



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2024 (SELASA)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

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LAIN-LAIN PBT

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Liga Super Wanita: MBSJ FC belasah FC Japan Malaysia 15-0, ulang rekod 2021

by Afiz Redzuan · April 22, 2024 1:49 pm



Pemain MBSJ FC Intan Sarah (tengah) melepasi kawalan pemain FC Japan Malaysia ketika membantu pasukannya menang 15-0 dalam perlawanan keempat Liga Super Wanita di Arena MBSJ, Subang Jaya pada 20 April. Foto Persatuan Bola Sepak Selangor

SHAH ALAM, 22 APRIL: MBSJ FC mengekalkan rekod tanpa kalah selepas membelasah FC Japan Malaysia, 15-0 dalam perlawanan keempat Liga Super Wanita di Arena MBSJ, Subang Jaya pada Sabtu.

Fatin Shahida muncul pemain terbaik perlawanan dengan lima gol bermula minit ke-15, 25, 42, 62 dan 70 diikuti empat gol Intan Sarah selepas Nurlyana Soberi memulakan pesta jaringan seawal minit keempat.

Steffi Sarge Kaur turut mencatat nama sebagai penjaring pendahulu kumpulan A itu dengan hatrik pada lima minit terakhir permainan serta dua gol Lee Xin-Yi pada minit ke-50 dan 56.

Kemenangan besar tersebut mengulangi rekod cemerlang MBSJ FC yang menewaskan Rhym Rovers dengan jumlah jaringan sama pada 2021.

MBPJ FC turut mencatat kemenangan bergaya 9-0 ke atas Stern FC untuk kekal di tempat kedua dengan 10 mata. Tiga gol pada babak pertama diledak Nadia Roslan bermula minit ke-13, 25 dan 29.

Farahiyah turut cemerlang menghasilkan dua jaringan buat MBPJ FC diikuti satu gol masing-masing daripada Nurul Nuha, Malini dan Nur Nasuha.

Turut menang besar Selangor FC yang menewaskan FC Swat 5-0 dengan empat gol disumbang Najwa Irdina selepas Ameesha Danya membuka tirai jaringan awal minit kedua.

Sementara itu, dua gol Kanchenjeet Kaur dan satu gol Dian Aqilah membantu SSS Leopard FC mengatasi SA United 3-0, sekali gus merampas kedudukan pendahulu kumpulan B daripada Perkemas FC.

Satu lagi perlawanan kumpulan sama menyaksikan Penang Real CJ mengutip tiga mata pertama musim ini menewaskan Galaxi Girls PJ 4-0.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE

TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2024

Steps to steer clear of forgotten-baby syndrome

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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Selangor govt's campaign includes distribution of pamphlets, stickers and stakeholder engagement

THE Selangor government and a city council are taking proactive steps to prevent the next parent from forgetting their child in a parked car.

The state government is distributing car stickers as visual reminders to parents about their young children being in the back seat.

Shah Alam City Council plans to make announcements on its digital signboards and via loudspeakers at public squares in support of the state initiative.

These moves are in response to recent tragic cases due to the "forgotten baby syndrome".

On Jan 30, a five-year-old girl died after her mother accidentally left her in a parked car in Shah Alam, Selangor.

The hospital employee had picked up her daughter from daycare at 2pm but in rushing to work, she had forgotten that the little girl was in the back seat.

It was only after receiving a call from her husband at around 6pm that the mother realised to her horror what had happened.

A similar tragedy occurred in Ara Damansara, Petaling Jaya in Selangor, on Nov 8 last year when a two-year-old died after being left in a car for over seven hours.

The child's mother intended to drop her off at daycare after sending her two other children to school.

However, she forgot to drop the toddler off and proceeded to drive home, only realising the toddler was still in the car at about 3.35pm.

The parents involved said they had forgotten about their child as they had a lot of things on their mind.

Following the two fatal cases of young children being forgotten in parked cars in Selangor last year and one so far this year, the state government has launched its "Children's Safety in Car and Family Wellbeing" campaign. "Our hearts go out to these parents who have lost a child this way, especially since it is preventable," said Selangor women and family empowerment, welfare and care economy committee chairman Anfaal Saari during the campaign launch in Hospital Selangor.

"Lifestyles are getting busier and people rush around to get things done.

"When they are stressed or get sidetracked, we are going to see cases of children left in cars unintentionally," she said.

Comprehensive campaign

Under the campaign, a visual reminder in the form of a sticker was introduced to prompt parents to check if their children are in back seats before exiting their vehicles.

Anfaal said the sticker, which is to be placed on the driver's side window, close to the door handle, has the words "Look behind" and



A demonstration, using a doll, of the proper way to secure a baby in the car seat at the campaign launch. Forgotten baby syndrome often happens when parents are distracted or stressed. — Photos: WILLIAM GARY/The Star

"Where is your child now?" in Bahasa Malaysia.

"Our aim is to prevent 'forgotten baby syndrome' (FBS)," she said.

FBS refers to a phenomenon in which young children are mistakenly left in vehicles.

Anfaal said the first phase would see 10,000 stickers distributed at premises of government agencies.

The second phase involves the distribution of 50,000 stickers targeting commercial establishments.

Pamphlets on preventing FBS will be distributed too.

"The state government is also considering implementing initiatives to complement existing policies.

"One measure is providing dedicated parking spaces for parents at hotspots such as hospitals and government premises," she said.

Selangor Nursery Association principal consultant Ahmad Razif Shazi Shaarani was one of those involved in the campaign.

He said the second phase would see engagement sessions with NGOs and government agencies in May or June.

"Focus will also be given to parents' mental health and wellbeing," he said.

Ahmad Razif said the third phase of the campaign in October aimed to address the root causes of the problem and finding long-term solutions.

"It is time that car manufacturers are directed to equip all new vehicles with sensor technology that will alert the driver.

"There is currently no such



Anfaal showing the pamphlet and sticker during the launch.

requirement in current car designs," he noted.

Compassion needed

Hospital Selayang director Dr Afidah Ali said a child could suffer fatal heatstroke if left in a car even for minutes.

"The temperature inside a car parked outside is much hotter than the air around it.

"The heat does not easily pass back through the wound-up window, so it is trapped inside the car," she explained.

She hoped people would show compassion to parents who had lost a child in such circumstances.

"It is so much easier to judge people than to understand how it can occur," she said.

Dr Afidah said that having stickers on the driver's window could help remind parents and save lives.

"Campaigns like this promote

awareness among target groups, particularly parents, caregivers and the public," she said.

Consultant adolescent paediatrician Dr Hargeet Kaur Basant Singh said FBS could occur when parents were thinking about future tasks rather than focusing on the present moment.

This can be very dangerous, particularly if the toddler or preschooler is quiet or asleep, she said.

She encouraged parents to adopt several simple practices.

"Placing a plush toy in the front passenger's seat reinforces the presence of a child in the vehicle.

"Before leaving the vehicle, conduct a comprehensive check of both the front and rear seats," she added.

Dr Hargeet said forgetting a child in the car was more likely to happen when there was a disruption in the parent's usual routine.

"Most of the time, FBS occurs



Ahmad Razif: All new cars should be equipped with sensor technology.



Dr Afidah: It is so much easier to judge people than to understand how FBS can occur.



Dr Hargeet says a toy can be kept in the front seat to reinforce a child's presence in the car.



Cheremi says MBSA will start public service announcements soon to support the campaign.

27/4/24

THE STAR

Tarikh: 2.3.APR.2024..

MPAJ sends out new tax rate notices

Counter open for clarification, appeals must be in by May 15

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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THE valuation exercise for Ampang Jaya, Selangor, properties has started.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) has so far issued some 93,000 notices, mostly to strata property owners, informing them of the new assessment tax rates.

The exercise will involve some 180,000 properties, with owners having until May 15 to send in appeals on the new rate.

A service counter at MPAJ's headquarters in Pandan Indah is available for owners to seek clarification and send in their appeals.

Pangsapuri Bukit Baru resident Zulkifli Isa said he was surprised to receive the notice last Friday.

"Based on the notice, we would have to pay an increase of RM55

per year, from the current amount of RM110.

"This is quite high as it is a low-cost property.

"I am also retired and have a limited budget," he said when met at Menara MPAJ.

Zulkifli said he decided to come in person to clarify.

Ricky Chong, who owns a strata property in Jalan Bukit Segar 1, came to submit his appeal against the hike.

"With the new rate I would have had to pay RM429 per year compared to the RM198 I am paying now.

"Luckily MPAJ informed me that the property has some assessment tax exemptions, so I will only have to pay RM247.

"I am glad that MPAJ officers were able to clarify the matter, as it would otherwise have been a 115% increase," he said.

A Pandan Perdana condomini-



Residents can check the new valuation list for properties at MPAJ headquarters. (Inset) Chong says he visited the local council's office for clarification. — Photos: ART CHEN/The Star

um unit owner who only wanted to be known as Sarah, said she would have to pay a 25% hike in tax.

"It is quite a substantial amount, especially as there hasn't really been an increase in MPAJ's level of service or facilities.

"I will be speaking to our residents committee to see what we can do," she said.

StarMetro had previously reported that properties in Ampang would undergo a property valuation exercise this year.



The new rates would be in use in 2025 if approved by the state government.

The last time evaluation exercise was carried out in 1997.

It was previously reported that MPAJ president Dr Ani Ahmad said the council had received approval to carry out the exercise.

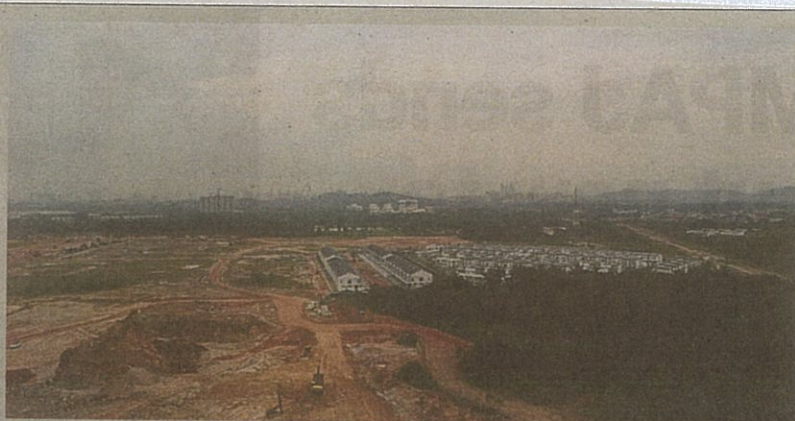
She said MPAJ had to update its valuation list as many properties had undergone renovations, but the owners were still paying the old rates.

She said the process for assessment tax adjustment would include distribution of notices, gathering objections and organising hearings.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....



The construction site (left) beside Taman Platinum where rock blasting is being carried out in a neighbouring site. — Photos: AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

Blasting causing hairline cracks, claim Dengkil homeowners

By GRACE CHEN
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THE Taman Platinum residential area in Dengkil, Sepang in Selangor, beckons new homeowners with its clubhouse facilities and pocket playgrounds.

Of late, however, residents here have been having sleepless nights due to the appearance of hairline cracks in their homes.

"I noticed cracks had appeared on the wall of my living room while dusting.

"When I checked the rooms, I found more cracks," said Kalaiyarasi Chandrasekaran who moved in about a year ago.

She said that though some of the cracks were barely noticeable, they seemed to be getting longer by the day.

Resident Fahmi Mohd Fauzi alleged the cracks were caused by rock blasting activities at a nearby construction site.

"My wife and I have been hearing loud whooshing-like sounds from the site daily since we returned from the Hari Raya Aidilfitri holidays."

When these sounds were heard, Fahmi said he could feel the vibrations under his feet.

The pendant lights in his dining room and the curtains would also sway slightly.

Taman Platinum Residents Association secretary Akhmal Mohd Noor said owners of the 220 units worried about their safety.

"We are concerned about the structural safety of our property. We fear that the hairline cracks will become more serious.

"Our defect warranty will be ending in another two to three months.

"What will happen then?" he asked.

Resident Ahmad Din Bachok said the homeowners had lodged a report at the Dengkil police station.

"We want to know the source of these tremors and for the parties responsible to deal with the matter.

"We have brought this up to the management office but the answer given is not satisfactory to us.



Fahmi (left) says the cracks started appearing after Hari Raya.



Kalaiyarasi showing the cracks in her home.

"A report was also lodged with Sepang Municipal Council through the Public Complaints Management System (Sispaa) but we have not received an update on what action will be taken," said Ahmad Din.

When contacted, a subcontractor confirmed that rock blasting activities were taking place at a construction site near Taman Platinum.

"We have acquired the necessary permits from MP Sepang, the Mineral and Geoscience Department and the police to carry out rock blasting at Lot 3357 in Dengkil

until Dec 31.

"Our company has over 20 years of experience in rock blasting.

"We have installed two vibrometers - one near the guardhouse entrance into Taman Platinum and another at the back row of houses that are nearest to the construction site.

"For every blast we carry out, the readings are recorded and they have fallen within the safe range," he said, adding that they had agreed to carry out repairs for affected homeowners.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 2.3 APR 202

'Glutton street' traders defend opening fence for access

Story and photo by ETHEL SIAO
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VENDORS along a stretch of Jalan Kepong Baru known as "wai sek kai" (glutton street) are urging Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to provide access along the newly installed fence that has adversely affected their business.

Speaking at a press conference, Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng's assistant Dic Lai said while DBKL had initially planned fence openings, nothing had been done so far.

He pointed out that the installation of the fence, part of a road upgrading project, started last year and was completed just about a week ago.

"Openings along the 200m long fence were part of the plan but it has not been implemented yet."

"We have written to DBKL urging prompt action to address concerns raised by vendors and residents," he said.

A vendor Yew Pui Khim said some people had created gate-like openings along the fence.

He said he had been operating in the area for over two decades, and the action was not meant to damage the fence but to preserve their livelihood.

"Our business had declined by over 50% since the fence was installed, as customers find it inconvenient to reach the stalls."

"To address this, we opened the fence ourselves by unlocking the screws during our morning operation hours and securing them back later."

"While we appreciate that the fence was put up to reduce traffic

Fence along 'glutton street' in Kepong keeping out customers, stakeholders say



StarMetro's report on April 17.

congestion caused by motorists stopping on the roadside, we urge DBKL to promptly implement its original plan for fence openings," he said.

Mixed-rice seller Lee Chin Siong said the vendors collectively decided to hire two guards during weekends and holidays from 9am to 5pm for traffic management and to prevent illegal parking on the roadside.

"This was a collective decision by the nine stalls here, with each sharing the RM120 daily wage of each guard."

"We want to demonstrate our support for DBKL's efforts in addressing the traffic issue and hope for reciprocal support from the local authority," he said.

Fruit trader Lew Kok Wen said DBKL should also consider adding more parking spaces at the location.

"While DBKL said there was parking across the street and

behind the stalls, most spots behind the stalls are already taken up by residents of Jalan Antoi 1."

"Parking bays across the road are also limited, and it is unsafe for those parked there to cross the street without a pedestrian crossing," he pointed out.

He said two accidents happened three months ago on Jalan Kepong Baru, where speeding cars nearly crashed into his stall.

Separately, DBKL said it was considering creating an emergency access in the newly installed fence.

In a statement to StarMetro, DBKL said this was based on feedback from the Taman Antoi Residents Association and the Kepong parliamentary office.

"The 200m-long galvanised fence was installed on April 6 following complaints from the Kepong parliamentary office about traffic congestion."



Jalan Kepong Baru vendors have created gate-like openings so customers can access their stalls easily.

"It was to prevent roadside parking, minimise traffic disruption and mitigate risks on Jalan Kepong Baru."

"Drivers are encouraged to park their vehicles in the parking bays available across the street and behind the food stalls," said the statement by DBKL Corporate Planning Department.

City Hall was responding to StarMetro's report, "Fence along 'glutton street' in Kepong keeping out customers, stakeholders say," on April 17.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping had also said the parking shortage had resulted in cars occupying limited spaces for residents along Jalan Antoi 1.

DBKL, in the same statement, also responded to the telecom-

munication tower issue in the Jalan Antoi residential area.

Yee had urged DBKL's Engineering Department to take strict action against the companies involved as wires were left exposed to the elements, which could endanger pedestrians.

DBKL stated that the integrated telecommunications transmitter pole on Jalan Antoi 1's pedestrian walkway was approved and built in 2016, while the walkway's construction took place between 2020 and 2021.

"DBKL has coordinated with the network facility provider company to reroute structures behind the pedestrian walkway."

"Pedestrian walkway repairs will be made after the rerouting process is completed," it said.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 2...3...APR...2024...

Survey: Majority of Malaysian youth have got the blues

PETALING JAYA: Six in 10 Malaysian youth aged between 15 and 30 years had mild to severe depressive symptoms, the latest nationwide survey shows.

On the bright side, the results suggested that overall quality of life experiences among Malaysian youth was "satisfactory".

The research was part of the Malaysian Youth Mental Health Index 2023 (MyMHI'23), which was conducted by the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia (Iyres) and United Nations Children's Fund from October to November 2022 and March to April 2023, featuring 5,867 respondents.

It covered seven domains – lifestyle, surrounding environment, personal characteristics, life experiences, social support, coping mechanism and healthy mind – and supported by 28 indicators.

The findings also noted that three in 10 had moderate to severe anxiety symptoms while one in 10 suffered from high stress.

"A score of 71.91 indicates that the youth's mental health is rated as moderately satisfactory," the

report noted on the overall mental health score.

A moderately satisfactory mental health level could serve as a valuable early indication of potential mental health problems, it added.

It suggested that there were some stressors, especially those related to the domains of surrounding environment, social support and healthy mind.

"If left unaddressed, these could lead to more serious mental health concerns among Malaysian youth," it said.

The MyMHI'23 scoring ranged from 0 to 100, with the lowest possible being 0 and the highest possible 100. The higher the score, the lower the risk of youth facing mental health issues.

Conversely, the lower the score, the greater the risk of youth facing mental health issues.

On the lifestyle domain, the respondents registered a moderately satisfactory score of 71.44, whereby many youth were trying to maintain a relatively balanced lifestyle which benefited their mental health.

On the surrounding environment, they scored 65.46.

"It indicates that while there may be certain supportive aspects, there are also potential stressors and challenges that could impact the mental health and well-being of Malaysian youth," the report explained.

On the personal characteristics domain, these youth scored 71.65, suggesting that many Malaysian youth possessed valuable traits that enabled them to overcome multiple life challenges, thus boosting resilience and fostering positive mental health and well-being.

The youth surveyed scored 88.51 for life experiences.

"This suggests that overall quality of life experiences among Malaysian youth is deemed satisfactory."

"The majority of Malaysian youth are unlikely to experience negative events in their lives such as bullying and abuse," it said.

The young people, however, were receiving inadequate emotional, practical and informational support from family, friends,

significant others, and experts, thus scoring 68.29 on the social support domain, the report said.

The respondents also scored 71.92 for coping mechanism, with engaging in leisure activities (93.57%), spending time with family and friends (89.80%), engaging in worship or spiritual practices (87.01%), and spending time on outdoors activities (86.66%) being the top four stress management strategies.

As for healthy mind, the respondents scored 66.10, which indicated that youth in Malaysia were at moderate risk of facing emotional disturbance or disruptive feelings.

Of the youth surveyed, about 52.71% had mild anxiety; 30.99% minimal anxiety; 45.35% mild depression; and 14.37% minimal to no depression.

When it came to ethnicity, Orang Asli scored the lowest with 62.48, followed by Indians (70.05), others (70.99), bumiputra Sabah (71.04), Malay (71.84), Chinese (72.91) and bumiputra Sarawak (73.37).

The survey also stated that in 2020, one in 10 youth had report-

ed suicidal tendencies – in the form of thoughts, plans and attempts.

It added that 953 people had tendencies to commit suicide in 2019 and the number increased to 2,119 in 2020.

The report, launched by Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh in Putrajaya yesterday, also identified intervention measures to improve youth mental health.

It suggested creating less crowded living spaces with adequate basic facilities to promote a stress-free environment; increasing youth access to mental health services; and promoting a healthy lifestyle, including providing a healthy diet and physical regimen; among others.

The full MyMHI'23 report can be downloaded from <https://www.iyres.gov.my/penyelidikan/senarai-penyelidikan>.



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THE Covid-19 pandemic acted as a wake-up call, prompting millions of working people to question their work and their professional expectations. Many feel increasingly uneasy about working for a company that doesn't share their values, which can lead to "misalignment burnout".

The notion of misalignment burnout was theorised by Mark Travers, an American psychologist who co-founded the telemedicine platform Awake Therapy. It refers to the physical, emotional and mental exhaustion that results from prolonged investment in a job that's at odds with your personal convictions.

For example, an employee with a strong ecological conscience may feel a strong value conflict if they work for a company with little commitment to the fight against global warming.

This psychological unease can plunge employees into a downward spiral from which it is difficult to extricate themselves. The signs of misalignment burnout are similar to those of other forms of burnout, whether physi-

Conflicting values

cal, emotional or cognitive. The worker who suffers from it finds it difficult to be fully committed to their professional tasks, and becomes progressively disengaged from their work.

Feeling in an inextricable situation, they may become resentful – even hostile – towards the people they work with. In the most extreme cases, this can lead people to quit their jobs.

Quest for meaning

Misalignment burnout touches on the very idea of meaning at work. Studies and opinion polls all agree that employees, especially younger ones, attach importance to working for a company that shares their values.

The latter are not prepared to compromise their ecological and environmental ideals to enter the job market. Thus, 57% of French 18-30 year-olds ques-

tioned in a survey by Pour un réveil collectif and Toluna Harris Interactive would be prepared to resign if they felt that the company employing them was not doing enough to combat climate change.

This growing quest for meaning is partly explained by our relationship with time. The contemporary individual lives in the present moment and has difficulty projecting themselves into the future: they are more motivated by the prospect of working in a job that interests them and suits them personally and ethically, than by the prospect of a career.

This need for fulfillment can lead to "job hopping," if the coveted job turns out to be disappointing. Two-thirds of the members of Gen Z polled in a survey by British firm Resource Solutions plan to leave their current employer within the next two years.



Workers suffering from 'misalignment burnout' find it hard to feel committed to their professional tasks, and become progressively disengaged from their work. – AFP

Against this backdrop, companies would do well to give more thought to the social, societal and environmental impacts of their activities if they wish to boost employee motivation and prevent misalignment burnout.

They need to clarify their missions to leave no room for vagueness, and above all, avoid their employees feeling trapped in a job that's at odds with their fundamental values. – AFP Relaxnews

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

Eyes on psychosocial pandemic

Experts: Youth's mental wellbeing requires transformation of cities and social life

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Youth Mental Health Index can be a vital tool for monitoring the "psychosocial health" of youth on a periodic basis, say experts.

Consultant paediatrician Datuk Dr Amar Singh HSS said the mental health problem faced by youth is not peculiar to Malaysia but has been observed worldwide.

"It might be better to move from calling this a 'mental health' problem to a 'psychosocial' problem. We can only expect it to worsen over time unless we act decisively to improve the situation for our youth," he said.

The index, he said, is vital as a critical tool or guide to periodically monitor the psychosocial health of Malaysian youth.

Dr Amar was commenting on the findings of the Malaysian Youth Index 2023 (MyMHI'23) launched yesterday. It covers

seven domains, namely lifestyle, surrounding environment, personal characteristics, life experiences, social support, coping mechanism, and healthy mind.

"MyMHI'23 overall rating was 71.9, from close to 6,000 participants, and shows us that Malaysian youth, as a whole, face a moderate risk of mental health issues.

"We would appreciate disaggregated data to see the index by social class, geographical location, ethnicity and gender," he said.

Of the domains, the worst scoring areas were "surrounding environment" (65.5), "healthy mind" (66.1) and "social support" (68.3), he noted.

"This data suggests that youth find the environment not very supportive, especially the physical environment and social expectations, are receiving inadequate

support from family, significant others and experts, and many are experiencing some degree of anxiety or depression," he added.

While acknowledging that there are good recommendations in the report, Dr Amar said to initiate a meaningful and real action plan, it is important to understand the reasons behind this global growing "psychosocial" pandemic.

"The reasons are complex and the action plan needs to call for long-term prevention via a transformation of cities and social life.

"We require meaningful connections and relationships that are not screen-based, and numerous city-based green lungs for families to hang out and find each other.

"We need to change the focus of society on what constitutes suc-

cess - relationships, and not achievements, acquisition, ability or fame.

"As we work on prevention, parents need to invest more time in listening to their children, and teachers must be aware of what is happening to the children they are teaching," he added.

Aside from that, Dr Amar said the government must invest in the expansion of psychosocial services for adolescents nationwide with targeted federal funding.

Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh, a health economics and public health specialist with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, said the study serves as a valuable early indication of potential mental health problems among Malaysian youth.

She pointed to another survey that was conducted in 2019 that had revealed that some 424,000

children in Malaysia had mental health problems, with one in eight adolescents aged 10 to 19 estimated to have a mental disorder.

"It's crucial to continue addressing mental health challenges and providing support to those in need and from low-income families with conflicts," she said.

However, Assoc Prof Dr Anasuya Jegathevi Jegathesan, dean of the Psychology and Social Sciences Faculty of University of Cyberjaya, said the research had not identified the actual groups where support was lacking and at actual risk.

"The report as a snapshot fails to show where effort should be put in, what groups would benefit from what kind of interventions and who are the most endangered," she said, adding that more clarity is needed on the data.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 23 APR 2024

Tackling mental health crisis needs collective effort, says Yeoh

PUTRAJAYA: It takes ministries working together to tackle mental health issues among youth, says Hannah Yeoh.

With new research indicating that young Malaysians face potential mental health problems, the Youth and Sports Minister said they need more recreational activities to improve their mental wellbeing.

While the ministry's own Rakan Muda programme provides some respite for the youth, Yeoh said other ministries could use the latest findings to offer solutions.

"When you look at the coping mechanism point (from the report), there are four methods of how youth manage stress—leisure activities, spending time with family and friends, worship or spiritual activities and outdoor activities.



Minds matter:

Yeoh giving her speech at the launching of Malaysian Youth Mental Health Index 2023 in Putrajaya.
— FAIHAN GHANI/
The Star

"I am happy that all this correlates with the 10 Rakan Muda activities that address the needs of today's youth such as Rakan Litar (racing) and Rakan Digital," she said during her speech at the launch of the Malaysian Youth Mental Health Index 2023 (MyMHI'23) report at a hotel

here yesterday.

Produced by the Institute for Youth Research Malaysia (Iyres) and United Nations Children's Fund, the report gave Malaysia a score of 71.91 – a moderately satisfactory level that serves as an early indication of potential mental health problems among

Malaysian youth.

The MyMHI'23, which involved 5,867 respondents, covered seven domains – lifestyle, surrounding environment, personal characteristics, life experiences, social support, coping mechanism, and healthy mind – and supported by 28 indicators.

Yeoh said MyMHI'23 will be presented to the Cabinet to ensure that more ministries are involved in tackling mental health issues among youth.

She said Orang Asli youth scored the lowest in the index, adding that it is pertinent for an engagement session with the related ministries to acknowledge such findings.

"We also need to engage with the National Unity Ministry for it to know what kind of engagement it can do.

"Also, the Housing Ministry (under the Local Government Development Ministry), for example, would know how to provide better space for recreational activities as some PPR (People's Housing Programme) projects lack such areas for the purpose," she added.

Yeoh also suggested that the Health Ministry's Mentari mental health outreach programme be made available at shopping malls instead of just hospitals to enable better access and to remove the stigma among youth of seeking help from experts and specialists.



THE STAR

Tarikh:..... 23 APR 2024

End of nine-to-five?

The rise of remote working and the intensification of the pace of work may make classic office work hours obsolete.



A FEW decades ago, Dolly Parton sang about a life working classic office hours in her song *9 To 5*. But those days are long gone. According to an American survey, many working people find that these hours no longer correspond to their work patterns.

In fact, 57% of 2,000 American employees surveyed by the Financial Technology Association between Feb 23 and 29, 2024, feel that traditional office hours don't work for them. This is due to the fact that more and more people are working atypical hours, such as weekday evenings and weekends.

The rise of remote working has a lot to do with this, as does the intensification of the pace of work. Employees are increasingly complaining that their workload does not allow them to carry out their professional duties during office hours, fuelling a feeling of permanent pressure and cognitive overload.

The phenomenon is such that 51% of respondents say that a lack of flexibility in working hours is an old-fashioned outlook. They would like more flexibility in their work and meeting schedules, to strike a better balance

between personal and professional obligations. That's why they tend to express a keen interest in various kinds of work-time adjustments, including the four-day week and asynchronous working.

Time to embrace chronoworking?

Employers would do well to take greater account of their employees' time preferences to help them become more productive. After all, not all employees are efficient at the same time of day.

Early risers are generally more efficient at the start of the day, but their performance declines as the day goes by. Conversely, "evening" people often struggle to get up to go to the office or start their day working from home. They are at their best later in the day, which theoretically makes them less suited to standard working life.

At least, that's what Finnish researchers suggest in a paper, published in 2021 in the journal *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. They found that evening people perform half as well at work as their more morning-friendly counterparts. And this held true regardless of their gender, their usual sleep time or even their working hours.

Voices are now being raised, calling on the world of work to rethink organisational modes in relation to flexibility and, more generally, quality of life.

Chronoworking is one such approach. A contraction of "chrono" – the Latin for "time" – and "work," chronoworking is the practice of adapting employees' work patterns to suit their individual biological clocks.

All of which makes traditional office working hours seem even more obsolete. – AFP Relaxnews

This visual is human-created, AI-aided.

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THE STAR

Tarikh: 23 APR 2024

Carpentry a tool to empower B40

Social enterprise also helps jobless, former prisoners gain skills, generate income

WHO would have thought that repurposing wood waste can have such a positive impact on the lives of the B40 group and residents of People's Housing Project (PPR)?

The impact comes in the form of viable means to generate income.

Mohd Faizal Ayob, 40, leads the way with Re-Kayu – a social enterprise dedicated to teaching carpentry and furniture-making skills through the use of recycled pallets and pine wood.

Over the past three years of its implementation, Mohd Faizal has not only assisted those who had lost their jobs to rebuild their careers, but also enabled them to earn a minimum monthly income of RM1,500.

In fact, some have become successful entrepreneurs, skillfully handling furniture orders reaching tens of thousands of ringgit.

Mohd Faizal told Bernama that the programme, which provided free carpentry training, had the participation of 50 youths from PPR and B40 communities in the Klang Valley.

Throughout the two-day course, participants gain hands-on experience in carpentry and the use of power tools designed to save both energy and time.

"They learn about carpentry techniques and skills, encompassing material selection, design drawing, lamination and finishing, while honing their creativity and innovation," he said.



Mohd Faizal (left) supervises participants at Re-Kayu, which provides free carpentry training to youths from PPR and B40 communities in Klang Valley.

He added that items produced included beds, study tables, benches and shoe racks.

According to Mohd Faizal, who was formerly lecturing at a university in Kuala Lumpur, the furniture is produced from wood sourced from warehouses and factories.

The products are not only marketed outside Klang Valley but are also available for rent for various occasions.

"In addition to the training

provided, we stay connected with participants, monitoring each carpentry task undertaken at home and offer ongoing guidance on equipment use.

"Our goal is to empower the B40 group, giving them opportunities to reach greater heights," said Mohd Faizal, who is currently pursuing the Malaysian Skills Diploma (DKM) Level 4 in furniture technology.

Among PPRs involved in the initiative are PPR Kampung Baru Hicom Shah Alam, PPR Pantai Ria, PPR Lembah Subang, Flat Gasing Indah, Flat Puchong

Permai and Pangsapuri Angkat Angsana US1.

The programme is also implemented with cooperation from various agencies and parties, such as Rakan Muda, local authorities and Persatuan Penempatan dan Pemulihan Penjara (Pemaaf) which works with former prisoners.

Re-Kayu aimed to actively involve former prisoners, troubled youth and the jobless through the Social Entrepreneurship and Innovative Community

Cultivation Programme by

giving them a second chance at a better life, said Mohd Faizal.

The social enterprise has also launched the Return to Work Programme in partnership with the Social Security Organisation (Socso) and Malaysian Innovation Foundation.

Mohd Faizal said Re-Kayu would also collaborate with skill training centres, such as Wood Industry Skills Development Centre, to help participants acquire the Malaysian Skills Certificate to enhance their competitiveness.

When asked about his future plans, Mohd Faizal shared his aspiration to set up a social enterprise factory specialising in furniture manufacturing for both domestic and international markets.

Meanwhile, participant Rahayu Zabani, 42, said the programme had given her a platform to nurture her interest in carpentry and it helped her earn additional income.

"The facilities and equipment provided by Re-Kayu are exceptionally comprehensive, making carpentry work much easier," said the mother of five who accepts orders for crafting furniture including tables, chairs and kitchen shelves.

Participant Mohd Helmi Mohd Sulaiman, 34, from PPR Pantai Permai, said he quit his job as an electrician to pursue a career in carpentry to better provide for his family.

"After attending the workshop in March last year, I have built kitchen cabinets for five houses and that brings in a satisfying income," he said.



(Clockwise from top left) Rahayu now accepts orders for carpentry work; Mohd Helmi says carpentry has given him a satisfactory income; Re-Kayu collaborates with training centres to help participants obtain skills certificates. — Photos: Bernama

THE STAR
23 APR 2024

Tarikh:.....



Hard at work: Volunteers collecting litter during a beach clean-up campaign organised in conjunction with Earth Day in George Town. — Reuters

No clogging, just 'plogging'

Swedish habit of cleaning while jogging a boon for environment

KUALA LUMPUR: Plogging – the activity of picking up trash while exercising, which is commonly practised in Sweden – could have a positive impact on the country's environmental sustainability if widely adopted, says Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister said plogging could also cultivate a sense of unity and appreciation for nature among the public.

"We see a growing interest in

recreational activities around parks, urban forests and so on.

"We also know that certain areas still face cleanliness issues.

"So, if we combine both activities (exercising and picking up litter), I believe it could yield positive outcomes for environmental well-being."

He said this after launching the plogging programme organised by the Swedish Embassy in collaboration with Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Bernama at the Sungai Bunus Urban Garden here yesterday, in

conjunction with this year's Earth Day.

Also present were Swedish Ambassador to Malaysia Dr Joachim Bergstrom and Bernama deputy editor-in-chief (News Service) Nasriah Darus.

Nik Nazmi said the ministry is always looking for opportunities and platforms to establish cooperation in implementing environmental sustainability programmes, Bernama reported.

He said that the Education Ministry is among the partners

that are heavily involved in environmental programmes.

This is to ensure that environmental sustainability awareness can be instilled among students through school activities.

"We know that young people's awareness of environmental issues is very high.

"So, if possible, we want to expand and implement it further.

"We want this awareness to be present throughout the country, not just in certain 'pockets' (of society)," Nik Nazmi added.

THE STAR

Tarikh:.....23 APR 2024

Microplastics could diminish fish quality and supply

PETALING JAYA: Microplastics have been found in aquatic environments across the country, which could lead to a fish shortage, or even worse, entire marine populations dying out, says the Fisheries Department.

Its director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain said a study by the Fisheries Research Institute, which began in 2019, showed the presence of common plastics such as rayon, polyethylene and polypropylene.

"These are widely used in everyday life, especially in the clothing, food packaging and other industries.

"More worrying is that chemicals used in the production of plastics such as Bisphenol A and phthalates can be secreted and can accumulate in the environment and food sources.

"There is significant concern over their long-term effects on universal health as there have been widely reported links

between these chemicals and health problems such as hormonal imbalance and reproductive problems," he said in a statement in conjunction with Earth Day yesterday.

Adnan said continuous microplastic exposure at high concentrations on fish would affect their growth and quality in the long term.

These effects include oxidative stress, inflammation, immunotoxicity, genotoxicity, and damage to

the DNA and digestive system of the fish.

The theme for Earth Day 2024 is "Planet vs Plastics", which aims to get everyone on board one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time: plastics pollution.

A number of NGOs have also taken it upon themselves to rid their communities of plastics.

Kuala Lipis Lions club president Lily Ng and another fellow member, along with 10 student mem-

bers from SMJK Chung Hwa in Pahang, joined hands to clean up the Kuala Lipis public park.

"We collected around five to six bags worth of garbage (including plastics) and will set them aside for Alam Flora to collect as they are unrecyclable," said Ng, adding that they hold similar community clean-up events up to three times a year.

Other Lions club branches across the country held similar clean-ups.

THE STAR

tarikh: 23 APR 2024

AI portal to take on scammers

More emphasis needed to combat misinformation and fake news, says minister

PUTRAJAYA: A portal using artificial intelligence (AI) will be created to help people verify the information they receive, repel defamatory news and fight fraud or scams, says Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil.

The portal, he said, would be expanded from the special segment *Biar Betull* that is broadcast on RTM, as the segment – which is less than a minute long – was insufficient and needed to be revamped up to deal with the issue, Bernama reported.

"It is still in the early stages but there is a need so that people in general do not have to doubt the material they read. If there is any doubt, they can refer (to the portal).

Today we can watch *Biar Betull* on various platforms including on RTM where scam material and fake and defamatory content are exposed every day, but we see that it is not enough and needs to be improved," he said after launching the Jom Baca Bersama 10 Minit programme at the Communications Ministry here yesterday.

According to Fahmi, the new platform will strengthen the capabilities of existing platforms such as *Sebenarnya.my* under the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and *MyCheck.my* managed by the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama), as well as *Biar Betull*, to make it easier for people to search for and verify any information they receive.

Fahmi said the ministry will



Informing the masses: Fahmi (third from right) officiating the Jom Baca Bersama 10 Minit programme at the Communications Ministry. He is flanked by Deputy Communications Minister Teo Nie Ching and the ministry's secretary-general, Datuk Mohamad Fauzi Md Isa. — Bernama

also work with social media platforms so that information received by users goes through a process as practised on the X platform (formerly Twitter) that allows users to attach "Community Notes" to a post.

In addition, a total of 1,878 "Madani communities" across the country can also be used as *Biar Betull* agents as the front line to fend off defamation, correct perceptions and check facts with the

ministry to ensure that the delivery of information to the community is done more clearly and in an organised manner, he added.

Fahmi said the matter is being taken seriously since MCMC information showed that almost 80% of the content downloaded until April was of a scam nature, including advertising fraud and online gambling.

Earlier, in his speech, he said

the theme of the Jom Baca Bersama 10 Minit programme, "Reading Preserves Unity", is very much in line with the Madani concept that reflects the emphasis on building a civilised society, giving each other insight and fostering unity.

Organised jointly by the Communications Ministry's Resource Centre and the Information Department's Resource and Photo Centre, the programme

was held in conjunction with World Book and Copyright Day, celebrated worldwide on April 23 every year.

Also helping to make the programme a success are the Bernama Information and Library Centre, the Resource Centre of the National Film Development Corporation of Malaysia (Finas), the RTM Library, and the Tun Abdul Razak Institute of Broadcasting and Information.

THE STAR

23 APR 2024

Tarikh:.....

Policy on plastic in the pipeline

2/1/24

PUTRAJAYA: The government is crafting a national policy on the production, consumption and disposal of plastic in line with ongoing negotiations of the Global Plastic Treaty (GPT), says Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister said the government has established the Malaysian Plastic Sustainability Roadmap (2021-2030) and the Malaysian Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics (2018-2030).

"I have instructed a review of legislation governing plastic pollution to strengthen our measures in addressing this issue," he said in a statement in conjunction with Earth Day yesterday.

Nik Nazmi said Malaysia has participated in four rounds of international talks on the GPT within the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Development of an Internationally Legally Binding Instrument on Marine Plastic Pollution, reported Bernama.

He said his ministry is leading Malaysia's delegation to the fourth INC negotiation session from today until April 29 in Ottawa, Canada.

Nik Nazmi stressed the importance of collective efforts in promoting reusable bags and reducing single-use plastics.

This year's Earth Day theme, "Planet vs Plastics", underscores society's duty to conserve the planet, as plastic waste takes a minimum of 500 years to decompose naturally.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 23 APR 2024

Oleh Ruwaida Md Zain
am@hmetro.com.my

Shah Alam

Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) tidak pernah membenarkan pemilik bangunan perniagaan membina tanjakan jenis binaan kekal daripada konkrit, sebaliknya hanya tanjakan mudah alih dibolehkan jika berkeperluan.

Penolong Pengarah Kanan MBSA, Aslinda Tahsin berkata, sekiranya tiada keperluan, pemilik premis tidak boleh membina tanjakan kerana petak parkir tersedia adalah keperluan yang diutamakan buat orang ramai mahupun penduduk meletak kenderaan.

Katanya, terdapat empat kategori perniagaan yang dibenarkan memohon penyewaan tempat letak kereta khas MBSA dengan kadar bayaran bulanan antara RM150 sehingga RM400.

"Bagi Kategori 1, perniagaan yang dibenarkan adalah kedai mencuci kenderaan dan hotel bajet (wajib), kedai menjual motosikal, kilang industri ringan, kedai menjual perabot dan alatan rumah serta pasar raya atau kedai runcit yang perlu ruang pemungghahan barang.

"Selain itu, termasuk dalam kategori 1 adalah bank yang mempunyai kaunter urusan, hospital, klinik, tadika/taska, gudang, agensi kerajaan serta industri kecil dan sederhana (IKS).

"Kategori 2 bagi kedai membaiki kereta/motosikal, kedai menjual aksesori kereta/motosikal, kedai



PENGUAT kuasa MBSA merobohkan binaan tanjakan haram di sekitar Shah Alam.

SUSULAN PETAK PARKIR 'DICOP' PEMILIK BANGUNAN

MBSA tidak benar bina tanjakan kekal

mengetuk/mengecat kereta, kedai alat ganti kereta/motosikal, kedai tayar dan rim kereta, kedai exzos kereta, servis kereta/motosikal serta ruang pameran kereta/motosikal.

"Jenis perniagaan Kategori 3 pula adalah restoran manakala bagi Kategori 4 adalah pejabat urusan (korporat)," katanya ketika dihubungi bagi mengulas laporan Harian Metro semalam mengenai keluhan penduduk berhubung binaan tanjakan didakwa haram yang menyebabkan masalah terutama kekurangan tempat letak kenderaan.

Mengulas lanjut, Aslinda

berkata, pihaknya tidak menolak ada pemilik perniagaan yang membuat binaan tanjakan secara haram dan tidak membuat permohonan, berdasarkan pemantauan dilaksana sebelum ini.

Disebabkan itu, katanya, setiap tahun MBSA melaksanakan operasi memecah dan membuang tanjakan haram di kawasan yang disasar, dengan tahun lalu sebanyak 171 premis perniagaan diperiksa menerusi Operasi Pecah Tanjakan Tahun 2023.

"Daripada jumlah itu, 90 tanjakan dipecahkan, 11 tanjakan besi dirampas, 38 tanjakan dipecahkan sen-

diri oleh pemilik premis, 63 denda gagal pecah tanjakan, 111 kompaun serta lima notis peringatan.

"Tahun ini, hingga Februari lalu, 45 premis diperiksa dan tujuh tanjakan dipecahkan, dua tanjakan besi dirampas, 14 tanjakan dipecahkan sendiri oleh pemilik premis, lapan denda pecah tanjakan, 24 kompaun serta dua notis peringatan," katanya.

Menurutnya, operasi digerakkan hasil maklumat dan aduan diterima dan pihak yang didapati melanggar peraturan akan diberi notis membuang tanjakan haram dalam tempoh lima hari, sebelum tindakan di-

ambil termasuk denda RM2,500.

"Ada kes yang tanjakan sudah terlalu lama dibina oleh pemilik premis terdahulu sebelum disewakan peniaga lain, yang jika ditanggalkan, kosnya agak tinggi. Kemudian pemilik baharu mohon sewa petak, kita terpaksa pertimbangkan," katanya.

Jelasnya, antara cabaran besar dalam penguatkuasaan operasi tanjakan haram adalah keluasan kawasan pentadbiran MBSA dari Seksyen 1 sehingga Seksyen 35 dan Seksyen U1 sehingga U20 yang keseluruhannya bersaiz 293 kilometer persegi.



Ada yang kompaun RM2,500 bukan masalah bagi mereka sebab mereka mampu bayar dan ada yang sewa dua petak parkir sahaja, tapi guna tiga petak"

Aslinda Tahsin

"Ada pemilik degil buat kesalahan berulang, selepas penguat kuasa MBSA cabut atau pecahkan, pemilik premis terbit pasang lagi, bina lagi. Ada yang kompaun RM2,500 bukan masalah bagi mereka sebab mereka mampu bayar dan ada yang sewa dua petak parkir sahaja, tapi guna tiga petak.

"Ini juga cabaran yang kita tanggung. Kita tidak mampu tidak mampu memeriksa semua premis setiap hari di seluruh Shah Alam," katanya yang mengakui perbuatan tidak bertanggungjawab peniaga merugikan MBSA dan tidak adil kepada pemilik bangunan lain dan orang awam.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh 23 APR 2024

Sedia kaji 'jalan tikus' sebagai laluan alternatif - MPTI

IPOH - Majlis Perbandaran Teluk Intan (MPTI) sedia melaksanakan kajian berhubung cadangan penduduk Kampung Baru Palawan dekat Langkap supaya 'jalan tikus' di Ladang Bikam dijadikan jalan raya baharu sebagai alternatif untuk pengguna sekiranya Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan (PLUS) terlalu sesak.

Ahli Majlis MPTI, A Sri Murugan berkata, setakat ini pihaknya hanya menerima cadangan secara lisan daripada ketua kampung berkenaan.

"Sekiranya ada permohonan secara bertulis, MPTI akan memanjangkan cadangan projek itu kepada Jabatan Kerja Raya, kerana laluan itu berada di atas tanah milik kerajaan Persekutuan dan ada juga sebahagiannya milik persendirian.

"Laluan alternatif secara rasmi di kawasan itu perlu melibatkan banyak pihak termasuk Exco kerajaan negeri dan pegawai daerah serta memerlukan persetujuan ramai," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Isnin.

Beliau berkata, MPTI pula akan melakukan kajian dari segi kos yang diperlukan bagi melaksanakan

projek berkenaan dan ia boleh dilaksanakan sekiranya ada peruntukkan yang mencukupi.

Pada Rabu lalu, media mengetengahkan cadangan beberapa penduduk agar laluan tikus di kawasan berkenaan yang dibuka oleh penduduk sekitar kawasan itu susulan kesesakan Lebuhraya PLUS di hujung hari cuti sempena Hari Raya Aidilfitri lepas, supaya laluan itu terus dijadikan sebagai laluan alternatif.

Terdahulu media melaporkan perkongsian Zairul Annuar Mohd Zain, 47, yang videonya menggunakan jalan tikus di Ladang Bikam ketika menuju ke Kuala Lumpur untuk pulang ke Nilai, Negeri Sembilan pada 13 April tular di media sosial.

Ketika kejadian Zairul Annuar bersama keluarganya cuba untuk mengikuti laluan alternatif yang dicadangkan satu aplikasi dari Gopeng ke Ladang Bikam, ekoran keadaan lebuhraya yang sesak.

Menurut catatan Zairul Annuar sekumpulan penduduk Cina menyuruh dia dan pengguna jalan raya yang lain menunggu sebentar, sementara mereka menggunakan sebuah jentera untuk mengorek dan meratakan jalan agak berbukit sehingga rata dan boleh dilalui kenderaan yang sedang menunggu.

Zairul Annuar berkongsi kisah itu di Facebooknya kerana ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada penduduk Cina berkenaan. - Bernama

Laporan
Sinar Harian
pada Rabu lalu.

Penduduk Cina buka jalan, bantu orang Melayu pulang ke ibu kota

SHAH ALAM - Seorang pengguna media sosial melaporkan dua lelaki dari Dapeng, Ladang Bikam, Perak, yang membuka jalan baharu dengan jentera mereka untuk membantu penduduk Melayu pulang ke ibu kota.

#MZB365

"Sementara itu, penduduk di kawasan ini juga menghadapi masalah kerana jalan yang mereka gunakan untuk pulang ke ibu kota adalah jalan yang tidak rata dan banyak lubang. Oleh itu, mereka terpaksa menunggu beberapa minit untuk menunggu jentera tersebut selesai membuka jalan." - Bernama

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 23 APR 2024

Sinar 23/4

Langkah bersepadu tangani isu pencemaran akuatik - DOF

PUTRAJAYA - Langkah bersepadu melibatkan kerajaan, perniagaan, komuniti dan individu sangat diperlukan bagi menangani isu pencemaran plastik.

Jabatan Perikanan (DOF) dalam kenyataan menegaskan bahawa semua pihak perlu mengurangkan pencemaran dan penggunaan plastik, meningkatkan kecekapan sistem pengurusan sisa selain menggalakkan penggunaan bahan alternatif bagi menangani isu itu.

DOF memaklumkan, pihaknya menjalankan kajian pencemaran mikroplastik dan makroplastik sejak 2019 di persekitaran akuatik Semenanjung Malaysia khususnya bahagian barat laut dan pantai timur, Labuan serta dalam tisu ikan komersial dan kerang-kerangan.

"Dapatan kajian menunjukkan jenis plastik yang kerap ditemui dalam persekitaran akuatik tempatan dan global ialah rayon, polietilena dan polipropilena.

"Jenis plastik ini digunakan secara meluas dalam kehidupan seharian terutama dalam industri pakaian, pembungkusan makanan dan lain-lain industri," demikian menurut kenyataan yang dikeluarkan jabatan itu sempena Hari Bumi Sedunia pada Isnin.

Menurut DOF, bahan kimia digunakan dalam penghasilan plastik seperti bisphenol A (BPA) dan phthalate boleh dirembes dan berakumulasi dalam persekitaran dan sumber makanan justeru menimbulkan kebimbangan mengenai kesan jangka panjang bahan itu terhadap kesihatan sejagat.

"Hubung kait antara bahan kimia ini dengan masalah kesihatan seperti ketidakseimbangan hormon serta masalah reproduksi telah banyak dilaporkan," menurut kenyataan itu. - *Bernama*

JENIS PLASTIK KERAP DITEMUI DALAM PERSEKITARAN AKUATIK

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rayon• Polietilena• Polipropilena | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digunakan secara meluas dalam industri pakaian dan pembungkusan makanan |
|---|---|

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:23 APR 2024.....

Gagal capai 70 peratus graduan TVET

Sinar 23/4

Negara hanya
hasilkan 20 peratus
graduan teknologi
tinggi

Tambah beliau, antara tenaga mahir teknologi tinggi yang semakin menjadi keperluan ialah kecerdasan buatan (AI), kenderaan elektrik dan kimpalan.

LAPORAN KHAS



Permintaan terhadap graduan teknologi tinggi kini semakin meningkat.

SHAH ALAM

Malaysia perlu melahirkan sekurang-kurangnya 70 peratus graduan bidang teknologi tinggi menerusi institusi Pendidikan Teknikal dan Latihan Vokasional (TVET) dalam tempoh lima tahun akan datang bagi memenuhi keperluan industri.

Naib Canselor Universiti Antarabangsa Unitar, Tan Sri Dr Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar berkata, angka tersebut sepatutnya dicapai lima tahun lalu namun ia tidak berlaku.

Menurut pakar dalam pelbagai bidang kejuruteraan termasuk awam, pengurusan banjir, hidrologi dan persekitaran itu, ketika ini negara hanya merekodkan kira-kira 20 peratus graduan TVET teknologi tinggi melalui pelbagai program.

LAPORAN MUKA DEPAN



SAHOL HAMID



ROS LI

Canselor Universiti Teknologi Mara (UITM) menambah, langkah kerajaan untuk menggubal akta gaji khusus bagi lepasan

"Di Malaysia ketika ini kita masih lagi ghairah dengan universiti dan ada universiti yang terlalu tumpukan kepada penyelidikan.

"Tidak salah sebenarnya tapi cukuplah diwujudkan beberapa universiti tertentu yang memfokuskan kepada bidang tersebut, bukannya semua terikut-ikut untuk membuat benda sama. Tidak dinafikan memperoleh ijazah juga penting tapi keperluan untuk itu tidak begitu tinggi.

"Jadi, kita perlu sedar bahawa dunia sudah berubah sekarang ini yang mana keperluan sekarang ialah lebih kepada TVET dan juga kemahiran," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Sahol Hamid yang juga bekas Naib Canselor Universiti Teknologi Mara (UITM) menambah, langkah kerajaan untuk menggubal akta gaji khusus bagi lepasan

tersebut dengan sasaran pengajian lebih tinggi daripada kadar gaji minimum iaitu RM4,000 ke atas sebulan juga mampu menarik lebih ramai penyertaan.

Pada Februari lalu, Menteri Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Industri (MITI), Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz mencadangkan kerajaan membenarkan graduan asing institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) tempatan bekerja sementara di negara ini dalam bidang tertentu seperti sektor teknologi tinggi kerana graduan tempatan tidak mencukupi.

Sebagai contoh, Tengku Zafrul berkata, industri elektrik dan elektronik memerlukan 50,000 jurutera, namun IPT tempatan cuma mengeluarkan 5,000 graduan setahun.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim

Mu'adzam Shah, Kedah, Rosli Idris berkata, kerajaan perlu menyediakan peruntukan lebih besar untuk peralatan serta penggantian alat pengajaran dan pembelajaran (PdP) sedia ada sebagai langkah memperkasa institusi TVET khususnya kursus berteknologi tinggi.

"Penyelenggaraan pendingin hawa, peralatan makmal atau bengkel dan lain-lain yang berkaitan dengan fasiliti PdP perlu diberi keutamaan supaya suasana pembelajaran di institusi TVET lebih kondusif dan efektif," katanya.

Tambah beliau, institusi TVET terutama Politeknik dan Kolej Komuniti sentiasa bersedia dengan kursus berteknologi tinggi termasuk menghantar pensyarah dan tenaga pengajar menjalani kursus kemahiran tinggi yang diperlukan industri.

KEBOLEHPASARAN GRADUAN TVET DI MALAYSIA (2018-2023)

- Seramai 256,901 siswazah TVET berjaya dilahirkan dari 2018 hingga 2023.
- Melibatkan 299 program TVET yang ditawarkan oleh 12 kementerian dan agensi kerajaan.

PECAHAN GRADUAN MENGIKUT KATEGORI

- TVET universiti awam**
- 71,825 graduan
 - 69.4% telah bekerja (60.9% bekerja dalam bidang berkaitan dengan pengajian)
 - 14.9% melanjutkan pengajian
 - 3.4% sedang ikuti kursus atau latihan meningkatkan kemahiran
 - 4.3% sedang menunggu penempatan pekerjaan
- TVET Politeknik**
- 139,579 graduan
 - 76.2% telah bekerja (50% dalam bidang berkaitan dengan pengajian)
 - 19.1% melanjutkan pengajian
 - 0.4% sedang ikuti kursus meningkatkan kemahiran
 - 1.5% sedang menunggu penempatan pekerjaan
- TVET Kolej Komuniti**
- 45,497 graduan
 - 74.8% telah bekerja (53.4% dalam bidang berkaitan dengan pengajian)
 - 22.3% melanjutkan pengajian
 - 0.2% sedang ikuti kursus meningkatkan kemahiran
 - 0.4% sedang menunggu penempatan pekerjaan

Sumber: TVET Madani

SINAR HARIAN

23 APR 2024

Tarikh:

99 peratus rakyat negara ini punyai akses telefon bimbit

Sinar
23/4



Penggunaan internet dalam kalangan masyarakat kekal tinggi melebihi 97 peratus.

SHAH ALAM - Kajian Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM) mendapati sebanyak 99.3 peratus isi rumah di negara ini mempunyai akses telefon bimbit.

Menurut laporan Survey Penggunaan dan Capaian Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (ICT) Individu dan Isi Rumah 2023 dilaksanakan DOSM, capaian isi rumah terhadap internet dan komputer masing-masing merekodkan 96.4 dan 91.6 peratus.

Katanya, dari segi penggunaan telefon, 97.6 peratus memilih telefon pintar, manakala 16.3 peratus isi rumah masih mempunyai capaian terhadap telefon biasa.

"Televisyen berbayar pula mencatatkan capaian 77 peratus, manakala telefon talian tetap semakin tidak popular dalam kalangan isi rumah iaitu

hanya 27.4 peratus.

"Selain itu, dapatan tinjauan menunjukkan capaian internet melalui jalur lebar mudah alih (95.3 peratus) terus menjadi pilihan isi rumah berbanding jalur lebar tetap (47.1 peratus).

"Dari sudut lokaliti, sebanyak 98.4 peratus isi rumah di bandar mempunyai capaian internet sementara di luar bandar hanya merekodkan 89.8 peratus," katanya pada Isnin.

Sementara itu, Ketua Perangkawan, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin berkata, tinjauan itu turut membentangkan penggunaan perkhidmatan dan peralatan ICT dalam kalangan individu.

Beliau berkata, berdasarkan penemuan, penggunaan komputer oleh individu merekodkan 80.4 peratus pada tahun sama.

"Penggunaan komputer merangkumi penggunaan komputer peribadi, riba atau papan elektronik mudah alih.

"Penggunaan komputer di bandar direkodkan sebanyak 86 peratus manakala di kawasan luar bandar adalah 63.6 peratus," jelasnya.

Menurutnya, penggunaan internet dalam kalangan masyarakat kekal tinggi pada 97.7 peratus.

"Aktiviti penggunaan internet paling popular tahun lalu adalah menyertai rangkaian sosial, aktiviti memuat turun gambar, filem, video atau muzik, bermain atau memuat turun dan mendapatkan maklumat mengenai barangan atau perkhidmatan.

"Peratusan mendapatkan maklumat secara dalam talian terus mendapat sambutan," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN
23 APR 2024

Tarikh:

DBKL usir tujuh penjaja warga asing di Pasar Karat, Jalan Silang

(DBKL)

PETALING JAYA – Seramai tujuh penjaja haram warga asing disekitar Kuala Lumpur diusir, manakala barangan jualan mereka disita penguat kuasa Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dalam operasi kelmarin.

Penjaja warga asing berkenaan menjual barangan terpakai, sirih dan makanan dengan beralaskan tikar atau meja kecil di tepi jalan berhampiran dengan Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur.

DBKL dalam satu kenyataan memberitahu, Operasi Tindakan Khas dijalankan Jabatan Penguatkuasaannya di sekitar Jalan Sultan (Pasar Karat), Jalan Petaling dan Jalan Tun Tan Siew Sin (Jalan Silang).

"Kawalan, pemantauan dan pemeriksaan berkaitan aktiviti perniagaan yang beroperasi sekir-



PENGUAT KUASA DBKL menyita barangan jualan milik penjaja warga asing di sekitar Kuala Lumpur kelmarin.

tar kawasan berkenaan, pihak DBKL telah mengambil tindakan ke atas tujuh penjaja warga asing yang menjalankan aktiviti perniagaan barangan-barangan terpakai, sirih dan makanan tanpa lesen dan kebenaran daripada pihak berkuasa.

"DBKL turut mengeluarkan dua notis kompaun ke atas peniaga tempatan beroperasi tanpa lesen yang menjual aksesori atau peniaga makanan di bawah kesalahan UUK 3, Undang-Undang Kecil Pelesenan Penjaja (WPKL) 2016," katanya dalam hantaran di Facebook semalam.

Tambahnya, kesemua barangan yang disita dipindahkan ke Setor Sitaan DBKL Jalan Lombong, Taman Miharja Cheras untuk tindakan rekod dan dokumentasi.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 23 APR 2024

Elak kesesakan teruk di Taman Medan

Penduduk PJ tetap mahu PJD Link

03/14

Oleh **RASDAN AHMAD**
dan **NUR MUHAMMAD NAUFAL**
DUROKHHMAN

PETALING JAYA — Penduduk sekitar Petaling Jaya terutama di kawasan Taman Medan merayu kerajaan agar tidak membatalkan projek pembinaan lebuh raya Petaling Jaya Traffic Dispersal Elevated Highway (PJD Link).

Wakil Penduduk Taman Medan, Mohd. Razali Abdullah berkata, ini kerana projek pembinaan lebuh raya tersebut perlu diteruskan bagi mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas terutamanya di kawasan Taman Medan yang kini sesak teruk.

"Dengan pertambahan penduduk dan pembinaan bangunan seperti kondominium di kawasan ini, satu laluan alternatif diperlukan untuk mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas.

"Sekiranya projek lebuh raya

ini dibatalkan, kerajaan juga perlu membayar sejumlah pampasan kepada pemegang konsesi.

"Mereka juga telah buat kerja awal. Kalau ia dibatalkan, kerajaan kena bayar pampasan kepada konsesi. Bayaran pampasan ini tentunya akan gunakan rakyat. Itu sepatutnya kita elak dari berlaku," katanya dalam satu sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Jelas Razali, satu memorandum rayuan meneruskan projek pembinaan lebuh raya PJD Link akan dihantar kepada Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim pada Rabu ini.

Dalam pada itu, Pengerusi Pertubuhan Komuniti Petaling Jaya, Mohd. Yusri Ramli pula menyatakan terpulang kepada kebijaksanaan kerajaan sama ada untuk menukar pemegang konsesi sedia ada atau pun tidak.

"Kalau nak ubah konsesi baharu, akan ada lagi pertam-

han masa, konsesi baharu perlu buat kajian semula dan dapatkan laporan. Ini memerlukan masa lagi tiga hingga empat tahun.

"Kenapa kita nak buang masa tiga hingga empat tahun untuk lantik konsesi baharu sedangkan yang lama dah ada. Yang ada ini kita perbaiki balik. Bincang balik dengan konsesi sedia ada apa masalah ini," katanya.

Terdahulu, kerajaan melalui mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri telah mengambil keputusan untuk membatalkan projek pembinaan lebuh PJD Link pada Khamis lepas.

Sebelum itu Menteri Komunikasi, Fahmi Fadzil dilaporkan menjelaskan bahawa keputusan kerajaan untuk membatalkan projek tersebut selepas pemegang konsesinya gagal memenuhi 6 daripada 11 syarat yang telah ditetapkan antaranya pelan tidak menepati syarat.



GAGASAN Penduduk DUN Taman Medan menunjukkan pelan projek PJD Link sebelum dibatalkan oleh kerajaan dalam satu sidang akhbar di Taman Medan, Petaling Jaya semalam.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 2.3 APR 2024

Negara berisiko hilang tenaga kerja profesional

BH
23/4

Eksklusif

Semakin ramai pelajar tidak lagi cenderung ikuti pelajaran jurusan Sains Tulen

Oleh Suzalina Halid
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Kuala Lumpur: Negara dibimbangi kehilangan tenaga kerja profesional seperti doktor dan saintis disebabkan semakin ramai pelajar di peringkat sekolah menengah tidak lagi cenderung mengikuti pelajaran dalam jurusan Sains Tulen.

Ini berdasarkan peratusan calon yang mengambil subjek Sains Tulen dalam Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) dikesan terus merosot di bawah 15.2 peratus.

Pakar pendidikan berpendapat, jika trend ini berterusan, sasaran menjayakan dasar 40 peratus pelajar mengambil bidang Sains Tulen yang merangkumi sebahagian teras Sains, Matematik, Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi (STEM) akan terjejas.

Presiden Majlis Profesor Negara (MPN), Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Raduan Che Rose, berkata berdasarkan keputusan SPM 2022, hanya 15.2 peratus calon menga-

mbil Sains Tulen dengan 70 peratus daripadanya gagal, selain memperoleh D dan E dalam Matematik Tambahan.

"Jika jangka panjang pola ini tidak berubah, kita dikhawatirkan akan bergantung kepada tenaga profesional asing bagi menampung fasiliti kesihatan swasta yang banyak dibina di negara ini. Justeru, kita kena ada dasar yang tidak menetapkan peratusan sebaliknya memperbaiki ekosistem," katanya kepada BH.

Bagi sesi 2023/2024, hanya 15.2 peratus atau 62,250 daripada kira-kira 415,000 pelajar Tingkatan Tiga di seluruh negara memilih aliran Sains untuk ke Tingkatan Empat.

Raduan berkata, jumlah itu paling rendah dalam sejarah dan jauh ketinggalan berbanding dasar 40 peratus yang ditetapkan pada 1967 lalu. Beliau berkata, berdasarkan dasar 57 tahun lalu itu, kerajaan mahu jumlah pelajar aliran Sains Tulen yang dilahirkan mencapai 40 peratus manakala baki 60 peratus lagi dalam aliran Sastera.

Beliau memberikan contoh antara elemen yang tidak mendorong pelajar memilih aliran Sains ialah mereka diberi kebebasan untuk memilih bidang selepas Tingkatan Tiga selepas

2017, tanpa perlu berdasarkan keputusan peperiksaan lagi.

"Besar harapan kita agar melalui inisiatif Kementerian Pendidikan untuk melihat semula kurikulum sekolah menengah menjelang 2027, ia akan lebih relevan dengan kehendak pelajar," katanya.

Bagi pakar pendidikan, Dr Anuar Ahmad, kaedah Pentaksiran Berasaskan Bilik Darjah juga sukar 'mengesan' pelajar yang meminati Sains Tulen.

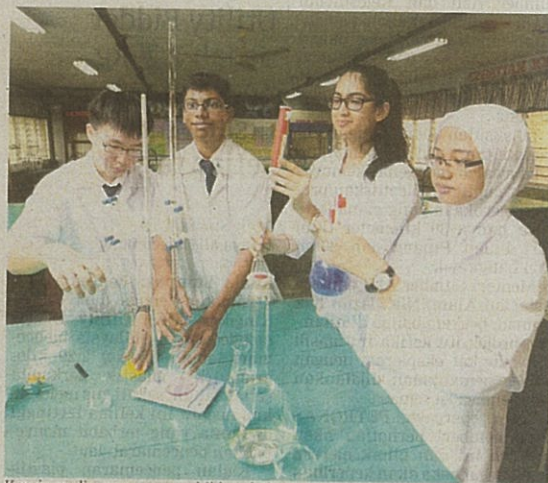
Mengakui jumlah 15.2 peratus pelajar itu 'agak menakutkan', beliau berkata, ia sekali gus bermaksud dalam 100 orang pelajar hanya 15 orang sahaja yang

akan mengambil aliran Sains Tulen.

Bimbang peratusan menurun

Beliau turut melahirkan kebimbangan peratusan itu akan menurun lagi sekiranya tiada kaedah intervensi dilakukan dengan kecenderungan pelajar lebih memilih untuk mengambil aliran Sastera, Perdagangan atau memasuki Kolej Vokasional.

"Kita akui ramai pelajar menganggap bidang ini tidak menarik dan mereka fikir sukar untuk mendapat pekerjaan, maka lebih



Kerajaan disaran mengambil langkah sewajarnya bagi menarik minat pelajar mengikuti aliran Sains Tulen.

(Foto hiasan)

cenderung kepada aliran Sastera atau menceburi sektor yang tidak rasmi.

"Apabila kita mula memperkenankan Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Menengah (KSSM) dan Kurikulum Standard Sekolah Rendah (KSSR) pada 2010, trend menunjukkan minat kepada Sains Tulen sudah menurun.

"Selain itu, pendidikan negara kita sudah mula menekankan murid seawal Tahun Satu dengan

pengisian Sains yang berat, sedangkan banyak negara maju mereka memulakannya pada Tahun Empat.

"Salah satu kemerosotan adalah disebabkan kita terlalu awal mendedahkan murid dengan 'beban' Sains sedangkan di negara luar termasuk di Amerika Syarikat (AS) dan Jepun, mereka lebih bereksperimentasi atau 'bermain' dengan Sains," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 23 APR 2024

National Fund-of Funds

Khazanah Nasional sedia dana RM1 bilion

Peruntukan awal bakal dilabur dalam firma berteknologi tinggi dan berinovatif

Oleh Hazwan Faisal Mohamad
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Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengumumkan Khazanah Nasional akan melancarkan dana *National Fund-of Funds* dengan peruntukan awal RM1 bilion.

Dana itu antara lain bertujuan untuk melabur dan mewujudkan syarikat teknologi tinggi dan berinovatif.

Perdana Menteri berkata, dalam pengumuman Belanjawan Malaysia MADANI 2024 pada Oktober lalu, beliau menggariskan komitmen kerajaan untuk membantu syarikat Malaysia membabitkan usahawan Bumiputera, syarikat baharu dan perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) untuk terus meningkat.

"Kerajaan juga menyasarkan untuk memusatkan agensi pelaburan seperti Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (MAVCAP) dan Penjana Kapital di bawah Khazanah.

"Dalam hal ini, saya berbesar hati untuk berkongsi bahawa Khazanah Nasional akan melancarkan *National Fund-of Funds* dengan peruntukan awal RM1 bilion untuk melabur dalam syarikat Malaysia bertumbuh tinggi yang inovatif," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada majlis pelancaran Sidang Kemuncak KL20 di sini, semalam.

Yang hadir sama, Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Pada acara sama, Anwar turut melancarkan Kertas Tindakan KL20, pelan hala tuju menyeluruh yang menggariskan inisiatif pembaharuan ketara untuk mencapai titik penyatuan dalam kalangan pemegang taruh utama iaitu pengasas, pemodal teroka, bakat, inkubator dan pemacu, bagi memacu sektor teknologi pemula Malaysia ke satu tahap lebih tinggi.

Sidang kemuncak itu bertindak sebagai platform perbincangan penting yang menemukan pembuat keputusan kerajaan, pengasas syarikat pemula gergasi (*unicorn*), pelabur besar dan pemikir di Kuala Lumpur, menjadikannya medan utama untuk



Anwar melawat reruai Sidang Kemuncak KL20 2024 di Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

perbincangan, debat dan membuat perjanjian.

Sidang Kemuncak KL20 turut menyaksikan pengenalan beberapa inisiatif penting bertujuan memudahkan lagi akses kepada bakat (*Visa Green-laning*), menjadikan pelaburan dan penyumbangan tawaran lebih kerap (*VC Golden Pass*) serta menjadikan infrastruktur kecerdasan buatan (AI) lebih matang (*Graphical Processing Units Installation*).

Pelabur terus yakin

Perdana Menteri berkata, negara terus menyaksikan aliran keyakinan berterusan daripada pelabur di semua bahagian ekosistem permulaan membabitkan 25 syarikat yang akan memberi peluang sebenar kepada Malaysia mencipta usaha niaga teknologi canggih.

"Pelaburan hari ini antara lain membabitkan dana kekayaan negara, Khazanah Nasional, Kum-

pulan Wang Persaraan (Diperbadankan) dan Blue Chip Venture Capital yang akan melabur sehingga RM3 bilion dalam ekosistem Asia Tenggara dan Malaysia di bawah Inisiatif Pelaburan ASEAN.

"Sebanyak 12 firma modal teroka antarabangsa akan menubuhkan pejabat dan dana baharu di Kuala Lumpur dengan saiz aset di bawah pengurusan melebihi berbilion dan rekod prestasi pelaburan yang cemerlang.

"Ini membolehkan penemuan syarikat pemula Malaysia yang baik dan dipupuk untuk berjaya pada peringkat global," katanya.

Selain itu, Anwar berkata, syarikat berteknologi tinggi juga akan menubuhkan operasi, kemudahan penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) serta ibu pejabat serantau mereka, untuk melayani pasaran Asia dan Asia Tenggara.

Jawatankuasa Penasihat Dasar Kepada PM ditubuh

Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengumumkan penubuhan Jawatankuasa Penasihat Dasar Kepada Perdana Menteri untuk memberi khidmat nasihat terkait soal pembangunan negara dan daya tahan ekonomi sejajar dengan Ekonomi MADANI.

Jawatankuasa itu dipengerusikan bekas Pengerusi PETRONAS, Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican.

Keahliannya terdiri daripada Pengerusi Eksekutif FVSB Sdn Bhd, Datuk Ahmad Fuad Md Ali; Profesor Ekonomi, Profesor Dr Yeah Kim

Leng dan Ahli Lembaga Peme-gang Amanah Institut Penyelidikan Khazanah, Dr Nungsa-ri Ahmad Radhi.

Pejabat Perdana Menteri (PMO) dalam kenyataannya, berkata penubuhan jawatankuasa ini susulan berakhirnya tempoh Jawatankuasa Penasihat Kepada Menteri Kewangan (ACFIN) pada Februari 2024 yang juga dipengerusikan oleh Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican.

PMO berkata, cadangan yang dikemukakan ACFIN mendapat pertimbangan sewajarnya dan sebahagian daripadanya kini dalam proses pelaksanaan.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....2.3.APR.2024

Wujud strategi bersepadu jadikan Malaysia negara kreatif, inovatif

- Kreativiti dan inovasi amat penting sebagai modal membangunkan ekonomi kreatif berasaskan penciptaan, pengeluaran dan pengedaran produk serta perkhidmatan kreatif

- Dilema utama dihadapi Malaysia adalah minat semakin berkurangan dalam kalangan generasi muda terhadap subjek sains, teknologi, matematik dan kejuruteraan (STEM)



Penyelidik di Kumpulan Penyelidikan Kepimpinan & Kenegaraan, Fakulti sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

Oleh Prof Madya Dr Mohd Azhar Abd Hamid
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Pada 21 April setiap tahun yang mana kali ini jatuh pada Ahad lalu, seluruh dunia menyambut Hari Kreativiti dan Inovasi. Setakat ini, sebanyak 50 negara meraikan hari penting kepada pembangunan modal insan dan kelestarian pembangunan global.

Pada tahun ini, tema dipilih adalah 'Step Out and Innovate' (Tampil dan Jadi Berinovasi). Tema ini membawa maksud supaya individu atau organisasi berani berinovasi. Selain itu, hari penting ini bertujuan meraikan individu dan organisasi mempromosi kreativiti serta inovasi seluruh dunia.

Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) mengisytiharkan tarikh berkenaan sebagai inisiatif menyebarkan kesedaran penting kreativiti dan inovasi kepada pembangunan manusia untuk kelestarian dunia.

Memandangkan dunia pada hari ini dilanda pelbagai krisis, maka dengan menyemai kesedaran dan pentingnya kreativiti serta inovasi, maka idea dan penyelesaian baharu kreatif lagi inovatif dapat diteroka bagi menyelesaikan banyak masalah atau krisis dihadapi manusia, termasuk alam sekitar.

Hari ini banyak penemuan dan penyelesaian baharu dicipta bagi menyelesaikan masalah global semakin kritikal dan sulit seperti ekonomi, makanan, kelaparan, tenaga, pencemaran, kemiskinan, wabak penyakit, pemanasan, pemerdagangan manusia dan peperangan.

Satu daripada penyelesaian baharu semakin menjadi trend pembangunan seluruh dunia adalah sesuatu berasaskan 'hijau' iaitu berkaitan kelestarian alam sekitar. Justeru, ekonomi dan teknologi hijau menjadi alternatif baharu dalam penghasilan produk serta perkhidmatan di seluruh dunia.

Tenaga baharu tumpuan penyelidikan

Penyelidikan, pembangunan dan komersialisasi dalam bidang tenaga baharu seperti solar, angin dan hidrogen semakin menjadi tumpuan penyelidikan. China antara negara paling dinamik menerokai sektor ini dan sedang memimpin dunia dalam banyak penemuan sains, teknologi dan inovasi.

Menerusi kreativiti dan inovasi, manusia sentiasa mencari idea serta penyelesaian baharu yang dapat memanfaatkan sumber semula jadi semakin terhad, sekali gus menjadi alternatif kepada kehidupan manusia serta kelestarian alam sekitar.

Dalam aspek lain, kreativiti dan inovasi amat penting sebagai modal membangunkan ekonomi kreatif sedang berkembang di seluruh dunia. Ekonomi ini berasaskan penciptaan, pengeluaran dan pengedaran produk serta perkhidmatan kreatif.

Ekonomi kreatif dipacu perkembangan terkini menerusi teknologi Revolusi Industri 4.0 (IR4.0) seperti internet kebendaan (IoT), kepintaran buatan (AI), robotik kolaboratif, analitik data raya, rangkaian blok, Augmented Reality dan Virtual Reality serta pembelajaran mesin.

Ketika ini, ekonomi kreatif berkembang maju di Amerika Syarikat (AS), Eropah dan beberapa

negara Asia seperti Jepun dan Korea Selatan. Nilai ekonomi kreatif ketika ini berjumlah AS\$985 bilion dan menjelang 2030 dijangka mencecah 10 peratus Keluaran Negara Kasar (KKNK) dunia.

Ekonomi kreatif mampu menjana pelbagai pekerjaan kepada generasi muda seperti pereka bentuk grafik, pengarah filem, pengurus jenama, guru muzik, penulis skrip televisyen dan radio, pengarah seni, pereka bentuk permainan video, pereka pakaian dan pempengaruh sosial.

Di Malaysia, modal insan kreatif dan inovatif sangat penting dalam memacu negara menjadi negara maju serta berpendapatan tinggi. Pembangunan bakat kreatif dan inovatif sangat diperlukan dalam sektor perkhidmatan, pembuatan, pertanian, pembinaan, perlombongan dan kuari.

Ini adalah suatu kaedah bagi memperbaiki tingkat upah sederhana kepada berpendapatan tinggi yang kini Malaysia sedang bergerak ke arah itu. Ini bermakna, modal insan kreatif dan inovatif bukan sahaja berpengetahuan, berkemahiran, tetapi juga memiliki kemahiran berkualiti tinggi.

Impak kreativiti dan inovasi Malaysia dapat dilihat daripada pencapaian Indeks Inovasi Global. Pada 2023, Malaysia menduduki tangga ke-36 global daripada 132 negara dan kedua selepas China dalam kalangan negara berpendapatan pertengahan.

Bagaimanapun, Malaysia masih jauh tertinggal dengan negara tetangga Singapura menduduki tangga kelima global. Hal ini tidak mengejutkan kerana Singapura memberi penekanan utama dan sangat bergantung pada pembangunan modal insan kreatif dan inovatif.

Generasi muda kurang minat STEM

Dilema utama dihadapi Malaysia adalah minat semakin berkurangan dalam kalangan generasi muda terhadap subjek sains, teknologi, matematik dan kejuruteraan (STEM). Inilah antara subjek penting membawa negara maju seperti Switzerland, Sweden, AS, United Kingdom (UK) dan Singapura menduduki tangga teratas dalam Indeks Inovasi Global sejak 2007.

Malah negara ini bukan sahaja menguasai ekonomi, tetapi banyak perkara lain seperti pendidikan, perubatan, sains dan teknologi terkini seperti AI.

Negara terbabit menjadi pencipta inovasi dan berjaya mengeksport produk mereka. Namun, negara membangun seperti Malaysia hanya menjadi pengguna kepada produk dihasilkan negara maju.

Maka, Malaysia perlu menjadi negara pencipta inovasi. Lihatlah Belanda berjaya menjadi negara maju dengan mencipta alatan dan teknik pertanian moden. Jerman, Perancis dan UK menjadikan pendidikan sains, teknologi dan pendidikan vokasional sebagai asas membangunkan modal insan kreatif dan inovatif.

Di ASEAN, Vietnam antara negara semakin ke hadapan dalam membangunkan modal insan menerusi STEM serta Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET).

Kini, Thailand dan Indonesia tidak ketinggalan mencorakkan modal insan kreatif dan inovatif menerusi pendidikan STEM dan TVET. Dengan sumber alam semula jadi dan daya tarikan budaya yang kuat, kedua-dua negara ini akan menjadi lebih kompetitif dalam persaingan global.

Malaysia perlu lebih agresif dan progresif dalam penajaan modal insan kreatif dan inovatif. Malaysia sudah memulakan langkah ke arah itu empat dekad lalu, namun strategi dan pendekatan lebih berkesan diperlukan untuk menghasilkan bakat kreatif serta inovatif secara menyeluruh.

Sebenarnya, Malaysia tidak kurang bakat kreatif dan inovatif bertaraf global dalam pelbagai bidang. Justeru, Kementerian berkaitan dengan pembangunan modal insan seperti Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM), Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi (KPT), Kementerian Sumber Manusia (KSM) dan Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) perlu lebih agresif merangka pelan pembangunan modal insan kreatif dan inovatif.

Banyak model membangunkan bakat kreatif dan inovatif boleh dirujuk dan diadaptasi dari negara lain mengikut kesesuaian dalam konteks Malaysia.



BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh...2...3...APR...2024.....

Rangka dasar pendidikan AI rentas potensi murid elak keciciran

● Melihat kepada aspek pembangunan sumber manusia, kemahiran dalam pelbagai disiplin ilmu, AI mampu menjadi nilai tambah membuka 1,001 peluang pekerjaan merentas pelbagai bidang

● Inilah 'kerja rumah' perlu dilaksanakan pelbagai pihak dalam tempoh tiga tahun ini sebelum inisiatif pembelajaran AI dilaksanakan seawal peringkat sekolah rendah



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Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) baru-baru ini mengumumkan pembelajaran kecerdasan buatan (AI) akan dilaksanakan seawal peringkat sekolah rendah menjelang jendela persekolahan 2027.

Pengumuman dan rancangan pelaksanaan ini dilihat sebagai antara usaha menyambut hasrat kerajaan untuk memperkasakan kesedaran rakyat terhadap teknologi AI menerusi program 'AI untuk Rakyat'.

Bagaimanapun, langkah agresif ini mengundang reaksi dan persepsi bercampur baur baik dalam kalangan pendidik, ibu bapa dan masyarakat mengenai sejauh mana dan bagaimana pelaksanaan kurikulum pembelajaran AI akan diterapkan kepada murid.

Apakah dilema dan cabaran bakal dihadapi pemegang taruh sekiranya inisiatif ini dilaksanakan dan bagaimana hendak mengatasi kemungkinan ada menjadi mangsa akibat perancangan separa masak dan pelaksanaan tidak mengambil pandangan serta pendekatan pelbagai pihak.

Menurut laporan Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (UNESCO), AI mempunyai potensi besar sebagai alternatif untuk menyelesaikan pelbagai masalah dalam bidang pendidikan seperti inovasi pengajaran dan pembelajaran (P&P) serta menyumbang ke arah peningkatan Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan 4: Pendidikan Berkualiti (SDG 4).

Melihat kepada aspek pembangunan sumber manusia, kemahiran dalam pelbagai disiplin ilmu, AI mampu menjadi nilai tambah membuka 1,001 peluang pekerjaan merentas pelbagai bidang.

Peningkatan kemahiran ini mampu menyokong sektor digital Malaysia yang kini menyumbang hampir 23.2 peratus kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK), manakala impak ekonomi digital dijangka terus meningkat dan diunjurkan mampu menyumbang sebanyak 25.5 peratus kepada ekonomi negara pada 2025 serta berpotensi mewujudkan hingga 500,000 peluang pekerjaan.

Inilah antara potensi bakal dinikmati masyarakat sekiranya kerajaan selaku pembuat dasar dan penggerak industri mampu membina ekosistem mampu menyokong serta menyuburkan pembelajaran AI sekiranya hasrat ini disambut secara positif masyarakat tanpa mengira perbezaan latar belakang tahap pendidikan dan taraf hidup.

Tempoh tiga tahun menjelang pelaksanaan pembelajaran AI pada 2027 bukanlah transisi masa panjang, bahkan AI sudah pun menjadi disiplin ilmu tidak lagi baharu pada tahun mendatang. Persoalan

pertama, apakah kerangka dasar bakal digunakan bermula jendela pembelajaran AI 2027.

Menurut Menteri Pendidikan, Fadhlina Sidek, kurikulum persekolahan 2027 akan menjadikan fasih digital (celik digital) sebagai antara satu daripada tujuh kompetensi perlu dikuasai murid.

Murid fasih digital berkemampuan mengaplikasikan pengetahuan dan kemahiran dalam menyelesaikan masalah serta mencipta sesuatu yang baharu menggunakan konsep pemikiran komputasional.

Justeru, adakah murid seawal sekolah rendah hanya diperkenalkan dengan literasi AI dan manfaatnya kepada masyarakat atau mereka bakal disajikan dengan soalan peperiksaan mencabar kemahiran penggunaan aplikasi AI untuk menyelesaikan sesuatu permasalahan.

Kesiapsiagaan ekosistem pembelajaran AI

Bagaimana dengan nasib murid masih tercicir dan belum mampu mengejar pelaksanaan kurikulum sedia ada, hatta ada yang masih belum menguasai 3M (membaca, menulis dan mengira).

“Tempoh tiga tahun menjelang pelaksanaan pembelajaran AI pada 2027 bukanlah transisi masa panjang, bahkan AI sudah pun menjadi disiplin ilmu tidak lagi baharu pada tahun mendatang”

Persoalan seterusnya ialah berkaitan kesiapsiagaan ekosistem kondusif menyokong pembelajaran AI di sekolah. Tidak dapat dinafikan, pembelajaran AI secara efektif perlu disokong kelengkapan komputer atau gajet mencapai spesifikasi minimum serta rangkaian internet stabil.

Setidak-tidaknya, pelajar sekolah rendah akan diperkenalkan dengan aplikasi ChatGPT, suatu model pembelajaran mesin menggunakan teknik pembelajaran mendalam untuk menjana teks seperti pemikiran manusia dalam masa nyata.

Mungkin juga murid bakal didedahkan dengan pelbagai aplikasi lain yang mampu menjana audio, visual dan video dengan pengaturcaraan skrip. Aplikasi sebegini memerlukan spesifikasi komputer sesuai dan rangkaian internet stabil.

Suatu kejanggalan dalam dunia pendidikan nasional, apabila pemeraksanaan pembelajaran AI kelihatan seperti suatu inisiatif hala berbeza dengan inisiatif pembelajaran Sains Teknologi Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM).

Inisiatif pembelajaran STEM di sekolah sememangnya menekankan keperluan disiplin ilmu sains, teknologi, kejuruteraan dan matematik untuk penyelesaian masalah serta pemikiran kritis.

Kementerian, warga pendidik serta masyarakat seharusnya mempunyai pemahaman jelas AI antara satu komponen ilmu dan aplikasi wujud hasil daripada integrasi STEM. Justeru, KPM selaku pengeloa dasar seharusnya memastikan inisiatif pembelajaran AI turut selari meningkatkan penerapan STEM seawal sekolah rendah.

Umum mengetahui negara masih belum keluar daripada isu penurunan ketara jumlah pelajar mengambil jurusan berkaitan STEM. Situasi ketika ini, jurusan berkaitan STEM dilihat sebagai laluan kerjaya sukar namun belum tentu menjanjikan peluang kerjaya terjamin khususnya apabila menyentuh faktor gaji.

Sesungguhnya, deretan persoalan dan kegusaran bukanlah aura negatif mahu diabaikan dengan niat memperlekehkan usaha kerajaan dalam pelaksanaan pembelajaran AI. Sebaliknya, inilah 'kerja rumah' perlu dilaksanakan pelbagai pihak dalam tempoh tiga tahun ini sebelum inisiatif pembelajaran AI dilaksanakan seawal peringkat sekolah rendah.

Dalam tempoh tiga tahun ini, kepesatan AI akan terus mengalami revolusi, dengan cambahan penyelidikan dan inovasi serta peningkatan keupayaan infrastruktur terkini. Bagaimanapun, pembelajaran itu seharusnya bersifat manusiawi, dengan tidak mengabaikan aspek pembangunan sahsiah dan emosi.

Kepesatan AI seharusnya membantu pemikiran dan tindakan manusia menjadi lebih kritis serta kreatif, bukan sebaliknya menjadi pembantu dek kerana terlalu bergantung dengan keupayaan dan keputusan dicetuskan AI.

Kesan buruk bakal berlaku ialah lahirnya generasi terlalu bergantung kepada teknologi tanpa punya upaya dan keyakinan melakukan penaaakuan sendiri.

Pembelajaran AI sepatutnya menjadi pemangkin kepada seluruh anak-anak untuk mengembangkan minat dan potensi mereka, bukannya menjadi 'pembunuh senyap' anak-anak kerana kekangan infrastruktur, taraf hidup mahupun keupayaan pendidik belum bersedia menyampaikan manfaat teknologi AI dengan berkesan.

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

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....2..3..APR..2024....

MCMC boleh tutup akaun media sosial budak bawah 13 tahun

BH
23/4

Kuala Lumpur: Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia (MCMC) boleh menutup mana-mana akaun media sosial milik kanak-kanak yang berusia di bawah usia 13 tahun.

Menteri Komunikasi, Fahmi Fadzil, berkata MCMC mendapati kanak-kanak berusia di bawah 13 tahun juga tidak sesuai untuk menggunakan mana-mana media sosial.

Beliau yang juga jurucakap Kerajaan Perpaduan, berkata kebanyakan syarat platform media sosial juga tidak membenarkan golongan berkenaan memiliki akaun media sosial.

"Kepada *parents* (ibu bapa) yang hadir pada malam ini, saya beri peringatan daripada MCMC, anak-anak di bawah 13 tahun tidak dibenarkan memiliki akaun TikTok, Facebook, Instagram atau mana-mana akaun media sosial lain.

"Sekiranya ada (anak-anak bawah 13 tahun memiliki akaun media sosial), ibu bapa tolong maklum kepada saya, MCMC. Kita akan akan *shut down* (tutup) akaun tersebut," katanya berucap pada Rumah Terbuka Hari Raya Aidilfitri Lembah Pantai 2024 di IWK Eco Park@Lembah Pantai di sini, malam kelmarin.

Ketika ditemui pemberita, Fahmi menjelaskan, isu mengenai pemilikan akaun media sosial ketika ini adalah pihak media sosial menyerahkan sepenuhnya pendaftaran pembukaan akaun kepada pengguna tanpa kaedah pembuktian untuk memastikan usia mereka melebihi syarat dibenarkan.

Susulan itu, pihaknya mengadakan siri pertemuan dengan pihak berkaitan seperti Meta yang menguruskan aplikasi Facebook, Instagram dan WhatsApp serta pihak Telegram untuk mengemukakan perancangan mereka bagi menangani isu pemilikan akaun media sosial dalam kalangan kanak-kanak bawah usia 13 tahun.

"Kita lihat ada beberapa perkara daripada pihak media sosial yang perlu dimaklumkan kepada kita dahulu.

"Harapan saya menjelang Mei ini, akan ada pengumuman perbincangan dengan semua platform media sosial khususnya berhubung keselamatan dalam talian berkait kanak-kanak," katanya.

BERNAMA

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....2..3..APR..2024....

Banjir akibat Monsun Timur Laut juga boleh melanda pantai barat

UM 27/4

Oleh ARIF AIMAN ASROL
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PUTRAJAYA: Banjir besar berpunca daripada Monsun Timur Laut (MTL) dan sering melanda Pantai Timur setiap hujung tahun dijangka merebak ke negeri-negeri lain yang tidak mempunyai pengalaman berhadapan bencana tersebut.

Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA), Datuk Khairul Shahril Idrus berkata, perkara tersebut disebabkan faktor-faktor cuaca dan geografi sehingga menyebabkan hujan lebat berlaku di negeri-negeri lain.

Menurut beliau, banjir dijangka berlaku bermula November ini sehingga Mac depan, namun tahap keseriusan bencana tersebut tidak dapat diramalkan.

Kebiasaannya, November atau semasa musim Monsun Timur Laut melanda negeri-negeri Pantai Timur seperti Kelantan, Terengganu dan Pahang namun ada ketikanya disebabkan faktor-faktor cuaca dan geografi menyebabkan hu-



FAKTOR cuaca dan geografi menyebabkan egeri-negeri di Pantai Barat tidak terkecuali daripada dilanda banjir akibat Monsun Timur Laut yang sering melanda Pantai Timur pada hujung tahun.

jan lebat boleh berlaku di negeri-negeri lain.

"Ini seperti mana yang berlaku pada 2021 yang menyebabkan banjir amat besar di Shah Alam, Selangor dan beberapa

negeri di Pantai Barat. Walaupun kebiasaan mengikut sejarahnya Monsun Timur Laut akan

berlaku di negeri-negeri Pantai Timur sahaja.

"Ada kalanya ia berkeungkinan juga berlaku di negeri-negeri yang tidak mempunyai pengalaman menghadapi banjir berskala besar pada musim tersebut," katanya ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia* di pejabatnya, baru-baru ini.

Bagaimanapun, Khairul Shahril menjelaskan, persiapan sepanjang tahun dibuat untuk berhadapan dengan banjir yang berskala besar bagi tahun ini dan tidak hanya menunggu musim Monsun Timur Laut untuk membuat persiapan.

"Sebelum musim Monsun Timur Laut, latihan amal akan dibuat dengan agensi-agensi responden seperti Polis Diraja Malaysia, Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia, Angkatan Tentera Malaysia dan Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia.

"Ini untuk melihat sejauh mana kesediaan agensi-agensi responden ini untuk bergerak apabila diperlukan.

"Pada masa sama, kita juga mengadakan sesi-sesi libat urus dengan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) untuk memastikan dari segi koordinasi antara pergerakan mereka dan keperluan di lapangan adalah terselaras dengan pihak berkuasa," jelasnya.

Tambahnya, tahap kesediaan agensi-agensi responden berada di tahap baik berbanding tahun-tahun terdahulu.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata, NADMA kini menggunakan lebih banyak teknologi dalam menguruskan pengurusan bencana terutama teknologi yang berasaskan geospasial bagi

"Menggunakan teknologi tersebut, kita mewujudkan satu platform bagi membolehkan NGO-NGO menggunakannya untuk menyelaraskan pergerakan mereka dan turut boleh mengetahui tentang keperluan di lapangan berdasarkan maklum balas diberi oleh rakan-rakan lain, agensi kerajaan dan penduduk setempat" jelasnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:2...3...APR...2024.

99.3% rakyat Malaysia ada akses kepada telefon bimbit

PETALING JAYA: Sebanyak 99.3 peratus isi rumah di negara ini mempunyai akses kepada telefon bimbit.

Dari segi penggunaan telefon, sebanyak 97.6 peratus memilih telefon pintar manakala 16.3 peratus daripada isi rumah masih mempunyai capaian ke atas telefon biasa, menurut Jabatan Perangkaan.

Ketua Perangkawan, Datuk Seri Dr. Mohd. Uzir Mahidin berkata, mengikut statistik tahun lalu, capaian isi rumah ke atas internet dan komputer masing-masing merekodkan 96.4 peratus dan 91.6 peratus.

Ujarnya, televisyen berbayar pula merekodkan capaian sebanyak 77 peratus, manakala capaian telefon talian tetap semakin tidak popular dalam kalangan isi rumah iaitu dengan hanya 27.4 peratus.

"Dapatan survei menunjukkan capaian Internet melalui jalur lebar mudah alih (95.3 peratus) terus menjadi pilihan isi rumah Malaysia berbanding jalur lebar tetap (47.1 peratus).

"Dari sudut lokaliti, sebanyak 98.4 peratus isi rumah di bandar mempunyai capaian internet, sementara di kawasan luar ban-



AKSES telefon bimbit dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia berapa pada tahap yang tinggi. - GAMBAR HIASAN

dar hanya merekodkan 89.8 peratus," menurutnya dalam Laporan Survei Penggunaan dan Capaian ICT oleh Individu dan Isi Rumah 2023.

Menurut beliau, survei ini turut membentangkan penggunaan perkhidmatan dan peralatan ICT oleh individu dan berdasarkan penemuan survei, penggunaan komputer oleh individu merekodkan sebanyak

80.4 peratus pada 2023.

"Penggunaan komputer merangkumi penggunaan semua jenis komputer iaitu komputer peribadi, komputer riba atau papan elektronik mudah alih. Penggunaan komputer di kawasan bandar direkodkan sebanyak 86 peratus manakala di kawasan luar bandar adalah 63.6 peratus.

"Lima aktiviti menunjukkan

peratus tertinggi penggunaan ICT pada 2023 iaitu aktiviti menyalin atau memindahkan fail atau folder (97.5 peratus).

"Ini diikuti aktiviti menggunakan teknik menyalin dan menampal untuk pendua atau memindahkan maklumat di dalam satu dokumen (96.7 peratus), menghantar e-mel beserta fail (89.9 peratus), memindahkan fail di antara komputer dan peranti mudah alih lain (83.5 peratus) serta menghubungkan dan memasang peranti baru (79.4 peratus)," katanya.

Namun, jelas beliau, kemahiran yang lebih teknikal seperti aktiviti menggunakan teknik aritmetik asas di dalam lembaran kerja dan menulis program komputer menggunakan bahasa pengaturcaraan yang khusus masih hanya merekodkan masing-masing sebanyak 67.7 peratus dan 23.9 peratus.

"Penggunaan internet dalam kalangan masyarakat kekal tinggi pada 97.7 peratus. Aktiviti penggunaan Internet yang paling popular pada tahun lalu adalah menyertai rangkaian sosial iaitu 99.4 peratus, diikuti aktiviti memuat turun gambar, filem, video atau muzik," ujarnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 23 APR 2024

'CUTTING-EDGE VENTURES'

RM1B TO POWER UP LOCAL TECH START-UPS

NST
23/4

Khazanah to invest in innovative and high-growth technology companies, says PM

NURADZIMMAH DAIM AND
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KHAZANAH Nasional Bhd will launch a Malaysia-focused fund with an initial allocation of RM1 billion, dubbed the "National Fund-of-Funds".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the initiative would invest in innovative, high-growth local companies.

"The government aims to centralise investment agencies, such as Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (Mavecap) and Penjana Kapital, under Khazanah," he said at the launch of the KL20 Summit 2024 (KL20) yesterday.

Anwar, who is also finance minister and Khazanah chairman, said 25 entities that announced their investments yesterday would give a real chance for Malaysia to create cutting-edge technology ventures.

He said among the investors were sovereign wealth funds.

"Khazanah Nasional Bhd, the Retirement Fund Inc (KWAP), and Blue Chip Venture Capital will invest up to RM3 billion in the Southeast Asian and Malaysian ecosystems under the Asean Investment Initiative."

He said KL20 fitted the Madani Economic Framework, underscored by the principle that economic growth and distribution were compatible, and that government correction must be in harmony with market forces.

Economists said the RM3 billion in investments by three Malaysian funds should boost investors' confidence in Bursa Malaysia.

They told the *New Straits Times* this was expected to spur equity investments in the local bourse, particularly in high-growth companies.

"The initiative is also expected to attract more foreign investors, potentially reversing the current trend of net cash outflow from



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim trying out a technology exhibit at the KL20 Summit 2024 yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

Bursa caused by selling off by foreign investors," Putra Business School economic analyst Associate Professor Dr Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff said.

UniKL Business School's Associate Professor Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid said the RM1 billion for the "Fund of Funds" might be seen as a seed capital.

He said it positioned Malaysia favourably in the region and was expected to attract foreign direct investments as they valued the commitment from government-linked investment companies.

Aimi said both domestic and foreign funds would likely respond positively to the initiative.

"Bursa needs positive signals like this to stimulate higher transactions, especially with those companies that are seen to benefit from government action."

"In the last few days, Bursa experienced a net outflow of foreign investment. Thus, this initiative can make them return to the local market," he added.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said the initiative was geared towards revitalising Malaysia's standing and enhancing its contribution to the semiconductor industry.

Innes said the initiative could catalyse foreign and domestic investments into the region's burgeoning tech ecosystem.

"By consolidating government-backed venture capital agencies under the sovereign wealth fund and setting ambitious goals to elevate Malaysia in the global start-

up and semiconductor arenas, the country is signalling its commitment to fostering innovation and attracting capital."

"This concerted effort is likely to draw increased interest from international investors and stimulate the emergence of more local players in the tech sector, thereby enriching the ecosystem and driving economic growth."

Associate Professor Dr Lee Chin of Universiti Putra Malaysia School of Business and Economics expressed confidence in the government's initiatives to position Kuala Lumpur as a global start-up hub by 2030.

She said this initiative could attract high-quality global investments and empower local entrepreneurs to capitalise on global opportunities.

"Malaysia has a lot of potential to become a start-up hub and connect start-ups from different regions, given its strategic location in Southeast Asia, making it accessible to other major markets in the region."

Lee said Malaysia's diverse and skilled workforce, proficient in multiple languages, was a valuable asset for companies looking to expand and recruit talent.

She said Malaysia also had well-developed infrastructure, including modern office spaces, high-speed Internet connectivity and a robust transportation network, further enhancing its appeal as a destination for businesses. Additional reporting by Amalia Azmi and Najihah Borhan

Take action against plastic pollution, govt urged

23/4/24
sun

➤ Efforts require collective approach such as legislative advocacy, behavioural shifts, community engagement, education, innovation and corporate responsibility: Expert

■ BY SIVANISVARRY MORHAN
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PETALING JAYA: An academic has called on the government to take decisive action against plastic pollution, considering that some 489,000 tonnes of plastic waste was imported in 2021.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Department of Environmental and Occupational Health lecturer, Assoc Prof Dr Sarva Mangala Praveena Appalanaidu, said Malaysia has become one of the world's largest importers of plastic waste.

"Malaysia received nearly 500,000 tonnes of plastic waste in 2021 and returned only about 11,000 tonnes.

"Embarrassingly, we are ranked eighth globally for 'mismanaged plastic waste', she told *theSun* in conjunction with Earth Day yesterday. It is observed on April 22 each year since 1970.

"Beyond just importing plastic waste, we contribute nearly one million tonnes of it yearly and are a 'global powerhouse' in plastic production, with an RM30 billion industry.

"All this is happening despite Malaysia being a party to the Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Amendments, and our engagement in regional initiatives such as the Asean Framework of Action on Marine Debris."

Sarva Mangala said being a party to the convention and the framework underscores Malaysia's commitment to collaborative

efforts aimed at tackling the challenges of plastic pollution.

"These efforts require a multifaceted approach that encompasses legislative advocacy, behavioural shifts, community engagement, education, innovation and corporate responsibility."

With the theme for this year being "Planet vs Plastics," Sarva Mangala stressed the urgency to raise awareness about the health risks of plastic pollution and the environmental damage it causes.

She said the extensive use of plastic items in the country has led to a substantial increase in plastic pollution.

According to the UN Environment Programme, which is a global authority for the environment that focuses on climate, nature, pollution, and causes of environmental degradation, most plastic waste consists of single-use grocery bags, boxes, and containers.

"With Malaysia being a top importer of plastic waste since 2017, we face significant challenges due to our dual role as plastic producer and plastic waste importer," she said.

"Incidents of clogged sewers and overflowing landfills underscore the urgent need for collective action. The public and authorities must curb our dependence on plastics."

"Earth Day is not just a platform to raise awareness but is a call to unite in a collective fight against plastic pollution."

Sarva Mangala called on the public to

champion a 60% reduction in plastic production and usage by 2040.

She added that individuals and organisations should limit their use of disposable plastic grocery bags, straws, vessels and packages.

"We should encourage reusable alternatives such as cloth bags, metal or glass containers, and materials that are biodegradable, recyclable or compostable."

She also pointed to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy, which is an environmental protection policy aimed at decreasing the total environmental impact of a product and its packaging.

The strategy ensures that producers of a product take responsibility for its entire lifecycle, including its take-back, recycling, and final disposal and packaging.

The EPR is a strategy practised in most European Union (EU) member countries such as Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Austria and Sweden, apart from a few non-EU ones such as Nigeria.

"EPR programmes encourage companies to develop products with recyclability in mind, and force them to accept responsibility for their products' end-of-life."

"To strengthen such programmes, Malaysia must enact laws that hold manufacturers accountable for their product's lifecycle."

"Through concerted efforts at all levels, Malaysians can affect substantial change, contributing to both national and global endeavours to combat plastic pollution."

Sarva Mangala said while Malaysia has made strides in combating plastic pollution, challenges persist in implementation and enforcement.

"Greater emphasis on education, community engagement, innovation, and robust policy enforcement is essential to realise a plastic-free future," she said.

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