

PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 27 JUN 2024 (KHAMIS)

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July 16 deadline for owners to object rate increase

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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KLANG residents can still submit their objections on the proposed assessment rate hike to the Klang Royal City Council (MBDK) until July 16.

Mayor Datin Paduka Noraini Roslan said MBDK encouraged residents to relay their views which can be submitted at MBDK's Auditorium Raja Ismail from Monday to Friday between 9am to 4.30pm or by emailing jpph@mbdk.gov.my.

She said the new assessment

rate hike would not exceed 25%.

"MBDK's last assessment review was conducted in 1993. The cost of providing basic services like cutting grass, cleaning drains and collecting domestic waste has increased three-fold," she said after the MBDK full board meeting.

Noraini said from May 30 until yesterday, MBDK received 692 objections from property owners about the new assessment rate hike, which takes effect in January 2025.

Currently, there are 268,445 property owners in Klang city,

she added.

MBDK had also sent out notices on the new rates to property owners earlier this month.

"Once the time frame for objections are closed, we will hold a hearing session in August," she added.

Zone N49B councillor Saribanon Saibon said people agreed that an assessment hike was due after three decades, but wanted efficient and quality services from the city council.

"I urge residents who want to give constructive feedback on the assessment hike to write their

objections and suggestions in a form that can be obtained from the city council," she said.

Zone N48C councillor

Nyaneswaran Subramaniam said if residents did not agree with the assessment rate hike, they must make the effort to voice out their views.

"Most residents in the Sentosa constituency are agreeable to a reasonable assessment rate hike but they want improved flash flood mitigation and drainage network as well cleanliness before the rate hike is implemented," he added.



Noraini: MBDK received 692 objections about the new assessment rate hike.

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Tarikh:.....

Better rules to boost city's businesses, create jobs

By AIDA AHMAD

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PETALING Jaya City Council (MBPJ) engaged with entrepreneurs to create new business activity guidelines and update existing ones with the aim of driving economic growth.

This is in line with Bank Negara's growth projection, this year, for the services and manufacturing sectors to expand by 5.5% and 3.5%, respectively.

During an engagement session with entrepreneurs at a hotel in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, participants discussed seven new business activity guidelines as well as regulations.

Among the new guidelines that MBPJ has been updating are for commercial activities including go-karting, golf simulator, pet hotels and pet groomers.

The legalising of businesses in Kampung Chempaka, Petaling Jaya Old Town and Taman Medan were also discussed.

Petaling Jaya mayor Mohamad Zahri Samingon said previously, there had been no proper guidelines.

"Before Ramadan this year, we conducted a workshop in Penang to involve industry players and hear their opinions of improvements needed when drafting guidelines," he said.

Mohamad Zahri said these regulations aimed to control business activities and

ensure residents' well-being.

He envisioned that this would open up job opportunities.

The new guidelines, he said, would be launched soon.

MBPJ Licensing, Business Development and Entrepreneur Department director Sharinaz Samsudin said it was important to monitor pet hotels and groomers.

"Presently, such businesses are operating based on our 2012 guidelines.

"Through engagement with stakeholders, we can take out certain parts and add new ones to the guidelines," she said.

She said pet hotels and grooming services were among new business activities gaining public demand.

MBPJ had also garnered views from the Veterinary Services Department to effectively regulate these businesses.

The city council also referred to external sources such as the Illinois Professional Pet Groomers Association that sets pet grooming business prerequisites, including safe business operations, emergency plans and a high level of animal care.

New guidelines regarding safety will be drawn up for go-kart businesses too.

To draft these regulations, MBPJ will work with the Youth and Sports Ministry as well as the Motorsport Association of Malaysia.

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Tarikh:.....

Selayang residents to get their say on assessment rate hike

By LEW GUAN XI
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SELAYANG Municipal Council (MPS) will hear objections raised by Selayang residents regarding the assessment rate hike starting July 1.

MPS president Shahman Jalaludin said the hearing session would run until Aug 30.

There were 44,029 property owners in Selayang who objected before May 31.

He said MPS had sent the invitations to these homeowners on June 25, and advised them to check their emails and SMS regularly so as not to miss the session.

"They can also check the MPS portal for the scheduled date and location of the hearing," he said during the MPS full board meeting yesterday.

Shahman added that the objections would be heard by



Shahman: 44,029 property owners in Selayang had filed their objections regarding the assessment rate hike.

a panel comprising MPS deputy president Adi Faizal Ahmad Tarmizi, three councillors, relevant department

directors and himself.

"The results from the hearing session will be forwarded to the state government in September to make the final decision.

"We expect at least 50% of the objectors to attend the session," he said.

Objectors are required to bring their invitation letters, copies of their latest assessment bills and MyKad for the session, while representatives of the objectors will need to show their authorisation letters.

Shahman said as of May 31, MPS had collected RM54.11mil in assessment, which was equivalent to 92.49% of the expected RM58.5mil.

He said RM5.25mil in assessment arrears were also collected, which was equivalent to 49.13% of the total RM10.68mil in arrears.

"The council will continue to step up its promotional efforts

through various channels to smoothen the tax paying procedures," he added.

He also said 25,598 and 18,796 seizure warrants were processed and issued respectively, as of May 31.

As of April 15, he said owners with more than RM200 in assessment arrears would be issued a seizure warrant of RM100.

Meanwhile, the MPS Local Investigation and Hearing Committee will hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss the outcome of the Publicity and Public Objection Programme held in conjunction with the MPS Draft Local Plan (Replacement) 2030.

Adi Faizal said the programme, held from Jan 8 to Feb 23, had heard views from various stakeholders.

"We aim to harmonise the development rate of all the

zones under MPS' jurisdiction through the draft plan.

"All the outcomes of the meeting will be forwarded to the State Planning Committee for further improvement of the draft plan," he said.

On a separate matter, Shahman said MPS had generated RM568,111 in revenue in May through business licence payments, stall rentals, building permits, and compounds, to name a few.

"A total of 1,524 online transactions were made through the MyMPS portal in May," he said.

"The numbers here do not include physical transactions made at MPS counters.

"MPS has also upgraded the portal to make it a one-stop-centre for all services and transactions as part of our digitalisation efforts," Shahman added.

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Errant street vendors will lose licences

DBKL warns of clampdown on traders blocking walkways

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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STREET vendors operating on pedestrian walkways in Jalan Sepadu, Taman United, Kuala Lumpur will have their licences revoked for violating licensing conditions.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) said investigations found that five static traders were operating on the walkway and causing traffic congestion.

"Investigations on June 5 found that two traders had premises licences, two did not have licences and one was operating on a limited time licence.

"During the operation, they were issued three compound notices under Section 46(1) of

the Street, Drainage and Buildings Act 1974 for leaving items in public places and two notices under Licensing of Hawkers (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) By-law 2016 for operating without a valid licence," DBKL said in a statement.

It added that one trader had cleared the structures during a follow up enforcement on June 21.

In Brickfields, DBKL said five traders operating on pedestrian walkways along Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad would be relocated to more suitable locations or hawker centres.

"These traders have valid licences under the KL Madani licence programme and licence for static roadside stalls to



A stall operating with a restaurant licence and taking up a sizeable portion of the walkway along Jalan Sepadu in Kuala Lumpur. — Filepic

conduct business.

"Two foreign traders had their items confiscated during an operation in the area in April this year."

DBKL issued six compound notices under the same Act as well as Section 20(1) of the Licensing of Hawkers by-law for exceeding the maximum size of the stall.

This follows a series of reports by *StarMetro*.

The reports highlighted Kuala Lumpur residents' call for a ban on roadside traders operating on pedestrian walk-

ways, especially those with tactile blocks meant to guide the visually impaired.

In an immediate response, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said DBKL would carry out enforcement and relocate traders strategically to ensure pedestrian pathways remain accessible and safe for all.

In the "KL walkways to be free of traders" report, she said that there had been an increase in street vendors because of the Free Trade Zone initiative

introduced by a former minister after the Covid-19 pandemic.

DBKL guidelines generally do not allow hawkers to operate on pedestrian walkways, unless there are no obstructions.

However, hundreds of licensed roadside hawkers have been operating on pedestrian walkways with tactile blocks in Kuala Lumpur.

Tactile blocks are textured paving surfaces featuring a series of bumps that are designed to help visually impaired pedestrians.

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SS22 water woes to end soon

Some 290 homes to benefit as project to replace 30-year-old pipes underway in PJ

By JOSHUA YAP
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RESIDENTS of Section 22 in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, can expect to see the end of constant water supply disruptions, thanks to new water pipes.

A project to replace old pipes has been announced by the Kampung Tunku assemblyman's office.

Having begun on May 29, it is expected to be completed in January next year.

Prior to this, Section 22 residents had to put up with frequent water disruptions and late restoration of water services.

Carried out by Air Selangor, Golden Admiral and Straits Consulting Engineers, the project will see pipes which are more than 30 years old being replaced.

Authorities are confident that this will be a long-term solution as water pipe replacements done in Section 14 had reduced water disruptions there.

"We hope that this project can help solve water supply issues faced by residents," said Kampung Tunku assemblyman Lim Yi Wei.

"We also expect water supply to be more stable in neighbouring areas like Section 20 and 21 with the installation of a new valve system."

The project involves the excavation of old asbestos cement pipes which will be replaced with newer ductile iron pipes.

To minimise inconvenience to residents, excavated areas will be backfilled with sand and temporarily resurfaced within 24 hours.

At the end of the project, affected roads are to be permanently resurfaced.



(From left) Air Selangor technical manager Mohd Khairul Faizi Mustafa, Air Selangor's Petaling region head Anwar Ahmadi, Lim and MBPJ Zone 19 councillor Nalina Nair listening to a contractor explaining the pipe replacement process. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

Residents will be notified by mail prior to any excavation work being carried out in front of their houses.

Roads which are involved include Jalan 22/49, Lorong 22/49a, Jalan 22/32, Jalan 22/51, Jalan 22/47, Jalan 22/34, Jalan 22/34a, Jalan 22/45, Jalan 22/57, Jalan 22/38, Jalan 22/36, Jalan 22/42, Jalan 22/55, Jalan 22/53, Jalan 22/28, Jalan 22/40, and Lorong 22/42a.

Some 290 homes are expected to benefit from the project.

Lim also added that the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) would analyse data obtained from Air Selangor to identify areas suffering from frequent pipe bursts and water disruptions.

Based on this data, the city council will determine future pipe replacement projects.

"We hope this project can help solve water supply issues."

Lim Yi Wei

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Link:.....

Don't feed the rat infestation

Expert: Massive food waste contributing to population of pests

PETALING JAYA: The main contributing factor to rat breeding is abundant food waste, a public health expert has pointed out.

Prof Datuk Dr Lokman Hakim Sulaiman, an epidemiologist, said no city in the world was free from rats including in developed countries.

However, he said Tokyo, New York, London and Singapore practised very good food waste management and rats were hardly seen on the surface.

"The rats have to scavenge for food in underground sewage systems over there. Here, while we also have underground sewage systems, there is also an abundance of food on the surface."

"So we have to holistically address the food waste issue if we are serious about addressing the population of rats," he said in response to cases of leptospirosis recorded in Melaka and Kedah recently after people visited parks.

On how contamination could take place at outdoor parks, Dr Lokman said besides rodents, many wild animals might also carry *Leptospira*, which could contaminate waterways.

These include dogs, cattle, sheep, pigs and horses, but the most important one associated with human infection is the brown rat (*rattus norvegicus*), he said.

While there is a dilution factor when the animals urinate, an individual might be unlucky to be "at the wrong place at the wrong time" and be exposed to higher concentrations of it in the water, he added.

"The risk of contamination increases with increase of reservoir hosts. In the context of rats, abundance of food leads to an increase in their population which in turn increases the risk of contamination and infection."

"If you have a cut or abrasion, the risk of infection is higher and leptospirosis can be very danger-

Leptospirosis

- A rare, severe and contagious bacterial infection caused by several species of the genus *Leptospira*, a spiral-shaped microorganism (spirochete).

- It is caused by exposure to the bacteria, which can be found in fresh water contaminated by animal urine. It occurs in warm climates.

Risk factors

Occupational exposure – farmers, ranchers, abattoir workers, trappers, veterinarians, loggers, sewer workers, rice field workers and military personnel.

Recreational activities – fresh water swimming, canoeing, kayaking and trail biking in warm areas.

Household exposure – pet dogs, domesticated livestock, rainwater catchment systems and infestation by infected rodents.

Contaminated by animal urine

Signs and symptoms

Symptoms

- Incubation period of two to 26 days (average 10 days)
- Abrupt onset of fever, rigors, myalgias, and headache in 75 to 100% of patients
- Dry cough (25-35% of cases)
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (50% of cases)
- Joint aches, bone pain, sore throat, and abdominal pain
- Conjunctivitis



Signs and tests

- White blood cell (WBC) counts are generally less than 10,000.
- Urinalysis frequently is abnormal.
- Elevated creatine kinase found in 50% of patients.
- About 40% of patients have minimal to moderate elevations of liver enzymes.
- Diagnosis is made by serologic (antibody) testing.
- Leptospira* can be grown from blood, urine and CSF.
- Isolation of the organism from the blood is successful in 50% of cases.
- Urine cultures become positive during the second week of the illness and remain positive up to 30 days.

Complications

- Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction when penicillin is given
- Meningitis
- Severe bleeding
- Respiratory distress
- Liver failure
- Renal failure

Treatment

- Penicillins
- Tetracyclines
- Doxycycline
- Chloramphenicol
- Erythromycin

Prevention

Avoid areas of stagnant water, especially in tropical climates. If you are exposed to a high risk area, taking doxycycline may decrease your risk of developing disease.

The Stargraphics

ous. Although most infections are mild, a small proportion of patients can develop severe infections with organ failure and death," he added.

Public Health physician Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said prevention was crucial and one should opt for recreational areas that are well maintained and with no slow-moving streams.

"Do not get into the stream if you are already unwell or have

skin cuts or injuries. Make sure you get treated after visiting such places as a precautionary measure."

"As for operators, they must keep premises and surrounding areas clean and free from rats as well as other pests."

There should be monitoring of staff members and visitors with leptospirosis symptoms or signs, he added.

In Kedah, a total of 105 leptospi-

rosis cases were recorded from January to June 8, with one fatality. A recreational area was temporarily closed after two visitors were suspected of contracting leptospirosis and treated in the intensive care unit of a hospital in the state.

It was also reported that 33 people from a school in Jasin, Melaka, were suspected of being infected by rat urine after visiting a pool earlier this month.

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The unseen threat of rat infestation

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PETALING JAYA: The quick decision to visit the health clinic saved student Muhammad Akhbar Shah Ayub Khan's life after experiencing fever, diarrhoea and extreme body aches.

The 22-year-old from Ulu Kelang, Ampang, however, did not anticipate that he would end up in the hospital due to leptospirosis, an illness caused by an infection with the bacteria *Leptospira*.

"I actually thought I had dengue because of the symptoms; my body was aching too much. The decision to go to the clinic really saved me because they did a blood test and found my white blood cell count to be low.

"They arranged for an ambulance to take me to Hospital Ampang because I was already weak. After a thorough blood test, they discovered I had contracted leptospirosis.

"I was warded and the hospital immediately administered anti-

otics, and after several days I managed to get better," he said.

Asked how he could have come into contact with the bacteria, Akhbar said rats could have urinated on the shoes that he wore.

He said there are issues with rats in the drains around his housing area, and despite attempts to get rid of the rodents, there's always a few lurking around.

"These rats are smart; they know how to avoid traps and rat poison. We try our best to ward them off, but one or two still roam around the porch.

"Usually, if I see one, I try to catch or kill it. They come out mostly at night, and it is a real problem because we need to find their hiding places to eradicate them.

"The rat urinated on my shoes, probably because it was the only thing that was outside on the porch. Every now and then, you see one or two quickly dashing back into the drains," he said.

He said the local council should carry out more efforts to eradicate the population of rats in housing areas.

Retiree David Chetty from Melaka, 80, was devastated after his pet dogs (a Pomeranian and a mongrel) suddenly became seriously ill.

While one managed to survive the ordeal, the other succumbed to its illness after enduring weakness, vomiting, hair loss and diarrhoea.

"I keep my house clean inside and out. The dogs eat from their bowls only. So, I am surprised both of them fell ill and eventually one perished.

"I believe it might have been rats, as they have a habit of urinating on the dogs' food bowls. I no longer leave the bowls on the floor anymore.

"I am on a mission to catch these pesky rodents. They are a menace to society," he said.

David had set traps and placed

rat poison to catch the rats in the housing area.

He hopes that by doing so, residents in the neighbourhood as well as pets can be saved from getting leptospirosis.

David also urged his neighbours, who feed stray cats, to clean up after them.

"I think the onus is on the residents to keep the housing area clean because we don't want to promote or create an environment for rats to come," he said.

In curbing the population of rats in the city, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has caught 26,232 rats from Jan 24 until June 24.

Some of the contributing factors to the presence of rats include food waste and illegal dumping grounds, which become the source of food and dirty premises, DBKL said.

"Public members must be wise and eat only on clean premises that do not face rodent problems," it added.

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'Step up the fight against illegal dumping'

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By GERARD GIMINO
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PETALING JAYA: Those found importing illegal electronic waste (ewaste) into the country should face severe repercussions including being blacklisted, says an environmental activist.

Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) chief executive S. Mageswari urged the authorities to take stern action against those flouting the law.

"While tracking importers and exporters of illegal ewaste can be challenging due to transshipment, once identified, authorities must act decisively against the consignee or carriers.

"This means legal action and blacklisting of the companies and their directors," she urged.

At present, under Section 34B of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Act 127), violators face up to RM500,000 in fines, five years in jail, or both.

This will increase to a maximum of RM10mil and a mandatory jail term of up to five years once the Environmental Quality (Amendment) Bill 2023 comes into effect on July 7.

Mageswari, an honorary secretary at Sahabat Alam Malaysia, added that civil society groups have long campaigned to halt the trade in such materials and urge countries to manage their own ewaste.

"Developed countries often choose to offload their waste onto developing and under-resourced nations, disregarding their recycling, disposal or waste management capacities and the resulting harm to the ecosystem," she said.

She also urged enforcement agencies to look into possible corruption along the supply chain.

Environment and waste management specialist Dr Theng Lee Chong agreed, adding that stringent enforcement was the only solution.

"Importation procedures also need improvement to tighten the clearance pathway," he said.

Ecotourism and Conservation Society Malaysia president and chief executive officer Andrew Sebastian said it is unfortunate that Malaysia is still seen or used as a hub for ewaste imports.

He said both the public and private sectors have to play their part to counter the menace.

"Ewaste ... releases deadly toxins into water and air if badly managed."

Andrew said the relevant ministries should look into updating the Environmental Quality Act 1974, and proposed whistleblower incentives for those who expose those bringing in such ewaste.

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New rules for ewaste disposal in the works

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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KLANG: A new guideline or mechanism for the disposal of solar panels and electric vehicle (EV) batteries is currently being developed, says Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

The Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister said that this is due to concerns about the disposal methods of the materials, which could endanger the environment.

"Previously, there were only a few users of solar panels and EVs, but now they have become more popular, with public usage increasing.

"We are currently discussing a guideline or perhaps a mechanism for the disposal of these materials to prevent any environmental issues," he said during a briefing with editors here yesterday.

According to Nik Nazmi, there are 175 licensed facilities in the country to process electronic

waste (ewaste) from local sources.

He said that authorities are also grappling with illegal ewaste smuggling into the country.

The minister, during a working visit to Westport earlier, said at least 106 containers filled with ewaste were found at the nation's ports, following the seizure of 301 containers suspected of containing such waste by the Customs Department from March 21 to June 19.

Nik Nazmi added that syndi-

cates have targeted Malaysia, along with other South-East Asian countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, for ewaste dumping following China's end to solid waste import.

Following this, the minister pledged to improve cross-agency and ministry cooperation, including with the Customs Department and the police, to ensure that Malaysia does not end up as a dumping ground of ewaste smuggling from other developed countries.

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More trash from abroad

Nik Nazmi: 301 containers of ewaste seized in last three months

By BENJAMIN LEE
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KLANG: Authorities have identified 106 containers with hazardous electronic waste (ewaste) at the nation's ports over the past three months, with nearly 200 more containers suspected to hold similar cargo.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad announced that from March 21 to June 19, the Customs Department seized a staggering 301 containers believed to contain illegal ewaste.

Of these, he said 106 containers were found "filled to the brim" with ewaste and scrap metal – primarily from developed countries such as the United States.

According to the World Health Organisation, ewaste contains chemicals, including lead and mercury, which are harmful to human and ecological health.

"Many officials in these countries wrongly believe their ewaste is being ethically processed through eco-friendly means, not realising their waste is being shipped to developing nations for processing.

"These containers are then falsely declared under different categories," he said during a visit to Westport yesterday.

Multiple ministries launched a joint operation in response, leading to arrests and inspections, according to Nik Nazmi.

"Cases involving ewaste are



Toxic threat:

Of the containers seized, 106 were found filled to the brim with ewaste and scrap metal – primarily from developed countries.
– KK SHAM/
The Star

being investigated under Section 34B of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 (Act 127), with those caught illegally dumping scheduled waste in our lands or waters facing up to RM500,000 in fines, five years in jail, or both.

"The recently passed Environmental Quality (Amendment) Bill 2023, effective July-7, will hike penalties to a minimum of RM5,000 and a maximum of RM10mil, with a mandatory jail term of up to five years," said the minister.

He stated that the Customs Department was investigating the 195 remaining containers under Section 135 (1a) of the Customs

Act 1967 for importing prohibited items, suspecting them of containing scrap metal and possibly ewaste.

Nik Nazmi acknowledged concerns over current enforcement measures and plans to raise the issue with the Cabinet.

He also said the authorities needed to find ways to improve enforcement.

"The ministry understands the need for a unified joint effort from both the federal and state levels to overcome this problem.

"In the meantime, the ministry will continue to strengthen monitoring and enforcement against the importation of ewaste used by

the recycling industry," he said, pledging stern action against violators to prevent Malaysia from becoming a hazardous waste dumping ground.

It was reported on May 3 that the Selangor Environment Department had intercepted 18 containers filled with ewaste at Westport, along with 11 other containers with plastic waste and other scrap materials.



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Growth must benefit the rakyat

Star
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THE Institute of Strategic Analysis and Policy Research (Insap) extends congratulations to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the Malaysian government for successfully hosting Chinese Premier Li Qiang, officially marking the 50th anniversary of Malaysia-China relations.

Kudos to the administration for facilitating the signing of 14 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between the two nations. The MOUs could potentially bring in a total investment of RM13.2bil, contingent upon realisation. This milestone underscores the importance of the multilateral trade system and mutual interdependence, particularly with the Red Dragon of Asia.

Insap continues to value the strong bilateral relationship established between our two nations over the past few decades. While this diplomatic landmark highlights the strategic importance of our China relations, we should acknowledge that many Malaysians are not as enthusiastic about the achievements recorded during Premier Li's three-day visit. This is not due to the insignificance of China but rather because the Malaysian people are currently experiencing challenging times domestically.

The essence is that despite these promising headlines from



People's concerns: While news of increasing investment numbers is encouraging, ordinary people are still struggling with escalating prices of essential items. — ZAZALI MUSA/The Star

all the agreements, many ordinary Malaysians continue to face significant challenges and would argue that these rosy figures often translate poorly into mitigating everyday economic challenges. These challenges reflect primarily in the rising cost of living whereby costs of essentials from food to healthcare have soared at worrying rates.

Evidence from the ground supports this reality: the UCSI Poll Research Centre highlighted earlier this year that close to 90% of Malaysians are deeply troubled by the current uptrend in living

costs. The purchasing power of Malaysians has also further eroded due to the rationalisation of fuel subsidies, expansion of tax structures, and surges in utility tariffs.

While Insap acknowledges the necessity to alleviate fiscal pressure and stimulate economic growth, current policies often seem to prioritise enhancing economic indicators over the rakyat's wellbeing. The administration's approach to economic growth appears to be one-size-fits-all rather than a phased and targeted implementation that would allow

the rakyat some breathing space.

For instance, a comprehensive tax system like GST (goods and services tax) based on consumption could have been reimplemented rather than introducing new taxes and increasing existing tax rates to plug SST (sales and services tax) shortcomings. Ultimately, the approach to stimulating the economy should focus not only on presenting favourable statistics but also on ensuring that the rakyat, the backbone of these numbers, truly benefit.

Is the administration taking all of this on board, or will optimistic projections and reassuring rhetoric continue to obscure the harsh reality of a nation lagging behind, especially for our younger generation?

International benchmarks underscore Insap's worries. Our Pisa (Programme for International Student Assessment) scores have seen a significant decline, the steepest in Asean, now placing us below the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) average in three key domains: Mathematics, Science, and Reading Literacy.

Meanwhile, the Madani economic framework's ambition to enhance Malaysia's global competitiveness seems increasingly elusive, as reflected in a seven-

spot drop in this year's IMD (International Institute for Management Development) rankings, falling behind Indonesia and Thailand for the first time.

Insap believes the administration must start to strengthen domestic economic resilience. This is essential before looking across borders so we can provide a stable foundation for international partnerships and foreign investment. This would positively impact the rakyat's lives rather than just produce good statistics.

A strong domestic economy begins by addressing the immediate economic challenges Malaysians face, with targeted and well thought-out policies.

Without this focus, the full potential of international agreements and investments will not be realised. Ensuring that economic growth translates into tangible benefits for all Malaysians is key to fostering both domestic and international economic success.

DATUK DR PAMELA YONG
Chairman
Institute of Strategic Analysis
and Policy Research (Insap)

Established in 1986, Insap is one of the pioneer think tanks in Malaysia, and focuses on political-economic research.

THE STAR

27 JUN 2024

Tarikh:.....

Combating climate change by reducing food waste

THE Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation in Malaysia reports that 24% of the 17,000 tonnes of food waste produced every day in the country is still edible. Approximately 1.3 billion tonnes of fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, seafood, and grains are discarded globally, accounting for roughly one-third of all food produced.

Wasting food wastes natural resources such as fuel and water used in its production. Water is necessary for all food types and at every stage of food production. Seventy percent of the water on Earth is used in agriculture for irrigation, crop spraying, and the rearing of fish and cattle. Thus, throwing away food also means throwing away a significant

amount of freshwater.

Food waste is a big factor in global warming. Food waste decomposes in landfills, emitting methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Methane traps solar heat for a period of 12 years and accounts for 20% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

The impact on climate change is also significant when taking into account emissions from the use of natural resources – fuel and water – in the production of food.

By putting in place efficient systems for treating food waste, greenhouse gas emissions worldwide could be cut by 11%. Eliminating food waste in fact has the potential to reduce CO₂ emis-

sions by 17 tonnes.

The land that is used to grow food and the land that is used to dispose of food waste is adversely affected by our careless use of food products. More than 11.5 million hectares of land globally are dedicated to agriculture, encompassing both arable and non-arable areas. Livestock farming occupies 900 million hectares of non-arable land for dairy and meat production.

With increasing meat consumption, additional arable land is converted into pastures, posing environmental harm and impeding the growth of indigenous plants. Moreover, agriculture negatively impacts biodiversity, as techniques such as mono-cropping and conversion of natural

habitats into pastures and farmland become more prevalent due to the rising demand for livestock products.

Considering the small size of this nation, it is clear that every Malaysian contributes to waste. To tackle climate change, a waste-free lifestyle must give way to one that produces zero waste. Food waste must be addressed because doing so can significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions, preserve resources, and promote a more resilient and sustainable food system.

DR RULIA AKHTAR
Research Fellow
Ungku Aziz Centre for
Development Studies
Universiti Malaya



Photo: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

THE STAR

27 JUN 2024

Tarikh:.....

DESPITE the best efforts of the National Scam Response Centre (NSRC), scams continue to increase, severely impacting the financial, psychological, and social wellbeing of consumers. In 2023 alone, according to the NSRC, overall losses due to scams totalled RM1.34bil.

It is thus vital that scam awareness and education programmes are strengthened and made more effective. A one-size-fits-all strategy may not be effective. This is because differing demographics may be exposed to different forms of scams.

For example, youths may be more exposed to job scams. Young working adults may be targeted by cryptocurrency scams. Mature adults with savings may

Improving anti-scam measures

Star
27/6

attract investment scams.

Thus, to ensure each group is effectively reached and educated, the right messaging, using the right medium, must be used. For the younger group, TikTok or YouTube may be appropriate. For others, printed posters and brochures may work, while older people not comfortable with social media and the Internet might be best reached through face-to-face talks.

The awareness programmes should not just deliver knowledge but also help consumers identify when a scam is being executed and, most importantly, help them

change their behaviour to protect themselves.

Consumers must be exposed to the multiple strategies scammers use, such as eliciting fear by impersonating a police officer, income tax officer, or anti-corruption officer. Scams also usually involve urgency – for example, getting arrested, being charged with money laundering, or facing major financial loss if the target does not act on the scammer's instructions immediately. An offer of high returns only if the target acts quickly is another strategy.

The NSRC must coordinate the

efforts of all the regulatory agencies – the police, Bank Negara Malaysia, telcos, the Securities Commission, etc – so once a scam is reported reaction is rapid and efficient to ensure the maximum possibility of full recovery of monies lost.

The NSRC should also explore new players to work with to minimise scams, such as online sales and social media platforms, both of which play major roles in the scam process.

Currently, when a consumer is scammed, he/she usually bears the full brunt of losses. In Singapore and in many other

jurisdictions, regulators first examine if the bank had undertaken the fullest responsibility to protect consumers, then the telco involved is examined for its part in the process, and only then is the consumer affected. This is the concept of shared responsibility.

The NSRC should work towards shared responsibility among all the players to ensure that the best efforts were made to prevent or at least minimise the consumers' losses.

This, in our view, is only fair and just to the consumer.

DR PAUL SELVA RAJ
Deputy president
Federation of Malaysian
Consumers Associations
(Fomca)

THE STAR

27 JUN 2024

Tarikh:.....

Prices likely to nudge up in second half-year

Inflation rises on domestic demand, targeted subsidy

ECONOMY

PETALING JAYA: Economists are forecasting inflation to be on the uptick for the second half of 2024 (2H24), underpinned by steady domestic demand and the government's progress in the implementation of its targeted subsidy mechanisms.

Headline inflation had inched up to 2% year-on-year (y-o-y) in May, although core inflation was kept at 1.9%, as CGS International Research (CGSI Research) observed that the rise of prices in May was mainly attributed to higher growth in housing and utility costs at 3.2%, propelled by an increase in housing rentals and water supply prices.

"The increase in water expenditure price was due to the lingering base effect from the tariff hike in February this year, as well as the recent rise in water tariff rates for Perak domestic users," said the research firm.

It pointed out that a rise in transport inflation, stemming primarily from a y-o-y increase in Brent crude oil prices to US\$82 a barrel last month, have also paved the way for headline inflation to edge north.

As such, CGSI Research is anticipating transport costs will continue to increase in the near term following the government's diesel retail price revision earlier this month.

On the three sen reduction in price for Grades A, B and C chicken eggs, the research unit believes the impact will be minor as

"The diesel price hike could potentially add 10 basis points for both 2024 and 2025 CPI annual growth."

CGS International Research

eggs constitute only around 0.4% of the overall consumer price index (CPI) weight.

"The price reduction is timely as it offers a slight buffer against the increase in diesel prices. The diesel price hike could potentially add 10 basis points for both 2024 and 2025 CPI annual growth," it added.

Looking ahead, it believes inflationary pressures will slowly build up towards the latter part of the year with the potential implementation of the subsidy re-targeting for RON95 fuel, anticipated to take place in 2H24, which will likely have a major impact on consumers and businesses.

On top of that, the potential implementation of the high-value goods tax that may be tabled in the current Parliament session, as well as a review of electricity tariffs in 2H24, also led CGSI Research to believe CPI growth on a y-o-y basis may have bottomed out.

UOB Global Economics & Markets Research concurred with the prediction of higher prices, moving forward, pointing

out in its report that in May, there were 57.8% or 331 out of 573 items that recorded price increases.

"Out of these, 320 items registered a price hike of less than or equal to 10%, while a total of 136 items showed a price decline," it said.

It said the annual growth in May's CPI was mainly lifted by costlier non-food items and services, as non-food price inflation jumped to a 15-month high of 2.9% from 1.7% in April, while services inflation hit a seven-month high of 2.3%.

The research outfit noted that services inflation was also higher than its 2016-2023 long-term average level of 2.2%, and averaged 2.1% in the first five months of 2024.

Both UOB Global Economics & Markets Research as well as CGSI Research have pinned Malaysia's forecast inflation rate for the whole of 2024 at 2.6%, while also projecting that with prices expected to go up, Bank Negara would keep the overnight policy rate unchanged.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

SH 29/6 (DBKL)

Task force pengurusan pokok berisiko Kuala Lumpur ditubuhkan

KUALA LUMPUR - Pasukan petugas pengurusan pokok berisiko di Kuala Lumpur telah ditubuhkan susulan insiden pokok tumbang di Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur Mei lalu.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, mesyuarat jawatan kuasa itu yang pertama telah diadakan pada Selasa menandakan penubuhannya secara rasmi.

Menurutnya, pasukan berkenaan diwujudkan bertujuan menghimpunkan aspek penyelidikan, pengetahuan, aplikasi teknologi dan kepakaran dalam bidang pengurusan pokok teduhan di bandar raya Kuala Lumpur.

"Selain DBKL selaku peneraju, mesyuarat turut melibatkan beberapa kluster keanggotaan termasuk para akademik dari pada Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM) dan Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM).

Laporan
Sinar Harian
berhubung isu
pokok tumbang di
Kuala Lumpur.



"Badan profesional seperti Persatuan Arboris Malaysia dan beberapa agensi Kerajaan termasuk Jabatan Wilayah Persekutuan, Jabatan Landskap Negara, Polis Diraja Malaysia, Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia serta Jabatan Pertahanan Awam Kuala Lumpur turut dilibatkan.

"Keanggotaan juga akan turut diperluaskan kepada beberapa badan bukan kerajaan (NGO) aktivis alam sekitar," katanya menerusi kenyataan pada Rabu.

Katanya, perkongsian ilmu dan maklumat dari keanggotaan tersebut diharapkan dapat menghasilkan satu garis panduan lebih komprehensif serta mengambil amalan terbaik dari negara-negara lain dalam penyelenggaraan dan pengurusan pokok teduhan di ibu negara.

Tambah beliau lagi, pasukan tersebut juga perlu meneliti pelan penggantian pokok dengan memberi fokus kepada Program Penanaman Satu Juta Pokok di Kuala Lumpur serta perhatian kepada faktor seperti spesies pokok, ruang penanaman dan kedalaman akar.



SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:2...7...JUN...2024..

Teliti rasionalisasi subsidi RON95

Penyasaran semula subsidi oleh kerajaan akan dipulangkan kepada rakyat melalui pelaksanaan program, projek

KUALA LUMPUR

8th 27/6

Kerajaan sedang meneliti keperluan rasionalisasi subsidi ke atas petrol RON95.

Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli bagaimanapun berkata, buat masa ini, tumpuan dan keutamaan akan diberikan kepada penyasaran subsidi diesel menjadi stabil.

Menurutnya, kerajaan telah melaksanakan pemberian subsidi diesel secara besar-besaran bermula 10 Jun lalu yang dijangka dapat memberikan penjimatan RM4 bilion setahun, sekali gus mencapai objektif yang ditetapkan antaranya untuk memperkukuh kemapanan fiskal negara serta mengurangkan ketirisan dalam pengagihan subsidi diesel.

"Sekiranya rasionalisasi subsidi ke atas petrol RON95 dilaksanakan pada masa akan datang, kerajaan akan mengambil langkah yang bersesuaian bagi memastikan golongan yang terkesan akan diberikan bantuan yang sewajarnya.

"Di samping itu, pelaksanaan inisiatif ini juga akan membantu kerajaan memperkukuhkan kedudukan fiskal dan mengoptimalkan sumber yang ada.

"Penjimatan daripada inisiatif penyasaran semula subsidi akan dipulangkan kepada rakyat melalui pelaksanaan pro-

gram, projek yang lebih memberi manfaat dan benar-benar diperlukan oleh rakyat seperti penambahbaikan dalam penyediaan perkhidmatan sosial serta kemudahan awam termasuk kesihatan, pendidikan, pengangkutan dan keselamatan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab pertanyaan lisan Datuk Seri Richard Riot Jaem (GPS-Serian) sama ada langkah pengurangan subsidi petrol (Rasionalisasi Subsidi Petrol) memberi impak positif kepada rakyat.

Tambah Rafizi, penyasaran semula subsidi merupakan satu anjakan besar dalam Kajian Separuh Penggal Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12.

Katanya, inisiatif ini penting dalam usaha memperkukuh kemapanan fiskal dan



RAFIZI

memastikan hanya kumpulan sasaran yang benar-benar layak sahaja menerima bantuan dan subsidi seterusnya mengurangkan *inclusion and exclusion error*.

"Sejak 2016, kerajaan telah menyediakan peruntukan subsidi dan bantuan sosial secara purata sebanyak RM23 bilion setahun. Jumlah ini telah melonjak kepada RM67.3 bilion pada tahun 2022 disebabkan oleh kenaikan harga komoditi minyak mentah dan minyak sawit.

"Memandangkan subsidi bahan api merupakan komponen kedua terbesar yang meliputi 12.3 peratus daripada keseluruhan perbelanjaan mengurus pada tahun 2023, terdapat keperluan untuk melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api," jelasnya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Ringgit dijangka lebih mengukuh berbanding Dolar AS suku akhir 2024

KUALA LUMPUR - Ringgit dijangka lebih mengukuh berbanding Dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) pada suku akhir 2024.

Timbalan Menteri Kewangan, Lim Hui Ying berkata, ini memandangkan prestasi ringgit di landasan tepat dalam mencapai prestasi itu berbanding beberapa bulan lepas dengan mengambil kira prestasi ekonomi serta pelaburan diraih negara.

Pada Februari lepas, Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan menyasarkan nilai ringgit diniagakan pada paras RM4.50 berbanding Dolar AS pada akhir tahun ini, didorong oleh kedudukan ekonomi negara yang positif.

Hui Ying berkata, ringgit juga merupakan satu-satunya mata wang serantau yang mengukuh sebanyak

1.4 peratus berbanding Dolar AS sejak 26 Februari 2024.

"Sebaliknya, mata wang serantau menyaksikan (prestasi) seperti Rupee India yang menguncup -0.8 peratus, Dolar Singapura (-0.8 peratus), Renminbi China (-0.9 peratus) dan Baht Thailand (-1.8 peratus).

"Selain itu, Dolar Taiwan pula menguncup -2.4 peratus, Won Korea Selatan (-3.9 peratus), Peso Filipina (-4.9 peratus), Rupiah Indonesia (-5.1 peratus) dan Yen Jepun (-5.3 peratus)," katanya ketika menjawab pertanyaan Hassan Abdul Karim (PH-Pasir Gudang) mengenai prestasi Ringgit Malaysia berbanding Dolar AS.

Sementara itu, menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong (BN-Ayer Hitam), Hui Ying berkata, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) telah

mengambil tindakan segera mengarahkan institusi-institusi perbankan menentukan punca utama insiden gangguan perkhidmatan dalam talian yang berlaku sejak kebelakangan ini.

Menurutnya, institusi perbankan juga diminta menetapkan langkah pembetulan dan pencegahan yang sesuai bagi mengelakkan isu yang sama berulang.

"Pihak bank juga telah diarahkan untuk berkomunikasi dengan pelanggan yang terjejas termasuk menjawab segera sebarang aduan dan pertanyaan yang disebabkan oleh gangguan tersebut.

"BNM turut membuat pemantauan rapi untuk memastikan institusi perbankan yang terlibat memulihkan perkhidmatan perbankan seperti biasa secepat mungkin," tambahnya.

SINAR HARIAN

21 JUN 2024

Tarikh:



Insiden gangguan perkhidmatan dalam talian bank yang berlaku kebelakangan ini

BNM boleh selia, tindakan penalti

KUALA LUMPUR

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) boleh mengenakan tindakan penyeliaan dan penalti ke atas pelanggaran undang-undang di bawah seliaannya bagi insiden gangguan perkhidmatan dalam talian bank yang berlaku kebelakangan ini.

Ketika menegaskan perkara itu, Timbalan Menteri Kewangan, Lim Hui Ying berkata, tindakan susulan di bawah Akta Perkhidmatan Kewangan 2013 dan Akta Perkhidmatan Kewangan Islam 2013, akan bergantung kepada penilaian berkaitan punca utama serta impak gangguan yang dikemukakan oleh pihak terbit.

"Merujuk insiden gangguan perkhidmatan dalam talian (bank) yang berlaku kebelakangan ini, BNM telah mengambil tindakan segera dengan mengarahkan institusi perbankan ter-

babit menentukan punca utama gangguan dan seterusnya menetapkan langkah pembetulan serta pencegahan bersesuaian bagi mengelak isu sama berulang.

"Di samping itu, bank-bank juga telah diarahkan untuk berkomunikasi dengan pelanggan terjejas, termasuk menjawab segera sebarang aduan dan pertanyaan akibat gangguan berkenaan," katanya pada sesi soal jawab di Dewan Rakyat, pada Rabu.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong (BN-Ayer Hitam) mengenai pandangan kerajaan terhadap isu kekerapan gangguan perkhidmatan itu serta sejauh mana kesediaannya mengenakan penalti bagi insiden yang menyusahkan pengguna.

Menjelaskan selanjutnya, Hui Ying berkata, BNM turut membuat pemantauan rapi bagi memastikan institusi perbankan terbabit bertindak memulihkan perkhidmatan perbankan

secepat mungkin.

Di bawah Akta Perkhidmatan Kewangan 2013 dan Akta Perkhidmatan Kewangan Islam 2013, BNM mempunyai bidang kuasa mengenakan tindakan penyeliaan dan penguatkuasaan ke atas institusi kewangan yang tidak mematuhi mana-mana peruntukan dokumen dasar yang relevan.

Ini seperti kegagalan memastikan sistem-sistem kritikal yang menghadapi masa henti tidak dijangka yang menjejaskan akses perkhidmatan untuk pelanggan agar tidak melebihi masa henti maksimum boleh diterima.

Selain itu, menjawab soalan tambahan Ka Siong berkenaan ketidakstabilan transaksi e-pembayaran, beliau berkata pembayaran berkaitan adalah segera kecuali bagi hari perayaan dan minggu yang akan diapung sehingga hari perayaan berikutnya. - Bernama

SINAR HARIAN

27 JUN 2024
Tarikh:



Teliti rasionalisasi subsidi RON95

Hm
27/6

Keutamaan kini diberikan kepada pelaksanaan subsidi diesel

Oleh Mohammad
Khairil Ashraf Mohd
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Kuala Lumpur

Kerajaan sedang meneliti keperluan rasionalisasi subsidi dilaksanakan kepada petrol RON95 kata **Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli**.

Bagaimanapun katanya, buat masa ini tumpuan dan keutamaan akan diberikan kepada pelaksanaan subsidi diesel sehingga penya-

sarannya menjadi stabil.

"Ja sekali gus mencapai objektif ditetapkan, antaranya untuk memperku-
kuh kemampunan fiskal negara serta mengurangkan ketirisan dalam penga-
gihan subsidi diesel.

"Sekiranya rasionalisasi subsidi ke atas petrol RON95 dilaksanakan pada masa akan datang, kerajaan akan mengambil langkah yang bersesuaian bagi memastikan golongan ter-
kesan akan diberikan bantuan sewajarnya," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di Parlimen semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab pertanyaan **Datuk Seri Richard Riot Jaem (GPS-Serian)** adakah melaksanakan pengurangan subsidi petrol memberi impak positif kepada rakyat.

Mengulas lanjut, Rafizi berkata, pelaksanaan pemberian subsidi diesel secara bersasar bermula 10 Jun turut dijangka dapat memberikan penjimatan RM4 billion setahun.

Dalam pada itu katanya, pelaksanaan inisiatif penyasaran subsidi ini turut akan membantu kerajaan

memperkuhkan kedudukan fiskal dan mengoptimumkan sumber yang ada.

"Penjimatan daripada inisiatif penyasaran semula subsidi akan dipulangkan kepada rakyat melalui pelaksanaan program serta projek yang lebih memberi manfaat dan benar-benar diperlukan oleh rakyat.

"Ia seperti penambahbaikan dalam penyediaan perkhidmatan sosial serta kemudahan awam termasuk kesihatan, pendidikan, pengangkutan dan keselamatan," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
12 JUN 2024
Tarikh:

Bisnes



BNM mempunyai bidang kuasa mengenakan tindakan penyeliaan dan penguatkuasaan ke atas institusi kewangan yang tidak mematuhi mana-mana peruntukan dokumen dasar yang relevan.

Kuala Lumpur

GANGGUAN PERKHIDMATAN DALAM TALIAN

BNM BOLEH KENAKAN TINDAKAN

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) boleh mengenakan tindakan penyeliaan dan penalti ke atas pelanggaran undang-undang di bawah seliaannya bagi insiden gangguan perkhidmatan dalam talian bank yang berlaku kebelakangan ini.

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"Merujuk insiden gangguan perkhidmatan dalam talian (bank) yang berlaku kebelakangan ini, BNM telah mengambil tindakan segera dengan mengarahkan institusi perbankan terbabit menentukan punca utama gangguan dan seterusnya menetapkan langkah pembetulan serta pencegahan bersesuaian bagi mengelak

isu sama berulang.

"Di samping itu, bank-bank juga telah diarahkan untuk berkomunikasi dengan pelanggan terjejas, termasuk menjawab segera sebarang aduan dan pertanyaan akibat gangguan berkenaan," katanya pada sesi soal jawab di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab pertanyaan **Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong (BN-Ayer Hitam)** mengenai pandangan kerajaan terhadap isu kekerapan gangguan perkhidmatan itu serta sejauh mana kesediaannya mengenakan penalti bagi insiden yang

menyusahkan pengguna.

Menjelaskan selanjutnya, Lim berkata BNM turut membuat pemantauan rapi bagi memastikan institusi perbankan terbabit bertindak memulihkan perkhidmatan perbankan secepat mungkin.

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relevan.

Ini seperti kegagalan memastikan sistem-sistem kritikal yang menghadapi masa henti tidak dijangka yang menjejaskan akses perkhidmatan untuk pelanggan agar tidak melebihi masa henti maksimum boleh diterima.

Selain itu, menjawab soalan tambahan Wee berkenaan ketidakstabilan transaksi e-pembayaran, Lim berkata pembayaran berkaitan adalah segera kecuali bagi hari perayaan dan minggu yang akan diapung sehingga hari perniagaan berikutnya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Jurutera, pembantu awam disyaki terima sogokan RM700,000

IPOH – Dua penjawat awam direman tujuh hari bermula semalam bagi membantu siasatan kes menerima sogokan lebih RM700,000 sebagai dorongan untuk meluluskan projek.

Perintah tahanan reman sehingga Selasa depan terhadap jurutera daerah dan pembantu awam masing-masing berusia 49 dan 46 tahun itu dikeluarkan oleh Majistret Atifah Hazimah Wahab.

Permohonan reman itu dikemukakan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) di Mahkamah Majistret Ipoh bagi membolehkan siasatan dijalankan mengikut Seksyen 17(a) Akta SPRM 2009.

Difahamkan, kedua-dua lelaki itu ditahan antara pukul 7.45 hingga 7.50 malam ketika hadir ke Pejabat SPRM Perak untuk memberi keterangan, semalam.

Menurut sumber, sejumlah wang tunai RM348,700 dan buku



DUA lelaki dibawa ke Mahkamah Majistret Ipoh semalam bagi permohonan reman berkait kes rasuah RM700,000.

akaun terkini Amanah Saham Nasional Berhad (ASNB) berbaki RM400,000 disyaki hasil rasuah telah disita daripada jurutera berkenaan.

Sementara itu, Pengarah

SPRM Perak, Ahmad Sabri Mohamed mengesahkan penahanan kedua-dua suspek dan memaklumkan siasatan lanjut dijalankan di bawah Seksyen 17(a) Akta SPRM 2009.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Prolintas sahkan staf ditahan SPRM

Kosmo
27/6

PETALING JAYA – Projek Lintasan Kota Holdings Sdn. Bhd. (Prolintas) akan memberi kerjasama penuh kepada Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) berhubung penahanan beberapa kakitangannya.

Prolintas dalam kenyataan berkata, pihaknya menerima makluman mengenai penahanan tersebut.

"Kami komited dan bersedia untuk bekerja rapat dengan semua pihak berkuasa berkaitan bagi memastikan kerjasama penuh dalam membantu siasatan.

"Prolintas terus komited dalam mengekalkan integriti dan tadbir urus korporat pada tahap tertinggi," katanya kelmarin.

Terdahulu, lapan individu termasuk seorang pegawai tertinggi bersama dua pengurusan tertinggi syarikat konsesi lebuhraya ditahan dipercayai meminta dan menerima rasuah lebih RM1.6 bilion membabitkan pembinaan dua projek lebuhraya di Lembah Klang.

Pegawai tertinggi bergelar Datuk bersama dua pengurusan tertinggi syarikat konsesi lebuhraya tersebut direman selama empat hari sehingga

esok.

Manakala, lima lagi individu iaitu pemilik syarikat pula direman selama tiga hari sehingga hari ini.

Menurut sumber, tiga suspek daripada syarikat konsesi berkenaan membabitkan dua lelaki dan seorang wanita, manakala pemilik syarikat itu pula membabitkan lima lelaki yang kesemua berusia antara 40 tahun hingga 50-an ditahan dalam Ops Lintas antara pukul 8 hingga 11 malam Isnin lalu ketika hadir memberi keterangan di Ibu Pejabat SPRM.

"Tiga suspek yang berkhidmat di syarikat konsesi lebuhraya ini disyaki telah meminta dan menerima rasuah daripada pemilik-pemilik syarikat berkenaan sebagai balasan bagi mendapat kontrak mengambil alih kerja-kerja pembinaan yang sebelum ini dijalankan satu syarikat lain bernilai lebih RM1 bilion.

"Selain itu, mereka juga dipercayai telah meminta dan menerima rasuah membabitkan pembinaan satu seksyen projek lebuhraya lain di Lembah Klang yang bernilai lebih kurang RM670 juta.

"Keseluruhan nilai kedua-dua projek itu adalah berjumlah RM 11 bilion," katanya.



SEBAHAGIAN daripada lapan individu yang ditahan SPRM bagi membantu siasatan membabitkan rasuah dua projek lebuhraya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Cashless susahkan orang tua, pinggirkan sosial ekonomi

Oleh NURUL IZZATI ZAINI dan
NUR ALWANI ZAFIRAH KHAIRUL

PETALING JAYA – Peralihan sepenuhnya kepada sistem pembayaran tanpa tunai (cashless) akan menyebabkan peminggiran sosial dan ekonomi yang menyukarkan golongan lebih tua di luar bandar.

Golongan itu yang tinggal di kawasan akses internet yang terhad akan menyebabkan wujud peminggiran dan ketidakstabilan sosial antara kawasan bandar dan luar bandar.

Pensyarah Kanan, Jabatan Keselamatan Maklumat dan Teknologi Web, Fakulti Sains Komputer dan Teknologi Maklumat, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), Dr. Noor Zuraidin Mohd. Safar berkata, cabaran ini akan dihadapi oleh orang dewasa yang lebih tua, mereka yang mempunyai celik teknologi terhad dan orang di kawasan luar bandar tanpa akses internet.

Ujarnya, peralihan sepenuhnya kepada pembayaran tanpa tunai turut memberi kesan kepada penduduk yang tidak mempunyai akaun bank kerana mereka tidak mempunyai pilihan selain transaksi secara tunai.



URUSAN secara tunai masih digunakan secara utama di negara ini.

"Peralihan ini boleh membawa kepada peminggiran sosial dan ekonomi, menyukarkan kumpulan ini untuk menjalankan transaksi harian, membayar bil atau mengakses perkhidmatan penting.

"Wang tunai kekal diutamakan oleh generasi lama untuk kewujudan dan keselamatannya. Di

kebanyakan negara membangun dan kawasan luar bandar, wang tunai adalah dominan disebabkan oleh akses terhad kepada infrastruktur pembayaran digital," jelasnya.

Isnin lalu Kosmo! melaporkan



DR. NOOR ZURAIDIN



DR. ANUAR SHAH



KERATAN
Kosmo!
24 Jun
2024.

Dr. Anuar Shah Bali Mahomed berkata, menjelang tahun 2029, berkemungkinan besar tiada lagi proses jual beli secara tunai atau sekurang-kurangnya lebih 80 peratus kaedah cashless diguna pakai di negara ini.

"Pandangan saya pada masa akan datang mungkin semakin ramai akan guna cashless dan ini bermakna penggunaan duit fizikal akan berkurangan secara signifikan.

"Jika kita pergi ke China, sebahagian besar pasar-pasar basar sudah tak ambil tunai, semua guna sistem cashless. Sekarang pun pasar basar pun sudah ramai tanpa tunai," ujarnya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Inflasi mungkin hampir lima peratus suku ke-4

KOSMO
27/6

PETALING JAYA – Kadar inflasi berpotensi meningkat menghampiri paras lima peratus menjelang suku keempat tahun ini, didorong pelaksanaan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95.

Kenanga Investment Bank dalam nota penyelidikan yang diterbitkan semalam berkata, pihaknya mengekalkan ramalan purata inflasi tahun ini pada 2.7 peratus, berbanding 2.5 peratus pada 2023.

"Walaupun kami sentiasa berhati-hati terhadap risiko luaran seperti keadaan cuaca yang melampau, risiko geopolitik dan peningkatan kos komoditi, inflasi Malaysia dijangka kekal terkawal.

"Seperti yang diketengahkan sebelum ini, kami menjangkakan pengapungan harga diesel pada bulan Jun mungkin tidak memberi kesan terlalu besar terhadap

inflasi kerana pelbagai pengecualian oleh kerajaan.

"Lonjakan ketara dijangka hanya berlaku apabila rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 diumumkan yang berpotensi mendorong inflasi kepada hampir lima peratus pada suku keempat 2024," katanya.

Kenanga menambah, pihaknya melihat Bank Negara Malaysia akan memantau kesan daripada rasionalisasi subsidi dan kenaikan gaji kakitangan awam, kedua-duanya dijangka pada suku tahun keempat.

"Buat masa ini, kami beranggapan bahawa bank pusat mungkin mengekalkan kadar dasar semalaman pada tiga peratus sehingga akhir 2025, memandangkan harga yang agak stabil dan prospek pertumbuhan yang positif," ujarnya.



KENAIKAN harga barangan memberi kesan kepada peningkatan kos sara hidup khususnya warga kota. — GAMBAR HIASAN

KOSMO

Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Bantuan tunai bersasar tangani kesan kadar inflasi negara

BH
27/6

Strategi dirancang kurangkan implikasi penyasaran subsidi bahan api

Oleh Zanariah Abd Mutalib dan Mohd Nasaruddin Parzi
zanariah_mutalib@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Inisiatif penyesaran semula subsidi membabitkan bahan api dijangka memberi kesan kepada kadar inflasi negara, kata Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli.

Bagaimanapun, Rafizi berkata pelaksanaan itu melalui strategi yang sudah dirancang dengan baik bersama-sama dengan bantuan tunai bersasar akan membantu mengurangkan kesan itu.

Sebagai contoh, kerajaan masih memberikan subsidi dan mengekalkan harga diesel pada kadar RM2.15 seliter kepada 23 jenis kenderaan logistik melalui Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS) 2.0, pengekalan harga diesel RM1.88 bagi pengangkutan awam darat termasuk bas sekolah, bas ekspres, ambulans dan bomba, kadar RM1.65 kekal kepada nelayan dan turut menyediakan bantuan subsidi tunai BUDI MADANI.

"Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) melalui penerbitan Tinjauan Ekonomi dan Monetari 2023 menjangkakan pelaksanaan rasionalisasi subsidi akan memberi implikasi jangka pendek kepada kadar inflasi negara.

"Kadar inflasi bagi 2024 diunjurkan pada kadar antara dua hingga 3.5 peratus.

"Keadaan ini sebahagiannya disebabkan peralihan secara berperingkat ke arah mekanisme pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar, terutama membabitkan subsidi bahan api," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat, semalam menjawab soalan Datuk Mohd Shahar Abdullah (BN-Payar Besar).

Rafizi berkata, kedudukan fiskal kerajaan makin mencair dan memerlukan komitmen bagi menyasarkan semula subsidi yang menjadi antara komponen utama dalam belanjawan mengurus.

Mengenai langkah mitigasi, Rafizi berkata, berdasarkan urusan yang dilakukan beberapa organisasi antarabangsa seperti S&P Global, EIU dan Bloomberg, purata harga global bagi minyak Brent diunjur pada AS\$85 setong bagi 2024.

"Bagaimanapun, jika harga minyak naik secara mendadak, kerajaan melalui Kementerian Kewangan, BNM dan Kementerian Ekonomi akan membuat penelitian semula mengikut keperluan semasa. Ini bagi memastikan rakyat, terutama golongan berpendapatan rendah tidak terbeban dengan sebarang perubahan harga," katanya.

Menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Richard Riot Anak Jaem (GPS-Serian), Rafizi berkata kerajaan sedang meneliti keperluan melaksana rasionalisasi subsidi ke atas petrol RON95.

Ambil langkah bersesuaian

Katanya, jika rasionalisasi subsidi ke atas bahan bakar itu dilaksanakan akan datang, kerajaan akan mengambil langkah bersesuaian bagi memastikan golongan terkesan diberikan bantuan sewajarnya.

"Namun, buat masa ini, tumpuan dan keutamaan akan diberikan kepada pelaksanaan subsidi diesel sehingga pelaksanaan penyesaran subsidi diesel

menjadi stabil.

"Sekali gus mencapai objektif ditetapkan, antaranya untuk memperkukuh kemampunan fiskal negara serta mengurangkan ketirisan dalam pengagihan subsidi diesel," katanya.

Beliau berkata penyesaran semula subsidi salah satu anjakan besar dalam Kajian Separuh Penggal Rancangan Malaysia Kedua Belas (KSP RMKe-12), penting dalam usaha memperkukuh kemampunan fiskal dan memastikan hanya kumpulan sasar benar-benar layak menerima bantuan dan subsidi.

"Sejak 2016, kerajaan sudah menyediakan peruntukan subsidi dan bantuan sosial secara purata sebanyak RM23.0 bilion setahun. Jumlah ini melonjak kepada RM67.3 bilion pada 2022 akibat kenaikan harga komoditi minyak mentah dan minyak sawit.

"Memandangkan subsidi bahan api komponen kedua terbesar meliputi 12.3 peratus daripada perbelanjaan mengurus pada 2023, terdapat keperluan untuk melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api," katanya.

Keadaan ini sebahagiannya disebabkan peralihan secara berperingkat ke arah mekanisme pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar, terutama membabitkan subsidi bahan api

Rafizi Ramli,
Menteri Ekonomi



BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 27 JUN 2024

Perhebat kempen kepada orang muda bahaya merokok, vape punca serangan jantung

BH
27/6

Pendedahan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Institut Jantung Negara (IJN), Datuk Dr Aizai Azan Abdul Rahim yang semakin ramai golongan muda, terutama individu berusia antara 20-an dan 30-an dikesan mengalami serangan jantung berikutan ketagihan tembakau amat mengejutkan dan membimbangkan.

Walaupun tidak menyatakan secara spesifik jumlah kes dirujuk ke IJN, namun kegemaran golongan lelaki merokok, manakala wanita cenderung menggunakan vape berikutan didakwa boleh melangsingkan badan antara faktor peningkatan generasi muda mengalami serangan jantung.

Lebih menakutkan apabila meningkatnya perokok 'dua dalam satu' iaitu menghisap rokok tembakau dan vape dalam kalangan usia muda, ditambah mengamalkan gaya hidup tidak sihat, sekali gus membuatkan individu terbabit lebih cepat mendapat serangan jantung kerana kesan dialami mereka menjadi dua kali ganda lebih berisiko.

Ia sepatutnya menjadi kejutan amaran kepada masyarakat bahawa serangan jantung tidak lagi hanya dialami individu berusia, warga emas dan golongan rentan, sebaliknya meluas dalam segenap usia masyarakat. Perkembangan terkini yang berbahaya ini seharusnya membuka mata kerajaan untuk mencari jalan mencegah sebelum merawat 'penyakit' ini.

Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak harus bertanggungjawab untuk mencari mekanisme dan merangka pelan tindakan baharu bagaimana hendak meminimumkan risiko serangan jantung dialami golongan muda. Penyakit berkaitan jantung antara penyebab utama kematian di Malaysia setiap tahun, sekali gus membebankan kewangan negara.

Berdasarkan laporan Kos Penjagaan Kesihatan Langsung Penyakit Tidak Berjangkit di Malaysia, dianggarkan RM3.93 bilion daripada jumlah keseluruhan RM9.65 bilion kos perawatan kesihatan digunakan bagi perbelanjaan pada 2017 adalah merawat pesakit jantung.

Atas faktor ini, kerajaan harus segera mengaktifkan program dan kempen kesedaran mengenai ancaman serangan jantung yang banyak dipengaruhi akibat tabiat merokok termasuk vape. Ia harus bermula di sekolah rendah dan diperhebatkan pada peringkat sekolah menengah.

Kementerian Pendidikan perlu lebih agresif mewujudkan peraturan khas bagi membendung trend menghisap vape dalam kalangan pelajar seperti dilaporkan media sebelum ini. Ibu bapa juga tidak boleh lepas tangan kepada pihak sekolah untuk mengawal dan memantau anak mereka daripada tabiat merokok serta menghisap vape.

Ibu bapa tidak boleh lagi berlembut, sebaliknya perlu lebih tegas memantau dan mengawal aktiviti anak supaya tidak terjebak dengan perangai tabiat merokok serta menghisap vape yang diketahui menjadi punca utama kepada serangan jantung kepada generasi muda hari ini.

Kerajaan juga harus segera meluluskan Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Akta Generasi Penamat Rokok (GEG) jika benar-benar komited mahu melindungi generasi muda hari ini daripada serangan jantung yang diketahui berpunca daripada tabiat merokok dan menghisap vape.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 12 7 JUN 2024

'Usia muda sudah sakit jantung angkara vape, rokok'

BH 27/6

Ketagihan kedua-dua tabiat sebabkan serangan jantung lebih cepat kerana kesannya dua kali ganda

Oleh Mahani Ishak
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Kuala Lumpur: Semakin ramai orang muda berusia antara 20-an hingga 30-an dikesan mengalami serangan jantung.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Institut Jantung Negara (IJN), Datuk Dr Aizai Azan Abdul Rahim, berkata ia berdasarkan pengalaman rawatan pesakit di IJN yang menunjukkan peningkatan pesakit jantung dari kalangan usia berkenaan.

Menyifatkan perkembangan itu semakin membimbangkan, beliau berkata, rekod berkenaan bertentangan dengan tanggapan ramai bahawa penyakit jantung hanya menyerang mereka yang berusia.

Selain faktor ketagihan tembakau, Dr Aizai Azan berkata, pengesanan penyakit jantung yang semakin meningkat dalam kalangan orang muda mungkin disebabkan ramai lebih peka dan membuat pemeriksaan awal.

"Ini sekali gus membolehkan pesakit dikesan awal," katanya pada sidang media selepas merasmikan Hari Tanpa Tembakau Sedunia bertepatan 'Melindungi Kanak-kanak dari Pengaruh Industri Tembakau'



Dr Aizai Azan bersama Penasihat Program Hari Tanpa Tembakau IJN, Dr Emily Tan (tiga dari kiri) dan wakil sekolah pada Hari Tanpa Tembakau Sedunia 2024, di Institut Jantung Negara, semalam. (Foto Aziah Azmee/BH)

di IJN, di sini semalam.

Beliau bimbang dengan trend ketagihan kedua-dua tabiat, merokok dan pada masa sama menghisap 'vape' yang akan menyebabkan serangan jantung lebih cepat berikutan kesannya dua kali ganda.

"Semakin membimbangkan apabila meningkatnya perokok tembakau dan penghisap 'vape' dalam kalangan usia muda yang menggunakan kedua-dua tembakau dan 'vape'.

"Lelaki lebih ramai merokok, wanita pula cenderung menggunakan 'vape' kerana menganggap menghisap 'vape' boleh melangsingkan badan," katanya.

Bahaya tembakau

Katanya, perokok beralih kepada 'vape' kerana bentuk peranti itu lebih kecil, mudah dibawa atau

disembunyikan, selain tiada bau atau mempunyai bau-bauan seperti buah-buahan berbanding asap tembakau.

"Justeru, kita adakan program Hari Tanpa Tembakau sebagai usaha menumpukan pendidikan, pencegahan serta sokongan kepada pelajar sekolah menengah supaya mereka buat pilihan sihat, faham bahaya tembakau dan tidak mula merokok.

"Matlamat kami melindungi kanak-kanak dan remaja daripada gangguan industri tembakau yang sekian lama guna taktik mengelirukan untuk menyasarkan generasi muda, sekali gus menyebabkan ketagihan tembakau pada usia awal dan beralih daripada tembakau kepada vape," katanya.

Dalam ucapannya, beliau ber-

kata, Tinjauan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi Kebangsaan (NHMS) 2022 dan Tinjauan Kesihatan Remaja 2022 mendapati ada sedikit peningkatan perokok remaja di negara ini dalam tempoh 2012 hingga 2017.

Selain itu, terdapat peningkatan trend penggunaan e-rokok atau 'vape' dengan kira-kira 42.2 peratus remaja mengguna atau mencuba peranti itu sebelum usia 14 tahun, kebanyakannya remaja lelaki.

Kajian juga mendapati penurunan tabiat merokok dalam kalangan remaja, iaitu 6.2 peratus pada 2022 berbanding 13.8 peratus pada 2017, namun ada peningkatan ketara pengguna vape atau e-rokok, daripada 9.8 peratus kepada 14.9 peratus bagi tempoh sama.

Kerajaan perlu berani rombak ekonomi, pacu PMKS

Putrajaya: Kerajaan perlu mengambil langkah berani merombak ekonomi negara dengan tidak terlalu bergantung kepada pelaburan langsung asing (FDI), sebaliknya menumpukan kepada pembangunan ekonomi dalaman.

Pakar Ekonomi dan Provost, Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia (MUST), Prof Emeritus Dr Barjoi Bardai, berkata ia adalah dengan memacu pertumbuhan perusahaan makro kecil dan sederhana (PMKS) yang dilihat masih pada takuk lama.

Katanya, pemacu sektor ekonomi dalaman secara tidak langsung dapat memperbaiki kedudukan Malaysia dalam Indeks Daya Saing Dunia.

"Jika dikatakan antara punca kejatuhan Malaysia dalam Indeks Daya Saing Dunia 2024 adalah disebabkan kelewatan pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi, saya melihat kesannya hanya kecil, sekadar kesan sentimen sedangkan yang dijamin hanya se-

kitar RM4 bilion sahaja.

"Itu membayangkan (petanda) kebolehan dan kecekapan pengurusan kerajaan. Jadi bagi saya kerajaan perlu melakukan langkah besar tapi tidak popular dengan merombak ekonomi negara dan tidak lagi bergantung kepada FDI," katanya kepada BH.

Kelmarin, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, berkata kelewatan pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi menjadi antara punca kemerosotan Malaysia dalam indeks berkenaan.

Katanya, laporan itu mengambil kira beberapa faktor yang menyumbang kepada kejatuhan Malaysia, antaranya prestasi ringgit dan pengurusan ekonomi.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata ekonomi Malaysia secara umumnya kekal stabil berdasarkan laporan berkenaan yang dikeluarkan Institut Antarabangsa bagi Pembangunan Pengurusan (IMD).

Barjoi berkata, lebih 60 ta-

hun Malaysia bergantung kepada FDI dan tidak dinafikan ia berkembang serta memberi sumbangan besar kepada negara.

Namun, katanya keadaan ini sudah berubah kerana ada negara lain khususnya di rantau ini yang menawarkan tawaran lebih menarik untuk pelaburan seperti Vietnam dan Kemboja.

Laporan berdasar persepsi

Sementara itu, Pengarah Program Sarjana Pentadbiran Perniagaan (MBA) dari Putra Business School (PBS), Profesor Madya Dr Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff, berpandangan kerajaan perlu menangani isu persepsi yang menyebabkan kedudukan Malaysia menurun dalam indeks terbabit.

Jelasnya, laporan Indeks Daya Saing Dunia antaranya berdasarkan persepsi terhadap dasar yang diperkenalkan kerajaan.

"Apabila bercakap mengenai kecekapan kerajaan untuk menyalurkan subsidi itu, mungkin persepsi wujud bahawa kerajaan agak perlahan, menyebabkan markah (dalam indeks) itu rendah.

"Jadi apabila mereka melihat

penyasaran subsidi itu lambat, menimbulkan persepsi bahawa kerajaan tidak begitu cekap menguruskan penyasaran subsidi berkenaan," katanya.

Justeru, beliau menyarankan kerajaan supaya mengurus persepsi terbabit dengan baik, telus dan jelas terutama kepada pemain industri perniagaan.

Ibadat & Fadilat

Ka'ab ibni Ujrah meriwayatkan Rasulullah SAW bersabda: "Kalimah yang dibaca mengiringi solat - sesiapa yang menyebut kalimah itu tidak akan gagal (kecewa). Subhanallah sebanyak 33 kali; alhamdulillah (33) dan Allahu akbar (34) selepas setiap solat fardu." (HR Muslim)

KAWASAN	SUBUH	ZUHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Kangar	5:51	1:24	4:50	7:38	8:54
Alor Setar	5:52	1:24	4:50	7:37	8:54
P. Pinang	5:54	1:24	4:50	7:36	8:52
Ipoh	5:53	1:22	4:48	7:32	8:48
Kuala Lumpur	5:54	1:19	4:45	7:28	8:44
Shah Alam	5:54	1:19	4:45	7:28	8:44
Johor Bahru	5:48	1:10	4:36	7:16	8:31
Kuantan	5:48	1:13	4:39	7:21	8:37
Seremban	5:53	1:18	4:44	7:25	8:41
Bandar Melaka	5:53	1:17	4:42	7:23	8:39
Kota Bharu	5:45	1:17	4:43	7:30	8:41
K. Terengganu	5:43	1:13	4:39	7:24	8:40
Kota Kinabalu	4:50	12:21	3:47	6:33	7:50
Kuching	5:23	12:46	4:11	6:51	8:07

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 127 JUN 2024.....

'Laksana mekanisme sama seperti diesel cegah penyeludupan petrol'

BH
27/6

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) akan melaksanakan mekanisme sama seperti dilakukan untuk mengawal penyeludupan diesel bagi petrol.

Timbalan Menteri, Fuziah Salleh, berkata operasi pencegahan itu dibuat secara bertepatan untuk memastikan kegiatan penyeludupan terutama stesen minyak berdekatan sempadan tidak terus dilakukan.

"KPDN menjalankan operasi sama bagi mengawal penyeludupan melalui 'Ops Tiris'.

"Tindakan itu diambil mengikut Akta Kawalan Bekalan 1961 [Akta 112] yang mana kesalahan itu boleh dikenakan penalti sehingga RM1 juta atau penjara selama tiga tahun atau ke-

dua-duanya bagi kesalahan pertama.

"Seterusnya bagi kesalahan kedua dan berikutnya boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM3 juta atau penjara tidak melebihi lima tahun atau kedua-duanya," katanya ketika dihubungi BH, semalam.

Beliau mengulas mengenai tin-

dakan yang akan diambil KPDN susulan penyeludupan diesel kini bertukar kepada petrol di sempadan di Kelantan.

Dalam pada itu, berdasarkan akta sama, bagi pertubuhan atau perbadanan, denda tidak melebihi RM2 juta bagi kesalahan pertama dan RM5 juta bagi kesalahan kedua dan seterusnya.

Dalam pada itu, dalam isu kenaikan harga barang terutama dihadapi pengusaha bakeri dan kuih tradisional meskipun harga telur diturunkan tiga sen baru-baru ini, Fuziah berkata faktor itu tidak berkaitan dengan penyasaran subsidi diesel.

Katanya, pihaknya menerima aduan daripada pengusaha bakeri dan kuih-muih sudah lama yang mana ia berkaitan harga koko dan barang import lain.

"Harga barang import itu sudah lama dilaporkan dan ia adalah faktor luaran kerana koko antara produk yang diimport untuk memenuhi pasaran.

"Namun apa yang kita ingin tegaskan, kenaikan barang bagi pembuatan kuih-muih tidak kena mengena dengan subsidi diesel," katanya.

KPDN menjalankan operasi sama bagi mengawal penyeludupan melalui 'Ops Tiris'

Fuziah Salleh,
Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan
Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup



BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 27 JUN 2024

Guna media sosial secara bijak sebar nilai murni

BH
27/6

Muhammad
Ariff Noor
Azman Shah,
Universiti
Teknologi Mara,
Shah Alam

Hari ini media sosial sudah jadi platform utama untuk berkomunikasi, berkongsi maklumat dan berinteraksi dengan pelbagai lapisan masyarakat.

Bagaimanapun, kita melihat media sosial kerap disalah guna sehingga adakala menjadi ruang yang terlalu toksik, selain membawa kesan negatif bukan sahaja kepada individu, tetapi juga terhadap masyarakat.

Media sosial memudahkan perkongsian kepada masyarakat dengan kadar lebih pantas. Bagaimanapun selari dengan kepantasan itu, seharusnya tanggungjawab kita terhadap apa yang dikongsikan adalah kritikal.

Namun, terdapat sebahagian daripada masyarakat cenderung menyebarkan berita palsu atau maklumat tidak sahih yang boleh menyebabkan berlaku kekeliruan dan kerugian kepada masyarakat.

Ada sesetengahnya pula turut menyebarkan fitnah sehingga berhadapan dengan tindakan undang-undang.

Hal sebegini amat tidak wajar, kerana perkembangan teknologi seharusnya selari dengan nilai kebertanggungjawaban yang tinggi. Ingatlah, dalam pada kita melihat tindakan berkongsi berita palsu atau tidak sahih sekadar perkongsian santai, ia mungkin memberi impak negatif kepada orang lain.

Kongsikan pengalaman bermanfaat

Media sosial juga seharusnya digunakan untuk menyebarkan berita atau hal kebaikan dan mesej positif. Ambil inisiatif untuk berkongsi pengalaman bermanfaat, nasihat berguna serta sokongan moral kepada rakan.

Ini bukan sahaja membantu mewujudkan suasa

sana yang lebih baik, tetapi juga dapat memberi inspirasi kepada orang lain.

Pada masa sama, tidak semua hal boleh dikongsi. Ada sesetengah perkara perlu difikir dengan mendalam sebelum disebar. Misalnya jika ia membabitkan isu privasi dan keselamatan dalam talian.

Hari ini isu berkenaan sudah menjadi perkara terpenting. Selain tidak semua orang sukakan pendedahan media, ada juga maklumat peribadi yang jika dikongsi akan menjadi umpan kepada penyalahgunaan.



Hari ini juga kita kerap mendengar mengenai isu kebocoran data peribadi. Justeru, perkongsian dalam media sosial seharusnya dikawal dengan baik. Jangan kongsi maklumat peribadi secara berlebihan.

Selain itu, jika kita perhatikan terdapat kemungkinan terkakis nilai moral, misalnya sikap saling menghormati dalam interaksi di media sosial. Ia boleh dilihat menerusi penggunaan bahasa yang kasar, komen saling menghina hingga mencemuh peribadi.

Hal ini menjelaskan, disebabkan tidak bersempu ka secara fizikal, malah mungkin kerana menggunakan akaun palsu atau nama samaran, ada pengguna berasa mereka tidak lagi terikat dengan nilai moral kemanusiaan.

Keadaan ini lebih jelas jika membicarakan isu politik kerana, perbezaan selalu membawa permusuhan dan pertelingkahan pendapat.

Dalam hal ini, anak muda perlu dididik dengan tanggungjawab sama ada dalam memuat naik hantaran atau memberi pandangan. Adab dan sikap saling menghormati perlu ditekankan. Hal ini mungkin berbalik kepada didikan ibu bapa dan pendidikan oleh guru.

Selain itu orang yang lebih tua, sama ada ahli keluarga atau rakan perlu juga menegur dan memberi nasihat serta menjadi contoh juga menerangkan akibat negatif daripada penyalahgunaan media sosial.

Sebagai pengguna media sosial, kita semua bertanggungjawab memastikan platform ini digunakan secara positif dan bermanfaat.

Mengamalkan adab dan etika dengan betul, kita dapat menjadikan media sosial sebagai medium yang memperkasa serta memupuk nilai murni dalam masyarakat.

Pembaca yang ingin berkongsi pandangan dan membuat aduan boleh e-mel ke bhforum@bh.com.my

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 27 JUN 2024

Kes rasuah projek
lebuhraya RM1b

SPRM tahan seorang lagi suspek

BH
27/6

Kuala Lumpur: Seorang lagi individu ditahan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) berhubung kes rasuah membabitkan kerja menyiapkan pakej pembinaan projek lebuhraya bernilai lebih RM1 bilion di Lembah Klang.

Penahanan suspek lelaki berusia 40-an itu menjadikan sembilan individu ditahan termasuk seorang Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif (CEO) dan dua pengurusan tertinggi syarikat konsesi lebuhraya oleh agensi berkenaan setakat ini.

Menurut sumber, suspek itu dipercayai meminta dan menerima rasuah daripada beberapa syarikat sebagai balasan kerana melantik syarikat terbabit untuk mengambil alih kerja menyiapkan lebuhraya berkenaan yang sebelum ini dijalankan oleh satu syarikat lain.

"Suspek kesembilan ini ditahan di Ibu Pejabat SPRM ketika hadir memberi keterangan kira-kira jam 7 malam tadi (kelmarin).

"Jumlah rasuah dalam kes ini masih lagi dalam siasatan. Bagaimanapun pembinaan dua projek lebuhraya ini keseluruhannya berjumlah hampir RM1 bilion," katanya.

Pengarah Kanan Bahagian Siasatan SPRM, Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Hashim ketika dihubungi mengesahkan penahanan itu untuk siasatan mengikut Seksyen 16(a)(A) Akta SPRM 2009.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 27 JUN 2024

Ringgit diunjur lebih mengukuh suku akhir 2024

BH
27/6

Ringgit dijangka lebih mengukuh berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) pada suku akhir 2024, kata Timbalan Menteri Kewangan, Lim Hui Ying.

Beliau berkata, ini memandangkan prestasi ringgit di landasan tepat dalam mencapai prestasi itu berbanding beberapa bulan lalu dengan mengambil kira prestasi ekonomi serta pelaburan yang diraih negara.

Pada Februari lalu, Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan menyasarkan nilai ringgit diniagakan pada paras RM4.50 berbanding dolar AS pada akhir tahun ini, didorong kedudukan ekonomi negara yang positif.

Hui Ying berkata, ringgit juga adalah satu-satunya mata wang serantau yang mengukuh sebanyak 1.4 peratus berbanding dolar AS sejak 26 Februari 2024.

"Sebaliknya, mata wang serantau menyaksikan (prestasi) seperti rupee India yang menguncup -0.8 peratus, dolar Singapura (-0.8 peratus), renminbi (-0.9 peratus) dan baht (-1.8 peratus)," katanya pada sidang Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

BERNAMA

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 27 JUN 2024

OPR dijangka kekal 3.0 peratus hingga akhir 2025

BH
27/6

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dijangka mengekalkan kadar dasar semalaman (OPR) pada 3.00 peratus sehingga akhir tahun hadapan.

Ini memandangkan harga barang dan perkhidmatan yang agak stabil serta prospek pertumbuhan ekonomi yang positif, demikian mengikut Kenanga Research.

Bahagian penyelidikan Kenanga Investment Bank itu dalam satu nota penyelidikan berkata, bank pusat dijangka memantau kesan rasionalisasi subsidi dan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam, yang berkemungkinan dilaksanakan pada suku keempat tahun ini.

"Indeks Harga Pengguna (IHP) untuk keseluruhan tahun ini dijangka kekal pada 2.7 peratus berbanding 2.5 peratus pada tahun lalu dengan mengambil kira ke-

mungkinan rasionalisasi bahan api RON95 pada suku keempat tahun ini.

"Walaupun kami kekal berhati-hati terhadap risiko luaran yang boleh meningkatkan inflasi, seperti keadaan cuaca yang ekstrem, isu geopolitik dan kenaikan kos komoditi, inflasi di Malaysia dijangka kekal terkawal.

"Seperti yang dinyatakan sebelum ini, kami menjangkakan bahawa pengapungan harga diesel pada Jun mungkin tidak akan memberi kesan yang terlalu besar terhadap inflasi kerana pelbagai pengecualian oleh kerajaan," katanya.

Ia menambah, kenaikan yang ketara dijangka hanya apabila rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 diumumkan, yang berpotensi mendorong inflasi utama kepada purata hampir 5.0 peratus pada suku keempat tahun ini.

Sementara itu, MIDF Research pula berkata, kadar inflasi utama mencapai paras tertinggi dalam tempoh sembilan bulan pada Mei dengan IHP meningkat kepada 2.0 peratus, tertinggi sejak September 2023 dan sedikit melebihi anggaran pasaran iaitu 1.9 peratus.

"Peningkatan kadar inflasi bukan makanan adalah faktor utama peningkatan ini, meningkat sebanyak 2.0 peratus tahun ke tahun, iaitu kadar terpantas dalam tempoh 15 bulan.

"Kami mendapati inflasi bukan makanan antara lain disebabkan oleh inflasi kos utiliti dan pemulihan sektor ICT," katanya.

Susulan itu, ia menjangkakan berlaku peningkatan beransur-ansur di Semenanjung Malaysia pada separuh kedua tahun ini.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 27 JUN 2024

Malaysia rekod RM40.4b pelaburan asing pada 2023

BH
27/6

Aliran masuk bersih menyusut daripada RM75.4b terutama dalam ekuiti, dana pelaburan saham

Oleh Alzahrin Alias
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Pelaburan asing di Malaysia merekodkan aliran masuk bersih RM40.4 bilion pada 2023, sementara pelaburan di luar negeri (DIA) mencatatkan RM40.6 bilion, demikian menurut Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM).

Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Mohd Uzir Mahidin, berkata aliran masuk pelaburan langsung asing (FDI) pada 2023 menyusut daripada RM75.4 bilion pada tahun sebelumnya, terutama dalam ekuiti dan dana pelaburan saham, mencerminkan ekonomi global yang perlahan.

Beliau berkata, ini selaras de-

ngan laporan Pemantauan Trend Pelaburan Global UNCTAD 2024 yang menekankan bahawa aliran FDI ke negara-negara membangun menurun kira-kira sembilan peratus, berjumlah AS\$841 bilion pada 2023.

"Khususnya, rantau Asia yang sedang membangun menurun sekitar 12 peratus kepada AS\$584 bilion, dengan FDI ASEAN menurun kira-kira 16 peratus.

"Walaupun bagaimanapun, nilai kumulatif FDI meningkat kepada RM926 bilion pada akhir tahun 2023, menyumbang 50.8 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNE), terutamanya disebabkan oleh kategori-kategori bukan transaksi," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Sementara itu, Mohd Uzir berkata DIA mencatatkan penurunan dalam aliran keluar bersih daripada RM62.8 bilion pada tahun sebelumnya, manakala kedudukan DIA meningkat kepada RM664.4 bilion, mewakili 36.4 peratus daripada KDNE.

Melihat kepada taburan sektor, perkhidmatan muncul sebagai penerima utama FDI, dengan aliran masuk bersih RM35.4 bilion, memintas sektor pembuatan.

Dalam sektor perkhidmatan, informasi dan komunikasi menyumbang peratusan tertinggi selaras dengan pertumbuhan aktiviti berkaitan perniagaan digital global dan pusat data, diikuti oleh subsektor kewangan & insurans/takaful.

Pembuatan penyumbang utama

Sektor pembuatan kekal sebagai penyumbang utama kepada keseluruhan pendapatan meskipun aliran masuk bersih lebih rendah, dengan menjana RM41.9 bilion, terutamanya disokong oleh subsektor elektrik, peralatan pengangkutan dan subsektor pembuatan lain.

Secara kumulatif, kedua-dua sektor perkhidmatan dan pembuatan memegang nilai signifikan dalam komponen kedudukan masing-masing pada RM468.2 bilion dan RM391.3 bilion.

Dari segi geografi, rantau Asia kekal sebagai sumber utama FDI, menyumbang RM54.3 bilion pada 2023 dengan nilai kedudukan RM508.4 bilion.

Pelabur-pelabur utama dari rantau ini adalah termasuk Singapura, Hong Kong dan Jepun.

Rantau Amerika, terutamanya Amerika Syarikat (AS), menjana pendapatan tertinggi dari FDI, dengan jumlah RM41.4 bilion.

Mengenai pelaburan langsung Malaysia di luar negeri, Mohd Uzir berkata aliran

keluar bersih DIA terutamanya disumbangkan oleh sektor perkhidmatan bernilai RM34.5 bilion, khususnya dalam aktiviti kewangan & insurans/takaful dan utiliti.

"Sektor ini turut menjana pendapatan tertinggi RM23.9 bilion, diikuti oleh perlombongan dan pengkuarian sebanyak

RM10.7 bilion. "Sektor perkhidmatan kekal sebagai penyumbang utama DIA bagi 2023 dengan mencatatkan kedudukan terkumpul pada RM461.1 bilion, diikuti oleh perlombongan dan pengkuarian sebanyak RM80.5 bilion dan pembuatan sebanyak RM60 bilion," katanya.



Mohd Uzir Mahidin

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh, 27 JUN 2024

Inflasi berpotensi hampiri 5.0 peratus pada suku keempat

PETALING JAYA: Kadar inflasi Malaysia berpotensi meningkat menghampiri paras lima peratus pada suku keempat tahun ini, sekiranya kerajaan melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95, menurut Kenanga Investment Bank.

Bank pelaburan itu berkata, pihaknya mengekalkan ramalan purata inflasi tahun ini pada 2.7 peratus, berbanding 2.5 peratus pada 2023.

"Walaupun kami sentiasa berhati-hati terhadap risiko luaran seperti keadaan cuaca yang melampau, risiko geopoliti-

tik dan peningkatan kos komoditi, inflasi Malaysia dijangka kekal terkawal.

"Seperti yang diketengahkan sebelum ini, kami menjangkakan pengapungan harga diesel pada bulan Jun mungkin tidak memberi kesan terlalu besar terhadap inflasi kerana pelbagai pengecualian oleh kerajaan.

"Lonjakan ketara dijangka hanya berlaku apabila rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 diumumkan, yang berpotensi mendorong inflasi kepada hampir lima peratus pada suku keempat 2024," katanya dalam nota

Lonjakan ketara dijangka hanya berlaku apabila rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 diumumkan."

penyelidikan.

Jabatan Perangkaan kelmarin mengumumkan inflasi dua peratus untuk Mei 2024, kadar tertinggi untuk tempoh 10 bulan.

Kenanga menambah, pihaknya melihat Bank Negara Malaysia akan memantau kesan daripada rasionalisasi subsidi dan kenaikan gaji kakitangan awam, kedua-duanya dijangka pada suku tahun keempat.

"Buat masa ini, kami beranggapan bahawa bank pusat mungkin mengekalkan kadar dasar semalaman pada tiga peratus sehingga akhir 2025, memandang harga yang agak stabil dan prospek pertumbuhan yang positif," katanya.

Sementara itu, Penganalisis Ekonomi Putra Business School

(PBS), Prof Madya Dr. Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff pula berkata, beliau tidak menjangkakan kadar inflasi akan menghampiri lima peratus.

"Hal ini kerana kerajaan kemungkinan besar tidak akan melaksanakan rasionalisasi petrol RON95 pada tahun ini.

"Ini juga berikutan kerajaan mahu menilai keberkesanan rasionalisasi subsidi diesel dahulu dan meneruskan pendaftaran PADU. Oleh itu anggaran dua hingga 3.5 peratus oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) lebih realistik," ujarnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Selangor people offer to pay fine

NSF
27/6

KUALA LUMPUR: Following news of the RM100,000 fine imposed on Selangor FC on Tuesday, several people have offered to contribute towards paying the fine.

They include Sungai Air Tawar assemblyman Datuk Rizam Ismail and singer Altimet.

Rizam, who is also State Standing Committee on Village Development, Unity, and Consumer Affairs chairman, said he was coming forward in the spirit of solidarity with Selangor FC.

"This solidarity is not a political show, but a manifestation of the support from the people of Selangor for our pride, the Red Giants. Whether they are on top or below, we remain loyal together," he said yesterday.

Altimet, whose real name is Syed Ahmad Syed Abdul Rahman Alhadad, said he was willing to do so if the club was willing to accept his offer.

"I will donate half my royalty payments for this year to settle the fine if Selangor FC is willing to accept it," he posted on X on

Tuesday.

On Facebook, user Ng Chee Kean posted that his sons were willing to donate their savings to help Selangor pay the fine.

"Upin and Ipin (a light-hearted reference to his sons) have a free-kicks fund. They want to donate to Selangor FC to help pay for MFL's fine.

"If it is not enough, they will score more free kicks. They want to help Selangor as Selangor always helps them.

"To the Malaysian Football League (MFL), take the kids' money that they saved every day from football practice," read his post.

The *New Straits Times* reported on Tuesday that Selangor FC was ordered to pay a RM100,000 fine and compensate Johor Darul Ta'zim FC (JDT) for their absence from the Charity Shield.

They have also been instructed to host JDT behind closed doors in the return Super League match



Datuk Rizam Ismail (left) and Syed Ahmad Syed Abdul Rahman Alhadad

at MBPJ Stadium in November.

On top of the fine, Selangor will also be docked three points.

However, MFL did not specify in its press release on Tuesday why Selangor must play behind closed doors against JDT.

"MFL and the home team (Selangor) will work closely to coordinate match operations.

"The entry requirements for the selected representatives of both clubs will be coordinated for attendance on match day."

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the 2024 Prime Minister's Department Appreciation Ceremony in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

MAHB DEAL

'DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY BY ALLEGATIONS'

Civil servants need to stay informed about realities on ground, says Anwar

HANA NAZ HARUN
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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has reminded civil servants not to get too carried away by claims and allegations surrounding the sale of Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) shares to a company related to BlackRock.

The prime minister said they should not get too involved in political talk of cursing, slandering and accusing others of being "kafir" (infidels).

He said the opposition was spreading "outright lies" and emphasised the need for those

In Sungai Bakap
(where campaigning for a by-election is ongoing), I was called an adopted child of America, that the Finance Ministry borrows money from the IMF, and that I follow the advice of Jews.

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime minister

in the civil sector to stay informed about the realities on the ground.

"In Sungai Bakap (where cam-

paigning for a by-election is ongoing), I was called an adopted child of America, that the Finance Ministry borrows money from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), and that I follow the advice of Jews.

"These are outright lies being told by an ustaz, donning a kopiah and a robe.

"In reality, how can I do all of this? How could you, as civil servants, defend the prime minister for doing this?"

Anwar said this at the 2024 Prime Minister's Department Appreciation Ceremony here.

A video had spread on social media showing an opposition leader allegedly saying that Anwar was an "anak angkat" (adopted child) of the United States.

In the video, the leader had also claimed that the measures introduced by the government to rationalise subsidies were the work of "Jew lobbyists", who acted as advisers to the Finance Ministry and in other strategic places in the country.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 12 7 JUN 2024

'Pass laws against sale of caffeine-flavoured vapes'

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: Laws should be passed against vapes, especially those with flavours that contain caffeine, said Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh.

She said the legislative measures should limit the variety of vape flavours as in Denmark, Estonia and Slovenia, where only tobacco and menthol flavours are allowed, and Australia, which only permits the sale of vapes under prescription, with flavours restricted to tobacco, mint and menthol.

Sharifa Ezat said more than 30 countries have prohibited the sale of vapes as consumer products, which also means that the sale of flavoured vapes is not allowed.

She said flavoured vapes can appeal to youth, potentially increasing their adoption of the habit due to the enjoyable and customisable experience, which facilitates a transition away from traditional cigarettes.

"Nonetheless, the potential for addiction and the associated health

➤ Inhaling substance introduces it directly into lungs, increasing health risks such as irritation, inflammation, respiratory and heart issues: Expert

risks still make this an important area for further research and regulation."

Sharifa Ezat said the laws should also enforce labelling of nicotine strength and ingredients and have stringent quality control to prevent highly harmful additives and mixing of substances such as Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabidiol or synthetic drugs.

She also called for strict regulations and awareness campaigns on the use of vapes to deliver substances like multivitamins, given that the risk outweighs the benefits, especially since the long-term health effects are unknown.

While the US Food and Drug Administration classifies caffeine as a drug and a food additive commonly used in drinks with a recommended maximum daily

intake of 400mg, coffee-flavoured vapes containing caffeine are increasingly popular among male and female students in Malaysia, exposing them to high risk of health issues.

"Caffeine is the most commonly consumed drug worldwide as it is used in prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines as it boosts energy, combats tiredness and enhances the effects of some pain relievers.

"Inhaled when vaping, it can produce a similar effect as other stimulants, but with greater risks due to the potential of containing other harmful additives such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can lead to heart distress, palpitations, and insomnia.

"Some sellers add Vitamin E acetate to make the vapour thicker,

but VOCs are harmful and can be emitted from flavoured vape liquids, and especially coffee flavours," she said.

Sharifa Ezat said although vaping is not intended as a general consumer product, it is used in some countries as a tool to help tobacco smokers switch to a less harmful alternative in terms of toxicology.

She said caffeine is more dangerous in vaping as it can become a septic focus (the tendency to look at a problem in isolation from its context), cause serious health complications and localised infections that can spread.

"Inhaling caffeine through vape introduces it directly into the lungs, where it can potentially cause irritation, inflammation, and other respiratory issues.

"High doses of caffeine are a concern because it is a powerful stimulant that increases the heart rate and blood pressure. This could theoretically lead to severe cardiovascular problems, such as heart arrest."

Sharifa Ezat said although it is nearly impossible to reach such high doses from typical vaping, the risk remains a concern.

THE SUN
Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Highway concessionaire CEO held in RM1.6b bribery case

► Six men and one woman also arrested over alleged involvement in soliciting and accepting bribes

BY ANDREW SAGAYAM
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KUALA LUMPUR: Projek Lintasan Kota Sdn Bhd (Prolintas) CEO and two senior employees of the highway concessionaire were among eight people detained on suspicion of involvement in a corruption case involving over RM1.6 billion.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) detained the CEO, with the title "Datuk", and seven others on Monday.

The suspects, comprising seven men and a woman, aged between 40 and 50, were apprehended after providing statements at the MACC headquarters in Putrajaya.

Three of the eight individuals, who are employees of the highway concessionaire, are suspected to have solicited and accepted bribes amounting to over RM1 billion from five company owners in exchange for securing contracts to take over construction work previously managed by another company.

They are also suspected of soliciting and receiving bribes, amounting to about RM670 million. This is in relation to the construction of a section of another highway project in the Klang Valley. The total value of both projects is RM11 billion, a source said.

The source also said the CEO, along with two other senior management employees of the company, have been remanded until June 28 while the five company owners have been remanded until today.

MACC deputy chief commissioner (operations) Datuk Seri Ahmad Khusairi

Yahaya confirmed the arrests and said the case was being investigated under Section 16(a)(A) of the MACC Act 2009.

Meanwhile, Prolintas has confirmed several of its employees have been remanded by MACC to assist in an ongoing investigation related to construction contracts.

The highway concessionaire said it would fully cooperate with the relevant authorities.

"We are committed and ready to work closely with all relevant authorities to ensure full cooperation in assisting investigations."

"Prolintas remains committed to maintaining integrity and corporate governance at the highest level," it said in a statement yesterday.

The highway concessionaire manages several highways throughout the Klang Valley, including the Damansara-Shah Alam Elevated Expressway, Guthrie Corridor Expressway, Kemuning-Shah Alam Highway, Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Elevated Expressway, Ampang-Kuala Lumpur Elevated Highway and Kajang Dispersal Link Expressway.

THE SUN
Tarikh: 27 JUN 2024

Ex-manager nabbed over RM77m fake contracts case

Sun
27/6

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) detained a former company manager on suspicion of submitting fake employment contracts to apply for foreign worker quotas worth RM77 million.

MACC said the suspect, a man in his early 40s, was detained at around 6pm on Tuesday while giving his statement at the MACC office in Putrajaya.

"Investigations found besides the detained individual, seven directors were involved in the scheme, with four companies implicated.

"All of them applied for foreign worker quotas at the Labour Department by submitting suspected false documents, allegedly carried out in 2022, comprising 25 fake employment contracts, involving about RM77 million," he said, adding the suspect will be remanded for seven days.

MACC Special Operations Division senior director Datuk Azmi Kamaruzaman confirmed the arrest.

He said the case was being investigated under Section 16 of the MACC Act 2009, adding that they are tracing other individuals to assist in investigations. - Bernama

Tarikh: THE SUN
27 JUN 2024

Malaysia records FDI net inflow of RM40.4b in 2023

SUN
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia achieved foreign direct investment (FDI) net inflow of RM40.4 billion in 2023 while direct investment abroad (DIA) totalled RM40.6 billion according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia.

Chief Statistician of Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the FDI net inflow in 2023 decreased from RM75.4 billion in

► Services sector emerges as primary recipient, with RM35.4b

the previous year mainly due to equity and investment fund shares, reflecting the global economic slowdown.

"This was in line with Unctad's

2024 Global Investment Trends Monitor report which highlighted that the FDI flows to developing countries declined about 9%, totalling US\$841 billion (RM3.96

trillion) in 2023. Notably, developing Asia dropped around 12% to US\$584 billion, with Asean's FDI decreasing about 16%," he added.

However, the cumulative value of foreign investment, known as the FDI position, rose to RM926 billion at the end of 2023, making up 50.8% (2022: 49%) of gross domestic product (GDP), primarily attributed to non-transaction categories.

Meanwhile, DIA net outflow fell from RM62.8 billion in the preceding year, while the stock increased to RM664.4 billion, representing 36.4% (2022: 33.8%) of GDP.

Looking at the sectoral distribution, the services sector emerged as the primary recipient of FDI, with a net inflow of RM35.4 billion, surpassing the manufacturing sector. Within services, information and communication contributed the highest share, which is in line with emerging digital global business and data centre related activities, followed by the financial and insurance/takaful sub-sector.

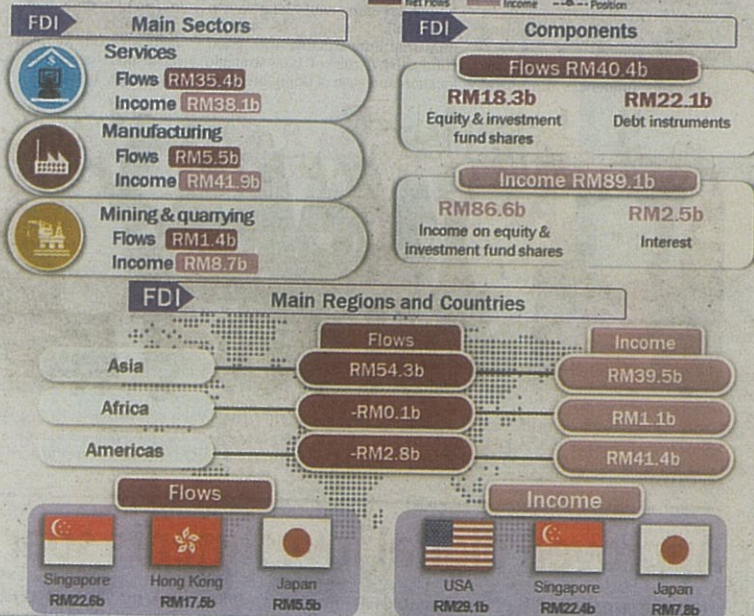
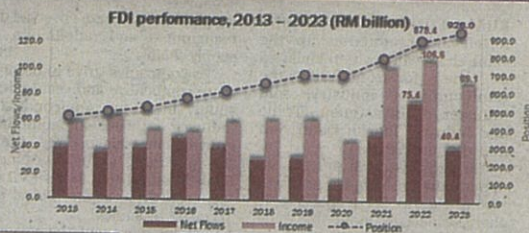
The manufacturing sector remained the highest contributor to total income despite lower net inflow, generating RM41.9 billion, largely driven by the electrical, transport equipment, and other manufacturing sub-sectors. Cumulatively, both services and manufacturing sectors significant value in position, with RM468.2 billion and RM391.3 billion, respectively.

Geographically, Asia remained the dominant source of FDI, contributing RM54.3 billion in 2023 with a position valued at RM508.4 billion. Leading investors from the region included Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. The Americas, particularly the United States, earned the highest income from FDI, totalling RM41.4 billion.

On Malaysia's investments abroad, Mohd Uzir said, "The DIA net outflows were mostly contributed by the services sector with a value of RM34.5 billion, primarily in financial and insurance/takaful activities and utilities. This sector also generated the highest income at RM23.9 billion, followed by mining and quarrying RM10.7 billion. Seemingly, the services sector remained the primary contributor of DIA in 2023 by registering the accumulated position at RM461.1 billion, trailed by mining and quarrying at RM80.5 billion and manufacturing at RM60 billion.

STATISTICS OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN MALAYSIA 2023

“ Malaysia registered FDI net inflows of RM40.4 billion mainly in Services sector. ”



Note: 1. b refers to billion
2. Negative value refers to net outflows

Source: Statistics of Foreign Direct Investment in Malaysia, Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM)

THE SUN
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Ringgit slips on Fed's potential hawkish stance

Sun
27/6

THE ringgit ended lower against the US dollar yesterday, as concerns about a potentially hawkish US Federal Reserve (Fed) stance bolstered the greenback.

At 6pm, the ringgit traded at 4.7140/7185 against the greenback from Tuesday's close of 4.7035/7070.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the ringgit initially showed strength against the US dollar, reaching RM4.7068 during the morning session.

"However, by afternoon, the ringgit had weakened to RM4.7145. This decline is largely due to market anxieties surrounding US interest rates, as the Fed's preferred inflation gauge, the Personal Consumption Expenditure, is scheduled to be released this Friday.

"The PCE inflation is expected to moderate to 2.6% in May based on consensus estimates, after staying at 2.7% for the past two months. These concerns about a potentially hawkish Fed have bolstered the strength of the US dollar, leading to the ringgit's depreciation," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, the ringgit closed mostly higher against a basket of major currencies.

The ringgit appreciated against the Japanese yen to 2.9459/9489 from 2.9513/9537, boosted against the euro to 5.0383/0431 from 5.0440/0478 but slid against the British pound to 5.9722/9779 from 5.9687/9732 at yesterday's close.

The ringgit was also mostly higher than its Asean peers.

The ringgit rose vis-s-vis against the Thai baht to 12.8007/8185 from 12.8294/8431, inched up against the Singapore dollar to 3.4746/4782 from 3.4763/4792 and higher against the Philippine peso to 8.01/8.02 from 8.00/8.01.

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