



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 27 MEI 2024 (ISNIN)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

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BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
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Call for better tree management

By FARID WAHAB



Fire and Rescue Department personnel clearing the area after strong winds and heavy rain toppled several trees at Jalan 16/9 in Petaling Jaya. — Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

THE spate of fallen trees after Saturday evening's thunderstorm has sparked calls by Klang Valley folk for better maintenance of greenery in urban areas.

Several densely populated areas in Petaling Jaya and Subang Jaya, Selangor, were hit, according to social media posts.

Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran said his office received many complaints from distressed residents.

"Please leave a comment on this post for areas that we might have missed so we can act swiftly," he said in a Facebook post.

In a separate video post, he said the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) and Fire and Rescue Department personnel worked to remove fallen trees.

Commenting on Rajiv's post, Petaling Jaya resident Yee Wing-Tak said he had made several reports of risky trees to MBPJ in recent months.

"However, no action has been taken," he said, expressing concerns that some tree branches were too close to utility lines.

Another resident, Daniel Tan, urged the local authorities to ensure tree roots were not cut to make way for construction of pedestrian walkways.

"They must be maintained and new trees also need to be planted to help manage flash floods," he added.

Kampung Tunku assemblyman Lim Yi Wei asked homeowners whose access was blocked by trees to update their locations in her social media post.

A number of residents also reported experiencing a temporary power cut.

THE STAR ONLINE

TARIKH: 27 MEI 2024

Call for better tree management

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A fallen tree temporarily blocking access to Air Selangor's office at Jalan Pantai Baru, Bangsar following Saturday's thunderstorm.

Agnes Ngieng said her house near Jalan SS2/41, Petaling Jaya, suffered a power cut for 14 hours before Tenaga Nasional Bhd repairmen came to fix it.

"They couldn't do anything until MBPJ workers cleared a big fallen tree that was blocking the road," she said.

Selva Kumanan urged the authorities to cut down old trees with damaged roots.

"They might fall at any time, even when it is not raining."

When contacted, Petaling Jaya mayor Mohamad Zahri Samington said the city council had taken the necessary action and was in the midst of clearing fallen trees around the city.

Meanwhile, Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) has activated its disaster operation room and mobilised its emergency response team to areas with reported fallen trees for cleanup works.

It urged those needing help to call its hotline at 03-8024 7700 for natural disaster-related emergencies.

According to MBSJ, areas with fallen trees were Jalan BK1/10 Pangsapuri Melur, Jalan BK9/5J, Jalan SP1/1, Jalan BK 8D, Jalan Wawasan 2/20 and Jalan Kinrara 6, BK6.

In Kuala Lumpur, several areas such as Jalan Pinang and Jalan Pantai Baru also reported fallen trees, with some causing damage to parked cars.

The Fire and Rescue Department, in a statement, said it was working with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to remove trees that fell on roads and utility lines.

On X (formerly Twitter), Universiti Malaya students posted photos and videos showing trees that had collapsed on cars and motorcycles.

One video showed the roof of the 12th College student residential block being dislodged during the thunderstorm.

THE STAR ONLINE

TARIKH: 27 MEI 2024

Call for better tree management (MBSJ) MBPJ Star 27/5

By FARID WAHAB
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

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Distressed Klang Valley residents complain after Saturday thunderstorm topples greenery, utility structures



Fire and Rescue Department personnel clearing the area after strong winds and heavy rain toppled several trees at Jalan 16/9 in Petaling Jaya. — Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star



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Thumbs up for green sports hub in Shah Alam

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
edward@thestar.com.my

SHAH Alam City Council (MBSA) plans to build a 15,000-seater sports complex in U16 Denai Alam, Selangor.

Costing an estimated RM60mil, the complex, which will be built on council land, will see adoption of sustainable technologies on the 3.6ha plot sandwiched between Persiaran Neutron and a cluster of high-end homes off Jalan Elektron U16/80.

MBSA architects from the Building Department, along with planners and engineers, envision turning the rectangular parcel of land into a sports hub.

Shah Alam mayor Cheremi Tarman, a civil engineer, said the Denai Alam Sports Complex (DASC) U16 would be equipped with alternative sources of energy that would see a big drop in carbon footprint and cost.

"Our investment in the sports complex for sustainable initiatives such as installation of solar panels to reduce energy consumption, capturing and re-using rainwater and use of wind turbines for natural air ventilation is part of our effort to embrace environmental, social and economic factors for a green sporting venue," he said.

To contribute to a greener Shah Alam, Cheremi said they opted for solar panels that generated renewable electricity to reduce the amount of carbon emissions each year.

"DASC will have a main sports complex area with an artificial turf field and race track.

"Other facilities are a multipurpose sports arena, indoor sports facility, gymnasium, cafeteria, food outlets, convenience store, management office, prayer room, shower cubicles and toilets," he said.

MBSA will build a five-level carpark with about 500 parking bays.

Based on feedback, he said, people wanted sustainable design and construction to reduce the impact on the environment.

"We will start construction in December 2025 and it will take four years to complete.

"The first phase is the main complex and second phase will include the rest of the components," he told *StarMetro*.

MBSA Building Department director Noraidah Basri said sports complexes were known for their high energy consumption, from use of floodlights to maintaining comfortable temperatures for spectators.

"Construction of DASC will embrace sustainable innovations to achieve energy efficiency.

"Our warm climate will see buildings oriented north or south to capture wind flow," she said.

Noraidah, who is an architect, said the plan would see the integration of solar panels, wind turbines, rain harvesters and LED lighting for outdoor areas, walk-

Stakeholders believe proposed complex will prove a positive influence to future generations



Aerial view of MBSA's proposed sports complex site on 3.6ha of land in Denai Alam. — Photos: FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

YOUR RIGHT to know

ways and even at the carparks.

"Our design incorporates water conservation where we have taken into account climate change and the El Nino effect that could potentially cause prolonged droughts," she said, referring to a National Water Research Institute of Malaysia study that predicts drought affecting the country in 2026 due to rising heat conditions.

"Water shortage is a concern. DASC is an asset for the eco-conscious Shah Alam community and MBSA is not exempt from

the responsibility to reduce water usage.

"Our council's climate pledge is to instal water-efficient fixtures and rain harvesters," said Noraidah, adding that these not only reduced water usage but also contributed to the overall resilience of DASC in the face of changing climate patterns.

"Sports complexes need to evolve from total concrete into hubs of biodiversity.

"We have designed green spaces with walk paths lined with shade trees, not only for aesthetic appeal but as habitats for flora and fauna to thrive."

Noraidah added that the mix of sustainable landscaping practices would help curb the urban heat island effect.

"Due to the impact of intense rains, the sports complex would be built on elevated terrain.

"The existing ground would

not be levelled as we will use the natural hillock to assist in surface run-off that uses gravity," she said.

She added that MBSA would delve into smart technology to control lighting based on seated capacities and mobile apps that offered users sustainable transportation options.

"Innovations are crucial, it will contribute to a user-friendly sports complex environment."

On sports hubs seeing large crowds that would contribute to more traffic, she said, "Sports complexes do encounter challenges connected to transportation.

"Overcoming this issue requires innovative strategies.

"We hope to get public transit like the LRT to have a line close to DASC, free shuttle buses and cycling infrastructure."

Shah Alam residents, she



Cheremi: Solar panels will generate renewable electricity to reduce the amount of carbon emissions each year.



Serjeet: MBSA is not only creating an iconic venue but advocating environmental stewardship for future generations.



Chow says sustainable sports complex shows city council's pivotal shift in environmental responsibility.



Noraidah says the sports complex will embrace sustainable innovations to achieve energy efficiency.

added, had suggested partnerships with ride-sharing services for discounted rates as this would see more people opt for hassle-free commute.

To cut down on carbon emissions, MBSA also plans to instal electric vehicle charging stations, said Noraidah.

Serjeet Singh, former sportsman and hockey umpire in the 1980s, said MBSA's plan to build an environmentally sustainable sports complex that used renewable energy was forward thinking.

"MBSA is not only creating an iconic venue but also advocating environmental stewardship for future generations," he added. City councillor Muhammad

Shakir Ameer Mohideen said MBSA's plan would help reduce its carbon footprint.

"It will influence sports fans or those who attend concerts to follow new standards in caring for the environment.

"It is more than a sports complex as the venue could also be used for community, educational and school events," he added.

Councillor Vincent Chow said MBSA's approach in building a sports complex with a sustainable future was a pivotal shift in environmental responsibility.

"Efforts of this nature will encourage a broader acceptance that will see private sectors following suit," he added.

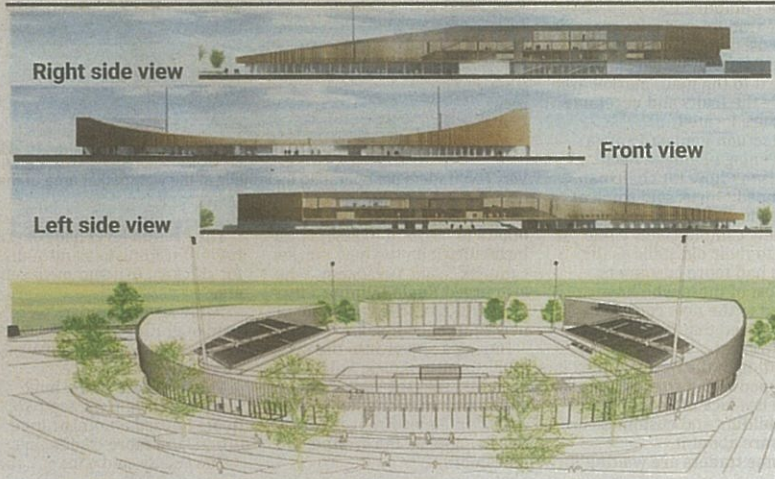
Denai Alam Sports Complex U16 Shah Alam



Land size: 3.6ha
Estimated cost: RM60mil
Location: Persiaran Neutron



MBSA Building Department architectural draughtsman Ahmad Nazmi Samangan (right) and assistant architect Azmi Mohd Aris during a survey of the proposed site for the Denai Alam Sports Complex.





Cheremi (front, fourth from left), helping one of the riders fill up his petrol tank, accompanied by Madiyan (on his left) and city council staff members.

MBSA
8thv
2/15

Free petrol for less privileged riders

SHAH Alam City Council (MBSA) organised the "Jom Isi Minyak Motosikal Percuma" programme at the PETRONAS petrol station in Section 7 Shah Alam to support the less privileged and the local community.

MBSA corporate and public relations director Mohd Azhar Mohd Sharif said the event was aimed at strengthening community bonds.

It also reaffirmed MBSA's ongoing commitment to assist the local community within its administrative area, he added.

"A total of 300 motorcycle

riders, including target groups such as food delivery riders, civil servants, industrial workers, and students from nearby higher education institutions, received free petrol.

"Each rider received free petrol worth RM10," he said.

Mohd Azhar added that the programme aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), No Poverty (SDG 1), and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).

"It also supported MBSA's commitment to becoming a caring local authority.

"The city council hopes by implementing welfare programmes for the community, it could also increase awareness of social responsibility among Shah Alam residents to come together to help those in need," he said.

The programme was officiated by Shah Alam mayor Cheremi Tarman.

Also present were acting deputy mayor Madiyan Baweh, council members, business partners, Road Safety and Corporate Unit, Selangor Road Transport Department and MBSA senior management staff.

THE STAR
27 MAY 2024
Tarikh:.....



STAR METRO
WATCH

MBPJ
MPKJ
MPKJ
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MPKJ

LOCAL COUNCIL MATTERS

> Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) is holding a briefing on the draft area plan for sections 19, 51 and 51A at its headquarters' operations room, first floor today at 10am. Stakeholders are invited to attend.

> MBPJ is holding a contest on the best neighbourhood security team, open to all registered residents associations, Rukun Tetangga, joint management bodies and village community management councils. The deadline is June 14. For entry forms, visit MBPJ's social media pages. For details, call 03-7958 8085 ext 115 (Kamarul).

MPKJ
27/5

> Kajang Municipal Council is organising its Green School Award for primary and secondary schools. Judging is based on cleanliness, innovation, creativity and community involvement. The submission deadline is Aug 26. For details, visit www.mpkj.gov.my

> Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) is holding a creative traditional dance contest for primary schools within its jurisdiction. The event will be held on July 11, 8pm at Auditorium MPAJ, Level 5, Menara MPAJ.

Registration forms can be found on MPAJ's Facebook page. For details, call 017-820 4448 or 011-7302 4108.

> Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) is holding a 5km Pets Charity Fun Run on June 22, 7am to noon at Semarak Hall, Cyberjaya. A fee of RM30 will be collected for children and RM45 for adults.

Registration is open until May 31. For details, visit Pet Charity Fun Run's official website.

> Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) is holding a photography competition until Aug 31. The competition features four themes – buildings/landmarks, natural environment, lifestyle and night scenery – and cash prizes. There are two categories available – public and professional. For details, visit www.mbsa.gov.my

THE STAR

27 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

DBKL urged to promote new Pasar Raja Bot complex

Story and photo by JAROD LIM
jarodlim@thestar.com.my

TRADERS at Pasar Raja Bot, who were supposed to shift into the newly built Kompleks Pasar Raja Bot, are still reluctant to move as they believe it does not get enough customers.

Both markets are located in the Chow Kit neighbourhood in Kuala Lumpur.

The traders said customers were used to their old stalls at Pasar Raja Bot, which is situated next to the main market area where the fruits and vegetable stalls are located.

Persatuan Penjaja-Penjaja dan Peniaga-Peniaga Kecil Kawasan Chow Kit chairman Yuesnaedy Idrus said some of the traders who had moved to the new complex later came back to their old stalls as the latter had more customers.

"Most of those who have moved to the new complex complained that their business has dropped.

"Although the new complex is equipped with better facilities, there is a lack of promotion of the building and customers are unaware about it.

"Some traders are waiting for



Very few traders are operating their stalls at the wet market area of the new market complex.

others to move in to assess public feedback on the new market complex," said Yuesnaedy, who also urged Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to help promote the new market complex.

During a site visit to the new four-storey complex, *StarMetro* observed that the stalls had low occupancy with only a handful of traders having moved into the shoplots on the ground and first floors.

The ground level had several rows of trading lots and stalls for chicken, fish and meat sellers.

"Only several traders were seen operating at the wet market area, with barely any visitors in sight.

The first floor had a huge food court while the top two floors housed administrative offices and more trading lots.

Yuesnaedy said a lot of house-

keeping work was needed, as minor problems had been cropping up since the traders were given the keys to their lots in March.

"For example, the centralised cooking hood for food stalls and shop shutters are not working properly.

"The pathway for ferrying goods from the basement is also too narrow.

"The coconut milk sellers who want to collect coconuts stored in the basement area find it difficult to manoeuvre along the pathway," he said.

Yuesnaedy also wanted DBKL to prevent traders from different categories from selling the same items.

"For example, both dry goods and vegetable traders are selling onions, resulting in competition among those selling the same items," he said, adding that the association had written to DBKL about the matter.

Snack trader Yong Song Quah, 77, said business had been slow after he moved to the new complex.

"The previous trading lots in Pasar Raja Bot had a larger space.

"Moreover, not many people

know about the new place.

"It would be much better if all the traders moved in together to the new complex," he said.

Noodle seller Tan Mei Xia, 62, said she barely made any sales on a weekday.

"I had to move because water and electricity supply were not available at my old spot in the wet market.

"But there are barely any customers in the new complex.

"The workspace at my new stall is too wide, making it difficult to reach for certain items and to hand orders over to customers," she said.

However, fried noodle hawk-er Tan Kuan said the move to the food court in the new complex was a blessing as his business had increased.

"I would only get two to three orders at the old market building.

"Now, more people patronise the food court as it is more comfortable, spacious and airy.

"Although the current stall is smaller than the old one, I am happy here," said the 81-year-old.

DBKL has not responded to requests for comments at press time.

THE STAR
27 MAY 2024
Tarikh:.....

THE government has been advised to establish a native tree bank as a strategic step to mitigate climate change and provide a sustainable solution to the issue of fallen trees.

Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM) president Associate Professor Dr Nor Atiah Ismail said the speciality of local trees lay in its resilience, adaptation to weather, quality of flora and fauna and environmental ecology, which could reduce the risk of fallen trees threatening public safety and property damage.

"With a tree bank (if) any untoward incident occurs, tree replacement can be done and solve the issue of high-risk trees in Kuala Lumpur."

"So, we need native trees and preferably the species come from our own forests."

"The use of internal trees (species native to country) is (however) insufficient because healthy and beautiful trees have been exported to Singapore while we receive trees that are

'Have native tree bank, don't lose pockets of greenery'

said to be cheap.

"For example, the (smallish) *bucida* tree is not suitable for our ecology because of the aggressive nature of their roots," she said as a guest on the 'Reaksi' programme on Bernama Radio.

In dealing with the issue of fallen trees especially around the capital, she said Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) needed to take decisive action by visually inspecting trees to identify their condition and health.

"In Kuala Lumpur, trees are located between tall buildings. When the wind is strong, the buildings create a wind tunnel causing trees to fall, especially if they are old and the roots have decayed," she added.

Assoc Prof Nor Atiah said visual inspections could note problems such as excessive fallen leaves, yellowing, broken twigs or branches, cracked trees

or liquid oozing out of the roots.

Then a decision would be made on whether the tree needed to be treated or cut down.

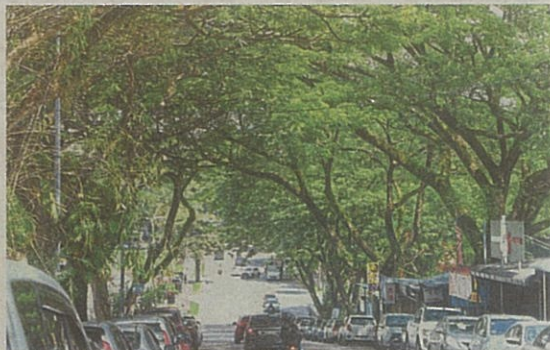
"We should actually have a database of which areas need replacement, mitigation and we ought to be constantly inspecting and analysing," she said, insisting that every tree cut down needed to be replaced to ensure ecological balance.

Assoc Prof Nor Atiah also expressed her dismay that Kuala Lumpur only had 10% greenery, which was insufficient compared to Putrajaya's 30% to 40% foliage.

"With a higher capacity of people (high density) and high-rise buildings, that amount (10% trees) is not enough."

"As this city is full of buildings, we have to look at pocket spaces that can be used as lush, green lungs."

Assoc Prof Nor Atiah said poli-



Assoc Prof Nor Atiah is dismayed about Kuala Lumpur's 10% greenery, which she says is insufficient. — Filepic

cy involvement from the government was a good thing and must be done so that the environment and tree cover were in good condition and resilient.

On May 15, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had ordered DBKL to plant 100 new trees to replace every tree cut down.

THE STAR

27 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

Selangor's first stamp museum to be ready by 2026

Star
2/1/24

CONSTRUCTION of a stamp museum in Section 14, Shah Alam, Selangor has been experiencing delays.

Selangor housing and culture committee chairman Borhan Aman Shah said progress of the state's first stamp museum was at 65% and the project was expected to be completed by 2026.

He said despite construction delays, work was ongoing and he was monitoring the progress.

"The museum was scheduled to be ready by this year, but the project's construction progress was disrupted during the implementation of the movement control order in 2020/2021 due to a manpower shortage," he told Bernama.

"The Public Works Department is also monitoring the progress," he added.

Borhan said several technical issues also contributed to the delay, adding that

contractors had been warned to complete works as stipulated.

Previously, Borhan was reported as saying the state government would open three new museums early this year to continue efforts to preserve and document Selangor's history, heritage and culture.

Besides the Stamp Museum, two other museums that are scheduled to open include the Selangor Art Gallery in

Shah Alam and Textile Museum in Klang.

Borhan also touched on progress of renovation works at Sultan Alam Shah Museum in Section 14, which he said was expected to reopen to the public in August.

The museum had been closed since 2019 for upgrades to its galleries, namely the History Gallery, Custom and Culture Gallery as well as Nature Gallery.

THE STAR

27 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

Be cautious when fixing subsidies

Rationalising fuel subsidies is a fine line that the government must tread carefully to avoid a spike in prices.

EVERYONE expected Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to announce the much-anticipated fuel subsidy rationalisation when news broke about the special address last Tuesday.

But, as it turned out, the announcement only involved diesel drivers. This left most RON95 users, who make up the majority of motorists, anxiously waiting for the news that will surely impact the monthly spending of many.

The government is well aware of the anxiety, and that is why Anwar made it clear that the subsidy rationalisation will not involve 10 types of public transport and 23 types of goods transport vehicles.

This means that bus operators and taxi drivers, among others, will continue to enjoy subsidies via the fleet card system.

But that appears to be cold comfort for critics like Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin, who accused Anwar of failing to address the elephant in the room by not revealing when the subsidy rationalisation plan would be implemented.

Hamzah said people wanted to know about the fuel subsidy rationalisation, as many of them needed to know where to look

for aid.

But Anwar clapped back by questioning Hamzah's move to oppose Putrajaya's decision to rationalise diesel subsidies.

"We have been stressing that the targeted subsidy is to prevent the rich and foreigners from enjoying it.

"Will Perikatan Nasional subsidise the rich and the foreigners (if they come to power)? Answer that first," said Anwar at a press conference with the Malaysian media in Tokyo on Friday.

He was on a brief visit to Japan at the time.

But to be fair, Hamzah was not opposing the fuel subsidy rationalisation. His only concern was the timing of its implementation.

This is also something that is playing in the minds of other Malaysians who want to be better prepared for looming price hikes.

While we all know the lower income group will be shielded with various aid programmes, the large pool of income tax payers – which makes up some 85% of those earning above RM100,000 a year or RM8,333 a month – are left wondering if they are considered "rich" when they are able to just make do.

With a monthly household salary of RM10,960, a young family

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Comment

finds themselves in the T20 category, commonly referred to as the "upper class".

However, they still face the challenges of managing daily expenses and fulfilling their commitments.

Taking into account the increasing cost of living and the looming fuel subsidy rationalisation, calls for a review of the income group classification have grown louder and it is time to redefine what being an M40 means.

The Household Income and Basic Amenities Survey Report 2019 from the Statistics Department classifies an M40 income as ranging between RM4,850 and RM10,959 per month.

A typical household in which the wife and husband each make RM5,000 per month is common, but with higher daily expenditures, the drop in disposable

income is certainly affecting many families, particularly those with children.

The debate about rationalising fuel subsidies had come up as early as two decades ago.

It was talked about during the tenure of Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as prime minister but no administration had the political will to execute the cuts.

In November 2007, Abdullah expressed the need for Malaysia to restructure its fuel subsidy scheme due to the challenges posed by high oil prices.

However, the proposal fizzled out just weeks after that due to public backlash.

It has often been bandied about that between RM30bil and RM40bil is spent annually in subsidies to keep RON95 prices at RM2.05 per litre.

Even in Saudi Arabia, which has the second largest oil reserve in the world, RON95 is priced at 2.33 riyals (or RM2.93) per litre there.

In general, as global oil prices rise, the government will be forced to spend more on subsidies.

According to Brent Crude, oil prices are currently at US\$81.77 (RM384) per barrel, and analysts are expecting them to touch

US\$100 in the near future.

Brent Crude is the leading global oil price benchmark. Two-thirds of the world's internationally traded crude oil supplies set their prices using Brent Crude.

It is also one of the two main benchmark prices for global oil purchases, the other being West Texas Intermediate.

The longer the government delays plans to rationalise fuel subsidies, the more potential revenue bleeds out of the country.

Rationalising fuel subsidies is a fine line that Putrajaya must tread, as it has to strike a perfect balance between increasing fuel prices gradually while ensuring that prices of goods do not skyrocket too fast.

It is a herculean task to educate the public on the need to reduce subsidies, as nobody would find it easy to accept increased costs.

But eventually, Malaysians will have to bite the bullet.

To withstand imminent price hikes, the average salaries of Malaysians must be increased.

Right now, the base salary for a fresh graduate is just about RM2,831.

This is not much more compared to a decade ago, when the

> TURN TO PAGE 15

THE STAR
Tarikh: 27 MAY 2024

More details on diesel subsidy rationalisation soon

KUALA LUMPUR: Further details will soon be revealed by Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan on the implementation of the diesel subsidy rationalisation mechanism, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"The second finance minister will give an explanation soon."

"I was just giving an overview, the big picture will come later," Anwar told reporters during a press conference after attending the Postnormal Times Madani Exhibition at Berjaya Times Square here.

Responding to Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin's query whether Anwar had visited wet markets to check on the prices of goods that were affecting the people, the Prime Minister said he did so on a weekly basis.

"Each time I visited (these places), I asked about the prices of goods and also inquired about their problems."

"It seems that he (Hamzah) is trying avoid from responding to



Taking a closer look: Artist Azizan Paiman (left) briefing Anwar on his artwork entitled "Trust Keyakinan" during a visit to the Postnormal Times Madani Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

allegations that his party is supporting rich tycoons and foreigners," Anwar added.

Last week, the Prime Minister

announced that the diesel subsidy rationalisation would be implemented in Peninsular Malaysia first, and later for



Sabah and Sarawak.

The implementation of the diesel subsidy rationalisation mechanism is expected to save RM4bil a year for the government.

Earlier, the Prime Minister spent about an hour viewing the display featuring works by six local artists highlighting the main pillars of the Madani concept.

He encouraged ministries, universities, schools, private companies and families to visit the exhibition, which he described as unique, meticulously dissecting issues faced by society due to the impact of social media and developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technology.

Among the participating artists was sculptor Liu Cheng Hua, who showcased "Golden Shafts", a type of gold-mining equipment

made from locally-sourced bamboo widely used in Raub, Pahang, in 2014.

Also exhibited were artworks titled "Human Needs Human", "Panorama" and "Aku Bukan Pendatang" by Stephen Menon, a painter and printmaker known for his innovative techniques and thought-provoking works.

The exhibition is a collaboration between the Prime Minister and Centre for Postnormal Policy and Futures Studies (CPPFS), with Berjaya Times Square as the sponsor and organiser of the programme.

It runs until Nov 10 at Berjaya Times Square and the entrance is free.

Deputy Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk R. Ramanan, CPPFS director Prof Ziauddin Sardar and CPPFS assistant director Scott Jordan were also present.

FORMORE:

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THE STAR

27 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

'Avoid eateries that hike prices excessively'

By ZAZALI MUSA
metro@thestar.com.my

CONSUMERS have been advised to be more selective when eating out in view of escalating prices of food in recent months.

Johor Consumers Movement Association chairman Md Salleh Sadijo said consumerism awareness among Malaysians was still low.

"Lack of interest or concern is the reason why consumers are easily targeted by unscrupulous traders," he said.

Md Salleh said traders were taking advantage of the situation, knowing that consumers would complain before eventually accepting the price increases.

He urged Malaysian consumers to start taking matters seriously including boycotting businesses and traders that engaged in excessive profiteering.

"If we can boycott companies and brands that are openly supporting Israel, we also can do the same against our local traders for excessive profiteering," said Md Salleh.

He said this after complaints that certain eateries in Johor Baru had increased their prices following the May 1 announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of a salary hike for civil servants.

Civil servants will see a 13% salary increase from this December, involving an allocation over RM10bil. It will be tabled during the Budget 2025 announcement in October.

"I too was a victim of a price hike after the Prime Minister's



Md Salleh says some eateries had increased food prices following the May 1 announcement of salary hike for civil servants. — ZAZALI MUSA/The Star

announcement," said Md Salleh.

He said he had gone for lunch at a well-known *asam pedas* restaurant in Gelang Patah and ended up paying RM74.20 for two people.

Md Salleh said the bill was for two pieces of *asam pedas ikan merah* (red snapper), a small piece of omelette, mixed vegetables, two plates of rice and plain tea.

"We had a similar order at the same place in March and it only cost RM50," he said.

He suggested that consumers

cook at home to save money or choose eateries with reasonable prices.

Johor Bumiputra Consumer Association chairman Syed Abdullah Syed Mohamed said traders would increase their prices every time the government announced bonuses or salary increases for civil servants.

"It is expected as it has been going on for years," he said.

Syed Abdullah said the price of a packet of basic *nasi lemak* with *sambal* and a small piece

of omelette had increased.

"The same *nasi lemak* sold at a food outlet at Bandar Baru Uda was RM2 each before May 1 but on May 2, I paid RM5 for two or RM2.50 each," he said.

Syed Abdullah said he expected another price increase this December once the new salary scheme for civil servants was implemented.

The authorities, he said, should take action against traders and food operators for increasing prices indiscriminately.

THE STAR
127 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

Strategi kerajaan berjaya naikan ringgit

KUALA LUMPUR - Peningkatan nilai ringgit mendorong mata wang tempatan berada pada kedudukan pertama berbanding sembilan mata wang negara serantau lain pada pertengahan Mei 2024, dipacu tindakan bersepadu yang dilaksanakan sejak tiga bulan lepas oleh Kementerian Kewangan (MOF) dan Bank Negara Malaysia.

MOF menerusi hantaran di platform X menjelaskan dari 26 Februari sehingga 17 Mei tahun ini, ringgit meningkat 2.0 peratus berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS), manakala dolar Singapura, yuan China, rupee India dan baht Thailand masing-masing susut -0.2 peratus, -0.4 peratus, -0.7

peratus dan 1.0 peratus.

Kementerian itu menambah strategi bersepadu Kerajaan Madani membolehkan ringgit mengukuh dengan purata harian jumlah dagangan pasaran kewangan meningkat kepada AS\$17.6 bilion (AS\$1 = RM4.71) dalam tempoh itu.

Antara inisiatif yang dilaksanakan ialah menggalakkan syarikat pelaburan berkaitan kerajaan (GLIC) dan syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC) membawa pulang pendapatan langsung asing dan meningkatkan interaksi dengan pengeksport untuk menukar hasil kepada ringgit.

Selain memantau penukaran hasil

eksport dan import, kerajaan turut memperkukuh ekonomi tempatan dan meneruskan reformasi fiskal yang dijanjikan, menurut MOF.

"Dengan prospek Rizab Persekutuan mula menurunkan kadar faedahnya dalam tahun ini. Ini merupakan pemangkin kepada pemulihan nilai ringgit.

"Malaysia juga menggerakkan beberapa usaha untuk menarik minat pelabur ke aset tempatan," katanya.

MOF juga menekankan kenaikan bilangan pelancong dari luar negara telah meningkatkan permintaan ringgit, menyumbang kepada pengukuhan nilai mata wang. - *Bernama*

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:27 MAY 2024.....

Umum perincian dalam masa terdekat - PM

Menteri Kewangan II akan jelaskan mekanisme, tarikh pelaksanaan subsidi diesel bersasar

KUALA LUMPUR

Mekanisme dan tarikh pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi bahan api diesel akan dimaklumkan pada masa terdekat, kata Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Beliau berkata, perkara itu akan dijelaskan oleh Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan kerana beliau sudah pun memberikan gambaran mengenaiinya dan kini hanya perlu tindakan susulan.

"Ada orang tanya mengapa? Bukan semua Perdana Menteri yang lakukan. Saya beri gambaran dan kerangka besar, kemudian akan ada tindakan susulan," katanya dalam sidang akhbar selepas menghadiri Pameran Era Pasca Normal Madani di sini pada Ahad.

Dalam Perutusan Negara yang disampaikan Selasa lepas, Anwar berkata, Jemaah Menteri bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas diesel sekali gus memberi penjimatan sekitar RM4 bilion setahun kepada kerajaan.

Bagaimanapun penyasaran itu tidak melibatkan pengguna di Sabah dan Sarawak.

Sementara itu ketika ditanya me-



Anwar (kiri) meluangkan masa melawat Pameran Era Pasca Normal Madani di Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur pada Ahad.

ngenai calon jawatan Pengerusi Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR), Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan berkata, calonnya sudah pun dikenal pasti.

"Kita sudah ikut prosesnya dan ia harus dapat perkenan Yang di-Pertuan Agong," katanya sambil menambah proses pemilihan calon itu tidak memerlukan kerajaan berunding dengan Timbalan Pengerusi SPR sedia ada.

Jawatan pengerusi suruhanjaya itu kosong sejak persaraan Tan Sri Abdul Ghani Salleh pada 9 Mei lepas.

Menyentuh mengenai pelantikan Yang di-Pertua Dewan Negara baharu bagi menggantikan Senator Datuk Mutang Tagal yang meninggal dunia pada 10 Mei lepas, Anwar ber-

kata, perkara itu akan dibincangkan hari ini ketika berada di Sarawak.

"Pada peringkat awal kita akan bincang dengan kepimpinan parti, kemudian bersama pimpinan (kerajaan negeri Sarawak) kerana perkhidmatan dua Yang di-Pertua (sebelum ini) tamat sebelum tempoh. Jadi saya akan bincang perkara ini esok (Isnin) di Sarawak," jelasnya.

Menjawab isu program pascasiswazah pembedahan kardiotoraks di Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) yang telah menimbulkan perdebatan dan bantahan, Anwar berkata, perkara itu akan dibincangkan dalam mesyuarat Kabinet pada Rabu ini.

"Kita akan bincang Rabu ini, mesyuarat Kabinet Rabu ini," tambah beliau. - Bernama

Rakyat ingin tahu pakej bantuan akan diterima hasil penjimatan subsidi - Muhyiddin

Sinar 22/5

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan sepatutnya memberi penjelasan terperinci mengenai langkah yang akan diambil untuk menampunkan kesan penarikan balik subsidi ke atas kenaikan kos sara hidup rakyat, kata Pengerusi Perikatan Nasional (PN), Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Menurutnya, ini kerana kesan penarikan balik subsidi ini ke atas kenaikan harga barang dan kos sara hidup adalah satu kebimbangan yang berasas, susulan pengumuman penyalakan semula subsidi diesel oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim baru-baru ini.

"Lebih mengecewakan, Perdana Menteri yang juga Menteri Kewangan tidak memberikan penjelasan secara terperinci bagaimana isu beban kos sara hidup rakyat akan ditangani secara tuntas oleh kerajaan akibat penarikan balik subsidi diesel dan selepas ini RON95.

"Tiada penjelasan terperinci bagaimana kerajaan akan membelanjakan hasil penjimatan subsidi sebanyak RM4 bilion. Berapa banyak nilai bantuan yang akan dinaikkan untuk manfaat rakyat? Siapa akan menerimanya? Ini juga tidak dijelaskan secara terperinci oleh Perdana Menteri.

"Rakyat ingin tahu apakah pakej-pakej bantuan yang akan diterima oleh mereka hasil penjimatan subsidi," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Ahad.

Tambah beliau lagi, kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi, nilai pelaburan dan inflasi yang dinyatakan Anwar juga tidak menggambarkan situasi sebenar yang dihadapi oleh rakyat.

"Kerana itu, ketika berucap di Parlimen Mac lalu, saya mencadangkan kepada kerajaan supaya menangguhkan pelaksanaan rasionalisasi subsidi, khususnya subsidi diesel dan petrol.

"Apatah lagi kerajaan baru sahaja melaksanakan penyasaran semula subsidi elektrik pada bulan Januari 2024, cukai barang bernilai rendah pada Januari 2024, kenaikan tarif air pada Februari 2024 dan kenaikan cukai SST pada Mac 2024," tegasnya.



MUHYIDDIN

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 27 MAY 2024



Kuala Lumpur

Sekurang-kurangnya enam unit rumah terjejas selepas bumbung zink tercabut di Blok 94 Apartmen Putra Ria dekat Bangsar di sini, kelmarin.

Dalam kejadian kira-kira jam 5 petang, enam kereta dan tiga motosikal turut rosak akibat dihempap kepingan zink daripada bumbung yang jatuh.

Penduduk M Santha Kumari, 41, berkata rumahnya di tingkat 20 daripada pangsapuri 22 tingkat itu tidak terkesan, namun cermin belakang sebuah kereta milik adiknya pecah akibat kejadian itu.

"Semasa kejadian, bumbung memang nampak sudah jatuh dan saya nampak betul-betul depan mata bumbung itu jatuh timpa kereta adik."

"Angin sangat kuat dan keadaan hujan, rumah saya ramai kanak-kanak manakala adik saya juga baru bersalin, jadi perasaan risau itu memang ada," katanya ketika ditemui di lokasi, di sini.

Santha Kumari yang terkejut dengan kejadian itu bagaimanapun

"Angin sangat kuat dan keadaan hujan, rumah saya ramai kanak-kanak manakala adik saya juga baru bersalin, jadi perasaan risau itu memang ada"

bersyukur kerana semua penduduk selamat dan hanya membatikan kerosakan harta benda.

Abu Bakar Hasnah, 43, yang baru sahaja pulang ke rumah ibunya pula terkejut apabila mendengar bunyi dentuman yang sangat kuat.

"Saya bergegas keluar dari rumah dan melihat bumbung jatuh ke bawah serta terkena kereta di kawasan parkir bawah blok."

"Isteri saya juga sempat merakam video kejadian," katanya sambil menambah bumbung berkenaan dipercayai mencecah usia 10 hingga 20 tahun sejak bangunan

itu didirikan.

Sementara itu, Timbalan Pengerusi Majlis Perwakilan Penduduk Lembah Pantai Sub Zon 1 Abdul Haniff Sulaiman berkata, terdapat sebuah unit rumah di tingkat 22 yang memerlukan tindakan segera kerana hampir keseluruhan bumbung tercabut.

Beliau berkata, kejadian itu kali pertama berlaku dan hampir kesemua pemilik kenderaan yang terjejas sudah membuat laporan kepada pihaknya, manakala kontraktor bumbung juga hadir membuat penilaian bagi tindakan segera.

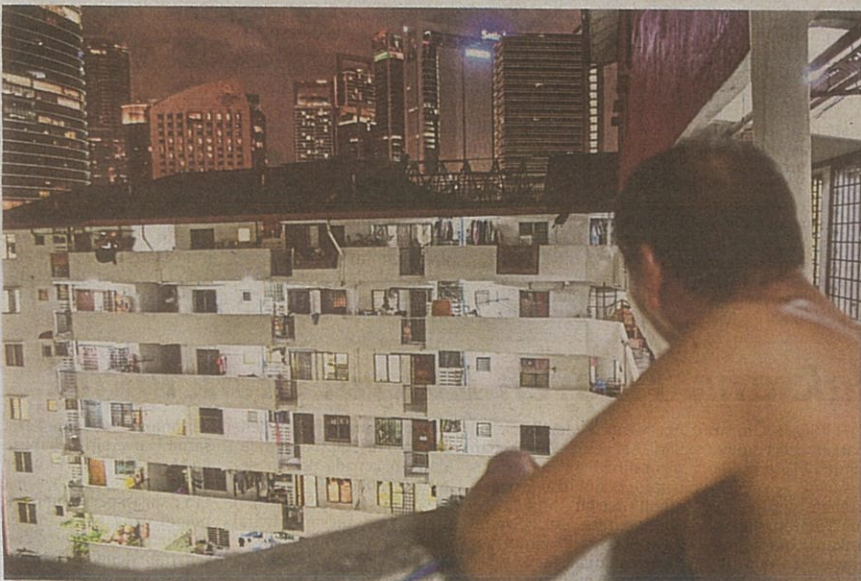
"Kami juga telah membuat laporan kepada DBKL (Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur) dan mereka hadir pada malam ini (kelmarin). Syarikat pengurusan, Intra Harta Consultant Sdn Bhd juga hadir untuk membuat laporan."

"Terdapat juga wakil Ahli Parlimen Lembah Pantai (Menteri Komunikasi Fahmi Fadzil) yang diarahkan oleh Fahmi untuk membuka bilik gerakan bagi penduduk terkesan membuat segala laporan yang sepatutnya," katanya.



Saya ber...
dari ru...
melihat...
jatuh ke...
terken...
di kaw...
baw...
Abu Ba...

RUMAH



kanak-kanak di ibu negara tuan orang lain. Kata DC-



KEADAAM sekitar Blok 94, Apartmen Putra Ria Bangsar susulan kejadian bumbung jatuh akibat ribut dan hujan lebat kira-kira 5.30 petang kelmarin.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 12 MAY 2011

Pengurus dana KWSP hasilkan pulangan baik pada 2023

Kuala Lumpur: Barisan pengurus dana luaran Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) menghasilkan pulangan yang baik tahun lepas dengan mencatatkan jumlah pendapatan tertinggi, kira-kira 22 peratus daripada keseluruhan pendapatan dana itu walaupun menghadapi pasaran yang tidak menentu dan mencabar.

Menurut kenyataan, KWSP memaklumkan sehingga 31 Disember 2023, sebanyak RM189 bilion telah disalurkan kepada pengurus dana luaran untuk dilaburkan dalam ekuiti dan instrumen pendapatan tetap, yang mewakili 17 peratus daripada keseluruhan aset pelaburan KWSP.

Pengerusi KWSP Tan Sri Ahmad Badri Mohd Zahir berkata jumlah dana yang



KWSP memberikan pulangan mampan di samping melindungi kesejahteraan persaraan ahli.

diurus oleh pengurus ekuiti dan pendapatan tetap luaran telah meningkat hampir tiga kali ganda kepada RM189 bilion berbanding lima tahun lepas.

"Selain daripada memaksimumkan pulangan risiko terlaras peringkat portfolionya, KWSP juga berusaha untuk memperkasa semua syarikat penerima pelaburan dan pengurus dana luaran untuk memberikan

impak positif kepada masyarakat dan alam sekitar.

"Dedikasi mereka untuk menghasilkan nilai yang berkekalan telah menyumbang kepada kejayaan KWSP dalam memberikan pulangan yang mampan di samping melindungi kesejahteraan persaraan ahli," katanya dalam kenyataan yang sama.

KWSP juga mengumumkan 11 pemenang di Anu-

gerah Pengurus Dana Luar KWSP 2023 sebagai pengiktirafan prestasi cemerlang barisan pengurus dana luarannya mengikut mandat masing-masing dinilai berdasarkan beberapa set metrik kuantitatif.

Sementara itu, KWSP menjelaskan bagi tahun kewangan berakhir 2023, pihaknya mengisytiharkan kadar dividen sebanyak 5.50 peratus dengan agihan RM50.33 bilion untuk Simpanan Konvensional; dan 5.40 peratus dengan agihan RM7.48 bilion untuk Simpanan Syariah.

Secara kumulatif, jumlah agihan untuk 2023 ialah RM57.81 bilion.

Ahmad Badri berkata pencapaian itu turut disumbang pempelbagaian yang dilaksanakan pengurus dana dalam kelas aset, pasaran dan mata wang berbeza yang membantu KWSP untuk kekal berdaya tahan terhadap turun naik pasaran serta melindungi pulangan pelaburannya.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 12 MAY 2024

Kosmo
21/5

Bakal diumumkan Menteri Kewangan Kedua dalam masa terdekat ini

Laksana subsidi bersasar tidak lama lagi

Oleh AHMAD SHAHERMAN
SHAMSURI

KUALA LUMPUR — Perdana Menteri memaklumkan pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar melibatkan minyak diesel akan diumumkan dalam masa terdekat.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, pengumuman tersebut akan dilakukan Menteri Kewangan Kedua, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

Beliau berkata, Perdana Menteri hanya merangka dasar berkaitan subsidi itu dan akan ada pihak yang akan melaksanakannya kelak.

"Menteri berkenaan khususnya Menteri Kewangan kedua akan memberikan penjelasan dalam masa singkat.

"Ada orang tanya mengapa, ini bukan semua Perdana Menteri lakukan. Saya hanya beri gambaran kerangka besar dan nanti akan ada tindakan ada susulan.

"Sebab saya bezakan perkara dasar dan titik bengkok (perkara tidak penting)," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang akhbar selepas merasmikan



ANWAR ketika merasmikan Pameran Era Pasca Normal Madani di Berjaya Times Square di Kuala Lumpur semalam.

kan Pameran Era Pasca Normal Madani di Berjaya Times Square di sini semalam.

Pameran yang bertempat di tingkat 10 kompleks beli-belah tersebut dibuka kepada orang ramai secara percuma sehingga 10 November depan.

Selasa lalu, Jemaah Menteri bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas diesel sekali gus dapat memberi penjimatan kepada kerajaan sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

Pada sidang akhbar itu juga, Anwar menampelak, kenyataan Ketua Pembangkang, Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin yang mengajak Perdana Menteri agar turun ke pasar-pasar basah bagi meninjau kenaikan harga barang yang semakin menghimpit rakyat.

Menurutnya, beliau setiap masa turun padang mendekati rakyat untuk melihat sendiri keluhan mereka berhubung masalah dihadapi.

"Kerja saya saban minggu, saya ke warung kecil, ke pasar, tiap kali sebelum Jumaat tanya (rakyat) berkenaan harga barang," katanya.

KOSMO

127 MAY 2024

Tarikh:

Bumbung tercabut timpa kereta di parkir

Penghuni
Apartmen Putra
Ria berdepan
detik cemas ketika
angin kencang,
hujan lebat

Oleh Azhar Shahrulnizam
dan Ruwaida Md Zain
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: "Saya nampak bumbung jatuh menimpa kereta adik saya. (Ketika itu) angin sangat kencang dan hujan lebat," demikian kata penghuni Apartmen Putra Ria di Bangsar, di sini, M Santha Kumari, 41.

Meskipun kediamannya di tingkat 20 bangunan pangsapuri itu tidak terkesan, kejadian ribut petang kelmarin menyebabkan cermin belakang sebuah kereta milik adiknya pecah.

Sekurang-kurangnya enam unit kediaman di Blok 94, Apartmen Putra Ria terjejas apabila bumbung diterbangkan angin kencang.

Dalam kejadian ribut kira-kira

jam 5 petang itu, enam kereta dan tiga motosikal turut rosak ditimpa kepingan zink bumbung yang jatuh.

Abu Bakar Hasnah, 43, yang baru pulang ke rumah ibunya di apartmen itu ketika kejadian pula terkejut mendengar dentuman sangat kuat.

"Saya bergegas keluar rumah sebelum melihat bumbung jatuh dan terkena kereta di kawasan parkir. Isteri saya juga sempat merakam video kejadian itu," katanya seperti dilaporkan BERNAMA.

Siti Nur Hazlinda Mohd Tahar, 34, pula berkata, bumbung rumahnya di tingkat 22 blok itu turut tercabut dan ketika kejadian dia tiada di rumah kerana menghadiri majlis perkahwinan di Rawang.

"Ketika perjalanan pulang, saya menerima panggilan daripada jiran memaklumkan bumbung rumah tercabut akibat ribut.

"Walaupun bumbung tercabut, kami masih boleh tidur di sini semalam (kelmarin) kerana rumah masih ada siling.

"Cuma jika tidak dibaik pulih, ia mungkin akan bocor apabila hujan," katanya.

Siti Nur Hazlinda berkata, pihak pengurusan sudah melawat rumahnya dan akan menanggung

Ketika perjalanan pulang, saya menerima panggilan daripada jiran memaklumkan bumbung rumah tercabut akibat ribut

Siti Nur Hazlinda Mohd Tahar, Penghuni Apartmen Putra Ria Bangsar

sepenuhnya kos baik pulih terba-

bit. "Proses baik pulih bermula sekitar jam 10 pagi tadi (semalam) dan mungkin mengambil masa sedikit untuk siap sepenuhnya," katanya.

Tinjauan BH di apartmen itu semalam mendapati kerja baik pulih di kawasan parkir kereta sudah selesai.

Sementara itu, Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Kuala Lumpur mengesahkan menerima empat panggilan kecemasan antara jam 6.20 petang hingga 7 malam kelmarin berhubung pokok tumbang di sekitar ibu negara akibat ribut dan hujan lebat.

Pusat Gerakan Operasi (PGO) Kuala Lumpur memaklumkan, insiden pokok tumbang di Lot 5746, Jalan Klang Lama, menyebabkan empat lori tiga tan dihempap.

Selain itu, lautan utama di Kolej Kediaman Pertama Universiti Malaya (UM), terhalang selepas pokok tumbang menghempap tiang elektrik di kawasan berkenaan.

Kejadian pokok tumbang turut dilaporkan di Taman Tun Dr Ismail dan Jalan Long Yew Koh.

PBT berdepan isu kewangan

Di Shah Alam, Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming, tidak menafikan ada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) berdepan masalah kewangan dalam melaksanakan kerja penyelenggaraan pokok di kawasan pentadbiran masing-masing berikutan kosnya agak mahal.

"Oleh itu, kita akan sentiasa mencari (kaedah sesuai) dengan rakan strategik bersama pihak swasta ataupun wakil rakyat.

"Daripada pihak kementerian pun, kita akan menurunkan peruntukan bagi membantu PBT supaya sentiasa dapat menjaga kesihatan pokok," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas menyempurnakan Majlis Perasmian Penutupan Forum Perbandaran Hijau (GUF) 2024 dan Majlis Penyampaian Anugerah, Hadiah & Sijil Penghargaan Sempena Hari Landskap Negara 2024, semalam.



Kenderaan yang terjejas akibat bumbung jatuh dari Blok 94, Apartmen Putra Ria Bangsar akibat ribut dan hujan lebat, kelmarin. (Foto BERNAMA)



Hujan lebat dan angin kencang menyebabkan beberapa pokok tumbang di sekitar Taman Tun Dr Ismail (TTDI) serta kawasan Universiti Malaya (UM), kelmarin.



(Foto ihsan pembaca)



Kerja membaik pulih bumbung yang tercabut di Blok 94, Apartmen Putra Ria Bangsar susulan kejadian ribut dan hujan lebat, kelmarin.

(Foto Amirudin Sahib/BH)

Pengurus dana luaran KWSP hasil pulangan baik tahun lalu



Kepelbagaian dalam kelas aset, pasaran dan mata wang berbeza bantu kekal berdaya tahan

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Barisan pengurus dana luaran Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) menghasilkan pulangan yang baik tahun lalu dengan mencatatkan jumlah pendapatan tertinggi kira-kira 22 peratus daripada keseluruhan pendapatan KWSP meskipun berdepan pasaran tidak menentu dan mencabar.

Sehingga 31 Disember 2023, sebanyak RM189 bilion telah disalurkan kepada pengurus dana luaran untuk dilaburkan dalam ekuiti dan instrumen pendapatan tetap, yang mewakili 17 peratus daripada keseluruhan aset pelaburan KWSP.

Pengerusi KWSP, Tan Sri Ahmad Badri Mohd Zahir, berkata jumlah dana yang diurus

pengurus ekuiti dan pendapatan tetap luaran meningkat hampir tiga kali ganda kepada RM189 bilion berbanding lima tahun lalu.

Beliau berkata, kepelbagaian dilaksanakan pengurus dana dalam kelas aset, pasaran dan mata wang berbeza juga membantu KWSP untuk kekal berdaya tahan terhadap turun naik pasaran serta melindungi pulangan pelaburannya.

"Barisan pengurus dana luaran KWSP telah menghasilkan pulangan yang baik tahun lalu dengan mencatatkan jumlah pendapatan tertinggi, lebih kurang 22 peratus daripada keseluruhan pendapatan KWSP walaupun berhadapan dengan pasaran yang tidak menentu dan mencabar," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Umum 11 pemenang

KWSP mengumumkan 11 pemenang di Anugerah Pengurus Dana Luar KWSP 2023 sebagai pengiktirafan prestasi cemerlang barisan pengurus dana luaran KWSP mengikut mandat masing-masing yang dinilai berdasarkan beberapa set metrik kuantitatif.

Pemenang itu ialah AIIAN Asset Management Sdn Bhd (Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Domestik Terbaik (Syariah) 2023); Pheim Asset

Management Sdn Bhd (Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Domestik Terbaik (Konvensional) 2023); BNP Paribas Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Pengurus Dana Bon Global Terbaik 2023) dan Principal Asset Management Bhd (Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Antarabangsa Terbaik bagi MSCI Pasaran Pesat Membangun Amerika Latin 2023).

Robeco Institutional Asset Management dinobatkan sebagai Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Antarabangsa Terbaik bagi Faktor Pelaburan 2023; abrdn Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Antarabangsa Terbaik bagi MSCI Etika Asia (tidak termasuk Jepun, tidak termasuk Malaysia)

2023) dan AHAM Capital Asset Management (Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Domestik KWSP Terbaik 2023).

Sementara itu, Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Global KWSP Terbaik 2023 dan Pengurus Dana Luar KWSP Terbaik 2023 diraih oleh Amundi.

Amundi Aalam Sdn Bhd dan Amundi Malaysia Sdn Bhd masing-masing memperoleh anugerah Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Antarabangsa Terbaik bagi FTSE Syariah Dunia Maju 2023 dan Pengurus Dana Ekuiti Antarabangsa Terbaik bagi FTSE Bertaka Dunia Maju 2023.

Bagi tahun kewangan berakhir 2023, KWSP telah mengisytiharkan kadar dividen sebanyak 5.50 peratus dengan agihan RM50.33 bilion untuk Simpanan Konvensional dan 5.40 peratus dengan agihan RM7.48 bilion untuk Simpanan Syariah.

Secara kumulatif, jumlah agihan untuk 2023 ialah RM57.81 bilion.

Sehingga Disember 2023, saiz aset pelaburan KWSP adalah berjumlah RM1.14 trilion, sekali gus meletakkan KWSP sebagai salah satu daripada 10 dana persaraan terbesar di dunia.

Pada tahun yang mendatang, KWSP akan terus meneroka strategi baharu dan bekerjasama dengan pengurus dana domestik dan global yang terkemuka untuk menghasilkan pulangan yang optimum.

Ahmad Badri berkata, selain memaksimumkan pulangan risiko terlaras peringkat portfolio, KWSP juga berusaha untuk memperkasa semua syarikat penerima pelaburan dan pengurus dana luaran untuk memberikan impak positif kepada masyarakat dan alam sekitar.

Beliau berkata, dedikasi mereka untuk menghasilkan nilai yang berkekalan telah menyumbang kepada kejayaan KWSP dalam memberikan pulangan yang mampan di samping melindungi kesejahteraan persaraan ahli.

Barisan pengurus dana luaran KWSP telah menghasilkan pulangan yang baik tahun lalu dengan mencatatkan jumlah pendapatan tertinggi, lebih kurang 22 peratus daripada keseluruhan pendapatan KWSP walaupun berhadapan dengan pasaran yang tidak menentu dan mencabar.



Ahmad Badri Mohd Zahir,
Pengerusi KWSP

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 27 MAY 2024

Ringgit dahului mata wang serantau pertengahan Mei

Peningkatan nilai ringgit mendorong mata wang tempatan berada pada kedudukan pertama berbanding sembilan mata wang negara serantau lain pada pertengahan Mei 2024.

Ia dipacu tindakan bersepadu yang dilaksanakan sejak tiga bulan lepas oleh Kementerian Kewangan (MOF) dan Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM).

MOF menerusi hantaran di platform X menjelaskan dari 26 Februari sehingga 17 Mei tahun ini, ringgit meningkat 2.0 per-

tus berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS), manakala dolar Singapura, yuan China, rupee India dan baht Thailand masing-masing susut 0.2 peratus, 0.4 peratus, 0.7 peratus dan 1 peratus.

Kementerian itu menambah strategi bersepadu Kerajaan MADANI membolehkan ringgit mengukuh dengan purata harian jumlah dagangan pasaran kewangan meningkat kepada AS\$17.6 bilion dalam tempoh itu.

Antara inisiatif yang dilak-

sanakan ialah menggalakkan syarikat pelaburan berkaitan kerajaan (GLIC) dan syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC) membawa pulang pendapatan langsung asing dan meningkatkan interaksi dengan pengesport untuk menukar hasil kepada ringgit.

Selain memantau penukaran hasil eksport dan import, kerajaan memperkukuh ekonomi tempatan dan meneruskan reformasi fiskal yang dijanjikan, menurut MOF.

"Dengan prospek Rizab Perse-

kutuan mula menurunkan kadar faedahnya dalam tahun ini. Ini adalah pemangkin kepada pemulihan nilai ringgit.

"Namun, Malaysia juga telah menggerakkan beberapa usaha untuk menarik minat pelabur ke aset tempatan," tambahnya.

MOF juga menekankan di samping itu, kenaikan bilangan pelancong dari luar negara juga meningkatkan permintaan ringgit, sekali gus menyumbang kepada pengukuhan nilai mata wang domestik. BERNAMA



BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....2.7...MAY...2024....

Subsidi bersasar jangan sampai bebankan rakyat

PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan perlu memastikan kaedah mekanisme subsidi bersasar dilaksanakan dengan teliti supaya mencapai objektif sebenar dan tidak membebankan rakyat.

Presiden Persatuan Pengguna Kedah (Cape), Mohamad Yusrizal Yusoff berkata, subsidi bersasar ini perlu dilakukan secara berperingkat supaya tidak berlaku 'teori domino' di mana golongan B40 akan menanggung beban jika golongan M40 dan T20 terjejas.

"Kita baru sahaja terima pelarasan tarif air dan elektrik. Rakyat harap penyasaran sub-

sidi diesel tidak berlaku secara serentak kerana golongan M40 serta T20 sudah rasa gelombang.

"Penyasaran subsidi ini kita risau jika kos harga bahan mentah akan naik dan ada peniaga yang ambil kesempatan terhadap keperluan asas ini," katanya.

Menurut Yusrizal, penguatkuasaan perlu tegas dalam hal ini supaya keadaan seperti dahulu tidak berulang di mana apabila harga minyak meningkat, harga barang yang lain juga naik.

Katanya, syarikat-syarikat

besar pula dipantau bagi membendung kenaikan harga barang dan perkhidmatan.

Sementara itu, pensyarah di Fakulti Ekonomi dan Muamalat, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Profesor Madya Dr. Nuradli Ridzwan Shah Mohd. Dali berkata, pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar ini perlu dipantau dari segi kawalan harga barang dan kadar inflasi semasa.

"Jika kadar inflasi tidak melebihi daripada dua peratus, pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar itu tidak memberikan kesan kepada kos sara hidup kerana kadar inflasi tersebut tidak terlalu tinggi

tetapi perlu dilakukan dengan betul.

"Jika berlaku sebaliknya, kemungkinan kos lain juga meningkat kerana diesel dan juga petrol, dua perkara ini merupakan 'ibu' kepada faktor-faktor kos lain," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Anggota Sekutu Malaysia di Pusat Pilihan Pengguna (CCC), Tarmizi Anwar berkata, penyasaran subsidi diesel pasti akan memberi kesan besar kepada sektor logistik jika tidak dilakukan dengan betul, seterusnya kesan rantaian kepada pengguna.

Menurut beliau, kos bahan

api adalah sebahagian besar daripada jumlah perbelanjaan logistik, kenaikan harga diesel secara langsung akan menyebabkan kos pengangkutan lebih tinggi.

"Ini boleh menjejaskan keseluruhan rantaian bekalan, kerana barangan menjadi lebih mahal untuk berpindah daripada pengeluaran kepada pengguna," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Tarmizi turut menyarankan supaya pihak kerajaan mempertimbangkan dengan wajar pelaksanaan fasa penghapusan subsidi secara berperingkat dan telus.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 21 MAY 2024



ANWAR Ibrahim melihat Pameran Era Pascanormal Madani ketika hadir merasmikan majlis itu di Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - UTUSAN/AMIR KHALID

Mekanisme subsidi diesel dimaklum masa terdekat

Oleh JUANI MUNIR ABU BAKAR
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KUALA LUMPUR: Mekanisme dan tarikh pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi bahan api diesel akan dimaklumkan dalam masa terdekat.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, Menteri Kewangan Kedua, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan akan memberikan penjelasan berhubung perkara itu.

"Ada orang tanya mengapa? Bukan semua Perdana Menteri yang lakukan. Saya beri gambaran, kerangka besar kemudian akan ada tindakan susulan.

"Sebab itu saya bezakan perkara dasar dan titik bengkok," katanya dalam sidang akhbar selepas menghadiri Pameran

Era Pasca Normal Madani, di sini semalam.

Selasa lalu, Jemaah Menteri bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas diesel sekali gus dapat memberi penjimatan kepada kerajaan sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

Dalam pada itu, Anwar menemplantak kenyataan Ketua Pembangkang, Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin yang mengajak Perdana Menteri agar turun ke pasar-pasar basah bagi meninjau kenaikan harga barang yang semakin menghimpit rakyat.

Perdana Menteri berkata, beliau setiap masa turun padang mendekati rakyat untuk melihat sendiri keluhan mereka berhubung masalah dihadapi.

"Kerja saya saban minggu, saya ke warung kecil, ke pasar,

tiap kali sebelum jumaat tanya (rakyat) harga.

"Saya fikir dia elak jawapan parti itu dukung tauke besar," katanya.

Sementara itu, berhubung dengan isu Latihan Ijazah Lanjutan Kepakaran atau 'parallel pathway', Perdana Menteri berkata, perkara itu akan dibincangkan dalam mesyuarat Kabinet, Rabu ini.

Terdahulu dilaporkan, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) menjadi satu-satunya universiti yang menawarkan program *parallel pathway* dengan kerjasama IJN dalam bidang kardiotoraks.

Mengulas mengenai calon Pengerusi Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR) yang baharu, Anwar berkata, calonnya sudah dike-

nal pasti.

"Proses pemilihan ketua baharu SPR itu telah dilakukan dan perlu mendapat perkenan Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Timbalan Pengerusi SPR tidak terlibat dalam proses pemilihan Pengerusi suruhanjaya itu kerana kerajaan mengikut proses ditetapkan selama ini," jelasnya.

Anwar juga turut diminta mengulas mengenai calon Yang Dipertua Dewan Negara dan beliau berkata, ia akan ditentukan selepas berbincang bersama pimpinan parti Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) esok.

Katanya, beliau akan berbincang dengan pimpinan parti pada peringkat awal dan seterusnya pimpinan Sarawak selepas mengadakan kunjungan ke Sarawak.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 21 MAY 2024

Cadang naik RM10 harga konsultasi klinik awam

Dari muka 1

"Dalam keadaan sekarang, kerajaan disaran meningkatkan bayaran klinik kerajaan agar klinik kerajaan selepas ini lebih efisien. Konsultasi yang sesuai dari RM1 mungkin kepada RM10 manakala harga ubat-ubatan harus dikaji semula berdasarkan harga ubat terkini," kata beliau.

Menurut beliau, mekanisme tersebut perlu dikaji dan diwujudkan dan mungkin boleh meniru seperti mekanisme subsidi bersasar minyak diesel yang diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Anwar Ibrahim baru-baru ini.

"Hanya mereka yang betul-betul susah tidak perlu membayar lebih harga rawatan manakala yang lain harus membayar lebih," katanya.

Semalam akhbar ini melaporkan, sektor kesihatan awam mencatat kedatangan 59,990,067 pesakit luar sepanjang tahun 2022 yang menjadi antara punca berlakunya kesesakan di sesetengah klinik atau hospital kerajaan.

Berdasarkan Petunjuk Kesihatan 2023, jumlah keseluruhan Kedatangan Pesakit Luar mengikut sektor dan negeri yang direkodkan sehingga 31

Disember 2022 adalah sebanyak 63,778,213.

Daripada jumlah itu, seramai 57,461,758 pesakit luar direkodkan hadir ke pusat kesihatan awam di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan melibatkan hospital (17,749,587), institusi perubatan khas (570,603) dan fasiliti kesihatan awam (39,141,568) manakala 2,528,309 bukan di bawah Kementerian itu.

Dalam pada itu, Presiden Persatuan Hospital Swasta Malaysia (APHM), Datuk Dr. Kuljit Singh berkata, kos perubatan adalah tinggi dan berbeza apabila perkhidmatan swasta diba-

yar pesakit manakala di fasiliti kerajaan dibayar kerajaan

"Sektor swasta menghadapi banyak cabaran apabila terdapat cerita yang tidak benar mengenai kos rawatan kami tinggi.

"Bilangan pesakit yang datang ke sektor swasta lebih ramai dan kos rawatan tidak meningkat.

"Pesakit yang ingin mendapat rawatan di sektor awam hanya perlu membayar RM1 dan kos lain hanya ditanggung secara persendirian serta tidak ada subsidi daripada kerajaan," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 27 MAY 2024

Atasi tiada peranti, capaian internet

PETALING JAYA: Capaian internet kurang memuaskan dan pemilikan peranti masih rendah, perlu ditangani bagi mengelak keciciran digital dalam kalangan pelajar, menurut pakar pendidikan.

Ia susulan laporan Dasar Pendidikan Digital 2023 menunjukkan, lebih 69 peratus ibu bapa melaporkan kelajuan internet pada tahap sederhana, 10 peratus rendah dan hanya 20.6 peratus memiliki capaian tinggi.

Laporan itu memetik Soal Selidik Kesiediaan Murid dalam Pembelajaran Secara dalam Talian melibatkan 900,000 responden, turut mendapati, sebanyak 36.2 peratus murid di bandar dan 35.4 peratus murid di luar bandar tidak memiliki peranti.

Walaupun soal selidik itu dibuat sewaktu proses Pengajaran dan Pembelajaran di Rumah (PdPR) ketika negara berhadapan wabak Covid-19 awal 2020, namun ia menunjukkan liputan internet dan pemilikan peranti belum sempurna dan wajar ditambah baik.

Setiausaha Kluster Pendidikan dan Pembangunan Modal Insan Majlis Profesor Negara (MPN), Dr. Anuar Ahmad berkata, isu paling utama dalam melaksanakan pendidikan digital ialah wujudnya jurang digital dalam kalangan pelajar khususnya daripada keluarga miskin dan kawasan pedalaman.

Katanya, Laporan Pertubuhan Kerjasama dan Pembangunan Ekonomi (OECD) menunjukkan jika isu jurang digital tidak diberikan perhatian, maka akan berlaku keciciran digital.

"Isu paling ketara ketika

melaksanakan pendidikan digital adalah kebimbangan jurang digital dalam kalangan pelajar melibatkan golongan tidak kemampuan dan luar bandar.

"Maka, satu pelan strategik yang jelas mesti dirangka dan dilaksanakan segera bagi memastikan jurang digital tidak berlaku," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Minggu lalu, Kementerian Pendidikan mengumumkan beberapa inisiatif bagi melonjakkan kapasiti guru dalam bidang digital antaranya menyediakan ruang bagi guru meningkatkan kemahiran termasuk menerusi kursus pemeraksanaan dalam domain Kecerdasan Buatan (AI) dengan menyasarkan 500 guru terpilih di seluruh negara.

Sebelum ini, Kementerian Pendidikan memaklumkan pengajaran silibus AI terhadap pelajar sekolah mulai 2027.

Dalam pada itu, Anuar berkata, kerajaan perlu memberikan perhatian terhadap liputan internet di sekolah luar bandar kerana masih banyak institusi pendidikan tidak mempunyai kemudahan capaian jalur lebar yang memuaskan.

"Ini menyebabkan guru tidak dapat melaksanakan pengajaran menggunakan internet dan akan menyebabkan pelajar luar bandar ketinggalan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran berasaskan digital. Semakin lama, maka semakin jauh ketinggalan," katanya.

Setiausaha Agung Kesatuan Perkhidmatan Perguruan Kebangsaan Malaysia (NUTP), Fouzi Singon pula berkata, masih ada sekolah di luar bandar tiada capaian internet sekali gus menyukarkan pengajaran pendidikan digital.

Libatkan belia dalam usaha tangani rasuah - ABIM

UM 27/5

Oleh FITRI NIZAM
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PETALING JAYA: Belia perlu diberi peranan lebih besar termasuk dilibatkan dalam Jawatankuasa Khas Mengenai Rasuah (JKMR) agar idealisme benci rasuah dapat dipupuk dalam kalangan golongan tersebut.

Pada masa sama, satu kajian menyeluruh dan terperinci mengenai kecaknaan belia menolak rasuah bermula di peringkat siswazah perlu dilaksanakan bagi mengetahui sejauh mana integriti golongan tersebut yang dilihat sebagai pemimpin masa depan negara.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Presiden Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), Ahmad Fahmi Mohd. Samsudin berkata, pihaknya tidak mahu peranan belia dalam rasuah hanya

dibincangkan menjelang Hari Belia Negara tanpa sebarang tindakan progresif.

Sebaliknya, beliau berkata, golongan belia perlu dilibatkan sama dalam jawatankuasa di peringkat tertinggi khususnya mengenai pembasmian rasuah selaras dengan kehendak Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Jika kerajaan serius mahu belia berperanan membasmi rasuah dan penyelewengan, golongan itu perlu dilibatkan dalam Jawatankuasa Khas Mengenai Rasuah (JKMR) supaya mereka ada wakil untuk diangkat suaranya di peringkat tertinggi.

"Di peringkat penggubalan dasar sudah ada ahli Parlimen daripada kerajaan dan pembangkang selain Ahli Dewan Negara serta pandangan pakar dalam isu tersebut, namun su-

ara belia tidak boleh dipinggirkan juga," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Terdahulu, Perdana Menteri ketika berucap merasmikan Sambutan Hari Belia Negera (HBN) 2024 kelmarin berkata, anak muda harus dikenali kerana idealisme yang dibawa terutama dalam pembasmian penyelewengan dan rasuah.

Tegasnya, penilaian terhadap dasar-dasar kerajaan juga perlu dibuat berdasarkan ilmu dengan memberi contoh pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel yang diumumkan beliau, baru-baru ini.

"Anak muda itu dikenali bukannya suaranya, tetapi kerana cita-cita murninya, kerana idealismenya benci kepada penyelewengan, rasuah dan keangkuhan. Cinta kepada kebenaran dan kebaikan, maka kita mesti menolak fahaman

perkauman sempit, fahaman agama jumud yang melemahkan kita," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Ahmad Fahmi berkata, tindakan melibatkan belia dalam JKMR juga memberi akses terus kepada belia untuk memberikan pandangan kepada Perdana Menteri mengenai realiti rasuah pada masa kini.

"Jadi tidak perlulah golongan belia apabila mahu memberikan pandangan atau menyuarakan berkaitan hal rasuah terpaksa membuat resolusi atau menyerahkan memorandum seperti sebelum ini," katanya.

Pada masa sama, beliau berkata, wakil belia yang dilibatkan di dalam JKMR juga boleh bertindak selaku duta atau jurucakap golongan tersebut terhadap perancangan kerajaan bagi menghapuskan rasuah dan penyelewengan.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 21 MAY 2024

MUNICIPAL TREE CARE

Inventory, arborists are the way forward, says Nga

SHAH ALAM: Local governments in Malaysia have been urged to establish their tree inventories and have in-house certified arborists to enhance tree management in municipalities.

Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming admitted that there were some local authorities, especially the district councils, facing financial challenges with costly tree maintenance.

"We are always looking for (solutions), either with strategic partners from the private sector or elected representatives.

"At the ministry level, we will look at providing allocations to assist the local councils in taking care of the trees," he said after attending the Green Urban Forum closing ceremony.

The forum was held as part of the National Landscape Day celebration at Taman Tasik Shah Alam until June 2.

It is not compulsory for local governments to set up tree inventories. It is also common for them to source the services of arborists from outsiders.

Earlier, in his speech, Nga said street tree planting presents its own challenges such as maintenance and safety aspects, especially large trees that are susceptible to falling during bad weather.

"It is time that we rebranded efforts for urban greening beyond mere landscaping to an impactful initiative that could help the country to achieve low-carbon, enhanced bio-diversity and livability. It could also improve

wellbeing encouraging the public to walk and exercise."

At the event, Nga also launched a book titled *200 Malaysia's Native Trees for Street Planting* prepared by the National Landscape Department in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia.

He said trees aged over 100 years are living assets and the country's heritage, hence, need to be given utmost care.

Citing Taman Tasik Taiping raintrees, Nga said, each of them was insured as its market value reached millions of ringgit.

"The Taiping Municipal Council also appointed experts from Universiti Putra Malaysia where the 'tree professor' would check them every three months, carry out pruning and give the trees vitamins so that they remain strong and healthy."

Nga said the book would be distributed to local governments as reference for street tree planting.

Among the species identified as roadside trees are *medang*, *pu-*



Parts of the roof scattered across a parking lot after a storm at Blok 94 of Apartment Putra Ria Bangsar on Saturday. BERNAMA PIC

tat air, bunga kelat merah, mata ketam, mendong, beruas and cempaka hutan.

There have been many instances of trees being uprooted in storms, with the worst being on

May 7.

The incident saw a large tree in Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur, crashing down on several vehicles, leaving one person dead and another injured.



The roofs of Apartment Putra Ria Bangsar were blown off by unusually strong winds on Saturday.



A Civil Defence Force member cutting down a tree that fell on a cafe at Universiti Malaya Residential College 12 on Saturday. PIX BY EFFENDY RASHID

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh:12 MAY 2024.....

FOREIGN FISH HUNTING PROGRAMME

INVASIVE SPECIES IN OUR RIVERS

Foreign fish have taken over Klang Valley rivers, threatening survival of native fish

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MORE than 80 per cent of rivers in the Klang Valley have been invaded and inhabited by foreign fish, which can cause the extinction of the rivers' indigenous aquatic life.

Among the foreign fish invading five rivers, including Sungai Kuyoh, Sungai Klang, and Sungai Keroh, are black tilapia, suckermouth catfish, African catfish, Javanese carp and jaguar fish.

This has caused native fish to nearly disappear as their habitats have been taken over by foreign species, which are predatory in nature.

Fisheries Department director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain said the situation was most critical in Sungai Kuyoh, Bukit Jalil, where 99 per cent of its habitat has been taken over by predatory foreign species.

He said that in an operation conducted in less than two hours,

600 foreign fish were caught by more than 200 community members and agencies.

"No native fish was caught. If there was any, it might be just one or two.

"This is not good for the ecosystem, and it is the responsibility of everyone to reduce the number of foreign fish.

"Releasing foreign fish into the ecosystem, whether intentionally or not, will not help increase the biodiversity of our native fish.

"So the effort to hunt foreign fish is to balance our ecosystem to enable our waters to accommodate native fish again."

Adnan said this after attending a foreign fish hunting programme with the community at Sungai Kuyoh here.

The operation also received cooperation from Aquaria Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre and participants from government and private agencies, Urban Fish Hunters community club, residents and higher learning institutions.

Commenting on the catch at



Fisheries Department director-general Datuk Adnan Hussain (right) and Aquawalk executive director Daryl Foong showing the catch at Sungai Kuyoh, Bukit Jalil, yesterday. PIX BY ASWADI ALIAS



People participating in the foreign fish hunting programme at Sungai Kuyoh yesterday.

Sungai Kuyoh, Adnan said the ratio was unbalanced.

"However, other ecosystems are still in a good and controlled condition. We are focusing on areas that require joint conservation efforts."

Besides rivers in the Klang Valley, his department has also received reports of foreign fish in Sungai Perak and Sungai Pahang.

"However, it is not as critical as at Sungai Kuyoh.

"Because of this, the department has improved regulations to include certain species of foreign fish from being brought into the country."

Asked about action taken against those releasing foreign fish into rivers, Adnan said his department was focused more on awareness campaigns.

"(They) may not understand that certain species should not be released into these waters. Firstly, we have met the community to provide advice and on what action they should take.

"Secondly, for sensitive and critical areas, we will put up posters or signs to state that these activities should not be carried out.

"Several states have laws and can take action against those concerned."

NEW STRAITS TIMES
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Nation benefiting from PM's difficult, bold decisions

► RM4b yearly savings from diesel subsidy rationalisation alone will go long way towards improving people's welfare

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has embarked on what is surely a difficult but bold move to rationalise fuel subsidies and unlike previous leaders, he defied the temptation to pander.

He has prioritised the economy and the people, and the savings of RM4 billion a year in rationalising diesel subsidy alone is substantial and will go a long way towards improving the people's livelihoods.

But more importantly, diesel subsidy rationalisation would curb the decades-long insidious act of smuggling, that has caused Malaysia to lose millions of ringgit almost on a daily basis.

Naysayers and opposition politicians have criticised him, but there must come a time for someone to stop the flagrant smuggling of diesel into neighbouring countries.

Anwar did just that by taking the tough and decisive step which previous leaders did not. Their reluctance to rationalise fuel subsidies led to unabated leakages via smuggling.

The amount of money paid out to finance the subsidies is mind-boggling.

According to the Finance Ministry's 2024 Fiscal Outlook, Malaysia's total subsidy outlay nearly fivefold from RM14.2 billion in 2010 to an estimated RM70.3 billion in 2022. The biggest bill was for fuel subsidies,

amounting to RM52 billion or 74% of total subsidies.

Undoubtedly, some will take advantage of this issue for political gain, but they cannot deny that such hefty subsidy payouts are unsustainable and will only create a culture of dependency.

The question again is whether these quarters are so blindsided by all the smuggling along Malaysia's borders and accounts of our neighbours down south taking advantage of our cheaper fuel.

Past oversight on subsidy issues has resulted in the country's debt and liabilities reaching RM1.5 trillion or 82% of the GDP.

According to Hong Leong Investment Bank, removing fuel subsidies would necessitate pump prices increasing by 64% for RON95 and 61% for diesel — still the lowest in Asean, except for Brunei.

The investment bank estimated this could yield RM29 billion in annual savings and hypothetically reduce the fiscal deficit from 4.3% of GDP (government's 2024 target) to 2.8%.

On inflation, it estimated that every 10% increase in RON95 and diesel prices will raise the Consumer Price Index by 0.51 percentage point on a full-year basis.

The government did not set a specific date even when subsidy rationalisation was first announced in the 2024 Budget.

Nevertheless, initiatives to this end will begin this year with the rationalisation exercise to start with diesel fuel and involve only users in Peninsular Malaysia.

To cushion the rakyat against sharp increases in the prices of goods and services, the government will continue to provide diesel subsidies to traders using commercial diesel motor vehicles, involving 10 types of public transport vehicles and 23 types of goods transport vehicles under the Subsidised Diesel Control System.

This includes bus and taxi operators. The government will also continue to provide diesel subsidies to certain categories of fishermen.

While the mechanism has not been finalised, from the recent announcement one can predict that it could be a combination of subsidised fuel as well as cash transfers for targeted groups.

On closer examination, the rationalisation would be a laborious process, meaning it would be easier said than done, for it involves several ministries, agencies, departments and states.

For instance, sectors such as fisheries, transport and smallholders come under three different ministries, and within them, there are multiple categories.

Hence, the rationalisation of subsidies will not be as easy as flipping a coin, Bernama reported.

It is clear the government is treading gradually to ensure no one is left behind.

The diesel subsidy rationalisation will be implemented when the right mechanism is in place rather than hastily.

THE SUN
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EPF external fund managers post record income in 2023

► Total of RM189 billion outsourced abroad as at Dec 31, 2023, representing 17% of retirement fund's overall investment assets

KUALA LUMPUR: The Employees Provident Fund's (EPF) panel of external fund managers delivered commendable results in 2023 with a record income of about 22% of overall income despite facing uncertain and challenging markets.

EPF chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Badri Mohd Zahir said as at Dec 31, 2023, a total of RM189 billion had been outsourced to external fund managers to be invested in equity and fixed-income instruments, representing 17% of the retirement fund's total investment assets.

"The total funds under management by external equity and fixed income managers have nearly tripled from five years ago," he said in a statement yesterday to announce the 11 winners at the EPF External Fund Managers Awards 2023.

Ahmad Badri said that in addition to maximising its portfolio-level risk-adjusted

returns, the EPF also seeks to empower all its investee companies and external fund managers to deliver positive societal and environmental impacts.

"Their demonstrated dedication to creating lasting values has contributed to the success of the EPF in delivering sustainable returns as the EPF protects members' retirement well-being," he said.

The EPF External Fund Managers Awards 2023 recognises these fund managers' outstanding performance in their respective mandates that are assessed based on sets of quantitative metrics.

The winners include AIIMAN Asset Management Sdn Bhd in the Best Domestic Equity Fund Manager (Shariah) 2023 category, Pheim Asset Management Sdn Bhd (Best Domestic Equity Fund Manager (Conventional) 2023), BNP Paribas Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Best Global Bond Fund Manager 2023), and Principal Asset Management Bhd (Best International Equity Fund Manager for MSCI EM Latin America 2023).

Robeco Institutional Asset Management was named Best International Equity Fund Manager for Factor Investing 2023, Abrdn

Malaysia Sdn Bhd won Best International Equity Fund Manager for MSCI Ethical Asia (ex Japan ex Malaysia) 2023, and AHAM Capital Asset Management received the Best EPF Domestic Equity Fund Manager 2023 award.

Amundi Aalam Sdn Bhd and Amundi Malaysia Sdn Bhd clinched the Best International Equity Fund Manager for FTSE Shariah World Developed 2023 and Best International Equity Fund Manager for FTSE Ethical World Developed 2023 awards, respectively.

Amundi secured both the Best EPF Global Equity Fund Manager 2023 and Best EPF External Fund Manager 2023 awards.

For 2023, the EPF delivered a dividend rate of 5.5% with a payout of RM50.33 billion for Simpanan Konvensional and 5.4% with a payout of RM7.48 billion for Simpanan Shariah. Cumulatively, the total payout for 2023 was RM57.81 billion.

This achievement, Ahmad Badri said, was also attributed to the fund managers' diversification into different asset classes, markets and currencies that had helped the EPF to maintain resilience against market volatilities and safeguard its investment returns. - Bernama



KWSP
EPF

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Ringgit ends lower against US dollar

by 3715

THE ringgit ended lower against the US dollar last Friday, as the greenback strengthened due to robust US Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index data, dampening expectations of a potential US interest rate cut, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit depreciated to 4.7100/7130 versus the greenback from Thursday's close of 4.7020/7055.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said since the release of the Federal Open Market Committee minutes on Wednesday, the ringgit has been weaker against the US dollar.

He noted that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) remains open to higher rates if inflation becomes more aggressive.

"This week, the ringgit experienced some form of correction as it appreciated quite steeply against the US dollar.

"The technical charts have been showing signs of overbought condition which resulted in profit-taking activities to seep in," he told Bernama.

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

The local unit appreciated versus the Japanese yen at 2.9996/3.0017 from Thursday's 3.0012/0036, it eased against the euro to 5.1000/1032 from 5.0993/1031 and slid vis-a-vis the British pound to 5.9859/9898 from 5.9824/9868 on Friday.

Against Asean currencies, the local note traded mixed as it appreciated against the Thai baht to 12.8373/8507 from 12.8688/8833 and was unchanged against the Philippine peso at 8.09/8.10 previously.

The ringgit depreciated against the Singapore dollar to 3.4876/4901 from 3.4843/4874 at Thursday's close and fell versus the Indonesian rupiah to 294.5/294.7 from 294.0/294.2 previously.

THE SUN 21 MAY 2024

Tarikh: