4.	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	• GAJI PENJAWAT AWAM : ADA SESUATU YANG POSITIF – KSN • SUBSIDI BESASAR SELAMATKAN EKONOMI • SISTEM SARAAN PERKHIDMATAN AWAM : ANWAR TUNAI JANJI
5.	BERITA HARIAN	• IMPAK POSITIF RASIONALISASI SUBSIDI DIRASAI TAHUN DEPAN • ANCAMAN TEKNIK TIPU WAJAH JADI ISU GLOBAL • KDNK SUKU PERTAMA CENDERUNG BERKEMBANG 4.2 PERATUS • BURSA TUNGGU PEMANGKIN BAHARU

Klang Valley lemong sellers told to abide by regulations

LEMANG sellers in the Klang Valley, especially those operating along roadsides, must maintain cleanliness and ensure minimal disturbance to the public, say the local authorities.

Local councils have set strict regulations for those selling the Malay delicacy of glutinous rice and coconut milk in bamboo, which is cooked over open fire, to allay concerns over safety and hygiene.

In Kuala Lumpur, 36 temporary licences were issued, most of which were for roadside traders.

The licences are valid until May 9.

In a statement to StarMetro, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) said the traders were allowed to operate from 10am to 10pm.

"All licensees and their assistants are also required to have received typhoid injections.

"They must also prepare containers with lids to store and dispose of rubbish," said DBKL, adding that the placing of tables and chairs were prohibited too.

In Selangor, the local authorities require traders to submit photos of their proposed operation site in their temporary licence application.

This is to ensure the locations are suitable and will not pose disturbance to the public.

In many places, the traders are also responsible for rubbish disposal and cleanup at the site.

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), which had issued nine licences, collected collateral fees from the traders.

The money, the city council said, would be forfeited if the traders failed to upkeep cleanliness at their operation site.

"The operation dates are from April 1 to May 8, with the operation hours from 6.30am to 12.30am," it added.

Selayang Municipal Council (MPS), which issued 10 temporary licences, reminded traders to pack up their tents every day after operation.

"The traders are allowed to operate throughout the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festivity, from 8am to midnight, daily," it said.

Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj), too, collected a RM300 collateral fee for cleanliness and had issued 27 licences.

Traders in the municipality were only allowed to set up removable stalls, tents, tables and chairs.

"No one is allowed to operate at parking bays and five foot-ways.

"The building of permanent structures is also prohibited," MPKj said, adding that action would be taken for failure to comply.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ), issued 35 licences for traders to operate at 22 approved locations.

Unlike under other councils, traders here are allowed to decide on their operation hours.

As for the duration of their licence, this was decided based on the dates applied for by the traders.

"There is a cleaning fee involved and the council will take responsibility for cleaning," added MPAJ.

Klang Royal City Council issued 18 licences valid for 14 days, subject to renewals.

Fostering safety education, community well-being



Ng (in red) with the martial arts team at the Community Safety Programme in Subang Jaya.

ON a clear Sunday afternoon, there was an air of anticipation at the USJ11/4 field in Subang Jaya, Selangor with the launch of a Community Safety Programme.

The USJ11/4 Residents' Association (RA) event offered a blend of cultural festivities with community engagement and security awareness.

The idea was to offer residents a platform for fostering stronger neighbourly ties while promoting safety practices vital for communal well-being.

Residents also received a personal safety alarm keychain as a door gift.

The programme addressed various aspects of safety concerns particularly in the area of cybersecurity and cybercrime, which are becoming rampant.

Inspector Khairil Anwar Hamidun, Investigation Officer from the Subang Jaya district headquarters' Commercial Crime Investigation Division (CCID), delivered a talk on cybersecurity measures for individuals.

He shared an interactive session with residents on how to improve their WhatsApp privacy and security settings.

The Community Safety Programme also included a self-defence demonstration and workshop by Immortal Martial Arts head coach and chief executive officer BR Kogila Vaany Balakrishanan.

She was aided by her team of senior instructors in demonstrating self-defence techniques designed to help individuals protect themselves in threatening situations as well as basic escape measures.

There was also role play by junior karatekas on bullying, as well as a demonstration of stances, blocks and strikes by senior karatekas.

Present at the event were Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng and MBSJ councillor Ken Chia.

The residents expressed happiness at meeting representatives from the police and local authorities, as their presence demonstrated commitment to serving and protecting the community.

The USJ11/4 RA also thanked the Registrar of Societies for sponsoring the programme through its Geran Pertubuhan Prihatin Komuniti (GPPIK) that aims to foster the value of volunteering in empowering community safety.

MBPJ tawar rebat cukai

SHAH ALAM - Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) menawarkan skim rebat cukai taksiran sehingga 100 peratus kepada pemilik kediaman yang mengamalkan gaya hidup mesra alam dan mampan.

Menurut poster pihak berkuasa tempatan tersebut pada 17 April, borang permohonan boleh dimuat turun melalui laman sesawang MBPJ sehingga 24 Jun atau hubungi urus setia 03-7954 1440.

"Kriteria yang dinilai adalah pemilik rumah mengamalkan semula sisa sampah, tenaga solar, penggunaan kereta elektrik, penyimpanan air hujan dan sistem biodiversiti," kata kenyataan.

Borang permohonan boleh dihantar menerusi serahan tangan atau email ke rebatcukai@mbpj.gov.my atau menerusi pos ke alamat MBPJ," kata kenyataan di Facebook.

Tambah baik kendali haiwan liar, cegah denggi

SHAH ALAM - Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) menjunjung tinggi titah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Hajah Norashikin yang mahukan penambahbaikan dalam pendekatan mengurus anjing berkelieran di bandar raya itu.

Datuk Bandar Ir Cheremi Tarman berkata pihaknya akan memperbanyak lagi sesi pertemuan dan berbincang bersama penduduk bagi menjelaskan kaedah MBSA menguruskan anjing liar di kawasan pentadbirannya.

Beliau berkata MBSA juga akan merujuk kepada Kerajaan Negeri sama ada pekeliing mengenai tatacara penangka-

pan dan pelupusan anjing terbiar boleh diubah, khususnya menggantikan perkataan 'pelupusan' dengan perkataan yang lebih sesuai.

"Kita akan rujuk Kerajaan Negeri untuk bawa kepada Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan bagi diperbaiki pekeliing sedia ada, antaranya menggantikan perkataan 'pelupusan' yang maksudnya boleh memberi gambaran negatif, khususnya kepada pertubuhan bukan kerajaan dan pencinta haiwan.

"Kaedah 'pelupusan' yang diamalkan

MBSA adalah dengan menghantar haiwan tersebut ke pusat kebajikan haiwan, bukannya kaedah 'Put To Sleep' kerana hanya pegawai veterinar sahaja dibenarkan melakukan prosedur tersebut," katanya baru-baru ini.

Pada 1 April, Tengku Permaisuri Hajah Norashikin menzahirkan rasa dukacita dan kecewa berhubung perkembangan terbaru mengenai operasi penangkapan anjing berkelieran di Selangor.

Dalam titah berkenaan, Baginda tidak bersetuju dengan pendekatan tangkap

dan lupus yang dilakukan mana-mana pihak berkuasa tempatan.

Sementara itu, MBSA menyeru penduduk setempat supaya bersama-sama berusaha untuk mencegah penularan wabak denggi pada musim perayaan.

Pihak berkuasa tempatan itu turut berkongsi tiga langkah mudah bagi melindungi diri dan keluarga daripada gigitan nyamuk aedes.

Tiga langkah yang dikongsi dalam kenyataan pada 13 April itu adalah pastikan tiada bekas menakung air tidak ditutup rapat, elak beradadi luar rumah sekiranya berada di kawasan wabak dan sembur aerosol sejurus pulang.



RM10,000 hadiah fotografi MBSA

SHAH ALAM - Orang ramai berpeluang memenangi hadiah wang tunai keseluruhan RM10,000 dalam Pertandingan Fotografi Shah Alam 2024 anjuran Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA).

Pertandingan bertema mercu tanda, alam semula jadi, gaya hidup dan panorama malam di sekitar bandar raya berkenaan berlangsung antara 25 Mac hingga 31 Ogos.

"Jom ramai-ramai sertai pertandingan ini untuk merebut hadiah wang tunai," kata kenyataan pihak berkuasa tempatan itu di Facebook pada 14 April.

Hadiah yang ditawarkan bagi kategori awam adalah RM2,000 untuk johan diikuti naib johan (RM1,500), tempat ketiga (RM1,000) dan sagu hati (RM200 untuk lima pemenang).

Petrol percuma dekati masyarakat

SHAH ALAM - Seramai 300 penunggang motosikal terima minyak petrol percuma anjuran Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) di Stesen Minyak Petronas Seksyen 7, di sini.

Datuk Bandarnya Ir Cheremi Tarman berkata rata-rata penerima terdiri daripada penghantar makanan, penjawat awam, pekerja industri dan pelajar.

"Inisiatif ini komitmen MBSA untuk membantu masyarakat dalam kawasan Shah Alam selain merapatkan hubungan dengan masyarakat.

"Kita berharap dengan melaksanakan program kebajikan terhadap komuniti ia sekali gus dapat meningkatkan kesedaran tanggungjawab sosial dalam kalangan warga Shah Alam," katanya baru-baru ini.

Pusat urus kereta usang

SHAH ALAM - Pemilik kenderaan usang dan terbiar dipelawa menghantar aset mereka ke pusat sehati kereta terbiar yang disediakan Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ).

Menurut pihak berkuasa tempatan tersebut, inisiatif berkenaan bertujuan memudahkan orang awam menguruskan kenderaan yang tidak digunakan lagi.

"Ia turut membantu orang awam melupuskan kenderaan mereka yang terbiar dan tidak digunakan secara sukarela berdasarkan garis panduan dan perundangan.

"Perkhidmatan yang disediakan juga percuma tetapi pemilik perlu mematuhi beberapa syarat yang ditetapkan MPAJ,"

menurut kenyataan di Facebook baru-baru ini.

Syarat tersebut antara pemohon antaranya pemilik sah, kenderaan bebas hutang, tidak disenarai hitam dan bebas rekod jenayah.

Warga Ampang Jaya yang berminat boleh memohon melalui pautan tranet.mpaj.gov.my/spmkm, hubungi 03-4285 7024 atau e-mel ke penguatkuasa@mpaj.gov.my

Pemohon juga boleh ke Menara MPAJ atau Depoh MPAJ Taman Putra Sulaiman atau Depoh MPAJ Taman Melawati. Hubungi Jabatan Penguatkuasa MPAJ melalui talian 03-42857024 untuk pertanyaan.

Tangani kesesakan di Lembah Klang

20,000 manfaat khidmat van transit

Oleh SUHAILA SHAHRUL ANNUAR

SHAH ALAM - Seramai 19,918 penumpang menggunakan perkhidmatan van transit atas permintaan (DRT) Mobiliti Selangor membabitkan lapan zon setakat 31 Mac, kata EXCO Mobiliti Ng Sze Han.

Beliau memberitahu kira-kira 40 peratus pengguna memilih pergi dan balik dari lebih 30 stesen kereta api termasuk Sistem Transit Aliran Ringan (LRT) dan Transit Aliran Massa (MRT).

"Ini menggambarkan usaha mewujudkan perkhidmatan DRT untuk menggalakkan penggunaan pengangkutan awam berada di landasan betul.

"Ia juga menepati hasrat Kerajaan Selangor bagi menjadikan pengangkutan awam mod pengangkutan utama bawah agenda Mobiliti Selangor," katanya baru-baru ini.

Sejak diperkenal pada 30 November tahun lalu, DRT beroperasi di Puchong, Subang Jaya, Ampang, Petaling Jaya



utara serta selatan, Hulu Kelang, Sungai Buloh dan Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Sze Han menjelaskan Kerajaan Negeri juga mahu memperluas sistem DRT di zon pengangkutan awam utama sekali gus membantu mengurangkan kadar kesesakan trafik di Lembah Klang.

"Pengguna boleh mendaftar dan menggunakan perkhidmatan tersebut dengan melayari laman sesawang dua syarikat operator yang dilantik iaitu Mobi dan Trekrides," katanya.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE

TARIKH: 22 APRIL 2024

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By FARID WAHAB
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

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'Be good pet owners'

DBKL: Stick to guidelines on licences, breeds and keeping animals in strata properties

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

DOG owners in Kuala Lumpur take note – as of April 1, the licence fee for their pets has increased to RM60 per animal. The fivefold increase in the fee is the first in over 20 years by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL). Previously, the annual fee for a dog licence stood at RM10.

Dog owners who have neutered or spayed their pets will have one benefit – this fee goes down to RM40 and RM20 for small dogs.

DBKL public health unit director Dr Shariza Natasha Hasiri said the fee adjustment was aimed at promoting responsible dog ownership among city folk.

"We hope the public will take advantage of the reduced fee by having their pets neutered," she told *StarMetro*.

In the event of your pet running away and ending up in the city pound, she said DBKL or the dog owner would be able to trace their beloved pets via the licence registration numbers.

DBKL allocated about RM700,000 every two years to manage various aspects of the dog population, including dog food, stray capture and cremation fees, she added.

Dr Shariza also said the stray population increased rapidly with more people abandoning their dogs.

Those feeding stray animals also indirectly contributed to the increase in their population, she added.

"Dog ownership in Kuala Lumpur is regulated by the UUK 2011 (Undang Undang Kecil), Dog Licensing, and Kennel Establishment By-laws (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur 1991), which outlines dog ownership guidelines in landed and stratified properties.

"There are guidelines for various categories of dogs, including restricted dogs, small dogs and special breeds.

"For instance, certain breeds fall under the 'restricted' category, necessitating additional condi-



tions and documentation to obtain a licence," said Dr Shariza.

Restricted, prohibited breeds

Restricted breeds are classified as controlled, including the Rottweiler, Doberman, German Shepherd, Belgian Shepherd, East European Shepherd, Bullmastiff, Bull Terrier and Canary Dog.

DBKL assistant environmental health officer Om Prakash Karunakaran said owners of restricted breeds applying for licence must first demonstrate that their pet had completed an obedience training course conducted by an organisation certified and approved by City Hall.

"These breeds, while undoubtedly adorable, often require obedience training and participation in Canine Good Citizen (CGC) programme to promote responsible dog ownership.

"In this programme, both the dog and its owner/handler must undergo a brief behavioural assessment," said Om Prakash.

"This training is crucial due to the strong-willed and occasionally dominant nature of these breeds.

"If left untrained in socialising with other dogs and humans, they may display behaviours such as aggression, territorialism and dominance, posing risks to both animals and humans alike," he said.

Om Prakash added that obedience training helped such breeds develop appropriate behaviour, respond to commands and become well-behaved companions.

DBKL's by-laws explicitly prohibit the ownership of pets classified as prohibited breeds due to their perceived aggression, potential danger to the public or



Om Prakash says restricted breeds often require training and participation in Canine Good Citizen programme.

past history of attacks.

These include the Pit Bull Terrier (also known as the American Bulldog), Neapolitan Mastiff, Japanese Tosa, Akita, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro.

"These dogs are known for their unpredictable behaviour and emotional nature. No licence will be issued for their ownership.

"Those who choose to own such breeds must accept the consequences of their decision in the event of any incident," said Om Prakash.

Stratified properties

Dog ownership in strata properties such as condominiums, flats or apartments is governed by the Strata Management Act.

There is no prohibition on the keeping of dogs, but it is subject to the animals not being a nuisance or health risk, and owners complying with respective local authority laws or by-laws.

Under DBKL's by-laws, only small breeds are permitted and each unit is allowed to have only one dog.

"To obtain a licence, applicants must include a consent letter from the management corporation (MC) or joint management body (JMB)," said Dr Shariza.

She noted that small breeds eligible for ownership included the Chihuahua, Poodle, Maltese, Pekingese and Papillon.

While some MCs or JMBs permitted pets in their buildings, others have banned them altogether or have regulated pet ownership through house rules.

Some might even impose fines on owners who violated regulations, she added.

"In the event of a dispute between dog owner and management, the management's decisions take precedence because our licence guidelines are tied to the management giving permission," Dr Shariza said.

Om Prakash said the restrictions were put in place through the respective development's house rules.

"So if the house rules suggest



DBKL warns dog owners that any dogs caught without their owners will be confiscated. — Photos: CHAN TAK KONG, YAP CHEE HONG and AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



New DBKL dog licence has the information of the pet and its owner.



DBKL faces a big challenge regarding people who feed stray dogs.

no dogs or pets, then we go with the management.

"If there is no consent letter from management, then we will not issue a licence," he added.

Dr Shariza said although there were no by-laws regulating cat ownership, it did not mean zero complaints by residents regarding nuisances caused by felines.

"We receive numerous complaints, particularly from residents in government housing schemes such as People's Housing Project (PPR).

"While there is no licensing requirement for cats, we do take action under the Local Government Act for nuisance complaints," she added.

Responsible ownership

Dr Shariza advises dog owners to apply for a licence to facilitate retrieval of their pets in case they stray and end up in the city pound.

"Regardless of whether a dog is licensed or not, if found roaming freely outside their home or unit without their owner, DBKL dog catchers are authorised to confiscate them.

"Owners bear the responsibility of managing their dogs to pre-

vent them from attacking or chasing people, defecating or urinating indiscriminately, or disturbing tied-up rubbish."

One of the challenges DBKL faced was the mess left behind by those feeding strays in housing areas, added Dr Shariza.

"Dogs tend to congregate in areas with food, attracting flies and rodents, which are health hazards.

"We receive numerous complaints about feeders dumping food and contributing to the increase in stray dog populations," she said.

"Strays often gather in specific areas and may hunt in packs, posing a potential threat to children and people."

DBKL has outsourced its dog-catching service and starting this month, dog catchers will round up strays in areas where reports have been lodged.

From January to February this year, 255 reports were lodged, resulting in 131 dogs being caught.

The dog catchers will receive RM42.50 for each adult dog caught and captured dogs would be taken to the pound near Jalan Loke Yew.

Owners have seven days to



Dr Shariza says dog ownership in Kuala Lumpur is regulated by guidelines, including for breeds that are allowed to be kept in landed and stratified properties.



Strata residents raise issue of cohabitation with pets

By BAVANI M
and SHEILA SRI PRIYA
metro@thestar.com.my

K. DIANA resides in a condominium in Petaling Jaya, Selangor where she recently welcomed an abandoned toy poodle into her home.

She claims that the well-behaved pooch poses no disturbance to her neighbours as it remains indoors.

Three months after bringing the dog home, Diana received a notice from condominium management instructing her to remove her pet.

This directive came as a result of a complaint made by a neighbour.

Subsequently, all residents with pets were given three days to comply, under threat of a RM200 fine and potential forcible removal of the animals from the premises.

The management cited its authority to enforce pet removal based on Local Government Act and Regulations, as well as Strata Management (Maintenance and Management) Regulations 2015, which stipulated the removal of pets that disturb others within three days of notice.

However, Diana noted that her management did not pursue the matter further, allowing her to continue raising her dog.

"No way am I allowing anyone to take my dog away. My dog is part of my family and it lives inside my condo."

"I don't even take it to the common area. I take my dog to the public park for a walk daily and I pick up after it too," she said.

Diana's experience highlights a broader issue faced by many in high-rise living environments over ambiguity surrounding pet ownership regulations in the Klang Valley.

Over in Kuala Lumpur, Japanese spitz owner K. Malini, who lives in a luxury condo in Jalan Duta, disagrees with the decision to allow condo management to have final say on dog ownership.

"As a resident, I find it disheartening that the local authority can relinquish the final say on dog ownership in condos to management companies."

"This decision should be governed by inclusive community decisions, not dictated by the interests of a few people," Malini said.

Resident of a walk-up apartment in Seri Petaling, Jason Loke, however, said he supported the decision to let management companies be the decision maker.

"However, it is imperative that we extend this accountability to cat owners too."

"We need to address the issue of irresponsible cat ownership that is equally crucial for fostering a safe and harmonious living environment for all residents."

Loke added that his biggest concern was communities that

insisted on feeding stray cats around an apartment complex, but turned a blind eye to the mess left behind by the felines - rotting food and indiscriminate defecation.

Realtor Shamini M, who lives in a pet-friendly apartment in Damansara Heights, says her apartment has no set rules on pet ownership.

"Our management allows residents to keep dogs and cats."

"I feel it's a reasonable decision to allow the management to have final say and tailor rules based on specific needs of the community."

"It can promote harmony in the community, provided everyone practises responsible pet ownership," she added.

Local government expert Derek Fernandez said councils did not need to interfere with matters that happened in condominiums as the management could have their own house rules.

"There is nothing in law that prohibits people from keeping dogs or cats in high-rises unless the animals cause nuisance or endanger residents," he added.

National House Buyers Association of Malaysia (HBA) honorary secretary-general Datuk Chang Kim Loong, however, said rules enforced by joint management bodies (JMBs) or management corporations (MCs) must align with local authority laws.

Local council by-laws, he said, should take precedence over house rules established by a building management.

"There should be a hierarchy where local authority laws take precedence over rules set by the building's management in the event of a dispute."

"The harmony of community living must always bow to the rule of law," he said.

Chang added that unless the



Chang says in a dispute, local council by-laws should take precedence over condominium rules.



Fernandez says the law does not prohibit condo residents from keeping dogs or cats in high-rises unless the animals are a nuisance.

pets in question were a nuisance, dangerous, posed a health risk or was in breach of local council rules as per the Strata Management Act, only then could management take action.

DBKL's new dog licence fee		
Category	Neuter status	Fee (RM)
All dogs (except restricted dogs and small breeds)	Not neutered	60
Restricted dogs	Not neutered	60
Restricted dogs	Neutered	40
Small dogs	Not neutered	40
Small dogs	Neutered	20

Source: DBKL

TheStargraphics

Dog licence requirements based on breed classification

	Small dogs > Licence required > Exemption from Dog Obedience Course > Exemption from Canine Good Citizen Certificate	
	Restricted dogs > Licence required > Mandatory Dog Obedience Course > Mandatory Canine Good Citizen Certificate	
	Prohibited Dogs > No licence issued	

Source: DBKL

TheStargraphics

reclaim them, added Dr Shariza.

After this period, DBKL will conduct an adoption campaign, charging a small fee, she said, adding that euthanasia was a last resort and carried out humanely.

"We are often compared to Istanbul, Turkiye, where the city has an excellent stray management system."

"However, Istanbul benefits from a supportive local council and an equally responsible community that works together to manage strays effectively."

Dr Shariza said Kuala Lumpur needed a responsible community that was willing to work well with the local authority.

"Feeding strays is a kind thing to do, but when it is not controlled, it becomes a nuisance."

"We hope residents can work with non-governmental organisations to trap and neuter the strays."

"It is always better to work together."

DBKL's new dog licence application is now open online.

For manual applications, you can walk in to Unit Kawalan Pest, Jabatan Kesihatan Alam Sekitar at Lot 24, Jalan Loke Yew, Kuala Lumpur.

For more information, call 03-9221 0419 or email unitkawalanpest@gmail.com



Condominium management may issue directive for the removal of animals based on complaints.

'Iconic building to be restored'

Mayor says DBKL to work with Khazanah on refurbishment

By MEGAT SYAHAR
megatsyahr@thestar.com.my

THE Prime Minister has directed for the former Federated Malay States (FMS) Survey Department building in Kuala Lumpur to be refurbished by Khazanah Nasional Berhad.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh said the land was owned by the Federal Land Commissioner.

"Khazanah had informed us that it is still in the planning process and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will collaborate with them in the work process," he said.

The FMS building, which has been abandoned for two decades, is situated at the intersection of Jalan Raja and Jalan Tun Perak along the same row as the iconic Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad.

StarMetro previously report-

"No set date yet for implementing the plan."

Datuk Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh

ed that the ceiling and wall of the building had collapsed, but confusion over ownership had delayed repairs.

Kamarulzaman said there was a recent meeting with Khazanah, but the plan was still being developed.

"The decision to refurbish exists, but there is no set date yet for implementing the plan," he said during the Teh Hijau Kuala Lumpur programme at Stadium Bola Sepak Kuala Lumpur in Bandar Tun Razak.



Kamarulzaman (centre) during the Teh Hijau Kuala Lumpur Programme in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

DBKL through Teh Hijau hosted an open house for city dwellers, featuring food from Kuala Lumpur's night market vendors.

To enhance the festive atmosphere, various Hari Raya Aidilfitri-themed competitions were held such as ketupat weaving, decorating pulut kuning, Hari Raya-themed colouring contests, Raya make-up contests, Raya fashion contests and Raya karaoke contests.

Other activities included lucky draws and a performance by local artist Bell Ngasri.

There were also Rahmah and AgroMadani sales.

StarMetro's report on April 17.



Heritage building in KL getting from bad to worse

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

A large part of the ceiling and wall of the former Federated Malay States (FMS) Survey Department building in Kuala Lumpur has collapsed, the latest in a series of structural failures at the 1910 heritage structure. The building, which is currently closed to the public, has been in a state of disrepair for years. The collapse of the ceiling and wall is the latest in a series of structural failures, including the collapse of the dome in 2010. The building is owned by the Federal Land Commissioner and is currently being managed by the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL). The collapse of the ceiling and wall is the latest in a series of structural failures, including the collapse of the dome in 2010. The building is owned by the Federal Land Commissioner and is currently being managed by the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

New area not commercially viable

Proposed relocation of Sungai Buloh nurseries leaves much to be desired

WHAT has become of the horticultural nursery relocation programme by the Perbadanan Kemajuan Pertanian Selangor (PKPS)?

The new 24.28ha nursery site in Bukit Changgang near Banting, Selangor to replace the one in Green Lane Kota Damansara, was scheduled to be completed last year.

However, apart from the initial site clearance in Bukit Changgang early last year, no other infrastructural or improvement works have taken place. The site is now overgrown with bushes and shrubs and resembles a mini-jungle.

The nursery owners, who were allotted a quarter of an acre land each, had signed the tenancy agreement and settled the relevant payments last year.

The monthly rental for the lots is RM300.

Many owners consider the Bukit Changgang location commercially unviable and too far from their present site in the Green Lane Kota Damansara in Sungai Buloh.

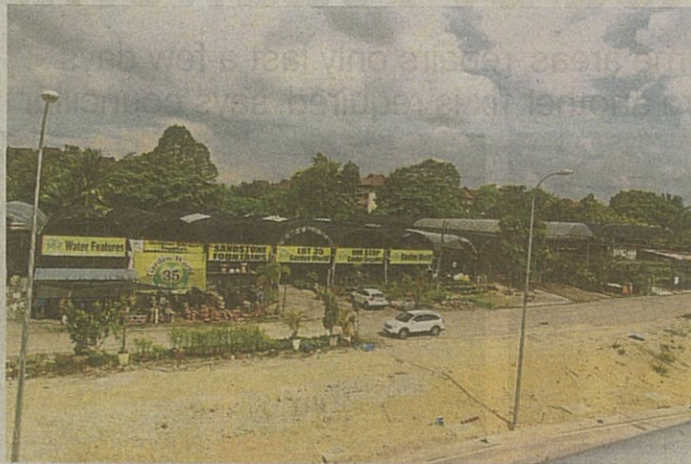
Since they had no other alternative, many of them agreed to relocate and were given a one-year temporary reprieve last year in their present site until the Bukit Changgang site is ready for occupation.

However, the PKPS and the state government have not taken any urgent steps to expedite development of the Bukit Changgang site.

Due to the long delay the nursery owners, at the existing site, are facing uncertainty and doubt and many have slowed down their business.

The area has become unkempt, some have abandoned their plots and no new investments have been made to continue their business.

The owners cannot move to the new site unless adequate infrastructure such as access roads, electricity and water connections are made.



Nurseries along Jalan Sungai Buloh are to be relocated to Banting. — Filepic

A survey also needs to be done to demarcate individual plot boundaries. The low-lying new site has also been rumoured to be prone to flooding and this has led to worries and hesitancy on the part of the nursery owners.

A better nursery site closer to Sungai Buloh will be a good option for them.

If the present site is not needed for any further road expansion, then let them stay and officially give them the permission to continue their business without being worried about any eviction.

The issue of the relocation of the nurseries has not been proactively or sympathetically handled by the authorities concerned, and this is the main reason why the once thriving horticultural business in Green Lane Kota Damansara has met a dead end.

In some countries, a nursery hub is planned in a way that it becomes a major business and tourist attraction, and earning the government substantial revenue.

The horticultural business is touted as one of the main thrusts to cope with climate change and environmental rehabilitation.

All three phases of the relocation exercise beginning in 2017 has been done haphazardly and without thought of the consequences of relocation.

Sungai Buloh is famous for its horticultural industry and such disorganised relocations could ruin the industry.

Many nursery owners in the Green Lane Nursery Centre had to close down their business.

Some were given non-existent relocation sites, some not given temporary occupation licence (TOL) and a few ended



EMAIL: metro@thestar.com.my
MAIL: The Editor, Metro Mail,
Level 3A, Menara Star, 15,
Jalan 16/11, Section 16,
46350 Petaling Jaya.

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.

up having to rent lots at a TNB transmission reserve in Petaling Jaya.

There was also a case where five nursery owners were required to make way for a slip road to a highway.

But ultimately, it was found that there was no need for them to do so.

The vacant land, comprising five lots, is now used for the dumping of rubbish and has become an unkempt brushland.

Five nursery owners have lost their livelihood.

They were promised an ex-gratia compensation, which has not been settled yet despite persistent requests.

The five nursery owners should be allowed to reclaim their now vacant lots as they have not got any replacement lots or ex-gratia payment.

The whole episode of the relocation of the nurseries smacks of indifference and poor long-term planning.

This has killed off the once vibrant and thriving Green Lane Kota Damansara horticultural business centre.

V. THOMAS
Sungai Buloh

Suspicious-looking drums spotted in Tmn Maluri

TAMAN Maluri is a suburb in Kuala Lumpur built in the 1970s.

Although very near the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX), it is adjacent to the Pandan Jaya township in Selangor.

Here, the Selangor border is closest to the city centre.

During unearthly hours when vehicles are few, it is possible to drive from Jalan Kampung Pandan, pass through Jalan Perkasa and reach the Selangor border in just two minutes.

However, motorists are likely to stop at one or more of the four traffic lights along Jalan Perkasa in Taman Maluri, Kuala Lumpur.

Those stopping at the last traffic light at the Jalan Jejaka junction may spot some rusty 45-gallon drums on the left of the road.

The drums look heavy and suspicious, giving the impression that they might contain hazardous wastes.

Instead of transporting them to an authorised secluded site for proper disposal, irresponsible persons have conveniently dumped them next to this busy road.

The five drums on the ground are in between two billboards, both with the words Kuala Lumpur Ceria (Cheerful Kuala Lumpur).

One has additional wordings – “Anugerah seni alam sejagat, menjadi kenangan abadi sepanjang hayat” (The gift of art in the universe, becoming eternal memories



Motorists stopping at the traffic light at the Jalan Jejaka junction may spot some rusty 45-gallon drums dumped on the side of the road.

throughout life).

This reminds me of a slogan – “A City of Contrasts & Diversity” with a tagline “exciting”, “surprising” and “enticing” – launched by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

Like many grand sounding vision and mission statements that are hollow, slogans can also be meaningless.

More importantly, local authorities like DBKL must always be vigilant and exercise duty of care, such as not disregarding the 45-gallon drums which have been left for months along Jalan Perkasa in Taman Maluri.

YS CHAN
Kuala Lumpur

2014/04
26

THE STAR
Tarikh: 22 APR 2024
A A 1111 2010

Potential danger posed by old trees in TTDI

THANK you for highlighting the disasters happening due to climate change, strong winds and tropical storms in the *StarMetro* report, "Several trees toppled by strong winds in KL."

With climate change, society has to be vigilant about such incidents.

I would like to point out my concerns about trees around Taman Tun Dr Ismail (TTDI) especially along Jalan Burhanuddin Helmi and Jalan Aminuddin Baki.

The TTDI housing area was developed around the 1980s, and the trees along the roads there are now at least 40 years old.

If you drive and park along these roads, you will be concerned because some of the old trees are leaning towards the main road, while the roots of some are exposed.

Bad weather could potentially cause the trees to fall.

While it is nice to have trees growing along roads to provide shade, they must be properly maintained to ensure that accidents, such as trees falling, will not happen during a big storm.

Perhaps Kuala Lumpur City Hall will look into this and take the necessary action.

"Prevention is better than cure".

A CONCERNED CITIZEN
TTDI, Kuala Lumpur

22/4/24
SK

THE STAR
Tarikh: 22 APR 2024

AI awakening

By MATT O'BRIEN

THERE'S a race underway to build artificial general intelligence (AGI), a futuristic vision of machines that are as broadly smart as humans, or at least can do many things as well as people can.

Achieving such a concept – commonly referred to as AGI – is the driving mission of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and a priority for the elite research wings of technology giants Amazon, Google, Meta and Microsoft.

It's also a cause for concern for world governments. Leading AI scientists published research in the journal *Science*, warning that unchecked AI agents with "long-term planning" skills could pose an existential risk to humanity.

But what exactly is AGI, and how will we know when it's been attained? Once on the fringe of computer science, it's now a buzzword that's being constantly redefined by those trying to make it happen.

What is AGI?

Not to be confused with the similar-sounding generative AI – which describes the AI systems behind the crop of tools that "generate" new documents, images and sounds – artificial general intelligence is a more nebulous idea.

It's not a technical term but "a serious, though ill-defined, concept", said Geoffrey Hinton, a pioneering AI scientist who's been dubbed the "Godfather of AI".

"I don't think there is agreement on what the term means," Hinton said by email. "I use it to mean AI that is at least as good as humans at nearly all of the cognitive things that humans do."

Hinton prefers a different term – superintelligence – "for AGIs that are better than humans".

A small group of early proponents of the term AGI were looking to evoke how mid-20th-century computer scientists envisioned an intelligent machine.

That was before AI research branched into subfields that advanced specialised and commercially viable versions of the technology – from face recognition to speech-recognition voice assistants like Siri and Alexa.

Mainstream AI research "turned away from the original vision of artificial intelligence, which at the beginning was pretty ambitious", said Pei Wang, a professor who teaches an AGI course at Temple University and helped organise the first AGI conference in 2008.

Putting the 'G' in AGI was a signal to those who "still want to do the big thing. We don't want to build tools. We want to build a thinking machine", Wang said.

The quest for artificial general intelligence is accelerating, as companies chase the promise of machines with cognitive abilities rivaling those of humans.



Are we at AGI yet?

Without a clear definition, it's hard to know when a company or group of researchers will have achieved AGI – or if they already have.

"Twenty years ago, I think people would have happily agreed that systems with the ability of GPT-4 or (Google's) Gemini had achieved general intelligence comparable to that of humans," Hinton said.

"Being able to answer more or less any question in a sensible way would have passed the test. But now that AI can do that, people want to change the test."

Improvements in "autoregressive" AI techniques that predict the most plausible next word in a sequence, combined with massive computing power to train those systems on troves of data, have led to impressive chatbots, but they're still not quite the AGI that many people had in mind.

Getting to AGI requires technology that can perform just as well as humans in a wide variety of tasks, including reasoning, planning and the ability to learn from experiences.

Some researchers would like to find consensus on how to measure it. It's one of the topics of an upcoming AGI workshop in Vienna, Austria – the first at a major AI research conference.

"This really needs a community's effort and attention so that mutually we can agree on some sort of classification of AGI," said workshop organiser Jiaxuan You, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

One idea is to segment it into levels in the same way that carmakers try to benchmark the path between cruise control and fully self-driving vehicles.

Others plan to figure it out on their own. San Francisco-based OpenAI has given its non-profit board of directors – whose members include a former US Treasury secretary – the responsibility of deciding when its AI systems have reached the point at which they "outperform humans at most economically valuable work".

"The board determines when we've attained AGI," says OpenAI's own explanation of its governance structure.

Such an achievement would cut off the company's biggest partner, Microsoft, from the rights to commercialise such a system since the terms of their agreements "only apply to pre-AGI technology".

Is AGI dangerous?

Hinton made global headlines last year when he quit Google and sounded a warning about AI's existen-

tial dangers. The new *Science* study published could reinforce those concerns.

Its lead author is Michael Cohen, a University of California, Berkeley, researcher who studies the "expected behaviour of generally intelligent artificial agents", particularly those competent enough to "present a real threat to us by out planning us".

Cohen made it clear in an interview that such long-term AI planning agents don't yet exist. But "they have the potential" to get more advanced as tech companies seek to combine today's chatbot technology with more deliberate planning skills using a technique known as reinforcement learning.

"Giving an advanced AI system the objective to maximise its reward and, at some point, withholding reward from it strongly incentivises the AI system to take humans out of the loop if it has the opportunity," according to the paper, whose co-authors include prominent AI scientists Joshua Bengio and Stuart Russell and law professor and former OpenAI adviser Gillian Hadfield.

"I hope we've made the case that people in government (need) to start thinking seriously about exactly what regulations we need to address this problem," Cohen said. For now, "governments only know what these companies decide to tell them".

Too legit to quit AGI?

With so much money riding on the promise of AI advances, it's no surprise that AGI is also becoming a corporate buzzword that sometimes attracts a quasi-religious fervour.

It's divided some of the tech world between those who argue it should be developed slowly and carefully and others – including venture capitalists and rapper MC Hammer – who've declared themselves part of an "accelerationist" camp.

The London-based startup DeepMind, founded in 2010 and now part of Google, was one of the first companies to explicitly set out to develop AGI. OpenAI did the same in 2015 with a safety-focused pledge.

But now it might seem that everyone else is jumping on the bandwagon. Google co-founder Sergey Brin was recently seen hanging out at a California venue called the AGI House.

At Amazon, one indicator of the new direction became apparent when the chief scientist for the voice assistant Alexa changed job titles to become the chief scientist for AGI.

While not as tangible to Wall Street as generative AI, broadcasting AGI ambitions may help recruit AI talent who have a choice in where they want to work.

In deciding between an "old-school AI institute" or one whose "goal is to build AGI" and has sufficient resources to do so, many would choose the latter, said You, the University of Illinois researcher. – AP

By CHRISTOPHER FAM
lifestyletech@thestar.com.my

NOT a day goes by without another headline proclaiming the revolutionary potential of new technological advancements.

These bold claims often come with the promise of enhancing our daily lives through innovation. However, the reality differs from the claims made.

As we celebrate Earth Day, it's important to acknowledge the environmental costs that accompany the development and deployment of technologies.

From the manufacturing processes to the energy consumption of data centres, the tech industry's innovations have a significant ecological footprint.

In response, many tech companies are actively seeking ways to reduce their environmental impact, endeavouring to marry progress with sustainability.

They invest in renewable energy, improve energy efficiency, and research less harmful materials and processes in an attempt to align their business models with eco-friendly practices.

Current challenges

According to Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU) associate professor Dr Thang Ka Fei, the growth of various technologies has been a double-edged sword.

"It is overly simplistic to assume that the environmental benefits of new technologies outweigh their environmental impact.

"Technologies such as AI (artificial intelligence), IoT (Internet of Things), and EVs (electric vehicles) are fundamentally products or services that require energy consumption and the extraction of raw materials, which can impact the natural habitats of animals and humans throughout their life cycles," he says.

In 2022, it was estimated that the tech industry as a whole used about 1,183TWh (terawatt-hours) of electricity, which is approximately 4.7% of global demand, based on a report from the World Bank.

This figure dwarfs Malaysia's electricity usage, which reportedly stood at 181.09TWh the same year, according to data from the green energy think tank Ember.

A separate report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasts that electricity consumption from data centres, AI, and the cryptocurrency sector could double by 2026.

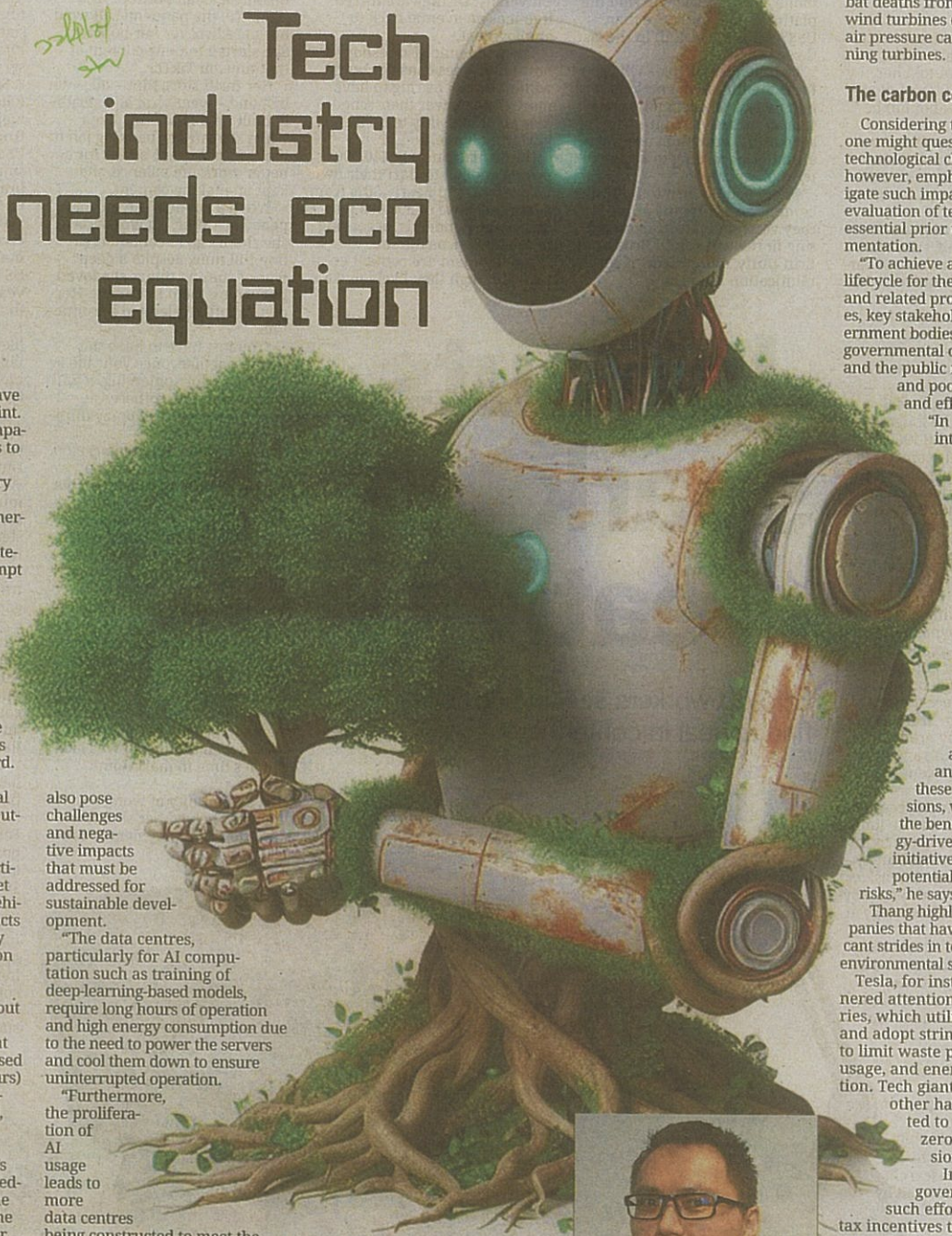
The World Bank report adds that the ICT industry has a carbon footprint of 567 million tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent), which surpasses Malaysia's output of 291.07 million tCO₂e, as reported in the 2023 Global Carbon Budget.

Thang, who is also the senior head of the school of technology at APU, highlights that there are two sides to many of the up-and-coming technologies in the sector.

"AI enables precise prediction of energy demands and resource utilisation, leading to reduced waste and lower greenhouse gas emissions across sectors like manufacturing, agriculture, and power generation.

"However, these technologies

Tech industry needs eco equation



This visual is human-created, AI-aided

also pose challenges and negative impacts that must be addressed for sustainable development.

"The data centres, particularly for AI computation such as training of deep-learning-based models, require long hours of operation and high energy consumption due to the need to power the servers and cool them down to ensure uninterrupted operation.

"Furthermore, the proliferation of AI usage leads to more data centres being constructed to meet the increasing demand," he says.

Thang adds that the shift towards cloud computing has also driven up demand for data centres, which, by their very nature, consume large amounts of energy and typically rely on fossil fuels, leading to significant greenhouse gas emissions.

Additionally, the disposal of e-waste becomes an issue when components from cloud computing are decommissioned and replaced to cope with increasing workloads.

On the topic of electric vehicles gaining traction in the automotive industry, Thang acknowledges their potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and cutting reliance on fossil fuels. However, he emphasises the importance of proceeding with caution in their adoption.

"Despite these advantages, criticisms of EVs often centre around the production of their batteries, a critical component. EV batter-

ies contain raw materials such as lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese, and graphite.

"Improper extraction of these materials can destroy natural habitats, cause water pollution, and be subject to potential human rights abuses such as child labour or poor labour practices," he says.

Even going fully into renewable energy is not without drawbacks.

"Solar and wind power is known as clean energy, which directly means that power is produced without burning fossil fuels, hence zero greenhouse gas emissions.

"However, large-scale solar power and wind farms require significant amounts of land, which may lead to deforestation and loss of habitat for living beings," he says, adding that there is also evidence of bird and

bat deaths from collisions with wind turbines due to changes in air pressure caused by the spinning turbines.

The carbon code

Considering these downsides one might question the value of technological change. Thang, however, emphasises that to mitigate such impacts, a thorough evaluation of technologies is essential prior to their implementation.

"To achieve a truly sustainable lifecycle for these technologies and related products and services, key stakeholders such as government bodies, NGOs (non-governmental organisations), and the public must collaborate and pool their resources and efforts.

"In short, while the integration of AI and IoT in environmental sustainability efforts offers tremendous opportunities, it demands a holistic approach that considers the broader societal impact, economic viability, workforce readiness and ethical considerations.

"By engaging all stakeholders and addressing these critical dimensions, we can maximise the benefits of technology-driven sustainability initiatives while mitigating potential challenges and risks," he says.

Thang highlights various companies that have taken significant strides in technology-driven environmental sustainability. Tesla, for instance, has garnered attention for its gigafactories, which utilise solar panels and adopt stringent measures to limit waste production, water usage, and energy consumption. Tech giant Google, on the other hand, has committed to reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

In Malaysia, the government support such efforts by providing tax incentives through the Green Investment Tax Allowance (GITA) and the Green Income Tax Exemption (GITE) and encouraging further investment into environmentally friendly businesses with the Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS).

Additionally, Khazanah Nasional is in the midst of creating a green investment platform aimed at drawing domestic and international capital to bolster industries like renewable energy, green building technologies, energy efficiency, and sustainable mobility ecosystems.

Thang believes Malaysia is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, as outlined in the Twelfth Malaysia Plan.

This is supported by the government's targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions and its drive to encourage government-linked companies (GLCs) to uphold its sustainability objectives.



It is overly simplistic to assume that the environmental benefits of new technologies outweigh their environmental impact.

Thang Ka Fei

WHEN the first synthetic polymer, celluloid, was invented in 1869, it was envisioned as a more nature-friendly substitute for ivory and tortoiseshell – both materials sourced from hunting of wild animals.

Indeed, plastics have become one of mankind's most ubiquitous and flexible materials, opening up revolutionary possibilities in manufacturing.

However, more than a century and a half on, plastic pollution is now a prominent environmental challenge.

We regularly dispose of large volumes of plastics which can remain in our environment for centuries, with plastic bottles alone taking up to 450 years to decompose in a landfill.

Plastics that are not properly disposed of also sadly often end up in oceans, posing a threat to marine environments.

In fact, plastic waste makes up 80% of all marine pollution, with as much as 10 million tonnes ending up in the ocean each year.

There is also a growing concern about chemicals such as bisphenol A (BPA) leaking into ecosystems and human food sources.

Plastics are undoubtedly a critical part of modern life. Yet with plastic production expected to double to 700 million metric tonnes globally by 2040, managing its use and mitigating its impacts is vital in Malaysia and around the world.

Malaysia's plastic predicament

Malaysia is no stranger to plastics – it is a major industrial player, consumer and recycler of plastics.

More than one million tonnes of plastic waste is generated in Malaysia annually, according to a 2021 estimate by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), yet overall recycling rates are just 33% – stubbornly below the 40% targeted nationally by 2025.

What's more, Malaysia's extensive coastline and high rainfall rates make it extremely susceptible to marine pollution.

A 2023 academic paper supported by nonprofit organisation The Ocean Cleanup, ranked Malaysia as the third-largest contributor to plastic waste in the oceans.

Malaysia's plastic pollution problem is not just an environmental challenge, but also a missed opportunity for economic value creation.

The World Bank estimated in a 2021 report that 81% of the material value of key plastic resins in Malaysia is lost due to plastics being discarded rather than recycled. This equates to approximately USD1.1bil lost value annually.

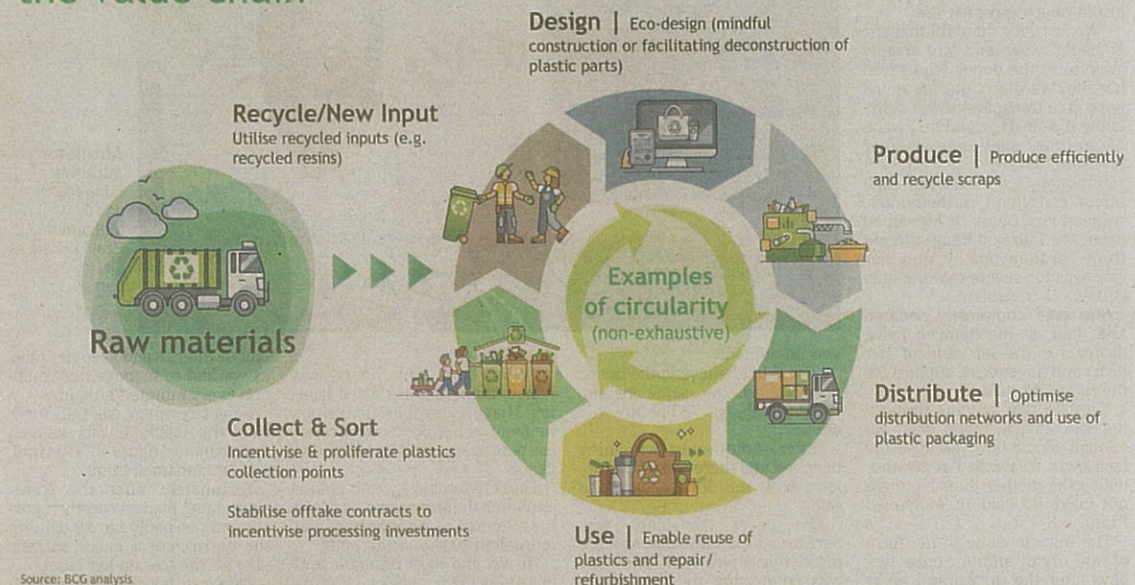
Improving recycling rates will help recover these valuable resins and also boost a plastics recycling industry which was valued at a sizeable RM4.5bil as of 2019, according to the Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association (MPMA).

Numerous efforts are already underway to tackle Malaysia's plastic pollution challenge. The Ministry of Natural

EARTH DAY: GOING FULL CIRCLE WITH PLASTIC

With collective commitment and creativity, we can advance circularity in plastics for Malaysia, according to Boston Consulting Group

Circularity in plastics can be advanced at every stage of the value chain



Source: BCG analysis

Efforts to promote plastics circularity can span the entirety of the value chain, encompassing several stages.

Resources (NRES) has developed the comprehensive Malaysia Plastics Sustainability Roadmap 2021-2030, which sets targets for eliminating single-use plastics and achieving a plastic packaging recycling rate of 25% by 2025.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian government has announced a total ban on plastic bags by 2025.

Furthermore, Malaysia is piloting a voluntary extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme for packaging, advocating for producers to take responsibility for end-of-life collection and recycling of consumer packaging waste.

Technology is also playing a role, with PETRONAS aiming to construct Asia's largest advanced chemical recycling plant in Johor, which targets a capacity of 33 kilotonnes per annum by 2026.

Chemical recycling is critical, as it involves breaking down plastics into their base chemical forms, a process that helps recycle certain types of hard-to-recycle plastics.

There are challenges in embedding enhanced plastics circularity which must be acknowledged.

Recycled plastics are typically more expensive, costing at least 10% to 20% more than virgin plastics, which can hinder adoption.

There is also poor awareness among manufacturers and con-

sumers, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), on circularity and alternatives to virgin plastics.

While investors may be interested in funding plastic recycling, this interest may come with the condition of importing waste for feedstock. This can pose the risk of foreign plastic waste being dumped in the country.

The ubiquitous nature of plastics is also part of the challenge. These materials enable us to consume more cheaply and conveniently – being widely utilised in fast-fashion, e-commerce and manufacturing components – and so it takes a concerted effort to rethink our reliance on them.

Complex challenge, comprehensive solution

As the plastics challenge is multifaceted, so too are the solutions required. They will necessitate holistic, cross-stakeholder collaboration.

Driving a circular economy in plastics goes beyond recycling. Initiatives to advance plastics circularity can be implemented across different stages of the value chain – design, produce, distribute, use, collect and sort, and recycle or new input.

There are many global examples of efforts to address this value chain which Malaysia can learn from.

At a national level, moving towards a mandatory EPR scheme for plastics to raise domestic recycling rates and providing feedstock for recycling without imports is key. Vietnam, for example, implemented mandatory EPR in 2021.

Minimum recycling content requirements could also be implemented for selected products.

In 2023, the EU introduced legislation that all PET bottles must incorporate a minimum 2% recycled content by 2025.

Introducing similar requirements in Malaysia can not only generate demand for recycled inputs to catalyse a circular economy, but will also ensure manufacturers remain competitive in export markets which have similar restrictions.

Industry stakeholders could invest in and explore new technologies such as advanced chemical recycling, as well as bioplastics made with sustainable biomass or with biodegradable characteristics.

The UK, for example, committed 3.2 million pounds (RM19,058,470) to innovations in plastic packaging such as plant-based biodegradable polymers in a major 2023 funding announcement.

Doing our part at home

Individual Malaysians also have a role to play.

We can actively sort plastic waste for recycling to improve recycling efficiency. We can consider alternatives to single-use plastics such as reusable cups and bags. We can also choose to support businesses that are actively addressing plastic sustainability issues, either through eco-design processes, sustainable packaging use or the use of recycled inputs.

Everyone can contribute to the effort to ensure that plastics can continue to serve the needs of society without damaging our planet.

This would be a more sustainable solution – returning to the original intention that plastics would reduce harm to nature, not amplify it.

As we look to Earth Day this year, we can challenge ourselves to transition from “plastics versus the planet” to an approach exemplified by “plastics for the planet”.

The possibility is there, all it takes is the willpower, the creativity, and the collaboration and commitment to advance circularity in plastics for Malaysia.

Article by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) Malaysia head Nurlin Mohd Salleh, BCG managing director and partner Arun Rajamani, and principal Kar Min Lim.

Recipe for reducing food waste

Companies are using artificial intelligence to better understand and reduce food waste, offering tech solutions that help supermarkets and restaurants keep tabs on what gets thrown away.

By SÓMINI SENGUPTA

A HOTEL chain installs a camera in its trash bins to spy on what guests are tossing. Turns out its breakfast croissants are too big. Many are going to go to waste – along with profits.

A supermarket can suddenly see, hidden in its own sales data, that yellow onions aren't selling as fast as red onions and are more likely to be trashed.

The brains behind both of these efforts: Artificial intelligence.

It's part of an emerging industry that's trying to cash in on a senseless human problem: The huge amount of uneaten food that goes from supermarkets and restaurants to the dumpster. Much of that, if it's not composted, ends up in landfills where it decays, sending potent planet-warming greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Enter a new business opportunity. A company called Winnow has developed an AI tool that spies on restaurant garbage. Another company, Afresh, digests supermarket data to look for wasteful mismatches between what a store is stocking and what people are buying.

AI has a dirty environmental footprint of its own. Crunching huge amounts of data requires huge amounts of electricity.

Nor can AI (yet) alter what the human brain has come to expect in modern, industrial societies: an

abundance of fresh avocados at the supermarket all year, an ever-expanding variety of tiny plastic yoghurt cups, and heaving platters of nachos on happy hour menus.

Food waste is a big problem

The two companies are part of an emerging industry trying to address a problem created by the modern food industry. In the United States, a third of the food that's grown is never eaten.

Globally, one billion metric tonnes of food went to waste in 2022, according to the UN Environment Program.

Food waste accounts for 8% to 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, roughly equal to emissions from aviation and shipping combined.

"It's a problem that literally gets swept away," said Marc Zornes, the founder of Winnow, which works with restaurants, hotels and institutional caterers.

Adding to the problem: confusing "best by" and "sell by" labels on food products that result in perfectly edible foods going into the trash.

Some supermarkets make a dent

Signs of progress are emerging from a group of supermarket chains that voluntarily pledged to reduce food waste in their operations in the Western US and Canada.

Between 2019 and 2022, the eight chains that are a part of the Pacific Coast Food Waste Commitment Project reported a 25% decline in their total volumes of unsold food.

They also reported donating more

food to charities and sending more of their waste to compost facilities, which are scarce, instead of landfills.

"It demonstrates that the national goal to cut food waste in half by 2030 may, in fact, be possible, but we would need dramatically more action across all food-system sectors for that to happen," said Dana Gunders, head of Refed, a research and advocacy group that tracks the voluntary project's data.

In the US, there are many new tools to help retailers cut waste. Some startups, like Apeel and Mori, offer coatings for fresh produce so it doesn't spoil as fast.

An app called *Flashfood* connects customers to discounted foods at grocery stores, similar to *Too Good to Go*, which connects customers to restaurants and grocers selling excess food at a discount.

How many eggs this week?

Afresh's technology grinds around six years of sales data on every product in the fresh foods section of a grocery store it works with. Its AI tool can divine when people buy avocados and at what price.

It can mash that up with data on how quickly avocados spoil and, in turn, advise how many avocados to stock.

If Easter egg painting season traditionally brings more egg sales, it can calculate how many more cases of eggs the store should order and also how many more bell peppers because shoppers usually make omelettes with the extra eggs at home.

While an experienced store manager would likely know this, said Matt Schwartz, co-founder of Afresh, the AI would offer more precise information about many more products.

It could recommend, for instance, that the store manager order 105 cases of eggs the week before Easter rather than 110. "Every one case matters," he said.

Also, Suzanne Long, the sustainability chief for Albertson's, which uses Afresh technology, remarked that experienced store managers are increasingly rare. "What the AI is doing is giving us the preciseness. Not just 'I need to order onion' but 'this type of onion,'" she said.

Long said the chain has reduced food waste but declined to say by how much.

This robot does not dumpster dive

Winnow installs cameras above garbage bins in restaurant kitchens. The images are fed into an algorithm that can tell the difference between a half-pan of lasagna (valuable) and a banana peel (not so much). A group of Hilton Hotels that rolled out the tool recently learned that many of its breakfast pastries were too big – and also that baked beans were commonly left unfinished.

Refed, the research group, found in its 2022 estimates that 70% of wasted food at restaurants is food that's left on the plate, signalling a need to reconsider portion sizes.

Zornes works mainly with hotels and cafeterias. He estimates restaurants waste between 5% and 15% of the food they buy. "This is an obvious problem everyone knows about," Zornes said. "It's clearly a problem we're not fixing." – The New York Times



Photo:
Freepik

Oleh Ruwaida Md Zain
am@hmetro.com.my

Shah Alam

Tindakan segelintir pemilik premis perniagaan di daerah ini membina tanjakan (*ramp*) haram di hadapan atau belakang premis mengundang pelbagai masalah terutama kekurangan tempat letak kenderaan.

Ia bukan isu baharu di daerah ini namun kedegilan peniaga yang membina untuk kemudahan sendiri dianggap terlalu mementingkan diri dan tidak bertanggungjawab.

Binaan kekal atau mudah alih sebegini juga tidak adil kepada orang awam yang mahu meletak kenderaan disebabkan petak parkir sudah 'dicop' pemilik bangunan.

Persoalan timbul apabila ada tanjakan yang dibina itu dicat merah seolah-olah petak yang sudah disewa daripada Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA), sedangkan binaannya semeronon yang mendatangkan risiko kerosakan pada kenderaan.

Antara kawasan yang banyak binaan haram itu adalah di Pusat Komersial Seksyen 7 yang menurut penduduk dikenali Saharuddin Lin, 59, ia suatu masalah besar apabila kemudahan tempat letak kenderaan untuk penduduk berkurangan.

"Kawasan ini terdapat kira-kira 1,280 unit rumah di tingkat atas dengan kedai (di aras bawah) cuma 200 unit sahaja. Tetapi mereka (peniaga) mendominasi petak parkir...bengkel dan kedai cuci kenderaan antaranya membina tanjakan haram sesuka hati.

"Jika aduan dibuat dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) mengambil tindakan (biasanya sebelah pagi atau tengah hari), pada petang pemilik premis ini akan simen kembali tanjakan itu dan meneruskan operasi seperti biasa.

"Ini menjadi masalah kerana petak parkir sedia terhad dan kawasan ini pula lokasi tumpuan. Ramai pelajar institusi pengajian tinggi awam (IPTA) tinggal di sini. Ditambah lagi dengan adanya tanjakan haram, ia menjadikan petak parkir semakin terhad," katanya.

Petak parkir 'dicop' pemilik bangunan!

tm 22/4 (MBSA)

Tuan punya premis di Pusat Komersial Seksyen 7 Shah Alam bertindak bina tanjakan haram di depan atau belakang premis



ANTARA operasi membuang tanjakan haram yang dijalankan MBSA.

Saharuddin berharap PBT mengambil tindakan yang lebih tegas kepada peniaga yang seolah tidak takut melanggar peraturan, termasuk dengan me-

nyita perniagaan mereka. "PBT perlu buat rondaan berkala. Kadang status aduan dalam e-Aduan MBSA berstatus selesai, sedangkan hakikatnya ma-

salah tidak pernah selesai," katanya.

Seorang lagi penduduk, Elisa Ali, 42, mempersoalkan status cat merah yang ditandakan pada tanjakan

untuk menandakan petak parkir yang sudah disewa kepada peniaga.

Katanya, dia tiada masalah sekiranya petak parkir itu benar-benar dise-



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Saharuddin Lin

wakan namun yang menjadi persoalan adalah peniaga yang sengaja berbuat demikian untuk 'cop' parkir secara haram.

"Ada yang mendakwa terdapat pemilik premis yang tidak menyewa pun petak parkir dengan MBSA, tetapi membina tanjakan secara haram dan mengecat dengan cat merah.

"Jadi, bagaimana kami sebagai orang awam tahu status 'parkir sewa' betul-betul dengan kebenaran MBSA? Kita tahu parkir garisan kuning adalah parkir terbuka...tapi yang ber-cat merah ini bagaimana?" katanya.

Wanita itu menyifatkan tindakan peningkatkan diri peniaga hanya menyusahkan penduduk apabila mereka terpaksa meletak kenderaan di tempat jauh yang berbahaya pada waktu malam atau ketika hujan.

Dia juga berharap MBSA mengambil tindakan sewajarnya dalam mengekang masalah itu dan memastikan ia tidak berulang.

Ikuti penjelasan pihak berkuasa berhubung isu ini dalam terbitan Harian Metro esok.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 22 APR 2024

DBKL bakal tunda kereta buruk, tersadai

Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) akan memulakan operasi penguatkuasaan bagi menunda kereta buruk dan tersadai di Perumahan Awam (PA) serta Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) sebagai langkah mengatasi masalah kekurangan parkir.

Pengarah Eksekutif Pembangunan Sosio-Ekonomi DBKL, Ismadi Sakirin berkata, depoh penyimpanan terbaharu di Pantai Dalam dapat menampung kemudahan di lokasi sedia ada iaitu di Depoh Simpanan Tunda Kenderaan DBKL.

Menurutnya, inisiatif itu sebahagian daripada tindakan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) terbabit bagi menyelesaikan isu parkir tidak mencukupi di kawasan perumahan itu.

"Masalah kereta buruk tersadai ini satu lagi berpunca daripada sikap pen-

duduk di mana kadang kala apabila saya turun pandang tengok ada (kereta sudah) tinggal rangka.

"Kita akui memang salah satu faktornya kereta buruk tersadai tidak dapat diangkut kerana depoh penyimpanan terhad, tetapi satu tapak baharu di Pantai Dalam akan siap, Insya-Allah kita beroperasi selepas Aidilfitri ini.

"Sebaik beroperasi kelak, kita akan kuat kuasakan. Jadi ini salah satu cara yang kita akan tangani bagi mengurangkan masalah parkir," katanya.

Katanya, pihaknya tiada perancangan untuk menambah jumlah parkir bertingkat sedia ada.

"Selain perlu mengam- bil kira kos dan kesesuaian tapak, kita tidak tambah parkir bertingkat kerana melihat kurang sambutan dengan kadar penggunaan hanya mencapai 40 hingga 60 peratus saja," katanya.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 22 APR 2024

Ringgit dijangka kekal paras semasa

Didagang sekitar RM4.78
berbanding dolar AS
pada minggu ini

KUALA LUMPUR

Ringgit mungkin diniagakan dalam julat yang sama sekitar RM4.78 berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) minggu ini, memandangkan situasi di Asia Barat akan terus dipantau pelabur, kata penganalisis.

Ketua Ahli Ekonomi Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd, Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid berkata, sebarang bentuk peningkatan ketegangan akan menyebabkan permintaan yang lebih tinggi terhadap dolar AS.

"Justeru, ringgit dijangka kekal pada paras semasa minggu depan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pada masa sama, pasaran akan meneliti pengukur inflasi pilihan Rizab Persekutuan AS (Fed) iaitu indeks harga perbelanjaan penggunaan peribadi (PCE).

"Nampaknya kenyataan teori mengenai pengurangan kadar faedah semakin hilang daya tarikannya kerana inflasi dijangka kekal tinggi sejajar dengan keadaan pasaran buruh

yang stabil," katanya.

Sementara itu, penyelidikan oleh Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd menjelaskan prospek pertumbuhan yang stabil dan sokongan berterusan pihak berkuasa mungkin membantu mengekalkan ringgit yang stabil.

Secara teknikal, AS\$/RM dijangka berubah neutral kepada menurun minggu depan, dengan pasangan mata wang itu mungkin didagangkan hampir purata pergerakan eksponen (EMA) lima hari pada 4.78, tambahnya.

"Unit tempatan boleh mengukuh berbanding dolar AS jika sentimen risiko bertambah baik, dengan sokongan serta-merta pada 4.781," menurutnya.

Pada 15 April, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) menyatakan pihaknya bersedia untuk menggunakan instrumen yang ada bagi memastikan pasaran kewangan Malaysia kekal teratur dan terus berfungsi secara cekap dalam keadaan ketegangan geopolitik yang berterusan.

Pada asas Jumaat ke Jumaat, ringgit susut kepada 4.7810/7855 berbanding dolar AS daripada 4.7680/7730 minggu lepas.

Unit domestik didagangkan tinggi kebanyakannya berbanding beberapa mata wang utama lain, disokong oleh lantunan teknikal selepas penyusutan tiga hari dan juga didorong oleh sentimen positif susulan unjuran

awal Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) Malaysia yang lebih baik berbanding jangkaan.

Menurut Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM), ekonomi Malaysia diunjurkan berkembang 3.9 peratus pada suku pertama 2024 berdasarkan jangkaan awal Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) berbanding 3.0 peratus pada suku keempat 2023, diterajui sektor perkhidmatan.

Ringgit meningkat berbanding yen Jepun kepada 3.0947/0978 daripada 3.1098/1133 minggu lepas, dan naik berbanding pound British kepada 5.9533/9589 daripada 5.9562/9624.

Walau bagaimanapun, unit domestik susut berbanding euro kepada 5.0961/1009 daripada 5.0808/0861.

Ringgit diniagakan tinggi berbanding mata wang negara Asean lain kecuali dolar Singapura.

Unit tempatan meningkat berbanding baht Thailand kepada 12.9668/9847 daripada 13.0831/13.1036 pada Jumaat minggu lepas dan tinggi berbanding peso Filipina kepada 8.30/8.31 daripada 8.43/8.44.

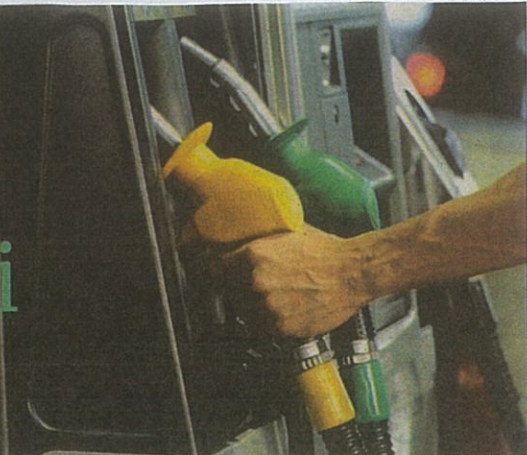
Ringgit lebih kukuh berbanding rupiah Indonesia kepada 293.9/294.4 daripada 300.8/301.3 pada Jumaat minggu lepas namun, rendah berbanding dolar Singapura kepada 3.5113/5149 daripada 3.5090/5129.

- Bernama

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 22 APR 2024.....

BH
22/4

Impak positif rasionalisasi subsidi **dirasai** **tahun depan**



**Kedudukan fiskal
negara diunjur
lebih kukuh
tambah keyakinan
pelabur**

Oleh Mahanum Abdul Aziz
mahanum_aziz@bh.com.my

Pelaksanaan inisiatif rasionalisasi subsidi meskipun memberi kesan kepada penggunaan agregat, namun impak positif program itu dijangka dirasai tahun depan dengan kedudukan fiskal negara diunjurkan lebih kukuh, demikian menurut penganalisis.

Justeru, perkembangan berkenaan dijangka mengubah sentimen pelabur yang akan lebih berkeyakinan terhadap pasaran tempatan pada separuh kedua tahun ini.

Pasukan penyelidik pasaran BIMB Securities Research dalam

satu nota penyelidikan berkata, rakyat harus melihat rasionalisasi subsidi dari kaca mata kerajaan yang perlu memperbetulkan penyelewengan dalam ekonomi.

"Memberikan subsidi kepada barangan keperluan adalah negatif kepada ekonomi walaupun kita pengeluar bersih minyak kerana kerajaan perlu berdepan ketirisan hasil dan pembaziran.

"Dengan itu, kerajaan menyasar untuk melaksanakan inisiatif rasionalisasi subsidi merangkumi barangan seperti petrol, diesel dan telur ayam, selepas melakukannya terhadap barangan seperti ayam (Oktober 2023) dan elektrik (Januari 2024).

"Kami bimbang seandainya kerajaan menangguh atau lebih buruk lagi membatalkan sepele pelaksanaan, ini akan menjejaskan keyakinan pelabur," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, BIMB Securities Research menjangkakan usaha pembaharuan yang dilaksanakan kerajaan pada 2024 akan membuahkan hasil tahun depan.

Ia berkata, dengan jangkaan

prospek yang lebih cerah 2025 berikutan kejelasan yang lebih baik mengenai hala tuju dasar Amerika Syarikat (AS) dan kedudukan fiskal Malaysia yang jauh lebih mantap menjadi pemacu yang akan menggembirakan pelabur.

Katanya, defisit fiskal berkeungkinan berada dalam lingkungan kira-kira 3 peratus pada 2025 berikutan pelaksanaan inisiatif rasionalisasi subsidi.

Malah jelasnya, gabungan pelbagai faktor juga akan memacu ringgit lebih tinggi, yang dijangka merapatkan jurang mata wang tempatan itu terhadap nilai saksamanya.

"Kami sentiasa mengekalkan nilai saksama ringgit pada RM4.20 hingga RM4.30 setiap dolar AS dalam jangka masa panjang.

"Risiko utama ialah perang besar-besaran di Asia Barat, peningkatan semula inflasi AS berterusan dan kesan lebih besar daripada jangkaan terhadap penggunaan agregat berikutan inisiatif rasionalisasi subsidi," katanya.

BIMB Securities Research berkata, keputusan tidak menentu Pi-

lihan Raya Presiden AS juga boleh memberi kesan.

Laluan dasar AS jadi penentu

Mengulas sentimen terhadap pasaran tempatan bagi sepanjang 2024, pasukan penyelidik BIMB Securities Research itu menambah, sentimen sepanjang tahun ini akan kekal ditentukan oleh beberapa faktor utama, terutamanya laluan dasar AS.

Ia berkata, tempoh masa AS akan mula menormalkan Kadar Dana Persekutuan (FFR) akan kekal sebagai topik hangat diperkatakan hingga ke separuh kedua tahun ini.

"Dengan inflasi AS yang kekal 'degil', mencecah 3.5 peratus pada Mac berbanding 3.2 peratus pada Februari dan 3.1 peratus Januari yang agak jauh berbanding sasaran bank pusat negara itu sebanyak kira-kira 2 peratus, akan muncul sebagai halangan terbesar bagi pasaran ekuiti global.

"Ini juga bermakna dolar AS akan terus menguasai sehingga terdapat bukti jelas menunjukkan inflasi AS mulai menurun," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
22 APR 2024
Tarikh.....

Ancaman teknik tipu wajah jadi isu global

Kuala Lumpur: Negara memerlukan satu peraturan atau undang-undang khusus bagi mengawal selia teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) berikutan kewujudan pelbagai ancaman akibat salah guna cabang teknologi itu seperti *deepfake*.

Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Komersial Bukit Aman, Datuk Seri Ramli Mohamed Yoosuf, berkata isu *deepfake* yang disalah guna sebagai alat jenayah dan manipulasi konten digital untuk tujuan jahat sudah menjadi isu global dan semua pihak berusaha mencari kaedah terbaik menangani isu itu.

Katanya, kecanggihan teknologi AI yang semakin pesat mutakhir ini melahirkan media sintetik seperti *deepfake* dan perkara itu jelas mengundang ma-

salah apabila ia disalah guna untuk tujuan jahat.

"Sememangnya ada keperluan pengubalan undang-undang khusus untuk mengawal selia teknologi AI kerana yang sedia ada tidak memadai.

"Dalam menangani landskap baharu terutama era AI, sudah tentu undang-undang sedia ada tidak memadai.

"Kesatuan Eropah (EU), umpamanya, sudah pun ada undang-undang khusus untuk AI.

"Jika tiada undang-undang khusus mengenai AI, kita

khuatir penguatkuasaan akan menjadi tidak cekap dan berkesan dalam menghadapi cabaran AI ini.

"Beberapa agensi yang bertanggungjawab dalam kerajaan sedang melihat perkara ini dengan serius," katanya kepada

BH semalam.

Untuk rekod, Parlimen Kesatuan Eropah pada 13 Mac lalu meluluskan satu set peraturan penting pertama di dunia untuk mengawal selia AI.

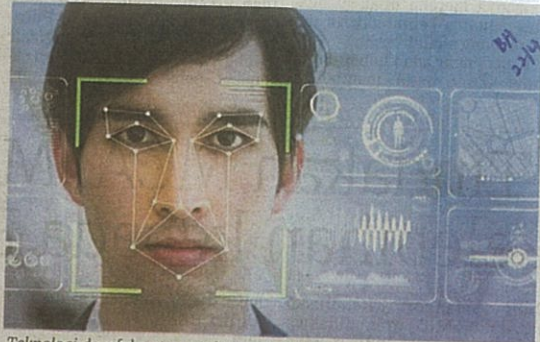
Peraturan itu dijangka dikuatkuasakan akhir Mei ini, selepas lulus semakan terakhir dan mendapat sokongan daripada Majlis Eropah.

Sebelum ini, timbul kebimbangan dalam kalangan negara ahli EU mengenai salah guna *deepfake* menjelang pilihan raya penting beberapa negara EU sebentar tahun ini.

Ramli berkata teknik *deepfake* menjadi ancaman terutama membabitkan hal ehwal politik negara, perbankan dan industri hiburan.

"Sebagai contoh, dalam isu *deepfake* paling menggemparkan membabitkan artis Amerika Syarikat, Taylor Swift baru-baru ini.

"Pada ketika ini juga, kebanyakan negara menghadapi pi-



Teknologi *deepfake* atau penipuan wajah dan perisian hasad dijana AI boleh dibeli dari laman sesawang gelap. (Foto hiasan)

lihan raya umum, *deepfake* yang membabitkan ahli politik juga semakin rencam," katanya.

Laporan salah guna *deepfake*

Ramli berkata, pihaknya menerima beberapa laporan berkait isu salah guna *deepfake* dengan kes terbaharu membabitkan kes penipuan tawaran pelaburan yang menyalahgunakan suara individu tertentu.

"Kita jangkakan mungkin akan ada lagi laporan serupa membabitkan personaliti tertentu. Sekiranya ada laporan, kita akan siasat.

"Sekiranya laporan (kes) itu memerlukan kepakaran luar, kita akan cuba dapatkan bantuan pihak yang ada kepakaran.

"Memang diakui kepakaran forensik teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi (ICT) yang mana memang sangat diperlukan dalam konteks siasatan pada masa mendatang.

"Justeru, kita sedang mempertingkatkan pengetahuan pegawai kita dari segi pengetahuan undang-undang, perkembangan jenayah global melalui seminar latihan dan sebagainya," katanya.

KDNK suku pertama cenderung berkembang 4.2 peratus

RHB Investment Bank Bhd mengunjurkan pertumbuhan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) Malaysia berada pada kecenderungan meningkat ke arah 4.2 peratus tahun ke tahun bagi suku pertama ini.

Data KDNK dijadual dikeluarkan pada 17 Mei 2024.

Unjuran RHB Investment itu lebih tinggi daripada jangkaan 3.9 peratus oleh Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM).

"Petunjuk utama komposit kami, RHB-LEI (MY), memperlihatkan pertumbuhan ekonomi Malaysia kekal disokong sektor berorientasikan eksport seperti elektrik dan elektronik (E&E), tenaga dan barangan logam," jelasnya dalam satu nota penyelidikan.

Bank pelaburan itu mengekalkan unjuran KDNK Malaysia tahun ini pada 4.6 peratus memandangkan jangkaan pertumbuhan suku pertama lebih perlahan berbanding jangkaan tidak mungkin menjejaskan unjuran ekonomi 2024 yang optimistik.

Ini memandangkan momentum eksport dan pengeluaran perindustrian mula meningkat, kenaikan yang berpotensi dalam data makroekonomi utama bagi Mac dan kesan bermusim data Februari susulan hari bekerja yang lebih singkat.

"Kami terus mendapati keyakinan domestik semakin bertambah baik dengan Indeks Pengurusan Pembelian (IPP) lebih positif, import barangan modal dan barangan perantara teguh ser-

ta peningkatan keyakinan perniagaan dan pengguna," katanya.

Sementara itu, cabang penyelidikan MIDF Amanah Investment Bank Bhd pula mengunjurkan ekonomi Malaysia berkembang 3.9 peratus tahun ke tahun pada suku pertama 2024, pertumbuhan paling pesat dalam tempoh empat sukuan.

"Pertumbuhan secara relatifnya lebih baik daripada jangkaan walaupun berada di bawah 4.1 peratus tahun ke tahun seperti diunjur konsensus pasaran," tambahnya.

Berdasarkan momentum pertumbuhan yang bertambah baik dan jangkaan pemulihan permintaan luar, MIDF Amanah mengekalkan unjurannya iaitu KDNK Malaysia akan meningkat kepa-

da 4.7 peratus tahun ini.

"Selain pertumbuhan mampan dari segi permintaan domestik, kami menjangka pertumbuhan KDNK lebih kukuh disokong aktiviti pembuatan global yang semakin baik dan permintaan kian meningkat dari China dan Amerika Syarikat (AS).

"Selain itu, pemulihan perdagangan E&E juga menyokong pemulihan perdagangan luar tahun ini," tambahnya.

Namun, cabang penyelidikan MIDF Amanah mengambil pendekatan berhati-hati mengenai perkembangan luar yang boleh mengekang pemulihan perdagangan luar.

"Ini termasuk risiko negatif seperti pertumbuhan lembap di China, peningkatan ketegangan

geopolitik seterusnya di Asia Barat dan risiko permintaan akhir yang lemah daripada pasaran maju disebabkan kos pinjaman tinggi," menurutnya.

Dalam pada itu, CIMB Investment Bank Bhd menjangkakan pemulihan eksport E&E, ketibaan pelancong lebih tinggi, daya tahan permintaan domestik disokong pertumbuhan pelaburan lebih kukuh serta permulaan kesan asas rendah, meningkatkan lagi pertumbuhan Malaysia pada suku akan datang.

"Kami mengekalkan unjuran 2024 kami pada 4.9 peratus bagi pertumbuhan KDNK dan 3 peratus untuk Kadar Dasar Semalaman (OPR)," jelasnya menerusi penyelidikan perbendaharaan dan pasaran.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 22 APR 2024

Bursa tunggu pemangkin baharu

Indeks dijangka terus catat pergerakan kecil minggu ini

Ulasan Pasaran

Bursa Malaysia dijangka tidak banyak berubah minggu ini berikutan peningkatan risiko pasaran, turun naik klan ketara dalam pasaran global dan ketegangan geopolitik.

Naib Presiden Penyelidikan Ekuiti Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd, Thong Pak Leng menjangkakan indeks penanda aras terus mencatatkan pergerakan kecil sehingga pemangkin baharu muncul.

"Kami menasihati pelabur berhati-hati memandangkan peningkatan risiko dalam pasaran global.

"Kami menjangkakan indeks penanda aras memasuki fasa tidak banyak berubah dan mewujudkan asas dalam jangka masa pendek hingga pertengahan.

"Bagaimanapun, penutupan dagangan di bawah Purata Pergerakan Eksponen 50 hari (EMA) boleh menunjukkan potensi kelemahan akan datang," katanya.

Pak Leng berkata, pihaknya menjangkakan FBM KLCI turun naik dalam julat 1,528 hingga 1,560 minggu ini dengan sokongan sementara 1,520, diikuti 1,508 mata.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Urusan SPI Asset Management, Stephen Innes mengunjurkan bursa tempatan dalam sentimen berhati-hati dengan sedikit kecenderungan positif susulan data

ekonomi Malaysia terkini.

Menurut Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM), ekonomi Malaysia diunjurkan berkembang 3.9 peratus pada suku pertama 2024 berdasarkan jangkaan awal Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) berbanding 3 peratus pada suku sebelumnya, diterajui sektor perkhidmatan.

Beliau berkata, ekonomi Malaysia pulih dan menandakan pertumbuhan paling kukuh dalam setahun, selain menunjukkan pemulihan yang semakin baik.

Pasaran kekal terganggu

"Walaupun data tempatan yang positif ini boleh mendorong sedikit momentum menaik, kemungkinan pasaran kekal terganggu dengan risiko Asia Barat dalam keadaan jangkaan kadar faedah tinggi berterusan oleh Rizab Persekutuan Amerika Syarikat.

"Ini berpotensi mengekang sebarang dorongan untuk pergerakan menaik dalam pasaran," katanya.

Innes berkata, tumpuan kini beralih kepada data KDNK suku pertama bagi AS yang dikeluarkan minggu ini.

Pada asas Jumaat ke Jumaat, FBM KLCI susut 3.47 mata kepada 1,547.57 daripada 1,551.04 minggu sebelumnya.

Di papan indeks, Indeks FBM Emas susut 101.75 mata kepada 11,596.07; Indeks FBM 70 merosot 334.18 mata kepada 16,058.39; Indeks FBMT 100 kurang 78.97 mata kepada 11,247.95; Indeks FBM Emas Syariah turun 93.12 mata kepada 11,769.87 dan Indeks FBM ACE menguncup 241.14 mata kepada 4,858.98.

Mengikut sektor, Indeks Perladangan susut 95.04 mata kepada 7,375.65; Indeks Produk dan

Perkhidmatan Perindustrian turun 0.17 mata kepada 184.49; Indeks Perkhidmatan Kewangan merosot 153.02 mata kepada 17,118.78, namun Indeks Tenaga meningkat 0.10 mata kepada 969.19.

Jumlah dagangan mingguan melonjak kepada 21.21 bilion unit bernilai RM15.66 bilion daripada 11.31 bilion unit bernilai RM7.39 bilion pada minggu lepas.

Jumlah dagangan Pasaran Utama meningkat kepada 12.51 bilion saham bernilai RM13.95 bilion daripada 5.96 bilion saham bernilai RM6.39 bilion.

Jumlah dagangan waran pula naik kepada 5.38 bilion unit bernilai RM662.45 juta daripada 3.14 bilion unit bernilai RM354.47 juta.

Jumlah dagangan Pasaran ACE sebanyak 3.27 bilion saham bernilai RM1.04 bilion berbanding 2.17 bilion saham bernilai RM639.45 juta sebelumnya. BERNAMA

Komoditi

Getah

Pasaran getah tempatan mungkin menyaksikan dagangan perlahan dan langgang minggu ini berikutan keadaan cuaca melampau, diburukkan lagi 'musim sejuk' di kawasan pengeluaran getah yang berbeza dan ketidakpastian bekalan mendorong pasaran berhati-hati, kata pakar industri.

Denis Low menjangkakan kekurangan bekalan beberapa minggu akan datang mungkin menghasikan aktiviti penyimpanan atau penambahan semula dan menyebabkan harga menjadi tidak menentu.

Seorang peniaga lain berkata, harga getah terus mengikut prestasi pasaran hadapan getah serantau, kekuatan ringgit berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) ditambah penanda aras harga minyak mentah dalam keadaan getah asli yang berkurangan dan jangkaan kadar faedah kekal lebih tinggi dengan lebih lama.

Pasaran getah tempatan jatuh sedikit minggu ini, ditekan kejatuhan harga minyak mentah dan aliran menurun dalam pasaran hadapan getah serantau; ketegangan di Asia Barat juga mempengaruhi sentimen pasaran.

Sementara itu, Persatuan Pengeluar Sarung Tangan Getah Malaysia (MARGMA) optimis permintaan global bagi sarung tangan getah pulih pada 2024.

Permintaan dijangka melonjak kepada 450 bilion keping menjelang 2027 walaupun permintaan menurun kepada 307.2 bilion keping pada 2023, didorong peningkatan dalam permintaan di AS, Kesatuan Eropah dan Jepun serta penggunaan sarung tangan lebih meluas dalam sektor bukan perubatan selepas COVID-19 di sektor

perhotelan, restoran, kafe dan industri semikonduktor.

Bagi asas Jumaat hingga Jumaat, harga rujukan Lembaga Getah Malaysia (LGM) untuk Getah Mutu Malaysia (GMM) 20 turun 1.5 sen atau 0.2 peratus kepada RM7.73 sekilogram daripada RM7.73 minggu lepas, manakala susu getah pukal turun 6.5 sen kepada RM7.37 sekilogram daripada RM7.44 sebelumnya.

Pada jam 5 petang, harga rujukan LGM untuk getah fizikal GMM 20 berada RM7.70 sekilogram, manakala susu getah pukal RM7.32 sekilogram. BERNAMA

Sawit

Kontrak niaga hadapan minyak sawit mentah (MSM) di Bursa Malaysia Derivatives dijangka didagangkan dalam mod penurunan harga minggu ini disebabkan niaga hadapan minyak kacang soya yang lemah berterusan akan menekan pasaran, kata peniaga minyak sawit, David Ng.

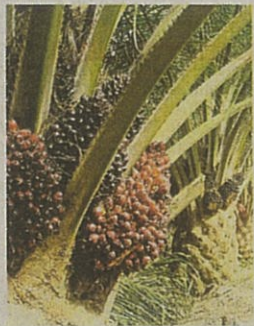
"Kami menjangkakan harga MSM didagangkan antara RM3,800 hingga RM4,000 satu tan," katanya.

Sementara itu, peniaga Jim Teh menjangkakan pasaran melalui pembelian teknikal untuk mencecah RM3,600 hingga RM3,700 satu tan minggu ini berikutan laporan penganalisis yang mengunjurkan harga rendah pada Mei.

Beliau berkata, permintaan minyak sawit menjadi lebih rendah apabila hari raya berakhir hujung bulan ini.

Bagi minggu dagangan yang baru berakhir, pasaran lebih rendah disebabkan kejatuhan dalam niaga hadapan minyak kacang soya di Chicago Board of Trade dan harga minyak mentah lebih rendah.

Dari segi asas mingguan, kontrak bulan semerta Mei 2024 tu-



run RM315 kepada RM4,056 satu tan, Jun 2024 susut RM301 kepada RM3,981 satu tan dan Julai 2024 turun RM284 kepada RM3,926 satu tan.

Kontrak Ogos 2024 merosot RM257 kepada RM3,882 satu tan, September 2024 turun RM229 kepada RM3,853 dan Oktober 2024 jatuh RM202 ke RM3,842 satu tan.

Jumlah dagangan mingguan meningkat kepada 481,022 lot daripada 200,435 lot pada minggu sebelumnya, manakala kepingan terbuka turun kepada 263,873 kontrak daripada 267,644 kontrak sebelumnya.

Harga MSM fizikal bagi Mei Selatan turun RM360 kepada RM4,150 satu tan daripada RM4,510 satu tan pada minggu sebelumnya. BERNAMA

Ringgit

Ringgit mungkin diniagakan dalam julat sama sekitar RM4.78 berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) minggu ini, memandangkan situasi di Asia Barat terus dipantau pelabur, kata penganalisis.

Ketua Ahli Ekonomi Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd, Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid, berkata sebarang bentuk peningkatan ketegangan menyebabkan

permintaan lebih tinggi terhadap dolar AS.

"Justeru, ringgit dijangka kekal pada paras semasa minggu ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pada masa sama pasaran meneliti pengukur inflasi pilihan Rizab Persekutuan AS (Fed) iaitu indeks harga perbelanjaan penggunaan peribadi.

Sementara itu, penyelidikan oleh Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd menjelaskan prospek pertumbuhan stabil dan sokongan berterusan pihak berkuasa mungkin membantu mengekalkan ringgit yang stabil.

Secara teknikal, dolar ringgit dijangka berubah neutral kepada menurun minggu ini dengan pasangan mata wang itu mungkin didagangkan hampir purata pergerakan eksponen lima hari pada 4.78.

Pada 15 April, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) menyatakan pihaknya bersedia menggunakan instrumen yang ada bagi memastikan pasaran kewangan Malaysia kekal teratur dan terus berfungsi secara cekap dalam keadaan ketegangan geopolitik yang berterusan.

Pada asas Jumaat ke Jumaat, ringgit susut kepada 4.7810/7855 berbanding dolar AS daripada 4.7680/7730 minggu sebelumnya.

Unit domestik didagangkan tinggi kebanyakannya berbanding beberapa mata wang utama lain, disokong lantunan teknikal selepas penyusutan tiga hari dan sentimen positif susulan unjuran awal Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) Malaysia yang lebih baik berbanding jangkaan.

Menurut Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia, ekonomi Malaysia diunjurkan berkembang 3.9 peratus pada suku pertama 2024 berdasarkan jangkaan awal Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) berbanding 3 peratus pada suku keempat 2023, diterajui sektor perkhidmatan.

Tukaran Wang Asing

Unit mata wang asing bagi setiap RM		
Dolar Amerika	4.8500	4.770 4.7070
Dolar Australia	3.1330	3.0100 2.9940
Dolar Brunei	3.5620	3.4610 3.4530
Dolar Kanada	3.5250	3.4310 3.4190
Euro	5.1760	5.0110 4.9910
Dolar New Zealand	2.8720	2.7670 2.7510
Kina Papua N Guinea	N/A	N/A
Dolar Singapura	3.5620	3.4610 3.4530
Pound Sterling	6.0490	5.8610 5.8410
Franc Switzerland	5.3290	5.2080 5.1930
100 unit mata wang asing bagi setiap RM		
Taka Bangladesh	4.5070	4.2140 4.0140
Krona Denmark	71.100	65.4700 65.2700
Hongkong Dollar	62.6400	59.5500 59.3500
Rupiah India	5.9100	5.5500 5.3500
Rupiah Indonesia	0.0309	0.0280 0.0230
Yen Jepun	3.1480	3.0500 3.0400
Krona Norway	45.0900	41.500 41.300
Rupiah Pakistan	1.7700	1.6700 1.4700
Peso Filipina	8.5500	8.0600 7.8600
Saudi Riyal	130.8700	124.2300 124.0300
Rand Afrika Selatan	26.2100	23.6700 23.4700
Sri Lanka Rupee	1.6600	1.5200 1.3200
Swedish Krone	45.6400	41.600 41.400
Thai Baht	13.7600	12.2100 11.8100
Dirham UAE	133.7300	126.8500 126.6500
Qatar Riyal	134.6000	127.7800 127.5800
Dolar Taiwan	16.0000	N/A
Renminbi China	67.4900	64.5700 N/A

Ringgit meningkat berbanding yen Jepun kepada 3.0947/0978 daripada 3.1098/1133 minggu lepas dan naik berbanding pound British kepada 5.9533/9589 daripada 5.9562/9624.

Bagaimanapun, unit domestik susut berbanding euro kepada 5.0961/1009 daripada 5.0808/0861.

Ringgit diniagakan tinggi berbanding mata wang negara ASEAN lain kecuali dolar Singapura.

Unit tempatan meningkat berbanding baht Thailand kepada 12.9668/9847 daripada 13.0831/13.1036 pada Jumaat minggu lepas dan tinggi berbanding peso Filipina kepada 8.30/8.31 daripada 8.43/8.44.

Ringgit lebih kukuh berbanding rupiah Indonesia kepada 293.9/294.4 daripada 300.8/301.3 pada Jumaat minggu lepas namun, rendah berbanding dolar Singapura kepada 3.5113/5149 daripada 3.5090/5129. BERNAMA

Gaji penjawat awam: Ada sesuatu yang positif - KSN

Oleh MOHD. FADHLI
MOHD. SULAIMAN
fadhi.sulaiman@mediamulla.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan memberi jaminan ada sesuatu yang positif dan menggembirakan dalam penambahbaikan struktur gaji baharu penjawat awam yang akan diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sempena Hari Pekerja pada 1 Mei ini.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd. Zuki Ali berkata, ini berikutan kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) sudah dimuktamadkan yang akan menyaksikan pelbagai perubahan dalam gaji penjawat awam.

Sehubungan itu, beliau mahu

pihak tertentu yang menuntut beberapa penambahbaikan supaya menunggu sehingga bulan depan kerana beliau percaya, penambahbaikan itu baik untuk semua pihak.

"Insya-Allah, ada sesuatu yang positif untuk penjawat awam. Tetapi, saya tidak mahu mengulas lebih lanjut kerana tidak mahu mendahului Perdana Menteri yang akan membuat pengumuman ini.

"Apapun, ia sudah dimuktamad dan ia bagi saya adalah positif. Jadi, kena tunggu Perdana Menteri," katanya ringkas ketika dihubungi semalam.

Pada Jumaat lalu, Anwar selepas mempengerusi Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (JIKSPA) Bilangan 3 Tahun 2024

memberitahu, cadangan penambahbaikan termasuk usaha meningkatkan kadar pendapatan bersih penjawat awam yang akan diumumkan pada 1 Mei ini.

"Saya ingin tegaskan komitmen kerajaan untuk menyelesaikan usaha menambah baik struktur gaji penjawat awam yang dilaksanakan menerusi Kajian SSPA, di sebalik ekonomi negara yang mencabar kesan ketidakpastian geopolitik dunia," katanya.

SSPA yang baharu itu sebelum ini dijangka diumumkan sebelum akhir tahun ini, selepas 10 tahun gaji kakitangan kerajaan tidak dinaikkan yang mendorong pelbagai pihak terutama kesatuan perkhidmatan awam supaya kerajaan membuat pembaharuan.

Anwar ketika membentang Belanjawan 2024 di Parlimen pada 13 Oktober tahun lalu dilaporkan mengumumkan pelaksanaan penuh SSPA akan dibuat bermula 2025.

Mingguan Malaysia semalam melaporkan, kenaikan gaji minimum penjawat awam sehingga RM1,800 merupakan antara harapan utama Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja di Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (CUEPACS) dalam pengumuman perdana menteri tidak lama lagi.

Selain tuntutan gaji minimum RM1,800, CUEPACS sebelum ini merayu kerajaan melaksana segera tuntutan menaikkan dua tahap Kenaikan Gaji Tahunan (KGT) dan sistem saraan baharu menggantikan Sistem Saraan Malaysia (SSM).

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 22 APR 2024



ANWAR Ibrahim (tengah) bersama kepimpinan tertinggi PKR dan peserta yang hadir pada Konvensyen 25 Tahun Keadilan di IDCC Shah Alam, semalam. - UTUSAN/AFIQ RAZALI

4M 22/4

Subsidi bersasar selamatkan ekonomi

Dari muka 1

"Ini yang dikatakan *reform*, saya hendak nasihat yang agak sinis terhadap *reform, reform* dalam erti kata apa manfaat bagi golongan miskin, pekerja ladang, nelayan di kampung, pekebun kecil, Melayu, India di ladang, pekerja (swasta), penjawat awam, itu yang mesti disampaikan.

"Ayam, berpuluh tahun sejak saya jadi Menteri Kewangan dahulu, setiap kali perayaan mesti akan naik, mesyuarat tergempar tambah suntikan wang, puluh tahun untuk mengawal harga siling ayam, kerajaan sediakan RM1 bilion setiap tahun.

"Tahun lalu kita ambil keputusan berani, kita hentikan RM1 bilion, kita beritahu kartel ayam buat keuntungan tetapi jangan tekan peniaga. Kemudian harga ayam terkawal," katanya ketika berucap pada Konvensyen 25 Tahun PKR, semalam.

Malah, jelasnya, kerajaan turut melaksanakan keputusan-keputusan dibuat kerajaan

sebelum ini termasuk penajajaran semula subsidi petrol dan pelbagai manfaat lain yang turut dinikmati golongan kaya serta 3.5 juta penduduk warga asing.

"Politik tidak cerdik bagi subsidi pada orang yang tidak bayar cukai, datang tanpa kebenaran kemudian beri subsidi elektrik, lebih RM4 bilion kita selamatkan.

"Dia hendak marah kita kenapa? Sekarang orang tanya tentang subsidi minyak dan diesel, cara rasional harus kita lakukan sebab minyak yang kita subsidi tiap kali digunakan, itu menguntungkan semua rakyat. Yang paling kaya pun dapat.

"Itu kerja tidak cerdik, 3.5 juta orang asing dapat subsidi. Bila kita naik (jadi kerajaan), kita beri suntikan langsung kepada rakyat. Itu kaedah kita fikir berapa lama, puluh tahun kerajaan setuju tetapi takut untuk laksanakan. Kerajaan ini berani, kita laksanakan untuk rakyat," tegasnya.

Dalam pada itu, Anwar turut

menegaskan rakyat tidak perlu terpukau dengan slogan 'hidup Melayu' atau 'kerajaan Islam'.

"Bila kita ambil tindakan terhadap orang yang mahakaya di negara ini, dengan hasil puluhan bilion, mana suara mereka, mana suara pejuang Islam dan Melayu, semuanya kelu membisu takut berdepan dengan orang yang kaya dan rasuah.

"Pengeluaran getah ada yang kata pekebun ramai tidak sokong Pakatan Harapan (PH), saya tidak ambil kira, kita harus bantu mereka. Yang saya tahu naik selepas kita ambil alih kerajaan kepada RM3 seki-logram.

"Maknanya pada 2020 RM2.50 sekarang RM3. Subsidi harga padi, tidak naik berpuluh tahun, tahun 2022 kita naikkan, belum cukup, tetapi bagi orang yang ikuti politik pembangkang, kenapa tidak naikkan semasa perintah?

"Kamu kata hidup Melayu, tetapi itu Melayu, yang kamu pertahankan itu Melayu kaya. Kita kena agresif. Lawan tetap lawan," jelasnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 22 APR 2024

Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam: Anwar tunai janji

UM 2/4



MOHAMED ANWAR OMAR DIN

PADA 11 Mac 2013 Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak selaku Perdana Menteri pada waktu itu mengumumkan pada Majlis Perdana Perkhidmatan Awam (MAPPA) ke-13 bertepatan Transformasi Perkhidmatan Awam, Merealisisikan Wawasan 2020 pengenalan satu sistem saraan baharu penjawat awam yang dikenali sebagai Sistem Saraan Transformatif (STI).

Melalui STI ini, semua penjawat awam diberi faedah pemindahan gaji sebanyak satu kenaikan gaji tahunan (KGT) antara RM80 hingga RM320 yang diawalkan pada 1 Julai 2013 manakala berkuatkuasa 1 Januari 2013 semua struktur gaji maksimum dalam jadual Gaji Minimum-Maksimum akan diperuntukkan tambahan kenaikan gaji tahunan sebanyak tiga KGT.

Sejak tarikh itu, Perdana Menteri silih bertukar-ganti. Bermula dengan Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad antara 2018 dan 2020, diikuti oleh Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin antara 2020 dan 2021 serta Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob antara 2021 dan 2022. Bagaimanapun tidak ada sebarang semakan atau pelarasan ke atas sistem saraan penjawat awam yang dibuat dalam tempoh ini.

Pemimpin Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Di Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (Cuepacs) menyampaikan kepada Ismail Sabri dalam satu pertemuan pada 13 Jun 2022 permohonan pelaksanaan sistem saraan baharu yang lebih komprehensif, adil serta saksama selain pelaksanaan kenaikan gaji minimum penjawat awam RM1,800 dan kenaikan dua tahap KGT.

Bagaimanapun, Ismail Sabri dalam ucapan pada MAPPA ke-18 pada 30 Ogos 2022 sekadar mengumumkan rancangan untuk memberi KGT tambahan khas sebanyak RM100 bagi penjawat awam Gred 11 hingga Gred 56 bermula Januari 2023, yang mana rancangan ini akan membabitkan kira-kira 1.28 juta penjawat awam serta



ANWAR IBRAHIM dijangka mengumumkan Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) dengan penambahbaikan struktur gaji penjawat awam pada perhimpunan Hari Pekerja pada 1 Mei depan. - UTUSAN/FAISOL MUSTAFA

“Semoga usaha ini menjadi motivasi buat penjawat awam untuk memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat.”

memberi implikasi kewangan sebanyak RM1.5 bilion.

Walaupun begitu, rancangan ini tidak terlaksana setelah Ismail Sabri tidak lagi menjadi Perdana Menteri setelah berakhirnya Pilihan Raya Umum ke-15 (PRU 15) yang menyaksikan kekalahan UMNO-Barisan Nasional (BN) pada 19 November 2022. Begitu juga jawatan Datuk Seri Mohd. Shafiq Abdullah sebagai Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam (KPPA) ditamatkan pada 12 Disember 2022.

Setelah Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim dilantik sebagai Perdana Menteri baharu pada 24 November 2022, manakala Datuk Dr. Zulkapli Mohamad dilantik sebagai KPPA baharu pada 27 Februari 2023, Anwar segera mengarahkan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) berbincang dengan CUEPACS mengenai isu gaji penjawat awam serta hal berkaitan peningkatan kos sara hidup.

Presiden CUEPACS, Datuk Dr. Adnan Mat, selepas pertemuan dengan Zulkapli

pada 2 Mac 2023, menyatakan CUEPACS dimaklumkan Anwar sudah mempunyai perancangan dalam soal kadar gaji dan upah penjawat awam agar mereka mempunyai pendapatan boleh guna yang selesa dan sentiasa komited dalam melaksanakan tanggungjawab yang diamanahkan.

Menyambut kenyataan Adnan ini, Anwar dalam ucapan di Perhimpunan Bulanan bersama warga Jabatan Perdana Menteri (JPM) pada 6 Mac 2023 mengakui beliau tidak berpuas hati apabila melihat gaji semasa penjawat awam ketika ini serta memberi jaminan bahawa skim gaji kakitangan awam akan menjadi keutamaan kerajaan apabila pendapatan negara bertambah.

Ketika berucap pada Sambutan Hari Pekerja di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC) pada 1 Mei 2023, Anwar mengumumkan sudah sampai masanya skim gaji penjawat awam dibuat penilaian semula. “Beri saya tempoh setahun, kalau ada trend peningkatan hasil, yang pertama (kita akan laksanakan) adalah pelarasan skim gaji penjawat awam,” ujarnya.

Dalam Ucapan Belanjawan 2024 pada 13 Oktober 2023, Anwar mengumumkan secara rasmi bahawa kerajaan sedang menyemak semula skim gaji penjawat awam yang kali terakhir dibuat pada 2012 di mana kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA)

yang akan meneliti keperluan semua skim perkhidmatan ini dijangka akan dimuktamadkan pada akhir 2024.

Sementara menunggu kajian ini lengkap, Anwar mengumumkan pemberian Bayaran Insentif Awal Kajian SSPA pada akhir Februari 2024 sebanyak RM2,000 kepada semua penjawat awam gred 56 dan ke bawah dan RM1,000 kepada semua Jawatan Utama Sektor Awam (JUSA) termasuk polis, bomba, tentera, angkatan bersenjata dan seluruh anggota beruniform.

Serentak itu, ketika berucap pada Perjumpaan Perdana Menteri Bersama Warga JPM pada 16 Oktober 2023 pula, Anwar mahukan Kajian SSPA disiapkan pertengahan 2024 untuk memastikan struktur gaji baharu penjawat awam dapat diumumkan dalam belanjawan 2025.

“Tidak munasabah untuk mengharapkan prestasi yang meningkat tinggi tetapi kadar upah itu kurang”, ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, pelantikan Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz yang berpengalaman luas dalam pelbagai bidang termasuk dasar, pengurusan dan perkhidmatan sebagai KPPA yang baharu menggantikan Zulkapli pada 9 Januari 2024, selain mewujudkan kembali suasana harmoni dalam kalangan penjawat awam, juga membantu mempercepatkan penyediaan Kajian SSPA.

Dengan Wan Ahmad Dahlan bersama Ketua

Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd. Zuki Ali, menyerahkan Laporan Interim 1 Kajian SSPA kepada Anwar dalam mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian SSPA pada 19 Januari lalu, Anwar berkata proses penyiapannya akan dipercepatkan dengan tumpuan kepada peningkatan produktiviti dan kecekapan perkhidmatan awam.

GAJI BAHARU

Paling mutakhir, pada 19 April lalu, selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian SSPA, Anwar menyatakan penambahbaikan struktur gaji penjawat awam ini akan diumumkan pada perhimpunan Hari Pekerja pada 1 Mei depan.

“Semoga usaha ini menjadi motivasi buat penjawat awam untuk memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat,” katanya.

Sesungguhnya semakan atau pelarasan ke atas sistem saraan penjawat awam yang akan diumumkan ini adalah satu lonjakan besar ke atas penjawat awam. Ia juga adalah bukti Anwar menepati janji yang dilafazkannya.

Pada 1 Mei 2023, Anwar meminta diberi tempoh setahun untuk menguruskan hal ini dan pada 1 Mei ini, genap setahun tempoh diminta, ia akan diumumkan

DATUK Dr. Mohamed Anwar Omar Din adalah Profesor Adjung di Asia e University (AeU), Subang Jaya.