



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 22 NOVEMBER 2024 (JUMAAT)

MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

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2.	HARIAN METRO	• KAHWIN UNTUK DAPAT LESEN NIAGA

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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		DBKL	• DBKL TUBUH JAWATANKUASA PENGURUSAN INSIDEN AWAM TANGANI ISU BANJIR KILAT
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Sanggup 'cinta olok-olok' demi dapatkan lesen niaga

Selangor mungkin gubal peraturan pelesenan kepada warga tempatan kahwini orang asing

Oleh Ruwaida Md Zain
bhnews@bh.com.my

Shah Alam: Selangor mungkin perlu menggubal peraturan berkaitan pelesenan perniagaan kepada warga tempatan yang berkahwin dengan orang asing bagi mengelak manipulasi lesen.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap Kerajaan Tempatan dan Pelancongan, Datuk Ng Suee Lim, mengakui masalah itu wujud di negeri ini hingga menyukarkan penguatkuasaan oleh pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

"Memang wujud di lapangan, banyak warga asing ini sudah lama tinggal di Malaysia."

"Ada warga tempatan tertarik dengan warga asing, mereka berkahwin, mereka menggunakan peluang itu untuk (sama-sama) berniaga, itu cinta sejati."

"Namun, ada yang bukan cinta sejati, ada yang cinta olok-olok



Suee Lim ketika persidangan DUN Selangor di Wisma Dewan Negeri Selangor, Shah Alam, semalam.

(Foto Faiz Anuar/BH)

atau cari peluang dengan menggunakan perkahwinan itu semata-mata untuk berniaga.

"Memang wujud di lapangan dan kadang-kadang sukar untuk buat penguatkuasaan."

"Kita pergi ke sana (premis), nama isteri adalah warga tempatan, tetapi di belakangnya warga asing. Itu selalu berlaku," katanya pada Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor di Wisma Dewan Negeri Se-

langor, semalam.

Kerjasama semua agensi

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab soalan tambahan Abbas Salimmi Che Adzmi@ Azmi (PH-Seri Serdang), sama ada kerajaan negeri mempunyai perancangan menggubal enakmen bagi menangani gejala warga asing berkahwin dengan warga

tempatan untuk mendapatkan lesen perniagaan.

Suee Lim berkata, justeru kerjasama akan dilakukan dengan semua agensi dalam mencari pendekatan holistik berhubung perkara berkenaan.

"Keperluan untuk hendak menggubal dasar itu memang ada, kita kena cari (jalan) dan berbincang semula bagaimana hendak mengatasinya," katanya.

Beliau yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Sekinchan, berkata kemajuan ekonomi yang dicapai Malaysia dan Selangor khususnya menjadikan negeri ini sebagai lubuk emas dalam kalangan warga asing.

"Mereka suka datang dan senang cari nafkah hidup. Jadi ini tarikan kepada mereka," katanya.

Menjawab soalan asal Wan Dzahanurin Ahmad (PH-Sungai Kandis), Suee Lim menegaskan sebanyak 32 lesen perniagaan sudah dibatalkan kerana menyewakannya kepada warga asing.

"Ini membabitkan 16 lesen di bawah pentadbiran Majlis Bandaraya Subang dan Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor (5), selain Majlis Perbandaran Kajang, Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Langkat dan Majlis Daerah Sabak Bernam masing-masing tiga serta dua lesen bagi Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor. Lain-lain PBT tiada setakat ini," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....2.2...NOV...2024.....



Anwar pada Persidangan Dewan Rakyat di Bangunan Parlimen, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

PM arah EPU, ICU rangka pelan basmi kemiskinan tegar

**Langkah seiring
pakatan global
atasi isu supaya
dapat dimanfaatkan
masyarakat
antarabangsa**

Oleh Mohd Nasaruddin Parzi
dan Fahmy A Rosli
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Unit Perancang Ekonomi (EPU) dan Unit Penyelidikan Pelaksanaan (ICU) diarahkan merangka pelan pembasmian kemiskinan tegar dan kelaparan untuk manfaat bersama masyarakat antarabangsa, kata Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Perdana Menteri menjelaskan langkah itu seiring dengan pakatan global yang komited dalam menangani isu berkenaan, termasuk usaha yang sedang direncanakan oleh Presiden Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

"Saya percaya kita (akan) kemukakan kerangka kerja dan pelaksanaan program di Malaysia untuk dikaji dan diteliti bersama.

"Jadi, saya telah minta ICU, EPU dan badan terbabit dalam kerajaan untuk merangka program dan boleh dimanfaatkan oleh mereka," katanya pada Waktu Pertanyaan Perdana Menteri di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Perdana Menteri juga mengarahkan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) meningkatkan kerjasama dengan badan pencegahan antarabangsa.

Kerjasama dengan SPRM

Katanya, ini selepas negara seperti Peru dan Brazil menyatakan minat untuk mengukuhkan kerjasama dengan SPRM dalam bidang berkaitan.

"Begitu juga tentang antirasuah. Saya juga telah minta SPRM bersedia kerana Peru dan Brazil minta kerjasama ditingkatkan antara badan pencegahan rasuah Peru dan Brazil dengan Malaysia," katanya.

Anwar berkata, usaha tegas Malaysia dalam membasmi rasuah mendapat pengiktirafan antarabangsa menerusi keyakinan kerajaan Qatar yang meminta kerjasama SPRM merangka program pembanteras rasuah di negara Islam.

"Antirasuah sekarang sudah meningkat imej kita. Bukan sa-

haja dari segi indeks persepsi rasuah, tapi pengiktirafan negara luar yang minta kita kerjasama.

"Minggu depan, kerajaan Qatar minta satu rombongan utama membabitkan menteri dan SPRM untuk bekerjasama merangka program pembanteras rasuah di negara Islam. Itu ditugaskan kepada SPRM atas pengiktirafan mereka," katanya.

Anwar berkata demikian menjawab soalan Datuk Awang Hashim (PN-Pendang).

Dalam pada itu, Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan menjelaskan, perkhidmatan awam kini melalui proses perubahan yang drastik.

"Sebab itu kita mulakan dengan skim persaraan perkhidmatan awam, untuk mengiktiraf peranan mereka dan menuntut perubahan. Senaraikan tahap kecekapan. (Contohnya) JPJ (Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan) berapa lama masa kelulusan, lesen untuk pendaftaran syarikat dan universiti swasta.

"Semua ini diambil kira dalam proses ini (perubahan drastik perkhidmatan awam), termasuk mengenai program untuk memastikan tahap kecekapan meningkat, tidak ada makna kalau reformasi, tapi tahap kecekapan pada tahap lama," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh... 2.2. NOV. 2024

Kerajaan negeri gempur penyewaan haram PPR

Shah Alam: Kerajaan negeri melalui Perumahan dan Hartanah Selangor Sdn Bhd (PHSSB) sudah mengenal pasti rumah Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) yang dihuni bukan penama atau sewa atas sewa.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap Perumahan, Borhan Aman Shah, berkata PHSSB sudah menjalankan operasi bancian unit ke unit pada Januari dan Februari lalu berhubung pemindahan tidak rasmi dan masalah penyewaan haram.

"Daripada operasi bancian itu, PHSSB mengenal pasti unit dihuni oleh bukan penama atau 'sublet', termasuk juga berdasarkan aduan daripada penduduk PPR sendiri.

"Kadang-kadang penyewa asal keluar dan memberikan kepada anak tanpa memberitahu pengurusan. Ini berlakunya sublet. Kadang-kadang tidak dapat dikesan kerana apabila membuat bancian mereka tiada di rumah.

"Kerjasama daripada penduduk PPR sendiri pen-

ting dalam melaporkan perkara itu kepada pihak Lembaga Perumahan dan Hartanah Selangor (LPHS) dan PHSSB bagi menangani isu 'sublet' dan tindakan tegas akan diambil terhadap penyewa terbabit," katanya pada persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN), di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab pertanyaan dibangkitkan S Preakas (PH-Kota Kemuning) berhubung proses pemutihan yang dijalankan untuk perumahan PPR yang banyak tidak dihuni, termasuk isu pemindahan tidak rasmi dan masalah penyewaan haram.

Katanya, tindakan pemutihan sentiasa dijalankan oleh PHSSB dan bagi 2024 sebanyak 29 notis dikeluarkan bagi kesalahan 'sublet' di PPR Kampung Baru Hicom, Seksyen 26.

"Lembaga Perumahan dan Hartanah Selangor melantik PHSSB sebagai ejen pengurusan di PPR. Antara status pemutihan ialah telah keluar/mengosongkan unit (17), tawaran

ke Skim Smart Sewa (satu), pengakuan penama tinggal bersama dan pemantauan berterusan dibuat (5), pemotongan bekalan air/dalam proses pindah keluar (2) dan tempoh pengosongan belum tamat (4)," katanya.

Borhan berkata, di PPR juga terdapat unit kosong dikenal pasti berlaku kerosakan yang memerlukan pembaikan yang besar.

"Keadaan ini disebabkan ada segelintir penyewa yang keluar daripada sewaan unit tanpa memaklumkan kepada pengurusan PHSSB dengan meninggalkan unit dalam keadaan rosak dan dipenuhi barang terbuang serta kotor.

"Pada tahun ini, kerajaan negeri meluluskan peruntukan pembaikan bagi 20 unit dan kerja baik pulih sedang dilaksanakan pada masa ini sebelum kemasukan penyewa dibuat.

"Terdapat baki 13 unit yang belum dibaik pulih dan kerja berkenaan akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat menggunakan peruntukan 2025," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh...2.2. NOV. 2024.....

Seramai 555 kanak-kanak, remaja hamil luar nikah

Statistik direkod di Selangor setakat September tahun ini

Oleh Ruwaida Md Zain
bhnews@bh.com.my

Shah Alam: Seramai 555 kanak-kanak dan remaja di Selangor hamil luar nikah setakat September lalu.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga, Anfaal Saari, berkata pihaknya memperoleh maklumat berkenaan daripada Jabatan Kesihatan Selangor.

"Statistik remaja hamil luar nikah bagi negeri Selangor bagi tahun 2023 sebanyak 799 kes. Setakat September 2024, Se-

langor mencatatkan sebanyak 555 kes.

"Bagi pecahan kategori mengikut umur, sebanyak 13 kes bagi individu berumur 10 hingga 14 tahun, 15 hingga 17 tahun sebanyak 157 kes dan 18 hingga 19 tahun sebanyak 385 kes.

"Kerajaan Selangor memandang serius isu ini terutama apabila membabitkan kanak-kanak dan remaja bawah 18 tahun," katanya ketika Penggulangan Usul Rang Undang-Undang Per-

bekalan 2025 pada Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor, di sini semalam.

Menurut Anfaal, pada tahun ini kerajaan negeri sudah melaksanakan Program Advokasi Perlindungan Kanak-kanak dengan kerjasama Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat, Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Selangor, Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) dan Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (MC-MC).

“Kerajaan Selangor memandang serius isu ini terutama apabila membabitkan kanak-kanak dan remaja bawah 18 tahun”

Anfaal Saari,
Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Tetap
Pembangunan Wanita dan Keluarga



Beri pendedahan

"Program ini bertujuan untuk memberi pendedahan dan pengetahuan kepada kanak-kanak dalam aspek keselamatan serta perlindungan kanak-kanak daripada gangguan seksual.

"Program ini sudah dilaksanakan sebanyak 12 siri iaitu 11 program di sekolah-sekolah semua daerah di negeri Selangor, manakala satu program di PPR HICOM," katanya.

Beliau berkata, bagi mendapatkan maklum balas dan merangka penyelesaian menyeluruh, kerajaan negeri memulakan rangka kerja awal bagi melaksanakan 'Round Table Discussion' Menangani Isu Remaja Hamil Luar Nikah.

"Ini akan dilaksanakan pada suku pertama tahun 2025 melalui Wanita Berdaya Selangor dengan kerjasama Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat dan Persatuan Kebajikan Bayt Al-Rahmah," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 22 NOV 2024

Kadar gaji minimum dilaksanakan tahun depan

Shah Alam: Kadar gaji minimum di Selangor akan diselaraskan kepada RM1,700 tahun depan seiring dengan pelaksanaan di peringkat Persekutuan.

Exco Sumber Manusia dan Pembasmian Kemiskinan negeri V Papparaidu, berkata ia akan dikuatkuasakan menerusi beberapa pendekatan dengan kerjasama pihak berkepentingan.

Beliau berkata, bagi tujuan sama, kerajaan negeri akan memberikan sokongan dalam bentuk bantuan kepada syarikat mikro, kecil dan sederhana dalam menggalakkan pemberian gaji adil dan berpatutan, dengan mengambil kira keadaan ekonomi semasa dan kadar inflasi.

"Syarikat yang mendapat kontrak kerajaan negeri juga dipastikan mematuhi penetapan ini. "Sebagai negeri maju dan memiliki perkembangan ekonomi yang baik, kerajaan negeri akan memastikan usaha mengadaptasi perubahan tanpa menjejaskan operasi," katanya pada persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor, semalam. BERNAMA

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 2.2. NOV. 2024.....

Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Insiden Awam KL ditubuh

Kuala Lumpur: Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Insiden Awam Kuala Lumpur akan memberi bantuan dalam masa kurang setengah jam kepada mangsa banjir kilat di ibu negara.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa, berkata jawatankuasa itu akan mengaktifkan bantuan dalam masa singkat daripada waktu diterima amaran awal banjir jalan atau banjir kilat di Kuala Lumpur.

"Jawatankuasa itu dibantu agensi lain seperti Angkatan Pertahanan Awam (APM), Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat dan

Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) Kuala Lumpur.

"Seramai 490 petugas dalaman DBKL akan siap siaga di lapangan dengan dibantu oleh petugas pasukan pemantauan secara visual melalui lebih 60 unit CCTV di bilik gerakan, khususnya di kawasan hotspots yang dikenal pasti termasuk memantau kawasan sungai, parit dan kolam takungan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan Teresa Kok Suh Sim (PH-Seputeh) mengenai langkah Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) untuk mencegah dan menangani banjir kilat di Kuala Lumpur di Dewan



Dr Zaliha pada sidang Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

Rakyat semalam.

Dr Zaliha berkata, langkah proaktif akan dilaksanakan hari ini, iaitu semua 'variable message system' atau papan iklan LED di bawah seliaan DBKL akan memaparkan status semasa cuaca dan amaran kemungkinan berlakunya banjir kilat.

"Kita mendapat kerjasama daripada Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MET Malaysia) dan JPS. Ini kita akan mulakan dengan papan iklan LED di Menara DBKL terlebih dahulu. Jadi rakyat atau penduduk di Kuala Lumpur boleh mengambil langkah awal jika kita memberi amaran," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 12 2 NOV 2024

Tangguh aktiviti lasak, rekreasi pada musim monsun demi keselamatan

22/11 64

Kamal Bashah,
Shah Alam

Jabatan Meteorologi (MetMalaysia) baru-baru ini mengeluarkan peringatan bahawa negara kini berada dalam tempoh Monsun Timur Laut yang lazimnya membawa bersama musim tengkujuh dan taburan hujan luar biasa di Semenanjung.

Atas faktor ini, masyarakat diingatkan untuk merancang dengan teliti setiap aktiviti rekreasi atau sukan lasak sama ada di darat, air dan udara.

Pada musim Monsun Timur Laut, sebarang rancangan melakukan aktiviti lasak memerlukan tahap waspada tinggi kerana cuaca dan keadaan persekitaran lazimnya menjadi menentu.

Silap percaturan, aktiviti lasak dan rekreasi yang dirancang untuk membangkitkan kegembiraan boleh bertukar menjadi tragedi seperti dihanyutkan sungai, lemas dan kematian.

Tragedi lemas ketika berakit di Perak baru-baru

ini mungkin dapat dielakkan jika slot berkenaan ditangguhkan atas faktor cuaca dan keselamatan peserta.

Peka ramalan cuaca

Justeru, setiap individu dan organisasi harus lebih cakna dan peka terhadap ramalan cuaca sebelum melakukan aktiviti lasak di sungai, laut, mengembara atau mendaki. Lebih baik jika mengelakkan melakukan aktiviti luar jika terdapat amaran hujan lebat, ribut petir atau banjir.

Penting juga bagi kita untuk menghindari kawasan mudah banjir seperti lembah, sungai atau kawasan rendah. Kawasan berbukit atau hutan juga boleh bertukar menjadi 'trek maut' jika hujan lebat kerana berisiko tanah runtuh.

Jika hendak melakukan aktiviti di kawasan sungai atau air, penganjur, peserta dan fasilitator perlu sentiasa memakai jaket keselamatan dan peka perubahan arus sungai yang dibimbangi boleh menjadi punca fenomena 'kepala air'.

Walau apa pun program atau aktiviti lasak hendak dilakukan, setiap orang perlu waspada terhadap perubahan keadaan sekeliling dan mengelak melakukannya pada waktu malam bagi mengurangkan risiko kecederaan atau hilang arah.

Jelas di sini, kesedaran dan persediaan adalah kunci untuk memastikan aktiviti lasak dilakukan selamat kepada semua. Pilihan lebih baik ketika musim monsun adalah menangguhkan sementara semua aktiviti luar lasak di kawasan berisiko.



Rancang dengan teliti aktiviti lasak dan rekreasi elak tragedi.

(Foto fail NSTP)

1.95 juta graduan kerja tak sepadan kelayakan

Individu miliki pendidikan tinggi bekerja dalam sektor kemahiran rendah meningkat 1.4 peratus

Oleh Hazwan Faisal Mohamad
hazwanfaisal@mediaprima.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kira-kira 1.95 juta pekerja berpendidikan tinggi di Malaysia bekerja dalam pekerjaan berkemahiran rendah setakat suku ketiga 2024, meningkat 1.4 peratus berbanding 1.92 juta bagi tempoh sama tahun lalu.

Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin, berkata perangkaan guna tenaga tidak penuh itu menggambarkan lebih satu pertiga penduduk berpendidikan tertiar, iaitu diploma dan ijazah pertama, tidak bekerja sama aras dengan tahap pendidikan mereka.

Guna tenaga tidak penuh adalah keadaan di mana individu yang mempunyai kelayakan pen-

didikan selepas Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) seperti diploma dan ijazah sarjana muda, tidak bekerja sebagai buruh mahir; sebaliknya mereka bekerja di buruh separuh mahir atau tidak mahir.

Mohd Uzir bagaimanapun berkata, momentum pasaran buruh Malaysia secara keseluruhan bertambah baik pada suku ketiga tahun ini berikutan peningkatan berterusan permintaan dan penawaran.

Katanya, keadaan ini selari jangkaan perkembangan ekonomi untuk mencapai pertumbuhan 4.8 hingga 5.3 peratus pada 2024.

"Prestasi ini disokong aktiviti pelaburan yang teguh, permintaan domestik berdaya tahan dan pemulihan dalam eksport barang dan perkhidmatan.

"Pelaksanaan inisiatif seperti sistem imbuhan perkhidmatan awam baharu dan model gaji progresif juga dijangka menyokong pertumbuhan ekonomi lebih mampan pada masa hadapan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Data Sorotan Pasaran Buruh Suku Tahun Ketiga 2024 yang dikeluarkan jabatan itu menunjukkan, kadar penyertaan tenaga buruh mencapai 70.5 peratus pada



Keratan
akhbar BH
Isnin lalu.

**'Enam graduan
rebut satu jawatan
kemahiran tinggi'**



suku ketiga 2024 berbanding 70.1 peratus pada suku sama 2023.

Bilangan tenaga buruh meningkat 2.6 peratus kepada 17.26 juta dengan kenaikan 2.9 peratus penduduk bekerja kepada 16.72 juta orang.

Kadar pengangguran rendah

Sementara itu, kadar pengangguran lebih rendah dicatatkan iaitu 3.2 peratus, turun daripada 3.3 peratus direkodkan dalam tiga suku berturut-turut sebelumnya.

Mohd Uzir juga berkata, permintaan buruh di Malaysia memecah paras tertinggi sejak 2018 dengan mencatatkan 9.01 juta jawatan dalam sektor swasta dengan pertumbuhan tahunan 1.2 peratus.

Daripada jumlah ini katanya, 97.9 peratus (8.82 juta jawatan) ialah jawatan diisi, manakala 2.1 peratus (191,800) ialah kekosongan jawatan berkemahiran

ngan jawatan, terutama dalam sektor pembuatan yang menyumbang 56.9 peratus (109,100) daripada jumlah kekosongan.

Katanya, bilangan jawatan diwujudkan menurun sedikit 0.6 peratus tahun ke tahun, merekodkan 31,800 jawatan pada suku ketiga 2024.

"Pasaran buruh Malaysia terus berkembang pada suku ketiga 2024 apabila kedua-dua penawaran buruh dan permintaan buruh bertambah baik, mencerminkan prestasi ekonomi negara yang kukuh disokong permintaan domestik berdaya tahan dan pengembangan berterusan dalam eksport negara.

"Penambahbaikan dalam aktiviti perniagaan ini dijangka menarik lebih banyak pelaburan serta mewujudkan lebih banyak peluang pekerjaan, sekali gus meningkatkan peluang pendapatan.

"Seterusnya, pasaran buruh dijangka mengekalkan trajektori pertumbuhan yang stabil pada suku akan datang," katanya.

Isnin lalu, *BH* melaporkan Bank Dunia mendapati Malaysia berdepan jurang besar di antara jumlah graduan berpendidikan tinggi dengan peluang pekerjaan yang tersedia setanding kelayakan mereka apabila satu kekosongan jawatan berkemahiran

Pelaksanaan inisiatif seperti sistem imbuhan perkhidmatan awam baharu dan model gaji progresif juga dijangka menyokong pertumbuhan ekonomi lebih mampan pada masa hadapan.

Mohd Uzir
Mahidin,
Ketua
Perangkawan



tinggi kini direbut enam graduan.

Ahli Ekonomi Bank Dunia, Alyssa Farha Jasmin berkata, perkembangan itu menunjukkan wujud kekurangan peluang pekerjaan kemahiran tinggi di negara ini, malah wujud ketidakpadanan kemahiran di antara graduan baharu dan kemahiran sebenar yang diperlukan pasaran pekerjaan.

Beliau berkata, tahap guna tenaga tidak penuh berkaitan kemahiran atau *underemployment* yang meningkat secara ketara boleh menjejaskan kemajuan untuk Malaysia untuk menjadi negara berpendapatan tinggi secara mampan jika situasi itu berterusan.

Johor teliti sektor awam kerja empat hari setengah

Perubahan susulan pelaksanaan cuti hujung minggu Sabtu, Ahad mulai 1 Januari 2025

Oleh Mohamed Farid Noh
farid_noh@bh.com.my

Iskandar Puteri: Kerajaan Johor sedang meneliti cadangan untuk mengubah waktu bekerja sektor awam di negeri ini kepada empat hari setengah dalam seminggu.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, berkata ini susulan pelaksanaan cuti hujung minggu yang diubah semula kepada Sabtu dan Ahad bermula 1 Januari 2025.

Bagi tujuan itu katanya, kerajaan negeri sedang melakukan penambahbaikan bagi mempertingkatkan produktiviti dan menambah baik sistem penyampaian perkhidmatan digital dengan penambahan urusan yang boleh dilaksanakan secara dalam talian.

"Kerajaan Johor juga akan memanjangkan waktu operasi perkhidmatan kaunter yang kritikal untuk terus beroperasi, termasuk pada waktu rehat di antara jam 1 tengah hari sehingga 2 petang.

"Penyeragaman waktu operasi



Kerajaan Johor sedang melakukan penambahbaikan bagi mempertingkatkan produktiviti dan menambah baik sistem penyampaian perkhidmatan pelbagai urusan. (Foto hiasan)

perkhidmatan kaunter di semua jabatan dan agensi kerajaan negeri, Kerajaan Persekutuan dan pihak berkuasa tempatan juga akan dilaksanakan.

"Sekiranya usaha penambahbaikan itu berjalan lancar, insya-Allah kerajaan negeri akan mempertimbang cadangan perubahan waktu bekerja kepada empat hari setengah tanpa mengurangkan keseluruhan tempoh jam bekerja bagi sektor awam.

"Bagaimanapun, ia perlu mendapat perkenan Pemangku Sultan Johor, Tunku Mahkota Ismail dan restu Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Ibrahim," katanya ketika membentangkan Belanjawan Johor 2024, di

sini, semalam.

Belanjawan Johor RM1.999b

Sementara itu Onn Hafiz membentangkan Belanjawan Johor 2025 berjumlah RM1.999 bilion, meningkat berbanding RM1.799 bilion tahun ini.

Beliau berkata Johor mencatat sejarah apabila diunjurkan menerima hasil RM2.005 bilion tahun ini, pertama kalinya negeri merekodkan hasil melebihi RM2 bilion.

Katanya, Johor turut mencatatkan belanjawan lebih RM5.12 juta, untuk tiga tahun berturut-turut.

"Bagi tahun 2025, unjuran hasil negeri sebanyak RM2.005 bi-

lion, peningkatan sebanyak RM201 juta atau 11 peratus berbanding unjuran tahun ini.

"Unjuran perbelanjaan pada 2025 pula sebanyak RM1.999 bilion. Sejumlah RM1.271 bilion diperuntuk bagi tujuan belanja mengurus, manakala sejumlah RM728 juta bagi tujuan belanja pembangunan.

"Belanjawan Johor 2025 berpegang kepada Enam Teras Agenda Maju Johor membabitkan pembangunan ekonomi, pendidikan, kesihatan, perumahan mampu milik, infrastruktur, dan usaha memperkukuh keagamaan serta masa depan bella yang berdaya saing dengan 244 inisiatif," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 2.2. NOV. 2024.....



SIDANG DUN SELANGOR dimaklumkan berkemungkinan ketampakan lelaki warga asing menarik minat wanita tempatan untuk bernikah dengan mereka. — GAMBAR HIASAN

Gubal undang-undang elak warga asing bermain cinta wanita tempatan

HARIAN METRO 22/11

Kahwin untuk dapat lesen niaga

SIDANG DUN SELANGOR



Oleh MOHD. YUNUS YAKKUB

SHAH ALAM – Kerajaan Negeri Selangor bersedia menggubal undang-undang pemberian lesen perniagaan kepada warga tempatan yang berkahwin dengan warga asing bagi mengelakkan pemanipulasian lesen.

Exco Kerajaan Tempatan dan Pelancongan, Datuk Ng Suee Lim

berkata, pihaknya mengakui wujud perkara itu sekali gus menyuarakan penguatkuasaan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

“Kerjasama akan dilakukan dengan semua agensi dalam mencari pendekatan holistik berhubung perkara itu. Itu cinta olok-olok atau cinta cari peluang bagi gunakan perkahwinan untuk berniaga. Ini bukan cinta sejati.

“Memang wujud di lapangan di sana sini dan kadang-kadang sukar nak buat penguatkuasaan. Kita pergi ke sana (premis) nama isteri yang merupakan warga tempatan tetapi di belakangnya warga asing,” katanya pada sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor di sini semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Abbas Salimmi Che Adzmi@Azmi (**PH-Seri Serdang**) sama ada kerajaan negeri mempunyai perancangan untuk menggubal enakmen bagi menangani gejala warga asing berkahwin dengan warga tempatan untuk mendapatkan lesen perniagaan.

Suee Lim berkata, kemajuan ekonomi yang dicapai Malaysia dan Selangor khususnya menjadikannya sebagai lubuk emas dalam kalangan warga asing.

“Mereka suka datang dan senang cari nafkah hidup. Jadi ini tarikan kepada mereka. Malah, (ada) warga asing pun sudah lama dan serasi dengan warga tempatan. Berkemungkinan ke-

tampanan atau kekacakan menarik minat warga tempatan dan berkahwin mereka,” ujarnya.

Ketika menjawab soalan asal Wan Dzahanurin Ahmad (**PH-Sungai Kandis**), Suee Lim menegaskan, sebanyak 32 lesen perniagaan telah dibatal kerana salah guna lesen dengan menyewakannya kepada warga asing.

Ujarnya, secara pecahan, ia melibatkan 16 lesen di bawah pentadbiran Majlis Bandaraya Subang dan Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor (5) selain Majlis Perbandaran Kajang, Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Langat dan Majlis Daerah Sabak Bernam masing-masing tiga serta dua lesen bagi Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor.

DARI MUKA 33

Menurut Pensyarah Kanan Fakulti Senibina Perancangan dan Ukur, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Perak Dr Azizul Azli Ahmad, masalah kecacatan atau kegagalan dalam reka bentuk rumah (design failure) adalah isu besar kerana ia hanya disedari pembeli selepas menerima kunci atau menduduki hartanah dibeli.

"Isu kegagalan reka bentuk rumah sepenuhnya tanggungjawab pemaju kerana orang biasa terutama yang bukan dari bidang pembinaan tidak faham atau tahu membaca pelan."

"Kecacatan rekaan itu bukan hanya tidak sesuai dengan fungsi malah ada implikasi terhadap estetika rumah dan keselamatan penghuni," katanya.

Pemilik atau pembeli hartanah wajar meneliti rekaan rumah dibeli sama ada mempunyai kecacatan atau kegagalan dari segi reka bentuk.

Malah Dr Azizul Azli berkata, pemilik atau pembeli boleh menuntut jika ada kecacatan pada reka bentuk rumah dibeli.

"Dalam pembinaan rumah memang ada peruntukan undang-undang berkaitan bangunan iaitu Undang-Undang Kecil Bangunan Seragam 1984 (UKBS 1984) terpakai untuk semua pihak berkaitan."

"Sepatutnya arkitek atau pemaju perlu mengenal pasti rekaan mereka termasuklah pihak berkuasa tempatan yang meluluskan dan lembaga berkaitan."

"Lebih menjejaskan jika kegagalan reka bentuk menjejaskan keselamatan penghuni dalam bangunan terbabit," katanya.

Dr Azizul Azli turut menyenaraikan lapan kriteria kegagalan reka bentuk kerap dialami pembeli hartanah.

"Struktur bumbung dan atap antara kegagalan reka bentuk yang serius."



Kecacatan rekaan itu bukan hanya tidak sesuai dengan fungsi malah ada implikasi terhadap estetika rumah dan keselamatan penghuni

DR AZIZUL AZLI

Bagi negara dengan iklim cuaca tropika, struktur dan ukuran bumbung yang betul sangat penting.

"Saya pernah menulis satu artikel trend rumah tidak berbumbung dan pemaju teruja dengan idea reka bentuk struktur bumbung itu kerana dapat menjimatkan kos pembinaan."

"Tetapi rekaan sedemikian tidak sesuai kerana bukan hanya bumbung mudah bocor, ia juga menyebabkan kerosakan pada struktur penting rumah," katanya.

Selain itu, rekaan saluran dan pempaipan juga antara kerap berlaku sehingga menyebabkan kes terbabit berulang walaupun sudah dibaiki.

"Rutin biasa pemaju

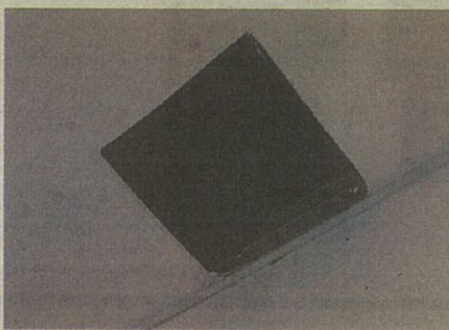


PEMBELI boleh menuntut menerusi tribunal.

TRIBUNAL TUNTUTAN PEMBELI RUMAH

BANYAK PIHAK MAIN PERANAN

Arkitek, pemaju perlu kenal pasti rekaan selain PBT serta lembaga berkaitan yang beri kelulusan



KEBECORAN bumbung berpunca daripada struktur dan rekaan salah.

lakukan ketika sesi pemeriksaan rumah ialah air dialirkan ke saluran air untuk memastikan saluran air tidak mengalami masalah.

"Aspek lain ialah penambat bunyi yang mana memastikan bunyi bising dari luar tidak mengganggu penghuni dalam rumah."

"Begitu juga akses keluar masuk kawasan bangunan baik perumahan atau bangunan komersial

perlu mudah dicapai oleh penghuni," katanya.

Katanya, mengabaikan ciri-ciri itu disifatkan antara kecacatan rekaan bangunan yang serius kerana boleh menjejaskan keselesaan penghuni apatah lagi dengan ruang yang sempit.

"Selain laluan akses keluar masuk yang mudah ditemui, laluan utama itu perlu luas dan terang."

"Ciri-ciri kegagalan



MENDAPAN berpunca daripada pemasangan cerucuk gagal.

reka bentuk juga boleh dilihat pada pembinaan struktur tangga. Selain ukuran antara pemajak dan penak perluah menggunakan material tidak licin.

"Susun atur ruang juga penting kerana itu juga boleh memberi nilai tambah baik kepada penggunaan ruang secara optimum sesuai dengan fungsinya."

"Pencapaian dan pengudaraan juga antara elemen perlu disemak terutama jika pembeli rumah mahu melantik pemeriksa kerosakan rumah bertauniah," katanya.

Pensyarah kanan itu berkata, pembeli juga mempunyai hak dan perlu memainkan peranan penting menuntut hak mereka.

"Mungkin ramai pesimis terhadap peluang mereka untuk menuntut ganti rugi atau pampasan daripada

pemaju.

"Ia tidak mustahil berdasarkan satu kajian kes berkaitan dengan satu projek di Seri Iskandar membabit satu pemaju ternama."

"Pemilik menyedari berlaku mendapan serius sehingga rumah dibeli tidak layak diduduki."

"Dia (pemilik) melantik pemeriksa berdaftar dan mendapati kerja asas lantai seperti cerucuk tidak dilakukan dengan baik."

"Pemilik menang kes dan pemaju terpaksa runtuh dan bina semula mengikut spesifikasi yang selayaknya," katanya.

Penting untuk pembeli hartanah lebih cakna hak mereka termasuk menuntut pampasan kepada pemaju atau menghantar aduan kepada Tribunal Tuntutan Pembeli Rumah.



KEGAGALAN rekabentuk adalah tanggungjawab pemaju.

Gudang makanan Selangor siap tiga tahun lagi

2/11
SH

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan Selangor menyasarkan dapat menyiapkan pembinaan gudang makanan Selangor dalam tempoh tiga tahun lagi, kata Exco Infrastruktur dan Pertanian negeri Ir Izham Hashim.

Izham berkata, gudang yang akan dibina di atas tanah berkeluasan empat hektar di Kuala Selangor itu, kini dalam proses pertukaran zon tanah dengan pihak berkuasa tempatan sebelum permintaan untuk cadangan boleh dilakukan.

Beliau berkata, pembinaan gudang itu merupakan antara inisiatif untuk memperkukuh keterjaminan makanan di negeri berkenaan.

"Gudang makanan Selangor ini telah diumumkan oleh Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari pada belanjawan negeri yang lepas dan kita telah pun melaksanakannya secara berfasa.

"Sementara fasiliti atau gudang kekal siap dibina, kita telah melaksanakan fasa pertama dengan menyewa beberapa tempat seperti beras di Sekinchan, daging di Pelabuhan Klang serta ayam dan ikan di pasar borong di Puchong," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Pertukaran Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) antara Perbadanan Kemajuan Pertanian Selangor (PKPS) dan Allanasons Private Limited di sini, pada Khamis.

Izham berkata, MoU berkenaan membabitkan pembekalan 1,000 metrik tan daging oleh Allanasons Private Limited ke kemudahan penyimpanan sementara di Pelabuhan Klang yang dijangka mampu menampung keperluan penduduk Selangor selama sebulan. - *Bernama*

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024

Selangor rekod nilai dagangan RM639.2 bilion

22/11/24

SHAH ALAM - Selangor merekodkan nilai dagangan berjumlah RM639.2 bilion iaitu sebanyak 29.9 peratus kepada jumlah perdagangan negara bagi tempoh Januari hingga September tahun ini.

Exco Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Mobiliti Selangor, Ng Sze Han memaklumkan, jumlah direkodkan itu meningkat sebanyak 13.9 peratus berbanding tempoh yang sama pada tahun sebelumnya.

Jelasnya, bagi sumbangan kepada jumlah eksport negara pula Selangor merekodkan RM264 bilion dan menyumbang 23.7 peratus.

"Negeri Selangor juga turut merekodkan sebanyak RM375.2 bilion iaitu 36.6 peratus kepada jumlah import negara," katanya dalam Persidangan Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor, di sini pada Khamis.



SZE HAN

**SIDANG DUN
SELANGOR**

Sze Han yang juga ADUN Kinrara menjawab pertanyaan **Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali (PN-Hulu Kelang)** mengenai prestasi perdagangan negeri itu pada 2024.

Beliau berkata, antara produk utama perdagangan Selangor adalah jentera dan kelengkapan peralatan berjumlah RM273.35 bilion atau 42.8 peratus dan barangan perkilangan RM101.99 bilion (16.0 peratus).

Selain itu ujarnya, bahan kimia mencatatkan jumlah RM78.65 bilion (12.3 peratus), pelbagai artikel perkilangan RM65.35 bilion (10.2 peratus) dan makanan RM46.37 bilion (7.3 peratus).

Tambahnya, rakan dagang utama Selangor iaitu China menyumbang 23.9 peratus, Amerika Syarikat (12.1 peratus), Jepun (6.5 peratus), Indonesia (4.4 peratus) dan India (4.1 peratus).

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: **22 NOV 2024**

Wajar laksana giliran tempat kerja

Salah satu usaha atasi isu berkaitan integriti dan rasuah

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN
PUTRAJAYA**

Kaedah penggiliran tempat kerja wajar dilaksanakan oleh setiap jabatan sebagai salah satu usaha penyelesaian terhadap isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan integriti termasuk rasuah dan penyelewengan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Yayasan Sinar Untuk Malaysia Rasuah Busters, Nurhayati Nordin berkata, keberadaan yang lama bagi pegawai di sesuatu tempat atau jawatan membuka ruang kepada masalah integriti.

Jelas beliau, tekanan sekeliling, ketamakan dan ruang merupakan punca kepada ber-

lakunya rasuah.

"Jadi penggiliran di tempat kerja ini mampu menutup ruang berlakunya rasuah," katanya.

Menurut beliau, tempoh lima tahun di sesuatu jawatan atau lokasi penempatan merupakan tempoh yang panjang namun ia bergantung kepada keperluan sesebuah jabatan.

"Bagi jawatan atau penempatan yang kritikal iaitu sangat berisiko, penggiliran ini amatlah wajar dilakukan.

"Jika tidak dapat melaksanakannya atas alasan tertentu, maka pengawasan perlu dibuat bagi memastikan perkara yang dikaitkan dengan integriti dapat dicegah," tegasnya.

Nurhayati berkata, sekiranya tiada perubahan selepas penggiliran dilaksanakan, tindakan penguatkuasaan perlu diambil oleh pihak atasan.

"Adalah amat penting agar ada pemantauan dan pelaporan turut dilakukan supaya penilaian ke atas pekerja dapat dibuat seadil-adilnya," katanya.



Nurhayati (depan, lima dari kiri) pada Hari Integriti bersama warga Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar.

Terdahulu, Nurhayati meluangkan masa selama sejam berkongsi mengenai isu integriti dalam pekerjaan di hadapan 250 pegawai sempena Sambutan Hari Integriti Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DVS) di sini, pada Khamis.

Majlis yang dirasmikan oleh Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Dasar), Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan Datuk Azah Hanim Ahmad itu

turut dihadiri oleh Ketua Pengarah DVS, Dr Akma Ngah Hamid.

Pada majlis itu, DVS turut melancarkan kod etika dan tatakelakuan sebagai panduan kepada kakitangan jabatan itu yang antara lain menggabungkan komponen nilai, etika dan tatakelakuan yang perlu dipatuhi serta dibudayakan.

Kod Etika dan Tatakelakuan berkenaan berkenaan memberi peringatan kepada setiap kakita-

ngan sebagai pegawai awam untuk menghindari perbuatan yang menyalahi undang-undang.

Di samping itu, DVS turut membangunkan Polisi Pengurusan Percanggahan Kepentingan yang telah dikuatkuasakan pada 21 Oktober lalu sebagai usaha berterusan jabatan, berkenaan untuk memperkukuh dan membudayakan perkhidmatan yang berintegriti dan berkualiti.

Banjir bukan pesta, jangan terlalu seronok



ANALISIS
MUKA 16

WAN ROSIDA WAN
HAMAD

Rabu lalu, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) mengeluarkan amaran hujan berterusan tahap buruk di Kelantan, Terengganu dan Pahang sehingga Sabtu ini.

MetMalaysia turut mengeluarkan amaran hujan berterusan tahap waspada di Kota Tinggi, Johor juga dalam tempoh tersebut.

Kalau dahulu musim tengkujuh pada hujung tahun sinonim dikaitkan dengan Pantai Timur, tetapi kini negeri-negeri lain di Malaysia turut menerima tempas.

Sudah pasti, orang ramai terutama mereka yang tinggal terutama di Pahang, Terengganu dan Kelantan sudah membuat persiapan secukupnya dalam menghadapi bencana alam itu untuk sekian kalinya.

Peningkatan mendadak kadar taburan hujan ini memerlukan perhatian dan tindakan yang sewajarnya supaya tidak menjadi 'bulan kematian' akibat daripada kelemahan kita memahami risiko bencana banjir. Banjir bukan masanya untuk berpesta walaupun paras airnya mungkin cetek dan tenang.

Tidak dinafikan, kematian akibat lemas di musim bah ada berlaku terutamanya di kawasan yang teruk dilanda bencana alam itu. Ia boleh terjadi kepada sesiapa sahaja tidak kira usia, bukan sahaja melibatkan orang dewasa, malah kanak-kanak dan golongan tua.

Andai terleka sedikit, berisiko menjadi korban arus banjir yang sa-

ngat deras, dan sering kali mangsa tidak dapat menyelamatkan diri. Ini kerana arus yang kuat boleh menarik mangsa ke dalam air, dan dalam banyak kes, mangsa gagal untuk berenang atau melawan arus tersebut.

Orang yang tidak dapat berenang atau tidak mengetahui cara untuk mengendalikan diri dalam air banjir terutama kanak-kanak dan golongan tua lebih cenderung terdedah risiko.

Lebih membimbangkan, kanak-kanak sering kali teruja dengan air tetapi tidak menyedari bahaya bencana alam itu.

Mereka cenderung bermain di kawasan yang terjejas oleh banjir, terutamanya di kawasan air yang cetek, yang sebenarnya boleh menjadi sangat berbahaya jika arus air meningkat dengan cepat.

Justeru, tugas kita sebagai orang dewasa untuk memantau dan berpesan kepada anak-anak agar tidak bermain di sekitar kawasan banjir atau berhampiran dengan air yang mengalir kerana malang tidak berbau.

Andai berlaku tragedi yang tidak diingini itu, kita bukan sahaja kehilangan harta benda, malah meragut emosi seandainya ada ahli keluarga yang menjadi korban banjir akibat kecuai.

Kita tidak mahu korban lemas akibat banjir berulang lagi. Elak bermain air bah, jaga diri dan keluarga serta pastikan sentiasa pantau amaran cuaca daripada pihak berkuasa atau media tempatan.

Jika ada amaran banjir, segeralah mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga dan elakkan pergi ke kawasan berisiko kerana mungkin bahaya tersembunyi menanti seperti lubang atau serpihan yang boleh menyebabkan kecederaan atau kematian.

“

Andai berlaku tragedi yang tidak diingini itu, kita bukan sahaja kehilangan harta benda, malah meragut emosi seandainya ada ahli keluarga yang menjadi korban banjir akibat kecuai.”

Dalam pada itu, penulis menyambut baik langkah Kementerian Pendidikan yang bersiap sedia dengan kaedah pengajaran dan pembelajaran di rumah (PdPR) kepada murid dan pelajar yang kawasan mereka terkesan akibat banjir.

Walaupun ia sebagai langkah andai sekolah itu tidak dapat meneruskan pendidikan seperti biasa kerana tempoh masa banjir berpanjangan, tapi dalam masa yang sama penulis percaya langkah itu juga mampu mengurangkan pergerakan pelajar terutama murid sekolah rendah di kawasan berisiko.

Apa pun, diingatkan sekali lagi, penting untuk kita meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai keselamatan air dan mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga yang sewajarnya.

Kejadian lemas akibat banjir boleh dielakkan jika kita lebih berhati-hati, mengikut arahan pihak berkuasa dan memberi perhatian kepada persekitaran kita semasa musim hujan.

Jangan terlalu seronok bermain air banjir dan hujan kerana di hadapannya ada bahaya yang menanti.

* Wan Rosida Wan Hamad ialah Editor Pengisian Web Sinar Harian

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'Perang' jiran tak berkesudahan angkara najis kucing merata-rata

22/11
SH

KONFLIK antara pemilik kucing dengan jiran tetangga ketika ini tidak menunjukkan sebarang titik noktah, sama seperti konflik peperangan yang berlaku melibatkan negara haram Israel dengan Palestin.

Bukanlah Merak Jalanan nak melebihi-lebih dengan mengaitkan peperangan itu dengan perang antara jiran hanya kerana disebabkan haiwan kesayangan Nabi Muhammad SAW itu, tetapi ini melibatkan tiada rasa tanggungjawab pemilik kucing.

Kisah pergaduhan jiran tetangga kerana isu tahi dan kencing kucing banyak diceritakan di media sosial, bahkan turut menjadi perbalahan dalam grup WhatsApp penduduk yang tidak berpuas hati kerana terpaksa membersihkan laman dan tangga rumah setiap hari.

Pemilik kucing, hanya berdiam diri. Pencinta kucing pula bersuara mengatakan jangan menganiaya kucing itu sambil mengeluarkan ayat: "Apalah sangat kerja mencuci kalau dibandingkan dengan ganjaran di akhirat kelak."

Apabila ada jiran bersuara mencadangkan supaya kucing terbiar ditangkap dan diserahkan kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT), pencinta-pencinta haiwan mulalah bising.

Bagi Merak Jalanan, tidak salah kalau nak bela kucing, bahkan ia adalah satu perbuatan mulia. Namun, pemilik kucing perlulah menjaganya dengan penuh tanggungjawab. Perlulah melatih haiwan peliharaan mereka supaya 'membuang' di tanah sendiri, bukannya bermaharajalela di tanah orang lain.

Merak Jalanan sendiri setiap hari berdepan dengan isu serupa. Terpaksa tahan nafas dan berhati-hati dengan langkah, takut-takut terpijak 'periuk api'.

Cuma, apakah yang perlu dilakukan pihak berwajib untuk mengatasi masalah ini? Nak mengharapkan persatuan penduduk, langsung tiada fungsi.

Atau mungkin tiba masanya untuk mewajibkan kucing peliharaan memakai mikrochip sama seperti Thailand supaya mudah untuk mengesan pemilik kucing yang lepas tangan.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024

Gaji minimum RM1,700 di Selangor tahun depan

Kerjasama turut dilakukan bersama badan berkanun dan sektor swasta

Oleh MOHD AZLIM ZAINURY
SHAH ALAM

Selangor bakal melaksanakan penyelarasan kadar gaji minimum kepada RM1,700 bermula pada tahun depan seiring dengan pelaksanaannya di peringkat Persekutuan.

Exco Sumber Manusia dan Pembasmian Kemiskinan Negeri Selangor, V Papparaidu berkata, antara pendekatan akan digunakan adalah melalui penguatkuasaan undang-

undang bersama Jabatan Tenaga Kerja (JTK).

Jelasnya, kerjasama turut dilakukan termasuk bersama badan berkanun dan sektor swasta untuk menggalakkan pemberian gaji yang berpatutan di samping mengambil kira keadaan ekonomi serta kadar inflasi.

"Syarikat yang mendapat kontrak kerajaan negeri juga dipastikan mematuhi gaji minimum ditetapkan.

"Kadar kenaikan gaji itu juga adalah seiring dengan pertumbuhan ekonomi dan perniagaan di negeri ini," katanya dalam Sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor di sini pada Khamis.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan Jefri Mejan (PN-Ijok) mengenai pendekatan kerajaan negeri untuk memastikan kadar gaji minimum RM1,700 dilaksanakan di negeri ini.



PAPPARAIDU

Papparaidu turut menjelaskan, berdasarkan penemuan Survei Gaji dan Upah (SGU) dilaksanakan Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia mendapati purata pendapatan bagi Selangor ialah RM3,737 seterusnya meletakkan Selangor di tempat ketiga purata gaji dan upah tertinggi.

"Ini juga menjadikan Selangor antara negeri yang melepasi paras purata nasional pada RM3,212 selain Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur, Labuan dan Pulau Pinang," tambahnya.

Sebelum ini, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim ketika membentangkan Belanjawan 2025 pada bulan lalu mengumumkan kenaikan kadar gaji minimum daripada RM1,500 kepada RM1,700 sebulan berkuat kuasa mulai 1 Februari tahun depan.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024

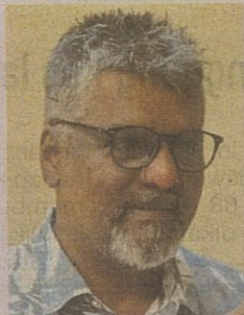


Dua jam solat Jumaat tidak jejas urus niaga, tingkat produktiviti

SHAH ALAM – Waktu rehat bagi sektor swasta pada hari Jumaat di Johor yang dilanjutkan kepada dua jam tidak akan menjejaskan urusan perniagaan sebaliknya bakal meningkatkan lagi produktiviti pekerja.

Pakar Ekonomi INCEIF University, Profesor Dr Baharom Abdul Hamid berkata, sudah menjadi lumrah tingkah laku manusia kerana jika dijaga dengan baik mereka akan jadi lebih gembira sekali gus mampu melonjakkan produktiviti kerja mereka.

“Ini satu langkah yang baik dan kalau ada yang kata ia mengurangkan waktu



BAHAROM

berurus niaga kerana waktu rehat dilanjutkan, bagi saya ia (waktu urus niaga yang dikurangkan) hanyalah tempoh yang singkat.

“Saya berpendirian apabila rakyat sihat dan selesa, maka ia akan diterjemahkan melalui budaya kerja dan produktiviti yang lebih baik seterusnya ia akan menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi Johor secara keseluruhannya,” katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Baharom menegaskan, beliau yakin waktu rehat yang ditambah sedikit tersebut tidak memberi apa-apa kesan buruk kerana orang akan menyesuaikan diri dengan waktu baharu yang ditetapkan.

“Ia hanya memerlukan sedikit masa untuk

orang menyesuaikan diri dan selepas itu orang sudah tahu pada sekian-sekian masa kaunter atau perniagaan ditutup.

“Ia akan elakkan pekerja swasta tergesa-gesa untuk tunaikan solat Jumaat kalau waktu rehat tidak dipanjangkan. Bila waktu rehat yang secukupnya diberi maka impaknya akan ke arah positif.

“Kalau kita lihat kajian dan pandangan rata-ratanya menyatakan bahawa sekiranya kebajikan pekerja dijaga maka mereka akan diterjemahkan kepada budaya kerja yang lebih sihat,” ujarnya.

Baharom berharap supaya suatu pengukuran dari segi pertumbuhan ekonomi Johor dan syarikat-syarikat swasta di negeri itu dapat dibuat dalam tempoh enam bulan selepas ketetapan itu dilaksana.

SINAR HARIAN

22 NOV 2024

Tarikh:

Jumaat kerja separuh hari, Sabtu, Ahad cuti

22/10
5H

Johor pertimbang sektor awam kerja empat hari setengah seminggu

Oleh NOR AZURA MD AMIN
ISKANDAR PUTERI

Johor sedang memperhalusi cadangan perubahan waktu bekerja sektor awam di negeri ini kepada empat hari setengah seminggu.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi berkata, cadangan itu susulan pelaksanaan cuti hujung minggu di negeri ini kepada Sabtu dan Ahad bermula 1 Januari tahun depan.

"Sekiranya usaha-usaha penambahbaikan itu berjalan lancar, insya-ALLAH kerajaan negeri akan mempertimbang cadangan perubahan waktu bekerja kepada empat hari setengah tanpa mengurangkan keseluruhan tempoh jam bekerja bagi sektor awam.

"Bagaimanapun, ia perlu mendapat perkenan Pemangku Sultan Johor, Tunku Mahkota Ismail dan restu Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Ibrahim," katanya ketika membentangkan Belanjawan Johor 2025, di Bangunan Sultan Ismail pada Khamis.

Pada masa ini, sektor awam di negara ini bekerja 45 jam seminggu.

Menurut Onn Hafiz, kerajaan negeri kini sedang giat melakukan penambahbaikan bagi mempertingkatkan produktiviti dan menambah baik sistem penyampaian perkhidmatan.

Katanya, ia termasuk memperkasa perkhidmatan digital dengan penambahan urusan yang boleh dilaksanakan secara online.

"Kerajaan Johor juga akan memanjangkan waktu operasi perkhidmatan kaunter yang kritikal untuk terus beroperasi termasuk pada waktu rehat antara jam 1 petang hingga 2 petang.

"Penyeragaman waktu operasi perkhidmatan kaunter di semua jabatan dan agensi kerajaan negeri, kerajaan Persekutuan dan pihak berkuasa tempatan juga akan dilaksanakan," jelasnya.

Sebelum ini, Emiriah Arab Bersatu



Penjawat awam di Johor mengikuti pembentangan Belanjawan Johor 2025 oleh Onn Hafiz pada Khamis.



(UAE) dilaporkan melaksanakan waktu bekerja dalam seminggu yang paling singkat di dunia iaitu hanya empat hari setengah berkuat kuasa 1 Januari 2022.

Di bawah langkah itu, waktu kerja antara Isnin hingga Khamis di negara itu bermula jam 7.30 pagi hingga 3.30 petang manakala bagi hari Jumaat, waktu bekerja bermula pada jam 7.30 pagi hingga 12 tengah hari.

Bahkan bagi pekerja kerajaan, mereka mempunyai pilihan untuk bekerja dari rumah pada Jumaat dan menyusun jadual waktu bekerja mengikut masa yang fleksibel.

Dua jam untuk solat Jumaat

Sementara itu, Onn Hafiz berkata, kerajaan negeri menetapkan waktu rehat bagi sektor swasta pada hari Jumaat dilanjutkan kepada 2 jam berbanding 1 jam 30 minit sebelum ini.

Beliau berkata, ketetapan itu dibuat bagi membolehkan umat Islam yang bekerja di sektor swasta di negeri ini dapat menunaikan solat Jumaat dengan selesa.

"Bagi memastikan kemuliaan hari Jumaat terus terpelihara dan umat Islam termasuk yang bekerja di sektor swasta dapat menunaikan kewajipan solat Jumaat dengan selesa, kerajaan negeri ingin mem-

buat ketetapan supaya waktu rehat bagi sektor swasta pada hari Jumaat dilanjutkan dari 1 jam 30 minit kepada 2 jam," katanya.

Onn Hafiz memberitahu bilangan surau termasuk dewan yang berada di dalam kawasan sekolah juga akan ditambah.

"Bagi memastikan pelajar lelaki yang beragama Islam dapat menunaikan solat Jumaat, Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Johor, Jabatan Agama Islam dan Jabatan Mufti akan mengambil tindakan sewajarnya.

"Ia termasuk menambah bilangan surau termasuk surau atau dewan yang berada di dalam kawasan sekolah yang menepati kriteria untuk diberikan kebenaran melaksanakan solat Jumaat," ujarnya.

Pada 7 Oktober lalu, Tunku Mahkota Ismail bertitah cuti hujung minggu di Johor akan ditukar semula kepada Sabtu dan Ahad bermula 1 Januari 2025.

Baginda turut bertitah agar semua syarikat swasta, pihak kerajaan dan pihak yang berkaitan memberikan ruang dan masa yang mencukupi untuk pekerja Muslim menunaikan solat Jumaat.

Penyelarasan semula cuti hujung minggu itu akan melibatkan kesemua penduduk Johor, terutama 580,000 pelajar dan 1.9 juta tenaga kerja sektor kerajaan dan swasta.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: ..2.2..NOV..2024.....

Cinta 'olok-olok' untuk dapat lesen perniagaan

SHAH ALAM: Warga asing dikatakan berkahwin dengan rakyat tempatan bagi mendapatkan lesen perniagaan atau penjaja daripada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

Sehubungan itu, Exco Kerajaan Tempatan dan Pelancongan, Datuk Ng Suee Lim berkata, kerajaan negeri berhasrat menggubal undang-undang pemberian lesen perniagaan kepada warga tempatan yang berkahwin dengan warga asing bagi mengelak manipulasi tersebut.

Menurutnya, kerajaan negeri mengakui wujud cinta 'olok-olok' dalam kalangan mereka yang seterusnya menyukarkan penguatkuasaan oleh PBT terutama dalam membanteras penyalahgunaan lesen daripada warga asing.

"Kerjasama akan dilakukan dengan semua agensi dalam mencari pendekatan holistik berhubung perkara tersebut. Itu cinta olok-olok atau atau cinta cari peluang bagi gunakan perkahwinan untuk ber-

niaga. Ini bukan cinta sejati.

"Memang wujud di lapangan dan kadang-kadang sukar hendak buat penguatkuasaan. Kita pergi ke sana (premis) nama isteri yang merupakan warga tempatan tetapi di belakangnya warga asing," katanya pada sidang Mesyuarat Ketiga Penggal Kedua Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor Ke-15, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Seri Serdang, Abbas Salimmi Che Adzmi@ Azmi, sama ada kerajaan negeri mempunyai perancangan untuk menggubal enakmen bagi menangani gejala warga asing berkahwin dengan warga tempatan untuk mendapatkan lesen perniagaan.

Suee Lim yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Sekinchan memberitahu, kemajuan ekonomi yang dicapai Malaysia dan Selangor khususnya, menjadikannya lubuk emas dalam kalangan warga asing.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024

Sewakan Rumah PPR, kerajaan negeri sedia ambil tindakan

SHAH ALAM: Rumah-rumah di bawah Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) yang disewakan secara haram kepada orang lain sudah dikenal pasti untuk diambil tindakan termasuk mengambil kembali unit berkenaan.

Exco Perumahan dan Kebudayaan, Datuk Borhan Aman Shah berkata, unit-unit itu dikesan menerusi operasi bancian Perumahan dan Hartanah Selangor Sdn. Bhd. (PHSSB) pada Januari dan Februari lalu terhadap unit PPR yang dihuni bukan penama asal atau sewa atas sewa (sublet).

"Kadang-kadang mereka penyewa asal keluar dan beri kepada anaknya mungkin tanpa beritahu kepada pengurusan, ini berlakunya 'sublet'.

"Ada juga tidak dapat dikesan kerana mereka tiada di rumah semasa bancian dilakukan. Kita juga berpandukan kepada laporan daripada jiran-jiran yang menyatakan berlakunya sublet rumah tersebut," katanya pada Mesyuarat Ketiga Penggal Kedua Sidang Dewan Undangan



BORHAN AMAN SHAH

Negeri (DUN) Selangor ke-15, semalam.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Kota Kemuning, S. Preakas berkenaan status pemulihan perumahan PPR termasuk status pemutihan secara terperinci.

ADUN Tanjung Sepat itu menegaskan tindakan penamatan

atau pemutihan diambil terhadap penyewa-penyewa unit tersebut termasuk sebanyak 29 notis dikeluarkan bagi kesalahan sublet di PPR Kampung Baru Hicom, Seksyen 26, di sini.

"Secara terperinci, status pemulihan tersebut melibatkan 17 unit yang dikosongkan, pengakuan penama tinggal bersama (lima), tempoh pengosongan belum tamat (empat), pemotongan bekalan air atau dalam proses pindah keluar (dua) dan satu tawaran ke Skim Smart Sewa," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau turut memaklumkan sebanyak dua projek perumahan tersebut sedang dirancang kerajaan negeri bersama Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) bagi membantu golongan B40 di Selangor menerusi projek PPR baharu.

"Ia melibatkan 200 unit di PPR Kampung Dato' Ahmad Razali, Sepang dan PPR Harmoni Madani di Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor sebanyak 245 unit," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 12.2.2024.....



Malam Mesra Media MBDK rai pengamal media

BAGI menghargai komitmen pihak media dalam menyampaikan maklumat kepada orang ramai, Majlis Bandaraya Diraja Klang (MBDK) mengadakan Malam Mesra Media 2024 di Dewan Hamzah MBDK, Klang, baru-baru ini.

Dalam program yang dirasmikan Timbalan Datuk Bandar MBDK, Mohd. Zary Effendy Mohd. Arif tersebut, beberapa acara seperti penyampaian

Anugerah Datuk Bandar, Cabutan Bertuah dan Pertandingan Karaoke Antara Agensi Media telah diadakan.

Yang hadir sama, Pengarah Komunikasi Korporat, Norfiza Mahfiz.

■ PENGAMAL media bergambar bersama pengurusan MBDK sempena Malam Mesra Media 2024.
- UTUSAN/ABDUL RAZAK IDRIS

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ...2.2 NOV 2024...

MBSA anjur Fam Trip promosi Tahun Melawat Selangor 2025

MAJLIS Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) mengadakan *Media Familiarisation (Fam) Trip* baru-baru ini bagi merangka perancangan untuk mempromosi destinasi menarik di bandar raya Shah Alam, untuk dikunjungi oleh pelancong dalam dan luar negara.

Melalui program itu, pihak media dan pengengaruh (*influencer*) telah dibawa ke tempat tumpuan seperti Taman Tasik Shah Alam, Galeri Shah Alam dan berapa lokasi baharu seperti Lakeside Mall Elmina.

Menurut Pengarah Jabatan Pembangunan Komuniti MBSA, Shahrin Ahmad, selain program

Fam Trip tersebut, pihak MBSA turut bekerjasama dengan kerajaan negeri, agensi kerajaan khususnya Tourism Selangor dan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan bagi memastikan sasaran kedatangan lapan juta pelancong pada Tahun melawat Selangor 2025 direalisasikan.

■ SHAHRIN Ahmad (berdiri, enam kanan) bergambar bersama pengamal media dan pengengaruh sempena Program Shah Alam Fam Trip 2024 di Dataran Kemerdekaan Shah Alam, baru-baru ini. - UTUSAN/ABDUL RAZAK IDRIS



UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024

DBKL tubuh jawatankuasa Pengurusan Insiden Awam tangani isu banjir kilat

2/11/2024

KUALA LUMPUR: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) menubuhkan Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Insiden Awam Kuala Lumpur bagi menangani isu banjir kilat di ibu negara.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, jawatankuasa

tersebut turut memberi bantuan segera iaitu kurang setengah jam kepada mangsa banjir kilat di Kuala Lumpur.

Beliau berkata, jawatankuasa itu akan mengaktifkan bantuan bagi tempoh kurang setengah jam 'response time' daripada waktu menerima amaran awal

banjir jalan atau banjir kilat.

"Jawatankuasa terbabit dibantu agensi lain seperti Angkatan Pertahanan Awam (APM), Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat dan Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) Kuala Lumpur.

"Seramai 490 petugas dala-

man DBKL akan siap siaga di lapangan dengan dibantu petugas pasukan pemantauan secara visual melalui lebih 60 unit kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) di bilik gerakan khususnya di kawasan berisiko yang dikenal pasti termasuk memantau kawasan sungai, parit dan kolam

takungan," katanya di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan Teresa Kok Suh Sim (PH-Seputeh) yang meminta menyatakan langkah diambil DBKL untuk mencegah dan menangani banjir kilat di Kuala Lumpur.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024



Maimunah says to become a walkable city, Kuala Lumpur needs to be pedestrian-friendly and improve public transport services (above). In terms of housing, the mayor says vertical development (left) is the only option.

THE STAR 22/11

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

AS SHE marks 100 days in office tomorrow, Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif shares with *StarMetro* her vision for transforming the Malaysian capital into a developed and inclusive city.

In this candid interview, the former Penang Island City Council mayor, 63, discusses her ambitions to reshape Kuala Lumpur's landscape through the proposed Urban Redevelopment Act (URA), which aims to revitalise urban areas.

Kuala Lumpur's first female mayor wants to encourage a shift towards vertical living and addresses challenges of creating a sustainable, equitable environment for all.

Developing upwards

Maimunah said there was a need for a new mindset around vertical living.

"The URA is still a proposal, so I won't go into details.

"However, for the redevelopment of ageing flats across the city, residents must understand the financial responsibilities tied to this modern lifestyle and adjust their expectations accordingly.

"Moving into larger units with more facilities will come with higher maintenance costs.

"When we redevelop, we aim to do so alongside the people who have lived there for decades," she added.

Having worked for the United Nations for six years as executive director of the Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and having visited 1,600 cities in 93 countries, Maimunah observed that, "With limited land resources, vertical development is our only option.

"We can look to cities like Singapore and Hong Kong, which also had to go vertical.

"However, this growth must be guided by density- and plot-ratio guidelines to ensure it doesn't disrupt residents' lives."

Redefining KL's future

Mayor believes vertical living is the way forward and wants city folk to take ownership of public spaces



(In yellow vests, from left) Maimunah, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa participating in World Cleanup Day around Pasar Seni. — Photos: Filepic

Beyond regulations, Maimunah emphasised that communities must have access to facilities such as parks, community centres, schools, hospitals and supermarkets.

This aligns with the 15-minute city concept whereby essential needs are within a 15-minute walk or bike ride.

Ideal homes in city centre

In a meeting with Real Estate and Housing Developers Association (REHDA) in October, Maimunah stressed that housing

should be both affordable and accessible, especially in the city centre.

"Affordable housing shouldn't be located 35km from where people work, as this only increases the burden of traffic and distance.

"Living in the city centre provides convenient access to work-places and facilities, but residents must also be willing to pay maintenance fees.

"Some may argue that they are justified in not paying for poor services.

"However, if they want to ben-

efit from quality services, they need to contribute payment."

Encouraging ownership

As the Commissioner of Building (COB) Kuala Lumpur, Maimunah believes there is a need for an advocacy and communication package to outline residents' responsibilities.

"This package should raise awareness, inform and inspire action, combining educational content, guidelines and targeted campaigns to drive positive behaviour and policy change.

"Living in these areas means upholding standards, maintaining cleanliness and not discarding rubbish irresponsibly.

"We're working closely with community leaders, Urbanise Malaysia and Think City, and have our own initiatives to reinforce these responsibilities within well-facilitated urban environments," she said.

"In Penang, when I was mayor, I would ask people, 'How does the rubbish get there?'"

"It was a reminder that litter doesn't appear on its own and that it is our responsibility to keep our surroundings clean."

She said she was inspired by a People's Residency Programme (PRR) community in Lembah Subang, Selangor, who had transformed their shared space into a five-star lobby.

"The power of that community to bring about change was incredible and has inspired others.

"I'm considering a competition to encourage residents to take ownership of their public spaces.

"In Nairobi, I saw a community transform dumpsites into vibrant public areas, driven by the energy of young people.

"I hope to make similar changes in Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with Think City and Urbanise."

She said 32 areas had been identified for this initiative and they were looking to engage with local communities to make it happen.

Making KL a walkable city

Maimunah said Malaysian cities were far ahead compared to certain African and South American cities.

"But we still have much to

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....



Maimunah (third from right) consulted Sobyanin (on her right) during BRICS Urban Future Forum in Moscow to discuss prospects for the sustainable development of megacities. — Courtesy photo

“We can look to cities like Singapore and Hong Kong, which also had to go vertical. However, this growth must be guided by density- and plot-ratio guidelines.”

Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif



learn, especially in improving public transport and creating liveable, walkable cities.”

During her recent visit to Moscow, Russia, for BRICS Urban Forum, she spoke with Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin, who had been re-elected three times and is acknowledged for his commitment in making the city pedestrian-friendly and liveable.

“I asked him, ‘How did you achieve this?’ He told me it was challenging at first, with plenty of complaints and resistance from residents, but today, Moscow is a vibrant hub of activity.”

Maimunah also said that during a gotong-royong session in Bukit Bintang in September, she had asked community leaders about pedestrianising the area and they were enthusiastic about it, wanting to discuss it further.

“I’ve been to cities like Stockholm (Sweden), Sydney and Melbourne (Australia), where congestion charges are imposed for vehicles entering the city centre,” she said.

“These cities prioritise public transport and even incentivise developers not to build parking bays, focusing instead on connectivity to public transport hubs.

“Here, we still give perks to developers to build more parking spaces,” she said.

“But, for congestion charges to work, we need an excellent public transport system.

“That’s why the government is encouraging public transit use and why we’re having more dedicated bus lanes in the city.

She stressed that this required a shift in mindset and changes needed to be made now.

Common utility tunnel system feasible for new developments



Aerial view of workers at the sinkhole in Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur. An Indian tourist fell into the 8m hole on Aug 23 and her body has not been recovered. — Photos: Filepic

CAN a Common Utility Tunnel (CUT) system, similar to the one in Putrajaya, prevent incidents like the recent tragedy where an Indian national was swallowed by a sinkhole in Jalan Masjid India?

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif believes such a system could improve underground utility maintenance and prevent similar accidents in the future, but its feasibility hinges on careful planning and cost considerations.

“From an engineering standpoint, it’s possible, but the challenge lies in retrofitting such a system into a dense, built-up urban area,” she told *StarMetro* when asked about the feasibility of building an underground tunnel for utilities and cables beneath Kuala Lumpur.

“The CUT system, like the one in Putrajaya, is feasible for improving underground utility maintenance.

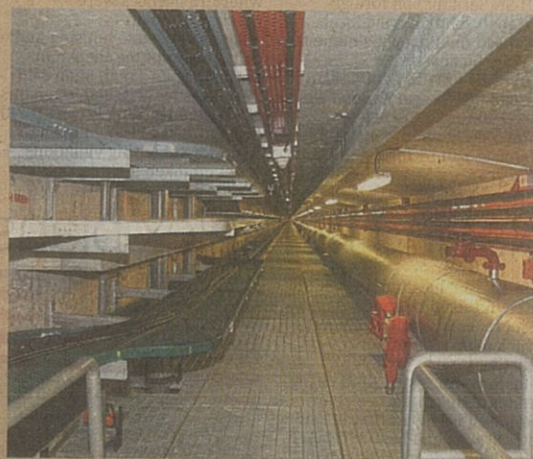
“I have seen this in Japan, where there are miles and miles of utility and fibre-optic cables running underneath cities like Tokyo, but these were constructed decades ago.

“In Kuala Lumpur, this could be considered for newer developments where there is still space to plan something like it,” she said.

Previously, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa had told Parliament that Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) was urged to consider building a common utility system similar to Putrajaya’s to improve efficiency of the city’s underground utility system.

She added that the system could also be integrated with the city’s control centre using telemetry technology for safety and monitoring.

Maimunah, a trained urban planner, said Putrajaya was a greenfield area, making it



Putrajaya’s Common Utility Trench houses a mass of TNB, multimedia, telecommunication and fibre-optic cables, as well as Air Selangor, Gas Malaysia and chilled water pipes.

suitable for underground tunnelling projects, as it offered flexibility and reduced risk of disrupting existing infrastructure.

“But Kuala Lumpur, being predominantly a brownfield area, is less suitable, though not impossible from an engineering perspective,” she said.

(Brownfield sites are typically located in urban areas because they have previously been built upon, while greenfield sites have never been built on and can be found in the countryside or rural areas.)

Putrajaya’s underground utility system was constructed between 1999 and 2006 at a cost of RM250mil.

Located 3m beneath the core island, it spans 10.8km across Precincts 2, 3 and 4 and serves as the nerve centre for utility companies and service providers, exclusively supporting ministries and government buildings.

It comprises a network of

Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) cables, Air Selangor and Gas Malaysia pipes, and multimedia and telecommunication fibre-optic cables, all neatly arranged.

On the status of the utility mapping task force study following the Jalan Masjid India incident, Maimunah said the report would be ready by the end of the year.

“But if utility companies had been unwilling to share their data before, the Jalan Masjid India incident has opened everyone’s eyes, and now all parties are willing to help and share information.

“We have RM10mil allocated under Budget 2025 to conduct the utility mapping study, which will cover the Jalan Masjid India area and the CBD (central business district),” she said.

In the Aug 23 incident, an Indian tourist, Vijayalakshmi Gali, fell into a 8m sinkhole. Her body has not been recovered. — By BAVANI M



Selangor to stop opportunists

THE STAR 22/11

State to address issue of foreigners marrying locals to secure business licences

THE Selangor government is formulating an action plan to regulate businesses operated by foreign nationals married to locals.

State local government and tourism committee chairman Datuk Ng Suet Lim acknowledged while many couples genuinely wanted to run legitimate businesses, some exploited such marriages to secure business licences.

"These opportunists marry locals solely to obtain business licences, making it challenging for enforcement teams to distinguish between genuine cases and those driven by ulterior motives."

"The state will work with relevant agencies to address this issue," he said, without going into details, during the Selangor State Assembly sitting at Bangunan Dewan Negeri Selangor in Shah Alam.

Ng was responding to supplementary questions from Abbas Salimi Che Adzmi@Azmi (PH-Sri Serdang) on foreign nationals who married locals and used their spouse's name to operate businesses.

In reply to Wan Dzahanurin Ahmad (PN-Sungai Kandis) who asked on the frequency of enforcement operations against premises run by foreigners with local licences, Ng said a total of



Borhan said operations were routinely carried out to curb subletting in public housing.

322 operations were conducted throughout Selangor.

"Over the past three years, 32 business licences were revoked by local councils for 'subletting' their licences to foreign nationals."

"The highest number was by Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) 29 notices were issued to tenants where 16 licences were revoked," he said.

Separately, state housing and culture committee chairman Datuk Borhan Aman Shah said 29 notices were issued to tenants of People's Housing Project (PPR) Kampung Baru Hicom in Shah Alam for subletting violations.

Action taken included cutting



The state assembly meeting in Shah Alam yesterday. — KK SHAM/The Star

off electricity supply to the units, he added.

Following a 2024 census by Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS), he said 16 of the violators had vacated the units with further action taken on those who refused to move out.

"The census was carried out by Perumahan Dan Hartanah Selangor Sdn Bhd (PHSSB) as the management agent of the public housing project."

"From the census exercise, PHSSB identified units occupied by individuals who were not the registered tenants or were being

sublet, based on complaints from the PPR residents themselves."

"Consequently, rental terminations or enforcement actions were taken against the tenants involved," he said in response to a question by Preakas Sampunathan (PH-Kota Kemuning) on the whitelisting exercise of public housing units in the state.

"Cooperation from residents is crucial in reporting such cases to LPHS and PHSSB to address the issue effectively."

"Strict action will be taken

against tenants found engaging in subletting," he said.

Borhan added that operations were routinely carried out to curb subletting activities in such public housing.

PHSSB, he said, had also identified 33 empty units in PPR Kampung Baru Hicom requiring major repairs before it could be rented out again.

"For this year, a budget has been allocated for 20 units currently being repaired, while the budget to repair the remaining 13 units will be allocated next year," he said.

Racing complex plans stalled over site suitability

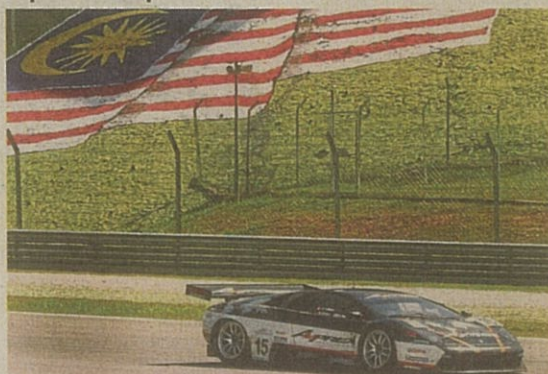
A SUITABLE location has yet to be found for the proposed motorsports complex in Selangor, which was first announced six years ago.

State youth, sports, and entrepreneurship committee chairman Mohd Najwan Halimi said several sites had been identified, but all were deemed unsuitable.

"So far, there has not been any suggestion to cancel the project," said Mohd Najwan in reply to Muhammad Hilman Idham (PN-Gombak Setia) during the Selangor State Assembly sitting at Bangunan Dewan Negeri Selangor in Shah Alam.

Earlier, Mohd Najwan told Mohd Razali Saari (PN-Sungai Panjang) that Selangor Land and Mines Office (PTG) had reviewed multiple locations for the proposed racetrack.

"The initial site identified was in Sungai Tua, Gombak, with subsequent sites along Jalan Panglima Besar near Sungai Gumut in Kerling, Kampung



According to Amirudin, building the race circuit would encourage development of motorsports in the state. — Filepic

Pasir Puteh in Kalumpang and Lembah Beringin," he said.

"However, none of these locations were suitable for the development of a racetrack."

Explaining the unsuitability of

the Sungai Tua site, Mohd Najwan said a feasibility study concluded that the 16.2ha area could only accommodate a 2.25km racetrack.

"The site was unsuitable for



Mohd Najwan said PTG had reviewed multiple locations for the proposed racetrack.

drag racing as the achievable straight-line distance was only 340m, compared to the minimum approved length of 600m, including safety measures."

He also highlighted environmental concerns.

"As the area includes a nearby river that flows into Batu Dam, there is a risk of pollution from earthworks and construction debris being carried by rainfall,

potentially affecting the dam and water supply."

"Additionally, the site falls within an environmentally sensitivity area (ESA), which includes protected zones such as the Batu Dam water catchment area, Sungai Batu and its tributaries, as well as steep slopes," he said.

During the 2019 budget announcement, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said the building circuit and complex would encourage the development of motorsports in the state and the project would be built as a Public-Private Partnership.

Najwan added that the state instructed PTG to continue its search for a suitable site for the complex.

However, he said the state was currently prioritising identifying land for a land swap deal linked to the redevelopment of the Shah Alam Sports Complex.



Papparaidu says MySel officers have no authority to approve applications.

2,178 cases resolved via MySel programme since 2020

A TOTAL of 2,178 citizenship documentation issues have been resolved via Selangor government's MySel Identity Document Centre programme (MySel) over the past five years.

State human resources and poverty eradication committee chairman V. Papparaidu said this figure was almost half of the 5,058 applications received between 2020 and October 2024.

Established in 2018, the MySel

programme is aimed at helping Selangor residents facing difficulties obtaining identification documents.

"Issues related to citizenship certificates recorded the highest number with 1,504 cases, followed by birth certificates with 1,128 and adopted children with 1,077."

"The primary role of the MySel officers is to assist in coordinating and preparing

relevant documents, as well as ensuring that all applications submitted to the respective agencies and departments are complete and properly organised."

"I would like to clarify that the MySel officers do not have the authority to approve any of these applications," he said during the Selangor State Assembly sitting at Bangunan Dewan Negeri Selangor in Shah Alam.

Papparaidu was responding to Pang Sock Tao (PH-Kuala Kubu Bharu) who queried on the number of resolved cases under the MySel programme.

He said issues affecting stateless children often include the absence of birth certificates due to parents marrying abroad, parental negligence in registering their children and cases of children born out of wedlock.

Cases of residential fires troubling

THE STAR 22/11

Over 3,000 blazes in homes linked to electrical sources, say Fire Dept

**YOUR
RIGHT
to
know**

By GERARD GIMINO
gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my



PETALING JAYA: A total of 3,172 cases of fires in residential premises between January and September this year was attributed to electrical sources.

The causes include faulty wiring, electrical equipment failure and user error, according to the Fire and Rescue Department.

"Using too many electrical appliances at one time or having too many plugs in each socket can cause overload and increase the risk of fires."

"There have also been cases of people forgetting to turn off some of their electrical appliances, causing them to overheat," department federal fire investigation division director Azlimin Mat Noor (pic) told *The Star*.

Selangor recorded the highest number of building fires due to electrical sources, he added.

Based on the department's findings, fire-causing factors include using loose terminal screws on sockets, wiring cables that are not installed according to standards and worn-out wires. Also cited were electrical equipment failure, excessive electric usage and errors on the part of users.

According to Azlimin, electrical appliances that do not have the Standard and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia or Sirim certification stamp are also at risk of electrical fires.

More than 9,000 cases of building fires were recorded between January and September this year, with a whopping 6,202, or 68%, of cases being caused by

electrical sources.

Residential premises recorded the highest number of incidents at 5,047, with 63% or 3,172 cases of fire caused by electrical sources, according to the department.

For new buildings or premises, Azlimin said electrical wiring should only be installed by electricians approved by the Energy Commission.

The electricians, he said, had undergone assessments and understood the wiring standards and procedures set by the commission.

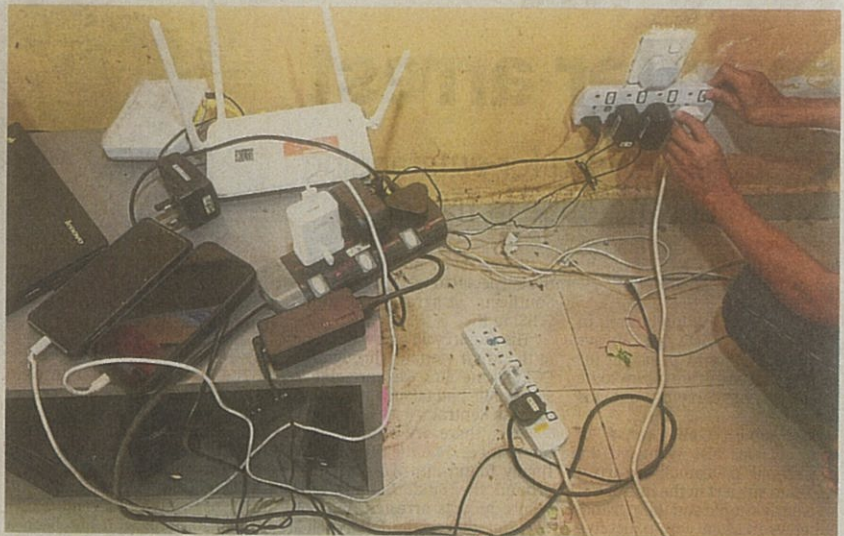
"Premises aged 20 years and above should also have their wiring checked alongside maintenance works."

"Old wires, which often have worn-out insulators, can affect current flow and be exposed to other flammable materials."

"Also, perform checks on loose wire connections. They must be tightened so there is no increasing resistance, which can cause high temperatures and result in fires," he added.

Azlimin also stressed that earth-leakage circuit breakers located inside the main switch boards of residential units should be inspected periodically.

"Do not modify any disconnected fuses by adding more wires to bypass them. Avoid performing extra wiring work through circuit tapping from existing circuits. If needed, additional wiring must have the source beginning from the main switch board according



Better safe than sorry: Avoid overloading wiring to ensure electrical safety. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

to the suitable fuse rates.

"Wiring works must adhere to standards set by the Energy Commission," he said.

It is also important to identify potential electrical issues before a fire occurs.

"Look out for repeated occurrences of fuse tripping or electrical supplies being cut. They occur as the electrical appliances threshold usage has exceeded the limit of the fuse. If you feel a jolt when touching an electrical appliance, there may be current leakage."

"Make sure that electrical items like switches, wires, fuses and connectors have Sirim certification," he said.

In the event of a fire, the public should not panic but look for a safe place to escape.

"Call 999 and get help immediately. Make sure you know the right exit points and only use the stairs in the event of a fire," he added.

Electrical fires

Causes	Preventive measures
- Wiring issues - Electrical appliance failure - Excessive electrical usage or adding too many extensions to a socket - Forgetting to turn off appliances or leaving turned on electrical appliances unattended	- Wiring works in new premises should be carried out by Energy Commission certified electricians - Perform wiring checks and maintenance works on premises older than 20 years - Conduct periodic inspections on earth-leakage circuit breakers inside main switch boards at home - Use only Sirim certified switches, wires, fuses and connectors, among others

The Star graphics

Source: Fire and Rescue Department's Fire Investigation Division

THE STAR
Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024

Unseen but probably harmful

Many things remain unknown about how microplastics could affect health, but experts agree the dangers are there.



Every day humans ingest, inhale or otherwise come in contact with microplastics, which are less than 5mm and mostly invisible to the naked eye. — AFP

MICROPLASTICS have been found throughout the human body — including inside lungs, blood and brains — and while it is not yet clear how harmful they are to our health, some researchers are sounding the alarm.

These tiny pieces of plastic have been detected almost everywhere on Earth, from the deepest oceans to the highest mountains, as well as in the air, water, soil and food chain.

Every day humans ingest, inhale or otherwise come in contact with microplastics, which are less than 5mm and mostly invisible to the naked eye.

"A human in 2024 has plastic in almost all the organs of their body," French specialist researcher Fabienne Lagarde recently told a hearing of France's parliament.

"And it will probably be even worse for the children born in 2040," she added.

Numerous studies have linked the presence of microplastics — or nanoplastics which are 1,000 times smaller — to a range of health problems.

In March, a study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found an association between microplastics accumulating in people's blood vessels and an increased risk of heart attack, stroke or even early death.

'Red flag'

"The body of research on microplastics is growing and it is already showing us that the health impacts are very concerning," said Tracey Woodruff, a researcher at the University of California, San Francisco.

Woodruff recently conducted a systematic review of 2,000 previous studies on animals, finding that microplastics "can harm fertility, are linked to increased cancer risk and can harm respiratory health", she said.

It is a "red flag" that microplastics have been found in so many areas of the body "including the brain, testes and even crossing the placenta into the foetus", she added.

Many of the most worrying studies, such as the one from

March, have been observational. This means they cannot prove microplastics are directly causing the health problems they have been linked to.

Others have been conducted in the lab, sometimes testing on animals, which some observers see as a limitation.

For the studies she reviewed, Woodruff said the biological systems of the animals were "quite similar to humans".

She added that "data from animals has been used to identify carcinogens and reproductive toxicants for decades".

Many things remain unknown about how microplastics could affect health, including the role played by their size, shape and composition.

Many plastics are a complex cocktail of polymers and chemicals, and there are fears they could smuggle in other contaminants in what is called the "Trojan Horse" effect.

Plastic pollution treaty?

Out of the more than 16,000

chemicals used or found in commercial plastic, more than a quarter are considered hazardous to human health, according to a group called the Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty.

Linked health concerns include "infertility, obesity and non-communicable diseases including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and many cancers", the group said.

How damaging all this tiny plastic is to health also depends on how much humans are exposed to, which also remains unclear.

A report from the World Wildlife Fund made headlines in 2019 by estimating that people ingest around 5g of plastic a week, the equivalent of a credit card.

The methodology and results of the report have since been called into question, with numerous studies estimating lower levels of ingested plastic — and showing that rates vary hugely across the world.

It is still early days for the

field, with research into how microplastics impact health only beginning in the early 2000s.

"Despite the newness of the topic and the limitations that have been identified, the dangers linked to oral exposure and inhalation are there," Muriel Mercier-Bonin, a researcher at France's INRAE institute, told the French parliament.

And the problem is only growing. Plastic production has doubled in 20 years and at current rates could triple by 2060, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The United Nations has agreed to work towards a world-first treaty to reduce plastic pollution, with negotiators meeting in a month for a final round of talks.

In the meantime, experts recommend people limit their exposure to microplastics by avoiding plastic bottles, not heating food in plastic containers, wearing clothes made of natural material and ventilating their home. — AFP Relaxnews

THE STAR

Tarikh: 22 NOV 2024...

More aid to propel S'gor students

THE STAR 22/11

State creating skilled workforce with better education support

By JADE CHAN

jade@thestar.com.my

SOME 2,000 undergraduates of universities in Selangor will benefit from the #KitaSelangor Book Voucher initiative under the Selangor Budget 2025.

This doubles the number of voucher recipients under the previous year's budget allocation.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari announced that the state government would allocate RM400,000 next year for deserving students, to help the underprivileged buy learning materials.

"The book vouchers will be launched at the Selangor International Book Fair (SIBF) 2024.

"Through agents such as the Persatuan Mahasiswa Selangor Nasional, the vouchers will be distributed to undergraduates," he said.

Amirudin said this after launching the Selangor Education Summit (SES) 2024 at Bangunan Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah in Shah Alam.

The previous year's scheme saw the handing out of #KitaSelangor book vouchers worth RM200 each to 1,000 students at public and private tertiary level institutions.

These included the Selangor Technical Skills Development Centre, Universiti Selangor and Universiti Teknologi Mara.

SES 2024 will be held from Nov 27 to Dec 1 at Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam.

It will feature four events, namely SIBF, Selangor Research, Development and Innovation Expo, Selangor Edu STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and Selangor Advanced Skills 2024.

Amirudin said SES 2024 was themed "Where

Innovation Meets Education, and Exploration Leads Transformation".

The summit aims to drive the development of people in the fields of TVET (technical and vocational education and training) and STEM.

It also targets reforming the education system through interactive teaching and learning modules that use a high level of technology.

Another goal of the summit is to enhance cooperation among stakeholders in the education and industry sectors, both locally, and internationally.

Amirudin added that SIBF, led by the Selangor Public Library Corporation, aimed to make the reading culture a cornerstone in shaping people's character and for the book fair to be one of the best in Asia.

"Selangor Research, Development and Innovation

Expo will focus on commercialisation, in line with progress and development in the research and innovation fields in the state.

"It will involve local and international educational institutions and industries," he added.

"These will include National University of Singapore, Thailand's Mahidol University, Universitas Gadjah Mada of Indonesia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Google, Siemens and Forest Research Institute Malaysia," he said.

Amirudin said the aim of Selangor Edu STEM was to grow a STEM education culture by introducing the concept of experiential-based learning.

"Selangor Advanced Skills 2024, the first-ever organised by a state government using the Worldskills format, serves as a platform to develop talents

through professional and high-skills training programmes at an international level.

"The Skills Development Department will sign several memoranda of agreements to make Selangor a hub for the national-level Worldskills Competition, focusing on mechatronics and Industry 4.0," said Amirudin, who is Sungai Tua assemblyman.

WorldSkills is an international organisation that holds world and national championships for vocational skills.

While some programmes such as SIBF have been held as standalone events, Amirudin said SES 2024 would, for the first time, have four events under one umbrella.

These are collectively aimed at promoting STEM, TVET, innovation and a culture of lifelong learning. For details, visit <https://selangoreducation.my/>



Amirudin (fourth from right) after presenting certificates to strategic partners of the #KitaSelangor Book Voucher initiative. He is flanked by Selangor Deputy State Secretary (Development) Datuk Johary Anuar (to his right) and Yayasan Selangor acting chief executive officer Zaini Sulaiman. — KK SHAM/The Star

Saving more lives on the road with telematics

By ZAKIAH KOYA
and GERARD GIMINO
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Following a series of fatal accidents involving trailers last week, a road safety expert has called for the mandatory installation of black box-like systems in heavy vehicles to track driving behaviour and enable predictive maintenance.

Assoc Prof Dr Law Teik Hua, head of the Road Safety Research Centre at Universiti Putra Malaysia's Faculty of Engineering, emphasised that black boxes and similar systems are capable of tracking critical data such as speed, braking systems and lane discipline.

He said that mandatory use of telematics, driver assistance and fatigue monitoring systems could significantly improve safety and performance.

"Telematics would be very beneficial if implemented as a requirement for all commercial vehicles, as it enables real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance, ensuring that vehicles are in optimal condition and drivers follow best practices," he said.

Law added that driver assistance systems and fatigue monitoring should be mandatory in high-risk environments such as long-haul trucking and hazardous materials transportation.

Telematics refers to the integrated use of telecommunications and information technology to collect, transmit and analyse data on vehicle performance, location

and driver behaviour.

Law also emphasised the importance of improving post-crash response systems to reduce the impact of accidents, highlighting the potential benefits of integrating Automated Road Infrastructure Data Systems with emergency response frameworks.

"Immediate action is critical in preventing secondary accidents, clearing debris efficiently and addressing any hazardous materials or conditions caused by the crash, especially those involving large trucks or trailers," he said.

Law also advised motorists to practice safe driving techniques around heavy vehicles, like avoiding blind spots and being cautious when overtaking.

Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (Miros) chairman Prof Dr Wong Shaw Voon said that advanced logistics management systems, which track vehicles and drivers in real time, could be a plus point for operators to promote their services.

"This same concept is already done by e-hailing and p-hailing services, where we know exactly where one's vehicle is heading. Logistics companies can also benefit from this concept," he said.

Wong also noted that operators whose drivers are involved in accidents should be investigated to determine if all due diligence was carried out before the vehicles hit the road.

"Operators can be held liable if the accident is proven to have resulted from the driver's own actions or negligence. If the driv-

Safety tips when driving near heavy vehicles



Avoid Blind Spots

- Drivers should stay ahead or behind the truck, but avoid driving directly beside it.
- Motorcyclists are advised not to linger in a heavy vehicle's blind spots, and maintain visibility in the driver's side mirror.



Maintain Safe Following Distances

- Keep a three to four second distance from heavy vehicles and increase this distance in poor conditions.
- Motorcyclists should increase this distance further for better maneuverability.



Be Cautious When Overtaking

- Turn on your indicator early, pass quickly, and do not linger in the heavy vehicles' blind spot.
- For motorcyclists, avoid overtaking in risky areas like curves or intersections.

Anticipate Truck Movements

- Slow down when approaching a heavy vehicle that might need to turn.
- Watch for turn signals and be mindful of the vehicle's trajectory.



Stay Focused and Avoid Distractions

- Stay alert to anticipate any unexpected movements and do not use phones while driving.



Source: Universiti Putra Malaysia's Road Safety Research Centre

TheStar graphics

er caused the accident, they should also be held responsible.

"If the drivers are aware that the vehicles are overloaded or carrying goods beyond their capacity, they have the right to refuse the task," he added.

Former Miros chairman Datuk Suret Singh stressed the need for operators to ensure safer fleet logistic operations, including safe and secure loading.

"Fleet operations should also be suspended if serious safety viola-

tions, particularly those resulting in death and serious injury, are identified," he said.

Suret also said the "perception of being caught" index must be improved, adding that a new key performance indicator should be in place for enforcement authorities like the Road Transport Department and police.

"Miros should be tasked to monitor this index every six months and publish findings," he said.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

Stop treating suicide as a taboo topic, urge mental health experts

THE STAR 22/11

KUALA LUMPUR: The stigma surrounding suicide needs to be dispelled amid rising suicide rates in Malaysia, said a psychiatrist.

Dr Hazli Zakaria said conversations about suicide should no longer be taboo, pointing out that anyone, regardless of their circumstances, can experience suicidal thoughts.

"These thoughts are symptoms of underlying conditions.

"Just as some people lose their sense of smell and taste when they contract Covid-19, thoughts of suicide are often a symptom of

depression and other mental health issues.

"These conditions can be treated if we take measures to help the affected person."

He also highlighted the importance of addressing the stigma faced by people contemplating suicide or those who have survived suicide attempts.

People who may be struggling with suicidal thoughts often behave differently from their usual selves, he said.

Other signs to watch for, said Dr Hazli, include changes in rou-

tine, sleep patterns and appetite, as well as social withdrawal.

He added that people struggling with these thoughts often conceal their intentions well, which is why it is crucial for those who notice to approach them with genuine care and concern.

"Sometimes, just inviting them out for a drink or an outing can make a big difference," he said.

Dr Anasuya Jegathevi Jegathe-san, dean of the Faculty of Psychology and Social Sciences at Cyberjaya University, also stressed the importance of reaching out to

the right people for help.

"Sometimes, it may not be family or friends but counsellors, trainers or teachers," she said, adding that there are also suicide hotlines available for support.

This comes as the number of suicides in Malaysia continues to rise, with a reported total of 4,440 cases between 2019 and 2023, according to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi earlier this year.

In 2019, there were 609 cases recorded, followed by 621 in 2020, 1,142 in 2021, 981 in 2022 and

1,087 last year.

Those suffering from mental health issues or are contemplating suicide can reach out to the Mental Health Psychosocial Support Service (03-2935 9935 or 014-322 3392); Talian Kasih (15999 or 019-261 5999 on WhatsApp); Jakim's Family, Social and Community care centre (011-1959 8214 on WhatsApp); and Befrienders Kuala Lumpur (03-7627 2929, visit www.befrienders.org.my/centre-in-malaysia for a full list of numbers and operating hours, or email sam@befrienders.org.my).

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

Are plastic dupes better?

ALTERNATIVES to petrochemical-based plastics are emerging, made from everything from banana leaves to tomato skins, especially for food packaging.

But questions remain about how biodegradable and compostable they are, as well as their impact on the environment.

What is biosourced plastic?

Biosourced means made with less petrol, using non-fossil agricultural products such as sugarcane waste, corn, or wheat starch. Primarily used in packaging, these biosourced plastics account for less than 1% of global plastic production.

But labs around the world are coming up with more and more new plastics derived from tomato skins or banana leaves.

The French chemicals company Arkema, for instance, is pushing PBAT, made from castor oil, which is used to make sports shoes and car interiors.

Bananatex is a biodegradable textile made from banana leaves that has been developed by a Swiss brand and its Taiwanese partners.

However, "biosourced doesn't necessarily have to be 100%" from natural materials, warned Christophe Doukhi de Boissoudy, president of the French association for biosourced compostables.

In Europe, the minimum 50% requirement to be considered biosourced "will rise to 60% in January 2025", he added.

What is a bioplastic?

The generic term "bioplastic" can be confusing, as it can mean either biosourced or compostable: the definition varies by country.

But in Europe, the term is clearly defined – a bioplastic is a polymer that is both biosourced and compostable, either in soil or industrially.

Not all bioplastics completely degrade under natural conditions.

Some, like PLA (polylactic acid), need to be composted industrially at temperatures between 35°C and 60°C.

One of the most highly developed bioplastics currently used in textiles or for food packaging,

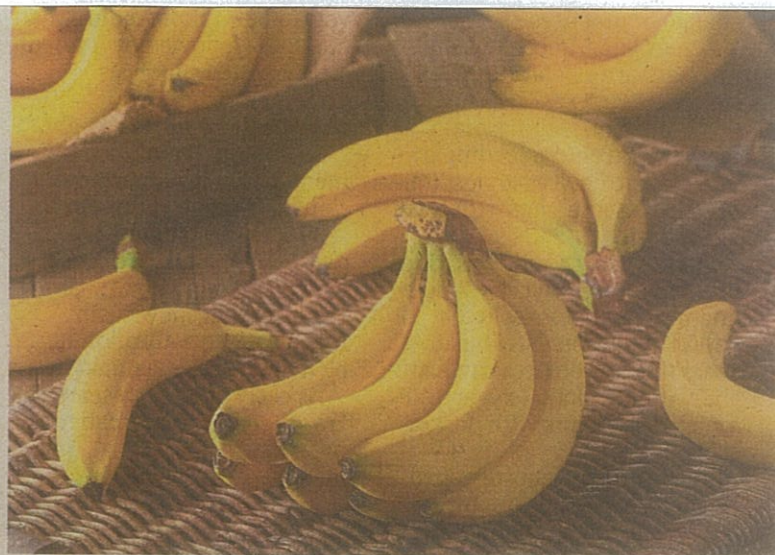
PLA was originally fossil-based but is now being made from fermented plant biomass (corn, beet or sugarcane).

"What alarms us is the speed at which China is advancing its legislation to convert its packaging to PLA, aiming to abandon petrochemical plastics, while Europe is stagnating," said Frederic Van Gansberghe, founder of Belgium-based bioplastics company Futerro, which has a factory in China and plans to open one in France in 2026.

What about environmental impact?

In its infographic Atlas of Plastic, the Heinrich Boll Foundation estimates that most biosourced plastics are neither completely biodegradable or compostable, and "actually just sidestep the problem".

For Nathalie Gontard, research director at the French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, biosourced plastic "has absolutely no benefit" because these polymers don't degrade in natural conditions but instead fragment into micro-



A biodegradable textile made from banana leaves has been developed by a Swiss brand and its Taiwanese partners. — AFP

and then nano-plastics.

"What matters is biodegradability under natural conditions," she said.

"Biodegradable" is not well-defined, she argued, as some use it for materials that completely degrade in a few months or years, while others refer to much longer periods.

The environmental benefit of biosourced plastic lies in how they reduce the CO2 emissions of the plastics sector. But caution is needed here, experts warn.

"Additional demand for land to

grow the raw materials for biosourced plastics can lead to land-use changes or deforestation," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) warned, which in turn can increase CO2 emissions.

"By developing bioplastics, we place the burden of manufacturing these materials on agricultural land that should primarily serve to feed the population," insisted Pauline Debrabandere from the NGO Zero Waste. — AFP Relaxnews

THE STAR

12 2 NOV 2024
Tarikh:.....

Selangor: RM639b total trade in ^{22.1} January-September

SHAH ALAM: Selangor recorded a total trade value of RM639.2 billion, accounting for 29.9% of the country's total trade, from January to September 2024.

State Executive Councillor (exco) for Investment, Trade, and Mobility Ng Sze Han said this figure marked an increase of 13.9% compared to the same period last year.

He added that for its contribution to the country's total exports, Selangor recorded RM264 billion, contributing 23.7%.

"Selangor's main trade partners are China (contributing 23.9%), the United States (12.1%), Japan (6.5%), Indonesia (4.4%), and India (4.1%)." Ng said during the Selangor State Legislative Assembly sitting here yesterday.

He was responding to Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali (PN-Hulu Kelang), who inquired about Selangor's trade performance for 2024.

Ng said Selangor's trade performance also showed significant improvement following Malaysia's involvement in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership in 2022. - Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 12.2 NOV 2024

Selangor Food Warehouse to be completed in three years

22/11
SUN

SHAH ALAM: The state government aims to complete the construction of the Selangor Food Warehouse within the next three years, said state Infrastructure and Agriculture Committee chairman Ir Izham Hashim.

He said the warehouse, which will be built on a four-hectare plot in Kuala Selangor, is in the process of land rezoning with local authorities before a request for proposal can be issued.

He said the warehouse project is a key initiative to enhance food security in the state.

"The warehouse was first announced by

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari in the previous 2024 state budget and we have begun implementing it in phases.

"While the permanent warehouse facility is under construction, we have commenced the first phase by leasing temporary storage spaces, such as rice in Sekinchan, beef and buffalo meat in Port Klang, and chicken and fish at the wholesale market in Puchong."

Izham was speaking after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the state's Agricultural Development Corporation and Allanson Private Limited.

The MoU involves the supply of 1,000 tonnes of beef and buffalo meat (1 million kg) from Allanson Private Limited to a temporary storage facility in Port Klang, which is expected to meet the needs of Selangor's population for one month.

He said the collaboration would be expanded in the future.

"The meat would be distributed through initiatives such as the Rahmah Sales or at Ehsan Mart. We would conduct audits at these locations to ensure the warehouse stocks remain at optimal levels." – Bernama

Tarikh: THE SUN
22 NOV 2024

Mixed reactions from industry expert, civil servants and Johoreans

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) deputy president II Zainal Ismail said the current five-day workweek is sufficient to enhance civil servants' performance, in line with the increase in wages.

He described the proposed 4.5-day work week as irrelevant, particularly given the current number of public holidays.

"In the past, we had a 5.5-day work week, where we worked half-days on Saturdays.

"The proposed 4.5-day work week is unsuitable considering the number of public holidays. We aim to improve civil servants' performance, aligning it with the rise in wages.

"It is inappropriate to have high wages while limiting our service hours," he said.

Johoreans, state civil servants and an economist have welcomed the state government's proposal.

A civil servant from Skudai said the proposal would be beneficial for many state civil servants, particularly for those who are involved in repetitive tasks and dealing with the public daily.

He said it would provide a work-life balance with additional rest hours and time to be spent with family. This would serve as a motivation booster to increase their productivity.

"Working in this line of service would challenge their mental and emotional wellbeing (by dealing with the public constantly), so additional rest would be sufficient to help them to recover," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Another civil servant from Iskandar Puteri who preferred

not to be named welcomed the move as he believed the proposal should allow them to work from 8am until 12pm on Friday by omitting the afternoon break.

He believed this move would allow the civil servants to wholly focus on their tasks before leaving the office. It would also benefit the Muslim men to spend their afternoon and evening for the Friday prayers.

"By doing that, Muslim men in Johor do not have to rush back to the office to ensure that they would be able to serve the public on time," he said.

Last month, Johor Regent Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim announced that Johor will revert to weekend off days on Saturday and Sunday starting Jan 1 from the current Friday and Saturday.

Many Johoreans also shared their support for the proposal as

long as it would not affect the services provided by the government agencies in the state.

Afiq Ariff, 29, from Kulai said the proposal was interesting because the government services would be digitalised as promised by the menteri besar.

"Onn did state that many aspects (government services) will be digitalised which will be a plus point in flexibility for both parties; the government agencies and the general public."

Both Low Wei Xuan, 32, from Segamat and Abdul Majid Abd Aziz, 31, from Kluang agreed if the state government could ensure that despite reduced working hours, service delivery could be enhanced, then the public would not hesitate to accept the proposal.

Low said despite its appeal, the proposal might not augur well

with the older generations as they still prefer to obtain government services directly at the counters.

"So, I hope the government would also consider this factor in formulating the new policy."

Sunway University economics professor Dr Yeah Kim Leng labelled the proposal as 'progressive' which he likened to other working arrangements that became popular post-Covid-19 such as working from home and flexible working hours.

He believed the state government's proposal would boost civil servants' productivity, citing successful work-life balance initiatives worldwide.

"With digitalisation, the public could enjoy the government services 24 hours. Thus, if the initiative is a success, it could also be extended to the private sector," Yeah said.