



**PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ**  
**TARIKH: 26 MAC 2024 (SELASA)**

**LAIN-LAIN PBT**

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Amirudin and Jamaliah at the Section 19 bazaar, one of the three sites involved in the charity food drive. — Photos: SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star and courtesy of MBSA



Cheremi (right) and Amar Amran (centre) helping a boy pick an Aidilfitri outfit at the latter's boutique.

# Keeping the city's needy in mind

## MBSA leads the way in food, Raya clothes drive to benefit Shah Alam folk

By AIDA AHMAD  
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DURING the breaking of fast, a table laden with delectable treats from bazaars is a common sight to behold.

Amid such abundance at bazaars, there will undoubtedly be plenty of unsold food going to waste.

To prevent this food from being discarded, Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) has continued its programme to collect unsold items for distribution to those in need in Shah Alam, Selangor.

MBSA MySaveFood @ Ramadan Bazaar is a partnership with Gema Youth Organisation, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Shah Alam and volunteers, the latter this year included personnel from the Higher Education Department.

This approach not only helps to tackle the rising cost of living and promote social responsibility, but also fosters a more sustainable Ramadan tradition.

Launching the programme at the bazaar in Section 19, Shah Alam, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said, "This is the fourth year MBSA has carried out this initiative and it will take place until April 3."

"This year, three Ramadan bazaars have been selected for the programme, which is being run in Sections 13, 17 and 19."

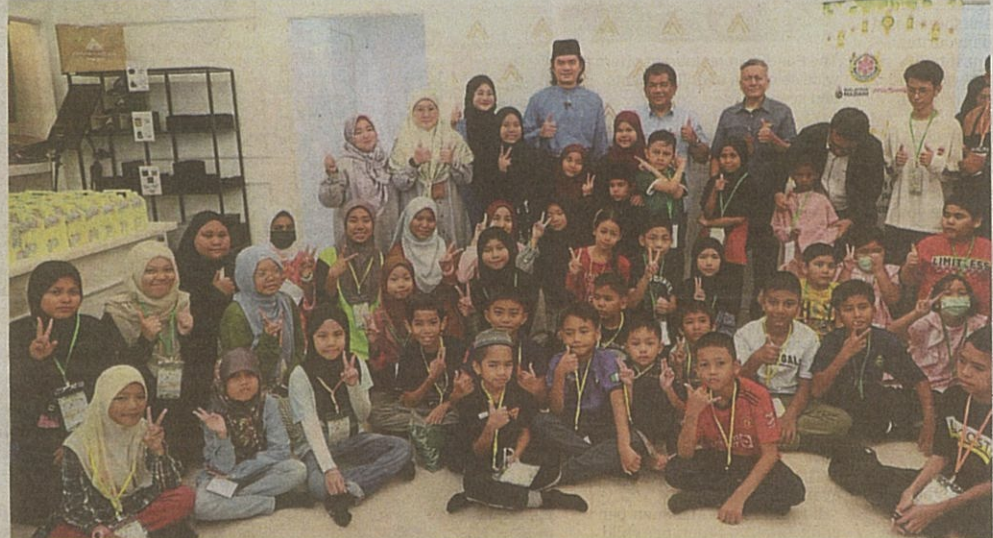
"The programme has been implemented continuously by MBSA, considering the overwhelming response received from the Ramadan bazaar vendors," he said.

Amirudin said he had asked state public health and environment committee chairman Jamaliah Jamaluddin to encourage other local councils in Selangor to do the same.

Mentioning that the programme had also been taken up in Sepang, he said, "I was told that in Sepang, more than 100kg of food were collected on the first day," he said.

He assured that the unsold food was safe to consume as the food had to be delivered to recipients within two hours of being collected from the bazaar.

"The food collection is assem-



Some of the 60 children who received new clothes as part of 'Jom Beli Baju Raya', pictured with the programme organisers at the boutique in Shah Alam.



bled at 6.30pm and delivered by 8.30pm.

"The recipients are based on a list given by the respective residents associations and the food is distributed to the *surau*, mosque or service centre in the area," he said.

Present at the launch were Jamaliah, Shah Alam mayor Cheremi Tarman, Batu Tiga assemblyman Danial Al-Rashid, Gema Youth Organisation vice-president Amar Masuri and Kota Anggerik assemblyman Najwan Halimi.

Amirudin said MBSA MySaveFood @ Ramadan Bazaar was first implemented in 2021, during which the collection of surplus food reached 859.3kg.

The following year it went up to 2,294kg, and in 2023, the collection weighed in at 2,958.6kg.

"As of March 19 this year, 1,679.4kg of surplus food was



Amirudin (third from left) alongside (from left) Cheremi, Najwan, Jamaliah and Danial at the launch of the programme.

successfully distributed in various locations such as Melewar Apartment Section U1, Shah Alam Polytechnic, Surau Al Hijrah Ken Rimba Apartment Section 16, and Proton Flat Section 27 Shah Alam," added Amirudin.

In a separate initiative, MBSA aided 60 underprivileged children with festive wear for Hari Raya Aidilfitri through its "Jom

Beli Baju Raya" (Let's Buy Raya Clothing) programme.

The children, aged between one and six years, come from B40 families or has a disability. The gifts were worth RM200 each, consisting of a set of *baju melayu* and *sampin* for boys and *baju kurung* for girls.

The shopping trip was held at a boutique in Section 16 which also sponsored additional items

such as *songkok* and *baju melayu* buttons for boys and headscarves for girls.

"This programme is MBSA's ongoing commitment to connecting with underprivileged communities by presenting them with a token contribution in hopes of easing their preparations for Aidilfitri," said MBSA Corporate and Public Relations Department director Mohd Azhar Mohd Sharif in a statement.

"It is also one of the council's community programmes to foster closer ties with local communities."

"We hope this contribution can promote awareness about social responsibility and helping people in need among Shah Alam citizens," he said.

Mohd Azhar added that the programme was in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 1 on eradicating poverty and Goal 11 regarding sustainable cities and communities.

Cheremi, MBSA deputy secretary (management) Asmah Mohd Zin and boutique owner Datuk Amar Amran were present to hand over the new clothes to the children.

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MBSA

By AISYAH ANESEE  
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A NEW Automatic Drive-Through Recycling Centre (Adtrec), which also pays the public for the items they bring, has opened its doors in Sepang.

Located within Cyberjaya Recycling Centre (PKSC), this initiative – claimed to be the first of its kind in Selangor – invites the public to drop their recyclables in the deposit bucket windows.

The drive-through station is open 24 hours a day.

Three different receptacles for plastic, boxes and paper as well as steel and aluminium are available.

There is adhesive tape provided for individuals to write down their cellphone numbers and stick it onto the items they are dropping off.

The recycler will collect the waste and verify the details after checking and weighing the items.

The recycler will contact the individuals based on the contact number provided and payment will then be made after 48 hours.

Details on how much is paid for different recyclable items can be found on the Trash4Cash app.

KDEB Waste Management (KDEBWM) managing director Datuk Ramli Mohd Tahir said this new Automatic Drive-Through Recycling system was an effort to reach the 15% recycling goal in Selangor by 2025.

He said Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) together with Bumi Waste Management Sdn Bhd, which is also known as Trash4Cash, collaborated on the initiative.

"Adtrec was developed to make it more convenient for the community to carry out recycling," he said during the launch of Adtrec by MPSepang president Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain at PKSC yesterday.

Ramli said a "Do it Yourself" approach was being used as there were no workers at the centre.

# Drive-through recycling centre launched in Sepang

Convenient initiative rewards public for responsible disposal



"I hope more people will be educated and encouraged to use the centre to prevent waste ending up in landfills."

Datuk Ramli Mohd Tahir

you get paid," he said.

He noted that Malaysians had relatively low awareness regarding waste segregation and recycling practices compared to developed countries like Japan, Austria and Germany.

"That being said, even if our new effort may seem late, it does not mean that we must give up and stop here," said Ramli.

He also urged the public to use the facility responsibly.

"I hope more people will be educated and encouraged to use the centre to prevent wastes ending up in landfills," he said.

He urged the public to change their perspective regarding waste.

"Waste is not dirty, it is money."

"It can be reprocessed into byproducts that can serve new purposes for us," he pointed out.



(Above) Abd Hamid demonstrating how to use the deposit chute while Ramli looks on.

(Left) Adtrec, located at Cyberjaya Recycling Centre, is open round the clock. — Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

To ensure its effectiveness, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and intercoms had been installed for users requiring help, he said.

He added that the monitoring systems, along with Wi-Fi and lighting, used solar power.

Ramli said users getting rewarded for recycling was the

enticing factor.

"It is different from some other parts of the world, like Europe, where you have to pay to dispose of your waste. Here,

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# Monsoon transition to bring heavy rains at month's end

PETALING JAYA: Hot and dry weather around the country is expected to subside, with heavy rains expected to follow with the start of the monsoon transition period at the end of the month.

Malaysian Meteorological Department's (MetMalaysia) director-general Muhammad Helmi Abdullah said the transition period, which is expected to begin this Friday, is forecast to last until May.

This will mark the end of the northeast monsoon season that began on Nov 11 last year.

"During this period, various regions of the country are expected to receive weak winds from multiple directions which are conducive to the occurrence of thunderstorms.

"This will usually bring about heavy rains and strong winds with the potential of causing flash floods, the toppling of trees, and

damage to unsecured structures.

"These events are expected to occur mainly in the evening and early night in most areas, which include the west and inner regions of Peninsular Malaysia," he said in a statement yesterday.

Other areas Helmi warned would experience similar weather are the western regions of Sabah as well as the south and central regions of Sarawak.

He also said the country is

expected to recover from the effects of the hot weather by mid-April.

National Weather and Geophysics Operation Centre director Maqrun Fadzli Mohd Fahmi said this transition phase occurs due to a shift in wind direction from the northeast to the southwest monsoon.

"During the monsoon transition phase, wind patterns usually lead to thunderstorm activity in

the late afternoon. We expect this situation to begin around early April.

"The hot and dry weather will persist for another week, but we hope that the occurrence of more rainfall during this monsoon transition phase will help alleviate the current high temperatures," he said when appearing as a guest on Bernama TV's *Apa Khabar Malaysia* programme yesterday.

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Tarikh:.....

# 'Why the aggressive push on Padu registration?' 5144 26/3

By SHARON LING, DURIE  
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**KOTA KINABALU:** Leaders from Sabah and Sarawak have persisted in voicing their concerns over data security and privacy of the Central Database Hub (Padu).

Among them is Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan, who joined the chorus of people who had reservations about it.

He said he was "deeply concerned" by the Federal Government's push for the public to register with Padu.

He contended that the March 31 deadline for the registration of about 20 million targeted Malaysians was "alarming" and "puzzling" as well.

"What is the reason for this rush?"

"Would it not open the system to potential repercussions on data accuracy and security?"

"How prepared is the government to ensure the data will be managed and protected securely with the influx of personal data coming into the system in such a short time?" he asked in a statement yesterday.

Padu, which was launched on Jan 2, is aimed at getting more accurate data for policy formulation and data-driven decision-making processes.

Malaysians aged 18 and above have been urged to register with Padu as well as update and verify



**Big rush:** People registering for Padu at the Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) Ampangan in Seremban, Negri Sembilan. — Bernama

39 items related to personal information.

According to the Department of Statistics, there have been about 7.36 million registrations as of Saturday.

This is about 35% of the estimated 20 million Malaysian citizens in the target group.

Kitingan said the fact that 65% of Malaysians had yet to register showed there was a deep issue of trust.

"Could it be because of the intrusive nature of the data required by Padu?"

"How is this relevant to my eligibility for subsidies?" he ques-

tioned. He then asked about actions that could be taken if the data was leaked.

"As the eighth most breached nation in the world, I think Padu is the last thing that the government needs to introduce right now," Kitingan said.

(Last year, a cybersecurity company ranked Malaysia as the eighth most breached country in the third quarter of 2023.)

He said he concurred with Sarawak Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah last week that there was no difference between

Padu and existing systems like e-Kasih or Rahmah Cash Aid.

"I do not see the necessity of Padu or how it justifies the extensive collection of personal data beyond what is required by agencies such as the Inland Revenue Board or welfare systems.

"The government's duty is to serve its citizens, not to delve unnecessarily into their private lives," he said.

He said the proponents of this system should also consider the impact of their communication style, pointing out there was no need to "threaten" the people by saying that if they do not register, they will not get subsidies.

"I would suggest that Padu populate their database using the existing databases already at their disposal.

"In fact, I believe that all this data should be managed by the respective states. In Sabah, we have had our data misused in the past.

"We do not want a repeat of that mistake," Kitingan said.

In KUCHING, state Deputy Minister in the Premier's Office Datuk Sharifah Hasidah Sayeed Aman Ghazali said Sarawak is seeking an explanation from the Economy Ministry to address concerns on data security and privacy.

In principle, she said the state government supported the Federal Government's intention to ensure that government resources to assist Malaysians

were channelled effectively through Padu.

"To determine the targeted subsidies, information on economic and financial standing is important, but not to the extent of disclosing or exposing their personal and private profiles, which are not necessary in determining the eligibility of the targeted recipients," she said in a statement yesterday.

Sharifah Hasidah said the security concerns were valid as data breaches, leaks and scams are rampant nowadays.

She stated that the highest level of security and data protection would be required when consolidating Malaysians' personal data into a single central database.

"Thus, clarifications from the Economy Ministry regarding (Padu's) security implementation and protocols are pertinent in order for the Sarawak government to fully support the Federal Government's initiative, as it also needs to protect Sarawakian interests," she said.

She said there were legitimate concerns about the sharing of personal data and information due to limited legislation on data privacy and protection.

A memo from the Sri Aman Resident asking district administrative officers to halt Padu registrations in the division until further notice was widely circulated on social media. (Resident is the head of an administrative division in Sarawak.)

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# Ringgit is undervalued, will appreciate over time

Bank Negara: Economic recovery will strengthen currency

## ECONOMY

By DOREENN LEONG  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Bank Negara has reiterated that the ringgit is currently undervalued and will appreciate over time as the economy improves.

Deputy governor Datuk Marzunisham Omar said: "It will strengthen. We don't comment on what the level is but we are confident that with all the good prospects and the reforms, these will contribute to the strengthening of the ringgit."

He was speaking to reporters after a media event, titled "Bank Negara Governor's Address on the Malaysian Economy and Panel Discussion," yesterday.

Marzunisham added that the central bank had models to estimate the fair value of the ringgit.

"All of our models consistently show that the ringgit is undervalued."

"It is mainly driven by the sentiments, which we believe ignore the fact that Malaysia has positive growth prospects, moderate inflation and with the reforms that we are going to implement, the competitiveness of our economy will improve."

"All these are real economic factors that will support the strengthening of the ringgit."

Last week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government and Bank Negara will continue to intensify engagement with corporates, including exporters, importers, government-linked investment companies and government-linked companies to encourage fund flows into the foreign exchange market.

He highlighted that since the joint operation began, the ringgit's value has strengthened by 1.4% to 4.7135 as at March 21 from 4.7773 on Feb 23, 2024.

The ringgit rebounded to close firmer yesterday against the US dollar as risk appetite improved. The ringgit rose to

"Similarly, exporters are already bringing back funds to the country. We are encouraging them to take the opportunity to convert their money to ringgit. It has nothing to do with capital flow management or restricting capital going out of the country."

Datuk Marzunisham Omar

4.7205/7270 against the greenback from Friday's close of 4.7340/7390.

Marzunisham added that the government was not imposing any capital controls on corporations in its efforts to strengthen the local currency.

"These are the realised incomes that they will bring back to the country. It is not about asking them to sell off their investments. We are not asking them to liquidate their investments abroad."

"As part of their investment strategy, they do what they want where they buy and sell. And when they do, they realise their investments and we are asking them to bring back their realised income and convert."

"Similarly, exporters are already bringing back funds to the country. We are encouraging them to take the opportunity to convert their money to ringgit. It has nothing to do with capital flow management or restricting capital going out of the country."

He believed that the ringgit is being weighed down by short term factors such as less-than-positive sentiments, interest rate differentials, safe haven in terms of the dollar and geopolitical tensions.

However, he said the local currency will strengthen as the economy is expected to recover from 3.7% last year to around 4% to 5% this year.

"The factors are recovery in global trade, which will be supported by tourism activities and technology upcycle."

"These will have a spillover on the Malaysian economy. Private consumption will remain the key driver of growth with a favourable labour market, where wages will continue to improve and this will provide support to household spending," he added.

Marzunisham pointed out that investments into the country are picking up again, adding that this will augur well for the overall economic growth.

"For inflation, we forecast a growth of between 2% to 3.5%. The broader range is because we have taken into account some form of subsidy rationalisation that the government plans to implement."

"With this kind of positive growth outlook and moderate inflation, we do believe that it represents a window of opportunity for us to start implementing the structural reforms that the government has laid out in terms of implementing our new investment master plan, structural reforms in the labour market as well as the continuation of fiscal reforms."

"These reforms will help to improve the productive capacity of the economy and would help to improve its competitiveness and support our growth over the longer term, as well as improve the standard of living of Malaysians," he explained.

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## Cuaca panas, kering dijangka berkurang awal April

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Cuaca panas dan kering yang dialami negara ketika ini dijangka mula berkurangan awal April apabila fasa peralihan monsun dijangka berlaku dalam tempoh itu.

Pengarah Pusat Operasi Cuaca dan Geofizik Nasional, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia), Maqrun Fadzli Mohd Fahmi berkata, fasa itu berlaku apabila perubahan arah angin daripada Monsun Timur Laut kepada Monsun Barat Daya.

"Kebiasaannya pada fasa peralihan monsun ini, corak tiupan angin akan membawa kepada aktiviti hujan ribut petir di sebelah petang dan kita jangkakan situasi ini akan mula berlaku menjelang awal April.

"(Cuaca panas dan kering) masih akan bertahan sehingga seminggu ke hadapan tetapi kita harap dengan ada banyak aktiviti hujan akan berlaku (pada fasa peralihan monsun) ini akan meredakan kembali suhu yang tinggi sekarang ini," katanya ketika menjadi tetamu program Apa Khabar Malaysia di Bernama TV pada Isnin.

SINAR HARIAN

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Sinar 26/3

## Pendaftaran PADU dijangka meningkat menjelang tarikh akhir

**PUTRAJAYA** - Kementerian Ekonomi menjangkakan pendaftaran Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) meningkat dengan ketara menjelang tarikh akhir, Ahad ini.

Menterinya, Rafizi Ramli berkata, pendaftaran PADU telah menyaksikan peningkatan yang mendadak dalam kadar pendaftaran sepanjang minggu lalu.

"Setakat 11:59 malam pada 24 Mac, bilangan pendaftaran meningkat kepada 7.7 juta, daripada 5.4 juta yang direkodkan pada 17 Mac manakala kadar pendaftaran dalam kalangan individu berumur 18 tahun ke atas pula telah mencecah 35.1 peratus.

"Kami optimis bahawa angka ini akan terus meningkat, berpotensi mencapai atau bahkan melebihi 50 pe-



**RAFIZI**

ratus menjelang tarikh akhir yang akan datang," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Isnin.

Justeru Rafizi menasihati orang ramai agar tidak menunggu hingga saat akhir untuk mendaftar.

"Dengan tarikh tutup yang semakin hampir, kami menjangkakan pendaftaran harian akan terus meningkat dengan ketara.

"Daftar dan kemas kini data anda untuk mengelakkan keciciran berterusan," katanya.

PADU dilancarkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim pada 2 Januari lalu dan pendaftarannya dibuka sehingga 31 Mac 2024 bagi membolehkan orang ramai mengemas kini serta menyerahkan maklumat peribadi seperti nombor kad pengenalan, bilangan isi rumah dan alamat.

**SINAR HARIAN**

**26 MAR 2024**

Tarikh: .....

## MITI peruntuk RM2 juta bangunkan Kampung Angkat Madani

Sinar  
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**SABAK BERNAM** - Kementerian Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Industri (MITI) memperuntukkan sebanyak RM2 juta kepada Kampung Tebuk Mufrad, Sungai Air Tawar di sini yang menjadi Kampung Angkat Madani pertama di Selangor.

Menterinya, Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz berkata, projek itu antaranya melibatkan pembinaan sebuah dewan bagi penganjuran majlis-majlis ilmu dan platform penduduk merapatkan ukhuwah.

Selain itu, katanya, gelanggang futsal sedia ada akan dinaik taraf atau dibina semula bagi memastikan penduduk ter-

utama generasi muda beriadah dengan melakukan aktiviti sihat.

"Beberapa program turut dirancang dengan mengambil kira kekuatan MITI seperti program bimbingan keusahawanan," katanya ketika ditemui pada program Iftar Ramadan di Masjid Kampung Tebuk Mufrad pada Ahad.

Tengku Zafrul berkata, program seumpama itu penting bagi menambah baik sumber pendapatan dan meningkatkan ekonomi keluarga serta kampung.

"Pelbagai agensi di bawah MITI akan memberi khidmat nasihat dan bantuan sebaik mungkin untuk kepentingan penduduk," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

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Tarikh: .....

## Kebimbangan terhadap Padu berikutan banyak kes kebocoran data

**KUCHING** — Kebimbangan yang diutarakan oleh Kerajaan Sarawak dan orang ramai terhadap pelaksanaan Pangkalan Data Utama (Padu) adalah wajar memandangkan kes mengenai pelanggaran dan kebocoran data serta penipuan berleluasa pada masa kini.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Premier (Undang-Undang, Perhubungan Negeri-Persekutuan dan Pemantauan Projek), Datuk Sharifah Hasidah Sayeed Aman Ghazali berkata, penyatuan data peribadi semua rakyat Malaysia dalam satu pangkalan data pusat perlu dilengkapi dengan tahap keselamatan tertinggi.

"Untuk menentukan subsidi bersasar, maklumat mengenai kedudukan ekonomi dan kewangan adalah penting, tetapi tidak sehingga mendedahkan atau membongkar profil peribadi yang

tidak diperlukan dalam menentukan kelayakan penerima yang disasarkan," katanya menerusi satu kenyataan semalam.

Menjelang lanjut, beliau berkata, kerajaan Sarawak pada dasarnya menyokong hasrat murni kerajaan Persekutuan untuk memastikan bantuan kepada rakyat disalurkan dengan berkesan.

Bagaimanapun katanya, pelaksanaannya harus dilakukan secara berhati-hati agar tidak menjejaskan rakyat yang layak menerima subsidi, dengan melihat kewangan individu, kedudukan dan kesejahteraan ekonomi.

Justeru, Hasidah berkata, penjelasan daripada Kementerian Ekonomi berhubung pelaksanaan dan protokol keselamatan mengenai perkara itu penting agar kerajaan Sarawak menyokong penuh inisiatif tersebut.



**MASYARAKAT** Orang Asli mendaftar Padu melalui kaunter yang dibuka sempena Program Jelajah eKasih di Gua Musang baru-baru ini.

KOSMO

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# Golongan T20 boleh dapat subsidi jika layak

KOSMO  
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**PETALING JAYA** – Kementerian Ekonomi memaklumkan, golongan M40 dan T20 juga tidak perlu risau mengenai bantuan kerana mereka akan menerima subsidi bersasar sekiranya layak.

Kementerian itu berkata, subsidi bersasar mengambil kira pendapatan isi rumah bersih selepas ditolak belanja dan juga pembolehubah lain seperti tanggungan.

"Sebuah keluarga T20 ialah yang mempunyai pendapatan kasar RM15,000.

"Jika mereka ada lapan anak, pendapatan bersih mungkin jatuh ke M40 dan layak mendapat subsidi," katanya dalam status di laman X semalam.

Sehubungan itu, golongan M40 dan T20 yang selama ini tidak pernah mendapat bantuan tunai kerajaan perlu mendaftar



**GOLONGAN T20 boleh menerima subsidi seperti M40 jika benar-benar layak.** – GAMBAR HIASAN

dan mengemas kini maklumat isi rumah mereka ke dalam Pangka-

lan Data Utaman (Padu) sehingga 31 Mac ini.

Terdahulu, Menteri Ekonomi YB Rafizi Ramli telah mengu-

mumkan golongan yang mendapat subsidi bersasar dalam kumpulan B40 dan M40, atau juga digelar B80.

Sebelum ini, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, pelaksanaan Padu disifatkan mampu mengurangkan kos perbelanjaan selepas jumlah subsidi ditanggung kerajaan ketika ini melebihi RM80 bilion.

Matlamat Padu dibangunkan untuk meningkatkan kecekapan sistem penyampaian perkhidmatan kerajaan dan melaksanakan pengukuhan dalam penggunaan sumber yang terhad.

Selain itu, Padu juga dapat melaksanakan pemerkasaan sistem sosial melalui peningkatan kesejahteraan ekonomi dan rakyat serta merapatkan jurang sosioekonomi dengan memenuhi keperluan rakyat.

KOSMO

26 MAR 2024

Tarikh: .....

## Kadar daftar Padu meningkat

**Kuala Lumpur:** Pangkalan Data Utama (Padu) menyaksikan peningkatan mendadak dalam kadar pendaftaran sepanjang minggu lalu, kata Menteri Ekonomi Rafizi Ramli.

Beliau berkata setakat 11:59 malam pada 24 Mac 2024, bilangan pendaftaran meningkat kepada 7.7 juta daripada 5.4 juta yang direkodkan 17 Mac 2024.

Daripada jumlah pendaftaran terkini, katanya kadar pendaftaran dalam kalangan individu berumur 18 tahun ke atas mencecah 35.1 peratus.

"Kami optimis bahawa angka ini akan terus me-

ingkat, berpotensi mencapai atau bahkan melebihi 50 peratus menjelang tarikh akhir yang akan datang pada 31 Mac 2024," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Orang ramai digalakkan tidak menunggu hingga saat akhir untuk mendaftar.

"Dengan tarikh tutup yang semakin hampir, kami menjangka pendaftaran harian akan terus meningkat dengan ketara. Daftar dan kemas kini data anda ke dalam Padu sebelum 31 Mac 2024 untuk mengelak risiko keciciran berterusan," katanya.

HARIAN METRO  
Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

Kuala Lumpur

**K**adaan cuaca panas dan kering yang dialami negara ketika ini dijangka mula berkurangan pada awal April apabila fasa Peralihan Monsun dijangka berlaku dalam tempoh itu.

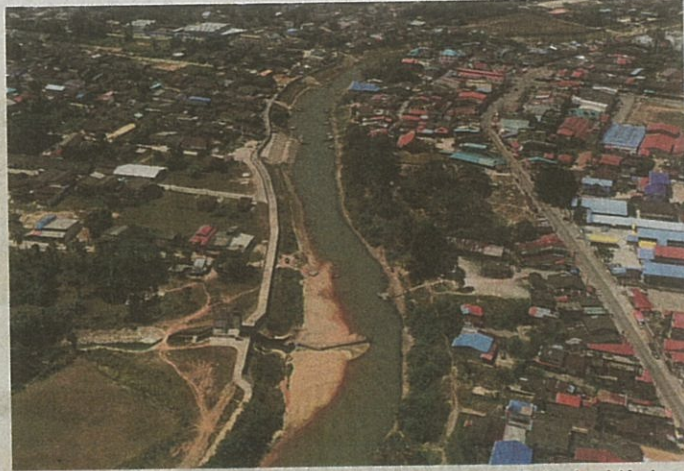
Pengarah Pusat Operasi Cuaca dan Geofizik Nasional, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia), Maqrun Fadzli Mohd Fahmi berkata, fasa tersebut berlaku apabila terdapat perubahan arah angin daripada Monsun Timur Laut kepada Monsun Barat Daya.

"Kebiasaannya, pada fasa Peralihan Monsun ini, corak tiupan angin akan membawa kepada aktiviti hujan ribut petir di sebelah petang dan kita jangka situasi ini akan mula berlaku menjelang awal April.

"(Cuaca panas dan kering) masih akan bertahan sehingga seminggu ke hadapan tetapi kita harap dengan ada banyak aktiviti hujan akan berlaku (pada fasa Peralihan Monsun) ini akan meredakan kembali suhu yang agak tinggi sekarang," katanya, semalam.

Maqrun Fadzli berkata dalam menghadapi cuaca panas, orang ramai dinasihatkan untuk memakai pakaian yang bersesuaian dan selesai serta mengurangkan aktiviti luar bagi mengurangkan kesan terhadap suhu yang tinggi ketika ini.

Malah katanya MetMa-



KEADAAN semasa Sungai Golok yang menjadi pemisah antara Malaysia-Thailand mulai kering ekoran musim kemarau yang melanda ketika tinjauan sekitar Rantau Panjang, semalam.

**CUACA PANAS, KERING**

HM 26/3

## Dijangka mula reda awal April

laysia sentiasa bekerjasama dengan Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) untuk melakukan pembenihan awan bagi meningkatkan taburan hu-

jan sekiranya terdapat keperluan dan sebarang maklumat akan diberitahu dari semasa ke semasa.

"Sebenarnya kalau kita lihat gelombang haba di

Malaysia, tak begitu bahaya jika nak dibandingkan dengan negara lain seperti di India sehingga boleh menyebabkan kematian namun kita memahami suasana tidak selesa yang dialami rakyat dalam keadaan panas, terutama pula dalam Ramadan, dugaan sedikit tinggi," katanya. - Bernama

**"Kita harap dengan ada banyak aktiviti hujan akan berlaku (pada fasa Peralihan Monsun) ini akan meredakan kembali suhu yang agak tinggi sekarang"**

HARIAN METRO  
Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

# Bisnes



PENINGKATAN keuntungan pelaburan KWSP bagi suku pertama hingga ketiga 2023 adalah cukup baik sehingga ia mencecah hampir RM47 bilion.

Oleh Sri Ayu Kartika  
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Kuala Lumpur

**A**kaun simpanan shariah Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) dilihat berpotensi besar untuk menghasilkan agihan pulangan seiring atau lebih baik berbanding simpanan konvensional.

KWSP sebelum ini mengumumkan kadar dividen 2023 lebih tinggi, iaitu sebanyak 5.5 peratus untuk simpanan konvensional dan 5.4 peratus bagi simpanan syariah.

Penganalisis Ekonomi Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) Business School Prof Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid berkata, peningkatan keuntungan pelaburan KWSP bagi suku pertama hingga ketiga 2023 adalah cukup baik sehingga ia mencecah hampir RM47 bilion daripada jumlah dana yang diuruskannya (RM1.1 trilion).

Katanya, KWSP turut

## POTENSI DIVIDEN LEBIH TINGGI

*Pencarum Islam diajak beralih  
ke simpanan syariah KWSP  
supaya dana jadi lebih besar*

mengumumkan pelaburan untuk keseluruhan tahun 2023 adalah sebanyak RM66 bilion.

"Jadi daripada RM66 bilion pelaburan oleh KWSP itu, sebanyak RM57 bilion diberikan kepada semua pencarum yang RM50.3 bilion untuk menyimpan sim-

panan konvensional dan sebanyak RM7.5 bilion kepada penyimpan akaun syariah.

"Ini yang hendak saya ketengahkan yang 'bakul' simpanan syariah ini masih lagi kecil iaitu hanya RM7.5 bilion berbanding RM50.3 bilion simpanan

konvensional.

"Malah, (ia) menunjukkan ramai lagi pencarum beragama Islam belum bertukar kepada akaun syariah.

"Sekiranya lebih ramai pencarum bertukar kepada akaun simpanan syariah, maka dana berkenaan akan menjadi lebih besar sekali gus mempunyai ekonomi skala dan boleh melabur serta mengurangkan risiko yang bersangkutan dengannya.

"Kita maklum bahawa pelaburan syariah bukan mudah kerana ia tidak boleh melabur pada semua pelaburan yang menguntungkan seperti konvensional kerana ada kepatuhan terhadap peraturan syariah.

"Justeru, saya ingin mengajak terutama kepada orang Islam di Malaysia yang mempunyai akaun simpanan KWSP supaya beralih kepada akaun simpanan syariah supaya kita mendapat pulangan yang lebih baik," katanya kepada Bisnes Metro.

HARIAN METRO  
26 MAR 2024  
Tarikh: .....

# Kadar inflasi meningkat 1.8 peratus bulan lalu

4.2  
26/3

**Inflasi** Malaysia pada Februari 2024 meningkat 1.8 peratus didorong oleh peningkatan perumahan, air, elektrik, gas dan bahan api lain (2.7 peratus); rekreasi, sukan & kebudayaan (1.6 peratus) dan pengangkutan (1.2 peratus).

Sementara itu, kumpulan utama lain merekodkan peningkatan lebih perlahan termasuk restoran dan perkhidmatan penginapan (2.9 peratus), kesihatan (2.2 peratus), makanan dan minuman (1.9 peratus) dan pendidikan (1.5 peratus).

Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin, berkata kenaikan 2.7 peratus bagi perumahan, air, elektrik, gas dan bahan api lain disumbangkan oleh subkumpulan utama bekalan air dan pelbagai perkhidmatan berkaitan dengan rumah kediaman pada 29.7 peratus.

Katanya, ini berikutan pelaksanaan pelarasan tarif air mengikut Mekanisme Penetapan Tarif (TSM) bagi kategori pengguna domestik di Semenanjung dan Labuan yang berkuat kuasa pada 1

Februari 2024.

"Manakala, peningkatan inflasi pengangkutan disumbangkan oleh subkumpulan utama pengurusan peralatan pengangkutan persendirian yang meningkat 1.3 peratus dan perkhidmatan pengangkutan awam (1.7 peratus)," katanya dalam kenyataan Indeks Harga Pengguna (IHP) Februari 2024 diterbitkan Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM) semalam.

Kumpulan makanan dan minuman yang menyumbang 29.8 peratus daripada keseluruhan wajaran IHP mencatatkan peningkatan lebih rendah iaitu 1.9 peratus pada Februari 2024.

Subkumpulan utama makanan di rumah meningkat 0.5 peratus pada Februari, manakala subkumpulan utama makanan di luar rumah meningkat kepada 3.5 peratus berbanding 3.1 peratus yang direkodkan pada Januari 2024.

Peningkatan inflasi kelas perbelanjaan bijirin dan produk bijirin kepada 2.5 peratus pada Februari disumbangkan oleh beras wangi import dan beras basmati

yang masing-masing meningkat sebanyak 6.3 peratus dan 1.0 peratus.

Manakala, tepung gandum menurun kepada -4.3 peratus.

Inflasi kelas perbelanjaan susu, produk tenusu lain & telur pula mencatatkan peningkatan sebanyak 2.3 peratus pada Februari.

Kenaikan yang lebih rendah dicatatkan oleh item perbelanjaan susu tepung sebanyak -0.8 peratus.

Sementara itu, inflasi bagi kelas perbelanjaan minyak & lemak kekal pada kadar yang sama seperti Januari 2024 iaitu -0.2 peratus.

Inflasi bagi kelas perbelanjaan daging meningkat perlahan kepada 0.5 peratus pada Februari. Bagi perbandingan bulanan, kelas perbelanjaan ini mencatatkan penurunan -0.3 peratus.

Daging ayam segar yang menjadi komponen terbesar merangkumi 32.6 peratus dalam kelas perbelanjaan daging mencatatkan penurunan kepada -0.7 peratus berbanding 0.8 peratus pada Januari.

BERITA HARIAN  
26 MAR 2024  
Tarikh.....

# Kenderaan terbiar beri kesan negatif terhadap bandar



Oleh Khairul Rizuan Suliman  
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**Kita** sering melihat kenderaan dibiarkan terbiar di tepi jalan, tempat letak kereta awam dan kawasan parkir umum, malah ia semakin menjadi-jadi hingga meninggalkan kesan tidak menyenangkan terhadap pemandangan bandar.

Pensyarah  
Universiti  
Tunku Abdul  
Rahman (UTAR)

Kenderaan lusuh terbiar merosakkan estetika bandar, memberi kesan negatif terhadap imej dan daya tarikan bandar, selain keadaan karat dan biasanya diconteng memberi kesan tidak menyenangkan kepada penduduk tempatan dan pelancong.

Kenderaan terbiar boleh menjadi bahaya keselamatan awam, terutama jika dibiarkan di kawasan terdedah kepada orang ramai, sekali gus boleh menjadi tempat berkumpul untuk aktiviti berbahaya.

Malah, ia juga boleh menyumbang kepada pencemaran alam sekitar kerana cecair seperti minyak pelincir dan bahan kimia daripada kenderaan terbiar boleh bocor ke tanah atau sistem saliran, sekali gus mencemarkan sungai.

Sebenarnya, kewujudan kenderaan terbiar boleh menurunkan nilai hartanah di kawasan terbabit. Ia boleh menimbulkan persepsi bahawa kawasan itu tidak terjaga dengan baik, hingga mengurangkan nilai hartanah dan membuatkan penduduk

kurang selesa.

Pada masa sama, gejala ini juga boleh meningkatkan kos kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) kerana pembersihan dan pembuangan kenderaan terbiar memerlukan pembiayaan besar, sekali gus menjadi beban kepada belanjawan perbandaran yang boleh disalurkan kepada pembangunan dan perkhidmatan awam lain.

Malah, usaha mencari pemilik kenderaan terbiar dan mendapatkan kebenaran memindahkan atau menghapuskan kenderaan terbabit juga boleh menjadi proses rumit dan panjang. Isu perundangan berkaitan hak milik dan tanggungjawab kepemilikan juga perlu dipertimbangkan.

Bagaimanapun, kewujudan Kemudahan Rawatan Automatik Berlesen (AATF) membantu dalam mengatasi masalah kenderaan terbiar apabila ia memberi kebenaran kepada pihak berkuasa untuk memproses, mengendali dan mengolah kereta dilupuskan atau tidak digunakan lagi dengan cara yang mematuhi undang-undang alam sekitar.

Ini menjadikan proses pemuliharaan, kitar semula dan pemusnahan bahan daripada kenderaan terbiar dapat dilakukan dengan selamat dan berkesan.

Kini melalui Sistem Pembatalan Pendaftaran Kenderaan Motor Secara Atas Talian (e-Dereg), pemilik kenderaan boleh melaksanakan penghapusan rekod secara dalam talian, menggantikan proses manual di kaunter Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan (JPJ).

Melalui platform ini, pemilik kenderaan dapat mengemukakan permohonan penghapusan rekod dengan menyediakan maklumat diperlukan secara elektronik seperti butir-butir kenderaan, dokumen pendaftaran dan maklumat pemilik.

## Kempen kesedaran awam

Bagaimanapun, kita wajar mengadakan kempen kesedaran awam terhadap kesan kenderaan terbiar dan kesan negatifnya terhadap bandar serta alam sekitar boleh membantu meningkatkan kesedaran dan menggalakkan tindakan masyarakat tempatan untuk mengurangkan masalah ini.

Pengurusan parkir berkesan oleh PBT juga penting untuk mengurangkan masalah kenderaan terbiar. Penguatkuasaan undang-undang parkir boleh membantu mencegah kenderaan dibiarkan terbiar di kawasan awam.

Sebenarnya, peningkatan kesedaran terhadap kepentingan pemuliharaan alam sekitar boleh menggalakkan tindakan masyarakat untuk mengurangkan pencemaran dan membuang sisa kenderaan dengan betul, membantu mengatasi masalah kenderaan terbiar.

Mengatasi masalah kenderaan terbiar memerlukan usaha bersama daripada PBT, masyarakat tempatan dan pemilik kenderaan. Dengan kerjasama dan kesedaran meningkat, kita boleh bergerak ke arah bandar lebih bersih, indah dan lestari untuk semua.

BERITA HARIAN  
Tarikh.....26 MAR 2024

# Kemajuan projek ECRL di 4 negeri lebih 60 peratus

Jajaran Kota Bharu-Gombak dijangka siap ikut jadual Disember 2026

Oleh Nor Fazlina Abdul Rahim  
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Kemajuan keseluruhan projek Laluan Rel Pantai Timur (ECRL) yang merangkumi empat negeri iaitu Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Selangor telah mencapai 62.4 peratus setakat bulan lalu.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL), Datuk Seri Darwis Abdul Razak, berkata pembinaan projek mega itu di Kelantan disifatkan paling

mudah termasuk dalam urusan pengambilan tanah.

Katanya, sehingga kini segala urusan pengambilan tanah di Kelantan selesai sepenuhnya dan kerja pembinaan di negeri itu mencapai kemajuan 75.8 peratus dengan keseluruhan jajaran sepanjang 43 kilometer.

"Jajaran ECRL dari Kota Bharu ke Terminal Bersepadu Gombak, Selangor dijangka siap mengikut jadual iaitu pada Disember 2026 dan mula beroperasi pada Januari 2027.

"Jajaran ECRL dari Gombak ke Pelabuhan Klang pula dijangka siap pada Disember 2027," katanya pada sidang media pada Majlis Berbuka Puasa Bersama ECRL di Kota Bharu, malam kelmarin.

Yang turut hadir, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kerja Raya, Infrastruktur, Air dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar Negeri Kelantan, Datuk Dr Izani Husin.

Mengulas lanjut, Darwis berkata, pembinaan projek ECRL sepanjang 665 kilometer itu melibatkan perbelanjaan RM50.27 billion.

## Banyak cabaran

Katanya, jajaran ECRL turut membabitkan pembinaan 41 terowong sepanjang lebih 62 kilometer serta pembinaan jambatan 150 kilometer.

"Banyak cabaran yang kita lalui sepanjang projek ini berjalan, terutama dengan keadaan geografi selain pembinaan banyak terowong," katanya.

Ketika ditanya berhubung harga tiket yang akan dikenakan, Darwis memaklumkan perkara itu belum dibincangkan setakat ini.

"Harga tiket akan ditentukan oleh Kementerian Kewangan dan saya yakin harga yang dikenakan adalah berpatutan," katanya.



Darwis (kiri) dan Izani (dua dari kiri) menyampaikan cek sumbangan Ramadan kepada Madrasah Tahfizul Quran Lilbanat Darul Atiq pada Majlis Berbuka Puasa Bersama ECRL di Kota Bharu, malam kelmarin.

(Foto Nor Fazlina Abdul Rahim/BH)

BERITA HARIAN  
Tarikh...26...MAR...2024.....

# Bantuan kerajaan sokong perbelanjaan pengguna berpendapatan rendah

BH 26/3

**Pasaran** pekerjaan yang baik dan bantuan yang terus disalurkan kerajaan kepada kumpulan berpendapatan lebih rendah akan membantu keseluruhan perbelanjaan serta permintaan pengguna untuk barangan keperluan asasi, demikian menurut penganalisis.

RHB Investment Bank dalam satu nota penyelidikan berkata, unjuran itu dibuat meskipun ia meramalkan perbelanjaan pengguna tidak begitu rancak pada masa akan datang kerana paras pendapatan memakan masa untuk menyamai kos sara hidup.

Selain itu, katanya pemulihan ketibaan pelancong yang kukuh dijangka akan menjadi faktor pendorong buat sektor pengguna memberikan manfaat kepada syarikat peruncitan.

"Tambahan lagi, pengenalan Akaun 3 oleh Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) yang memberi kelonggaran untuk

mengeluarkan simpanan mungkin dapat mendorong perbelanjaan bagi barangan bukan keperluan oleh pengguna tempatan.

"Namun begitu, kami tetap berpandangan bahawa sentimen sektor pengguna akan kekal suram sehinggalah penjelasan lanjut diberi mengenai pelaksanaan pelbagai langkah pewajaran subsidi dan cukai penggunaan baharu supaya pelabur dapat meramal kesan inflasi yang mungkin berlaku," katanya menerusi nota yang ditulis oleh penganalisis, Soong Wei Siang dan Tai Yu Jie.

Bank pelaburan itu berkata, keputusan kewangan syarikat berkaitan pengguna pada suku keempat 2023 tersasar daripada jangkaan ekor perbelanjaan secara berhati-hati oleh pengguna, namun pemulihan margin untung kasar (GPM) dilihat membantu syarikat pengeluar makanan kerana harga komoditi kian mereda.

BERITA HARIAN  
Tarikh...26...MAR...2024.....

## Kos ECRL kekal RM50.27b <sup>34</sup><sub>26/3</sub>

**Kos** pembinaan Projek Laluan Rel Pantai Timur (ECRL) dari Kota Bharu sehingga ke Pelabuhan Klang sepanjang 665 kilometer (km) dan 20 stesen di Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Selangor masih kekal pada RM50.27 bilion, Dewan Rakyat diberitahu.

Menteri Pengangkutan, Anthony Loke, berkata Malaysia Rail Link (MRL) selaku pemilik projek ECRL tertakluk kepada Akta Pengambilan Tanah (APT) 1960 bagi tanah yang terbabit dengan projek ECRL.

Berdasarkan kepada APT 1960, pihak berkuasa negeri katanya, boleh mengambil mana-mana tanah yang diperlukan bagi tujuan pembangunan kepada orang awam.

Menurutnya, Jabatan Ketua Pengarah Tanah dan Galian (JKPTG) bersama-sama dengan pihak MRL akan mengenal pasti baki tanah yang tidak ekonomik kesan daripada pengambilan tanah oleh projek ECRL.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Dr Ismail Abd Muttalib (PN-Maran) pada sesi soal jawab di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....

26 MAR 2024

# Kuasa beli kurang, banyak makanan bazar Ramadan tidak habis dijual

UM 26/3

**SEGAMAT:** Cabaran dan dugaan kepada para peniaga makanan pada Ramadan tahun ini amat getir apabila kebanyakan makanan dan minuman tidak habis dijual.

Seorang peniaga yang hanya mahu dikenali sebagai Nur Furqan berkata, Ramadan kali ini amat menyedihkan apabila banyak makanan tidak habis dijual menjelang pukul 7 petang.

"Ramadan tahun ini ramai peniaga 'termenung'. Pukul 6.45 petang barang niaga banyak lagi di atas meja walaupun menunjukkan waktu berbuka semakin hampir. Semoga dipermudahkan segala urusan para peniaga sehingga selesai Ramadan," kongsinya dalam laman sosial Segamat Johor.

Perkongsian itu menerima respons melebihi 300 pengguna dengan pelbagai reaksi daripada peniaga serta pengunjung bazar Ramadan.

Seorang pengunjung bazar Ramadan, Mohd. Azhar memberikan cadangan supaya peniaga mengikut cara orang dahulu berniaga dengan mencampur pelbagai jenis kuih di dalam satu bekas.

"Cuba buat gaya lama, kuih boleh campur-campur. Zaman sekarang jual sejenis dah siap



**ORANG** ramai membanjiri bazar Ramadan, namun jualan peniaga tidak habis dijual memandangkan pembeli juga mengalami kekangan kewangan. - UTUSAN/RAJA ALI JAAFAR

bungkus dengan harga tetap.

"Orang berkira-kira macam terpaksa pula membeli satu bekas padahal nak makannya sebiji dua sahaja. Hendak makan dua jenis kuih terpaksa beli dua bekas, memang fikir dua kali-

lah," katanya.

Seorang lagi pembeli, Hazwan Rahmat pula menyifatkan harga makanan di daerah ini agak mahal berbanding di bandar-bandar besar.

"Sebagai contoh martabak

berharga RM7 hingga RM12 di Segamat. Hujung minggu saya balik ke Kuala Lumpur harga martabak hanya RM5 hingga RM10 sahaja, itu pun boleh dapat martabak Singapura lagi," kongsinya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: ..... 26 MAR 2024 .....

40 76/3

## Kes strok haba meningkat

**PETALING JAYA:** Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mencatatkan peningkatan yang ketara dalam kes strok haba di seluruh Malaysia sejak awal tahun ini hingga 15 Mac lepas.

Sebanyak 23 kes direkodkan, sekali gus menunjukkan peningkatan daripada 13 kes yang dicatatkan sejak 1 Mac disebabkan keadaan cuaca panas yang melampau.

Pakar Kesihatan Komuniti Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof. Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, terdapat beberapa gejala dialami oleh pesakit strok haba yang menyebabkan keadaan mereka menjadi lebih teruk.

"Gejala strok haba boleh berlaku jika seseorang itu terdedah dalam tempoh masa yang lama kepada cuaca panas secara berterusan dan keadaan itu mudah berlaku terhadap kanak-kanak atau warga emas yang umumnya sukar mengawal suhu badan mereka sendiri.

"Antara tandanya adalah pening, kelesuan, badan dan kulit terasa panas, kencing kurang (anak kecil menggunakan lampin pakai buang) dan kesukaran untuk menumpukan perhatian.

"Jika dibiarkan tanpa intervensi, maka ia boleh menyebabkan *heat stroke* (tiada peluh akibat dehidrasi, kulit kering, sawan, tidak sedarkan diri, tiada rasa kencing) dan berakhir dengan kematian. Mereka perlu diberi air, mandi dengan air sejuk dan tanggalkan pakaian untuk pengaliran udara serta darah," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*, di sini semalam.

Daripada jumlah kes dilaporkan, KKM memaklumkan hanya satu kes di Langkawi melibatkan pesakit dirujuk ke unit rawatan rapi (ICU).

Terdapat satu kes strok haba yang dimasukkan ke ICU sehingga memerlukan bantuan pernafasan tetapi pesakit itu dapat diselamatkan.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

# Inflasi meningkat 1.8% pada Februari

UM  
26/3

**PETALING JAYA:** Inflasi Malaysia meningkat 1.8 peratus pada Februari 2024 dengan mata indeks mencatatkan 132.1 berbanding 129.8 pada bulan yang sama tahun sebelumnya, kata Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM).

Peningkatan inflasi pada Februari didorong oleh peningkatan perumahan, air, elektrik, gas dan bahan api lain (2.7 peratus); rekreasi, sukan dan kebudayaan (1.6 peratus) dan pengangkutan (1.2 peratus).

Sementara itu, kumpulan utama lain merekodkan peningkatan lebih perlahan termasuk restoran dan perkhidmatan penginapan (2.9 peratus), kesihatan (2.2 peratus), makanan dan minuman (1.9 peratus) dan pendidikan (1.5 peratus).

Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Mohd Uzir



**Subkumpulan utama makanan di rumah meningkat 0.5 peratus pada bulan Februari**

**MOHD UZIR MAHIDIN**

Mahidin berkata, peningkatan bagi perumahan, air, elektrik, gas dan bahan api lain (Januari: 2.0 peratus) disumbangkan oleh subkumpulan utama bekalan air dan pelbagai perkhidmatan berkaitan dengan rumah kediaman pada 29.7 peratus (Januari: 9.3 peratus).

Katanya, ini berikutan pelaksanaan pelarasan tarif air mengikut Mekanisme Peneta-

pan Tarif (TSM) bagi kategori pengguna domestik di Semenanjung Malaysia dan Labuan yang berkuatkuasa 1 Februari lalu.

"Peningkatan inflasi pengangkutan disumbangkan oleh subkumpulan utama pengurusan peralatan pengangkutan persendirian yang meningkat 1.3 peratus (Januari: 1.2 peratus) dan perkhidmatan pengangkutan awam 1.7 peratus (Januari: -4.5 peratus).

"Kumpulan makanan dan minuman yang menyumbang 29.8 peratus daripada keseluruhan wajar Indeks Harga Pengguna (IHP) mencatatkan peningkatan lebih rendah iaitu 1.9 peratus pada Februari (Januari: 2.0 peratus).

"Subkumpulan utama makanan di rumah meningkat 0.5 peratus pada bulan Februari (Januari: 1.1 peratus)," katanya

dalam kenyataan di sini hari ini.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, subkumpulan utama makanan di luar rumah meningkat kepada 3.5 peratus berbanding 3.1 peratus yang direkodkan pada Januari.

Jelasnya, peningkatan inflasi kelas perbelanjaan bijirin dan produk bijirin kepada 2.5 peratus pada Februari disumbangkan oleh beras wangi import dan beras basmati yang masing-masing meningkat sebanyak 6.3 peratus (Januari: 6.6 peratus) dan 1.0 peratus (Januari: 2.1 peratus).

"Tepung gandum menurun kepada negatif 4.3 peratus (Januari: -3.8 peratus). Inflasi kelas perbelanjaan susu, produk tenusu lain dan telur mencatatkan peningkatan sebanyak 2.3 peratus pada bulan Februari (Januari: 2.5 peratus)," ujarnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
Tarikh: ...26...MAR...2024...

## Pendaftaran PADU mampu lepassi 50 peratus Ahad ini

**SEREMBAN:** Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia yakin semua negeri akan dapat melepasi 50 peratus rakyat yang layak mendaftar untuk sistem Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) menjelang tarikh akhir berbuat demikian pada Ahad ini.

Ketua Perangkawan, Datuk Seri Mohd. Uzir Mahidin berkata, keyakinan itu berdasarkan kepada cerapan dilakukan pihaknya di kaunter PADU di seluruh negara yang menunjukkan trend peningkatan ketika ini.

Katanya, semakin ramai orang mengunjungi kaunter PADU selain mendaftar secara dalam talian.

"Kalau lihat cerapan di seluruh negara, kaunter PADU semakin dikunjungi orang ramai dan terdapat permintaan untuk membuka lebih banyak kaunter.

"Iltizam orang ramai untuk mendaftar semakin tinggi dan saya yakin jika momentum bertenusan kita boleh lepassi 50 peratus," katanya kepada para pemberita selepas melawat kaunter PADU di UTC Seremban di Ampangan, di sini semalam.

Sebagai contoh, kata Mohd. Uzir, seramai 323,816 orang atau 36.8 peratus penduduk di negeri ini yang berusia 18 tahun ke atas



**MOHD. Uzir Mahidin (berdiri, kiri) melihat aktiviti pendaftaran untuk PADU semasa melakukan lawatan di UTC Seremban di Ampangan, Seremban semalam. - UTUSAN/NAZARUDIN SHAHARI**

sudah mendaftar untuk PADU sehingga semalam.

Jumlah itu, tambahnya, meningkat berbanding 144,395 atau 16.4 peratus daripada 879,880 penduduk yang layak direkodkan pada 15 Februari lalu.

Beliau menarik perhatian, tumpuan diberikan kepada kawasan Lembah Klang yang mempunyai kepadatan penduduk yang tinggi

berbanding negeri lain.

"Kita sudah pun mengenal pasti kawasan sasaran dalam usaha menarik lebih ramai orang mendaftar PADU.

"Antara usaha yang dilakukan ialah memanggil ketua komuniti dalam sesi dialog awam bersama kerajaan negeri dan Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli," ujarnya lagi.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

# GOVT VETS THOSE WITH PADU ACCESS

Access limited to officers' roles in order to curb leaks, says deputy economy minister

ALIZA SHAH  
AND BRUNO J.  
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**O**FFICERS with access to the Central Database Hub (Padu) are vetted by the Chief Government Security Officer to curb the probability of data leaks.

Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Hanifah Hajar Tajb said only selected officers had access to the system, and that access was limited to their roles.

Bernama quoted her as saying

that an independent group consisting of academics and experts in various fields had been appointed to oversee Padu's security.

Hanifah Hajar said this while winding up the debate on the motion of thanks for the royal address for the Economy Ministry in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

With just one week before the deadline, Padu has yet to reach 50 per cent of its registration target.

The numbers, however, are increasing, with 7.7 million registered up to 11.59pm on Sunday.

"Padu has witnessed a surge in registrations over the past week."

"Up to 11.59pm on March 24, the number of registrations has increased to 7.7 million, up from 5.4 million on March 17," Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said.

Rafizi said he was optimistic that Padu registrations, which stood at 35.1 per cent of the target, would continue to rise and exceed 50 per cent by March 31.

"The public are encouraged not to wait until the last minute to register."

"With the closing date approaching, we expect registrations to increase significantly."

Rafizi had said the government had would not extend the March 31 deadline, saying it would affect plans to restructure how subsidies were distributed.

He said failing to register or update information in Padu might result in missing out on government assistance and subsidies.

Padu aims to boost governance and improve policies by the socioeconomic data that people declares in the system.

Apart from retargeting subsidies and aid, Padu is also aimed at identifying the socioeconomic status of the people.

The move comes as the government warned that its subsidy bill was unsustainable unless aid was targeted at the needy.

However, the vast amount of

information collected in Padu has raised fears that it could be a prime target for hackers, and questions have been raised about the robustness of its security.

The Sarawak government said it was seeking "clarifications" from the Economy Ministry on Padu's security.

Deputy Minister in the Sarawak Premier's Department Datuk Sharifah Hasidah Sayeed Aman Ghazali said the state government needed details on the security of Padu to support the initiative and uphold the interests of Sarawakians.

The state's de facto law minister yesterday said the Sarawak government "in principle supports the noble intention of the federal government to ensure that government resources to aid Malaysians are channelled effectively".

However, she said eligible people must not be deprived of targeted subsidies "by looking into

an individual's financial position and economic wellbeing".

Hasidah said Malaysia, with the exception of the Personal Data Protection Act 2010 (PDPA), had no specific law to protect privacy.

The PDPA, she said, regulated only the processing of personal data in commercial transactions and provided principles for data protection, including consent, purpose limitation and data security.

Sarawak has ordered its agencies and community leaders to stop helping people register with Padu "until further notice".

Last Monday, state Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Karim Hamzah said the amount of information being asked in Padu was akin to "stripping yourself naked".

"The moment you fill in the form, you would have stripped yourself bare. You have to give the government everything."

NEW STRAITS TIMES  
Tarikh: .....26 MAR...2024....

'MALAYSIA FIRST'

NST 76/3

## Manufacturing group asks members to shore up ringgit

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) urges members to support Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) call for businesses to be part of efforts to shore up the ringgit.

FMM president Tan Sri Soh Thian Lai said the group supported the central bank's efforts to manage the short-term pressure on the ringgit, including its call for corporations and investors to ensure more inflows to the foreign exchange (FX) markets.

He said that during an engagement session with chambers of commerce, business councils, trade associations and chief executive officers of Malaysian companies last Friday, BNM had urged businesses to take action.

Soh said BNM's Malaysia First approach called on businesses to prioritise and realise investment opportunities domestically, and choose domestic goods, services and recreation.

The FMM also asked corporations to manage investments that minimised outflows by deferring any new investment abroad, repatriating and converting re-

alised investment income earned abroad in a more timely and consistent manner, and hedging any new and large investments abroad.

The central bank also called on companies to use local currency settlement facilities to minimise dependence on the US dollar and refrain from holding back conversion and front-loading import payments beyond what was required for business needs.

"It is hoped that the action by the bank to ensure sufficient liquidity in the domestic FX market and dynamic management of monetary operations and the support from the business community, the ringgit will strengthen in the coming months," he said.

Soh said central bank Governor Datuk Abdul Rasheed Abdul Ghaffour had said the decline in the value of the ringgit was temporary and due to external factors, and that financial markets expected the the currency to appreciate as the effects of global external factors subsided. **Berna-**

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

# Inflation up 1.8% in February: Statistics Dept

Sun  
26/3

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Inflation increased by 1.8% in February this year, with index points recorded at 132.1 against 129.8 a year earlier, according to the Statistics Department.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the increase was driven by housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (2.7%), recreation, sport and culture (1.6%) and transport (1.2%).

"However, the other main groups that recorded a slower increase were restaurant and accommodation services (2.9%), health (2.2%), food and beverage (F&B) (1.9%) and education (1.5%)," he said in a media statement yesterday.

He said F&B, which contributes 29.8% of the total consumer price index (CPI) weightage, recorded a slower increase of 1.9% in February compared with 2.0% in January.

Mohd Uzir also said monthly inflation continued to show an increase, with housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels at 1.3%, restaurant and

► Increase driven mainly by housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, recreation, sports activities, culture and transport

accommodation services at 0.6% and transport at 0.4%.

He said core inflation increased at the same rate as January at 1.8% due to increases in F&B, restaurant and accommodation services, which recorded expansion of 3.1% and 2.9% respectively in February.

On inflation at the state level, he said most of the states recorded increases below the national inflation level of 1.8%.

However, five states recorded increases above the national inflation level, namely Penang (2.7%), Pahang (2.4%), Selangor (2.1%), Perlis (2.0%) and Sarawak (1.9%).

He said all states registered an increase in the inflation of F&B, adding that the highest increase was in Putrajaya (3.2%), followed by

Selangor (3.0%), Penang (2.5%), Labuan (2.3%), Sarawak (2.2%), Perlis (2.2%) and Pahang (2.1%).

Other states showed an increase below the national inflation of F&B of 1.9% in February.

He said there was an increase in expenditure class of cereals and cereal products by 2.5% in February (January 2.7%), contributed by imported fragrant rice and Basmati rice, which increased by 6.3% (January 6.6%) and 1.0% (January 2.1%) respectively.

The inflation for the expenditure class of milk, other dairy products and eggs registered an increase of 2.3% in February (January 2.5%).

The slower increase was recorded by expenditure item of powdered milk at negative 0.8% (negative 0.4% in January).

The inflation for the expenditure class of meat increased slower to 0.5% in February (January 1.4%) with chicken as its largest component comprising 32.6%, recording a decline of negative 0.7% as against 0.8% in January.

The average price of standard chicken in Malaysia was RM10.29 per kg compared with RM10.33 per kg in February 2023 and January this year.

Inflation for the expenditure class of vegetables registered a decline to negative 0.8% (January 2.2%) due to stable supply and low demand, Bernama reported.

Among the vegetables that showed a decline were cucumber, mustard, tomato and green spinach. Meanwhile, garlic and big red onions increased by 28.5% and 22.6% respectively.

Malaysia's 1.8% inflation rate was lower than Vietnam 4.0%, Philippines' 3.4%, the United States' 3.2%, South Korea's 3.1% and Indonesia's 2.8%, but higher than China's 0.7% and Thailand's negative 0.8%.

THE SUN

Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

# Additional train tickets for Aidilfitri travel period

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB) is offering an additional 15,120 tickets from April 5 to 14, including for express trains, providing 1,260 tickets per day during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration period this year.

KTMB corporate communication unit spokesperson said initially, 119,880 train tickets were made available, out of which 93,299 tickets (78%) were sold when they became available for purchase in October 2023.

"As of now, KTMB provides 36 Electric Train Services (ETS) as daily trips for all routes from Gemas to Padang Besar.

"But specifically for travels in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, we are adding six additional trips that will operate starting from April 5. The total number of tickets offered for Hari Raya Aidilfitri stands at 135,000 tickets," she said. Ticket prices will remain the same during festive seasons.

However, its ETS ticket pricing operates on a dynamic fare system,

► KTMB also adding six more ETS trips starting April 5 to meet high passenger demand

in which purchasing tickets in advance will result in lower prices compared with last-minute purchases.

She said KTMB is also offering two special journeys named *Ekspress Lambaian Aidilfitri*, with trains between KL Sentral and Tumpat.

"A total of 952 tickets are being offered for this special service to those returning to the east coast.

"Ticket prices range between RM55 and RM83 for a one-way journey.

"The special trains are equipped with sleeper coaches, first-class seating coaches, second-class seating coaches, buffet coaches and chillax coaches."

She said the initiative is being undertaken to meet high passenger demand during festive seasons and encourage the public to use rail transport for their holiday travels to alleviate traffic congestion on roads and highways.

"This not only reduces travel

times but also contributes to environmental sustainability by minimising carbon emissions.

"Additionally, trains are often a safer means of travel, especially for long-distance journeys, as they operate on dedicated tracks and are subject to strict safety regulations."

With Hari Raya Aidilfitri just two weeks away, the spokesperson advised travellers to arrive at the station at least 30 minutes before their scheduled departure time.

This will provide ample time to complete any documentation processes at the entry gate, resulting in smoother and more efficient travel arrangements.

Meanwhile, Peninsular Malaysia Malay Express Bus Operators Association secretary-general Iskandar Salleh said express bus tickets are fast selling out.

"About 90% or 475,200 of the 528,000 express bus tickets provided by (the association) were snapped up as early as March 5.

"As of 10am (yesterday), we only have about 52,800 tickets remaining for journeys from the Klang Valley to all destinations across the peninsula in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"While it's true that bus ticket prices may go up by 10%, it's important to understand that this increase is not new and has been implemented for several years.

"The ticket prices range from RM35 to RM55 depending on the destination," he said.

Iskandar added that the fastest-selling route is to the east coast but tickets for journeys back to the north and south are also in high demand, with about 369,600 tickets sold.

"The association is providing 1,000 buses daily for Hari Raya Aidilfitri travels, and we will ensure that buses are in good condition by carrying out preventive maintenance and ensuring that drivers are well rested."

He advised those travelling home by bus to regularly communicate with customer service representatives to be updated on the status of their chosen bus or train service due to the expected heavy traffic on the roads.

THE SUN  
Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

## Ringgit ends firmer against dollar, other major currencies <sup>sun 2/3</sup>

**THE** ringgit rebounded to close firmer against the US dollar yesterday as risk appetite improved following the positive Chinese yuan performance, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit rose to 4.7205/7270 against the greenback from Friday's close of 4.7340/7390.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid noted that the ringgit was generally on firmer footing yesterday, gaining more than 0.25% against the US dollar.

He said this is very much in tandem with the Chinese yuan performance, gaining by 0.26% to 7.2106 yuan per US dollar.

Remarks from China's premiere Li Qian last Sunday indicated that the country's low inflation rate amidst low debt burden by the central government would mean it has policy space to prescribe more stabilisation policies.

"This may have contributed to positive sentiments towards the yuan. This, in turn, also helped improve the value of the ringgit given the positive correlation between the yuan and local currency," he told Bernama.

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

It appreciated against the euro to 5.1066/1137 from Friday's close of 5.1203/1257 and also against the British pound to 5.9549/9631 from 5.9582/9645.

Meanwhile, the ringgit traded firmer against other Asean currencies.

It rose against the Singapore dollar to 3.5060/5111 from 3.5106/5145, and against the Philippine peso, it was traded higher at 8.37/8.39 compared with 8.41/8.42 previously.

THE SUN  
Tarikh: 12 6 MAR 2024

## Ramadan blitz nets goods worth over RM400,000

Sun  
26/3

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry has seized goods worth RM414,319.07 for various offences during *Ops Pantau 2024*, carried out at Ramadan and Aidilfitri bazaars nationwide from March 12 until last Saturday.

Its enforcement director-general Datuk Azman Adam said the seizure involve 84 cases for offences such as failing to display price tags, not using valid weighing instruments and selling counterfeit goods.

"During that period, 20,854 premises, including 685 Aidilfitri bazaars, were inspected.

"We also received 623 complaints from consumers on various offences," he said after the *Ops Pantau* operation at an Aidilfitri bazaar on Sunday night.

According to Azman, in addition to Ramadan and Aidilfitri bazaars, enforcement activities were conducted at various premises, such as supermarkets and retail stores, as well as online sales platforms.

He reminded traders to continue to comply with all regulations set by the government, especially during this festive season, to avoid being subjected to stern action.

At the same time, Azman advised consumers to report unscrupulous traders directly to the ministry through various channels provided, rather than resorting to sharing it on social media, to facilitate investigations. – Bernama

THE SUN

Tarikh: 26 MAR 2024

## Hot weather <sup>sun</sup> expected to <sub>24/3</sub> ease next month

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The current hot and dry weather in the country is expected to ease at the beginning of next month with the onset of the monsoon transition period.

National Weather and Geophysics Operation Centre director Maqrun Fadzli Mohd Fahmi said this phase occurs when there is a shift in wind direction from the northeast to the southwest monsoon.

"During the monsoon transition phase, wind patterns usually lead to thunderstorm activity in the late afternoon, and we expect this situation to begin around early April.

"The hot and dry weather will persist for another week, but we hope that with the occurrence of more rainfall during this monsoon transition phase, it will help alleviate the current high temperatures," he said when appearing as a guest on Bernama TV's *Apa Khabar Malaysia* programme yesterday.

He also said MetMalaysia collaborates with the National Disaster Management Agency to conduct cloud seeding operations to enhance rainfall distribution if needed, and any information would be communicated from time to time.  
- Bernama

THE SUN

Tarikh:.....26 MAR 2024