



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 28 JUN 2024 (JUMAAT)

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MBSJ set to rake in RM48mil in new assessment taxes



"Once the objection period ends, the council will go through each case and respond accordingly," - Mohd Zulkurnain Che Ali

THE ongoing property valuation exercise being carried out by Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) will add RM48mil to the council's coffers in the form of assessment taxes.

MBSJ deputy mayor Mohd Zulkurnain Che Ali said the existing valuation lists, which had been in effect since 1992 and 1996, needed updating to balance the council's increasing management and service costs.

"This review is essential to ensure that revenue generated can adequately cover the increasing costs of city management and services, and to enhance the quality of services provided to our residents," he said.

The new assessment tax will come into effect on Jan 1, 2025 but the increase will be implemented in two phases, with half of the quantum implemented next year and the remainder in 2026.

When fully implemented, the increase in assessment tax will generate RM48mil in revenue for the city council.

Mohd Zulkurnain said residents had until Aug 2 to object to the new property valuations and could do so online or by writing to MBSJ.

"A total of 326,646 notices have been printed and handed over to Pos Malaysia starting from June 21 to inform property owners.

"Once the objection period ends, the council will go through each case and respond accordingly," he said after the council's full board meeting yesterday.

In addition to a special counter, all councillors will also attend a briefing to better understand the valuation exercise and assessment calculations.

Mohd Zulkurnain said this was to ensure councillors would be able to properly explain the exercise to residents.

He added that the average assessment tax increase across all properties would be capped at 25% as determined by the state executive council.

The new tax rates for various property categories are 4% for residential buildings and vacant residential land; strata residential properties such as condominiums and apartments (3%); service apartments and shop apartments (3.5%); commercial buildings and vacant commercial land (5%); industrial buildings and vacant industrial land (5.5%), Selangor water assets and facilities (3%); and 2% for vacant agricultural land.

For inquiries regarding the new valuation list, property owners can call the MBSJ Valuation and Property Management Department at 03-8026 3115.

Notices and further details are also available on the MBSJ website.

Objections can be made online at bantahan.mbsj.gov.my/

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH: 28 JUN 2024



Qaseh Rania tekad kerja keras di Wolfsburg, sasar wakili pasukan negara

by Fitri Hazim Hazam © June 27, 2024 10:51 pm



Ketua Tanggungjawab Sosial Korporat Menteri Besar Selangor (Pemerbadanan) atau MBI Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor menyampaikan cenderamata kepada Naib Presiden Wolfsburg, Andreas Kruse ketika sesi serah surat tawaran percubaan pasukan bola sepak VFL Wolfsburg di Jerman selama enam minggu kepada Qaseh Rania Khairul Najib, 14 di Bangunan Darul Ehsan pada 27 Jun 2024. Foto NUR ADIBAH AHMAD IZAM/SELANGORKINI

SHAH ALAM, 27 JUN: Pemain bola sepak wanita tajaan Menteri Besar Selangor (Pemerbadanan) atau MBI, Qaseh Rania Khairul Najib tekad membuktikan kemampuannya di Jerman apabila menerima tawaran jalani sesi percubaan bersama kelab VFL Wolfsburg.

Qaseh Rania, 14, berharap peluang bersama gergasi bola sepak wanita itu membuka jalan untuknya menempatkan diri beraksi bersama pasukan negara.

"Saya bersyukur dan gembira menerima tawaran untuk menjalani latihan di Jerman kerana sudah bekerja keras selama 10 tahun dan ingin berusaha bersungguh-sungguh di Wolfsburg.

"Motivasi saya berada pada tahap tertinggi untuk bersaing dengan pemain berkelas dunia walaupun bukan mudah," katanya ketika ditemui selepas menerima surat tawaran dari Wolfsburg di pejabat MBI, di sini hari ini.

Menghitung dua bulan lagi sebelum terbang ke negara Eropah berkenaan, Qaseh Rania berkongsi sedang berusaha mempelajari bahasa Jerman untuk memudahkan komunikasi, selain membuat kajian untuk menjalani kehidupan baharu di Wolfsburg.

"Secara peribadi, saya ingin membanggakan ayah di Wolfsburg yang telah banyak berkorban dan berjasa membantu bangunkan bakat dengan melatih dan menjaga pemakanan sepanjang bermain bola sepak," kongsi.

Sementara itu, Naib Presiden VFL Wolfsburg Andreas Kruse mendedahkan bakat dan kemahiran tinggi dimiliki Qaseh Rania menarik minat kelab menawarkan sesi percubaan setelah menonton video perlawanan pemain remaja itu.

Beliau memaklumkan Qaseh Rania akan diberi pendedahan berlatih bersama pemain terbaik kelab yang dibimbing jurulatih pasukan dengan penggunaan fasiliti bertaraf dunia.



Qaseh Rania Khairul Najib, 14 ketika sesi serah surat tawaran percubaan pasukan bola sepak VFL Wolfsburg di Jerman selama enam minggu kepada beliau di Bangunan Darul Ehsan pada 27 Jun 2024. Foto NUR ADIBAH AHMAD IZAM/SELANGORKINI



Naib Presiden Wolfsburg, Andreas Kruse ketika sesi serah surat tawaran percubaan pasukan bola sepak VFL Wolfsburg di Jerman selama enam minggu kepada Qaseh Rania Khairul Najib, 14 di Bangunan Darul Ehsan pada 27 Jun 2024. Foto NUR ADIBAH AHMAD IZAM/SELANGORKINI

"Kami juga akan bantu Qaseh Rania menyesuaikan kehidupan baharu di Jerman sepanjang tempoh percubaan. Beliau akan belajar adaptasi dengan cuaca, bahasa, makanan dan budaya di sana.

"Jika prestasi beliau dapat memikat hati kami, kelab akan pertimbang lanjut tempoh percubaan untuk membolehkan pembangunan bakatnya berterusan," jelasnya.

Untuk rekod, pemain muda yang bermain sebagai posisi

penyerang tengah itu pernah meraih anugerah Pemain Muda Terbaik bagi saingan Liga Super Wanita Persatuan Bola Sepak Selangor (FAS) 2023 ketika beraksi bersama pasukan Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) FC.

Ketika berusia 13 tahun, video pelajar Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Puchong tersebut menjanginkan gol menerusi satu sepakan percuma menjadi tular di media sosial dan menjadi bualan orang ramai apatah lagi dia bermain bersama pasukan lelaki ketika itu.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE
TARIKH: 28 JUN 2024

By CY LEE
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MBSJ set to rake in RM48mil in new assessment taxes

Handwritten signature in blue ink.

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Mohd Zulkurnain Che Ali



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THE STAR

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

Making Meru market more conducive to visitors

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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KLANG Royal City Council (MBDK) is introducing the Public Sector Conducive Ecosystem (EKSA) at Meru Market Complex to help create a more positive experience for marketgoers and traders.

Klang mayor Datin Paduka Noraini Roslan said this was the first time EKSA was being used by a local council to spruce up a wet market and improve the way fresh produce was displayed.

The system was established in 2014 by the government to enhance the quality of work environments in the public sector.

She said the city council wanted to create an environment that was clean and inviting, with clearly labelled areas for easy navigation.

She added that the space would also be refreshed on a regular basis to keep customers coming back.

"Our aim is to help traders in this traditional market to promote fresh food, position it as a place to get a bargain, and for marketgoers to enjoy the cultural experiences and lively ambience," Noraini said after launching EKSA in a simple ceremony at the complex.

Meru Market Complex is currently in the midst of a RM1mil rejuvenation process, which started last year and is expected to be completed by end-2024.

Management of the complex in Jalan Pasar Baru 3, which was built in 1994 after the old market in Jalan Pasar was demolished,

City council takes office system to 30-year-old complex to improve management, product displays



Noraini (front, third from left) and Azmi (in light pink shirt) on a walkabout with council staff at Block B of Meru Market Complex before launching the EKSA campaign for better market management. — KK SHAM/The Star

comes under the purview of MBDK's Health Department.

Its director Azmi Muji said the market traders were hit hard during the Covid-19 pandemic and customer numbers had yet to rebound.

"Most people avoid wet markets because they are often crowded, have slippery floors, and are dirty and smelly.

"With EKSA, we want to change the experience and offer a pleasant market visit.

"We want to use the principles of EKSA in the management of a

wet market to create an orderly and practical trading environment in terms of cleanliness, high levels of hygiene and space for easy movement," said Azmi.

As part of this effort, the toilets within the market complex have been renovated to ensure good hygiene standards.

MBDK Engineering Department director Zamri Othman said it was in the midst of refurbishment works at Block B for 128 concrete table tops used by poultry and meat traders.

"Internal and external drainage works are being realigned to our biofilter that discharges grey water," he said.

He added that sewer lines within the complex were also being adjusted for better flow, with work to be completed in October.

"Once this is done, we will improve the roads around the complex, rearrange the parking bays, put up new signage and install anti-climb fencing at the border of Block A for safety reasons," said Zamri.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

> Higher rates, better service

Now is the time for Selangor residents to voice their opinions about the assessment rate hike proposed by local councils in Shah Alam, Selayang, Petaling Jaya, Klang, etc. Residents associations should voice their views at town hall sessions and speak to local councillors and politicians. As the rate hike will not exceed 25% and this is the first increase since 1993, residents are generally agreeable to it – but ONLY if the standard and productivity of services move in tandem up the quality chain. We must see significant improvements in drainage management and flash flood mitigation, grasscutting, cleanliness, waste collection, and infrastructure. – Lee Hui Seng, Sungai Buloh, Selangor

THE STAR

28 JUN 2024

Tarikh:.....

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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WHAT kind of terrain does your township have and what history of disasters has occurred in the area?

Most importantly, what can one do to minimise the impact of such disasters on the community?

With these questions in mind, the proponents of a SeDar programme set out to equip local governments and community leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to develop disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives from the grassroots level.

SeDar is the abbreviation for "Strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity to Improve the Safety and Security of Communities by Understanding Disaster Risks".

The programme adopts a unique community-focused approach by instilling a science-based understanding of disaster risks among community leaders, members and local authorities.

It also encourages collaboration to develop DRR activities and programmes tailored to specific needs and understanding.

This community-oriented strategy represents a significant step towards building disaster-resilient communities.

It was a collaborative project between the International Research Institute of Disaster Science of Tohoku University, Selangor Disaster Management Unit, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Centre of Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Kuala Lumpur, and the Civil Defence Force.

Initiated in 2018, the multi-phase SeDar programme was a community-oriented approach towards disaster risk reduction that concluded in April this year.

The communities in this four-year pilot project were from Bukit Antarabangsa/Ukay Perdana in Hulu Klang, Batu 14 and Kampung Sungai Serai in Hulu Langat, and Kampung Tok Muda in Kapar, Klang.

These areas are known for being prone to landslides and floods.

Eriko Motoyama, who was project coordinator for the Japan International Cooperation Agency Partnership Programme (JPP) - SeDar, said it gave communities the option to determine what they needed most to enhance their disaster prepared-

Pioneering grassroots disaster preparedness

Programme aims to improve community resilience in four areas



Mohd Kamri says there has been an increase in DRR activities within the community.

ness and resilience.

"It also encourages collaboration among them to develop disaster risk reduction activities and programmes tailored to their specific needs and insights," she said.

One of the programmes carried out as part of the SeDar project was hazard mapping exercise with the communities, to increase disaster preparedness at the local level.

For the Town Watching and Community Mapping exercise, community members identified potential disaster hotspots, safe places, evacuation centres and even heritage sites.

The idea behind the exercise was to pinpoint potential dangers in an effort to prevent or reduce the impact of such disasters, said Motoyama.

The exercise was carried out between February and March last year, at all four localities.

"During the course of the exercise in Kapar for example, we found out that not all residents knew the location of the designated evacuation centres.

"The flood warning sirens in the area were also not very loud, which would make it difficult for everyone to hear and respond in time.

"So the community was able to propose solutions such as putting



Motoyama (fourth from right) and Hulu Klang community leader Badrulisham Mohd Akhirin (second from right) with volunteers at the Community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Resource Centre in Bukit Antarabangsa. — Photos: LOW BOON TAT/The Star and courtesy of JPP-SeDar



A DRR workshop for students being conducted at SMK Abdul Jalil in Batu 14, Hulu Langat.

up evacuation centre signs at designated locations.

"They also suggested that announcements could be made through mosques,"

Motoyama said.

She said that following the exercise, 21 signs were designed and distributed for installation at designated evacuation centres in

the Kapar sub-district.

(The signage was reviewed and verified by the agencies that own/manage the evacuation centre premises such as the Klang District and Land Office, Klang Royal City Council, Selangor Education Department and Selangor Islamic Religious Department. It was also endorsed by the National Disaster Management Agency).

Similarly, in the Hulu Langat sub-district, which is flood-prone, residents were unaware of the locations of the evacuation centres within their areas.

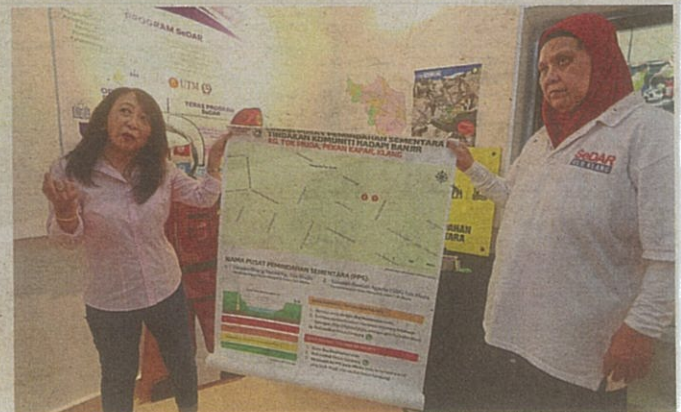
Here, 28 signs were put up at the designated spots.

Additionally, posters containing the location of evacuation centres, community actions to take and important contact information were put up in public places such as community halls, schools and mosques in Kapar and Hulu Langat.

Motoyama said other types of



Badrulisham showing some of the useful information available at the DRR Resource Centre



Motoyama (left) showing a sample of posters created following engagement with

Hulu Klang hub set up to inspire change in mindset

IN A groundbreaking move to enhance disaster preparedness, a group of concerned Hulu Klang communities have set up the first-ever Community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Resource Centre in Malaysia.

Located in Bukit Antarabangsa, Selangor, the centre serves as a communal hub for residents to learn about their physical environment and equip themselves with knowledge to mitigate disaster risks.

The centre is the outcome of a four-year collaboration as part of the SeDar programme.

SeDar is the abbreviation for "Strengthening the Disaster Risk Reduction Capacity to Improve the Safety and Security of Communities by Understanding Disaster Risks".

Hulu Klang community leader Badrulisham Mohd Akhirin, who has been involved in the SeDar programme, said the group hoped to inspire a mindset change in residents and the wider community.

"As residents, we can no longer ignore our surroundings anymore."

"Bukit Antarabangsa and Ukay Perdana, for example, are known for having a history of landslides and landslips."

"We cannot expect or just rely on Ampang Jaya Municipal



The first-ever Community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Resource Centre serves as a communal hub for residents to learn about their physical environment. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

Council (MPAJ) as the local authority to constantly monitor for signs of slope failure.

"This is where residents have to play a part in monitoring for any changes in the environment," he said during a visit to the centre.

Badrulisham, who is also Taman Bukit Utama 2 Residents Association chairman, said that while the Hulu Klang community was proactive in this respect, they felt that an information centre to support

and guide the community was necessary.

"This is where the DRR Resource Centre comes in."

"It provides a dedicated space for education, awareness and collaboration among residents."

"By equipping ourselves with the knowledge and tools to identify and mitigate risks, we can better protect our community and reduce the impact of disasters," he explained.

As the DRR name suggests, the aim was not to entirely prevent

disasters but to focus on disaster reduction, he said.

The centre features a gallery of posters, 3D terrain model, mini library of disaster-related resources, audio-visual displays, as well as a physical space for holding talks and workshops among community members.

Formerly an MPAJ community hall, the building was donated to SeDar and the community for the purpose of setting up an educational centre on DRR.

Since its opening in February

2024, the space has been utilised for safety drills and training as well as serving as a meeting place for discussions and dialogues between technical agencies and communities.

Badrulisham said the resource centre was run and managed by community volunteers.

"Our future plans include forming an official committee that will manage the centre as well as carry out programmes to further the ideas of DRR," he said.

Hashim Bakhtiar Amir Shaharudin, another SeDar participant and community leader, said DRR programmes and exercises helped raise awareness of issues affecting the community and how to respond accordingly.

"It gives us an idea of how to react when a disaster happens."

"We have to become our own first responders as it may take time for the authorities to reach the site," he said.

He added that the activities carried out could be replicated in other areas.

"In Hulu Klang, many communities face similar challenges as we have similar terrain."

"What we learned here can be implemented and practised at other locations," said Hashim Bakhtiar. — By SHALINI RAVINDRAN



Emergency response training, including firefighting basics, by Malaysian Civil Defence Force in Hulu Klang.

activities that were carried out included plogging (picking up rubbish while jogging), community evacuation route drills and workshops.

"While the programme has ended, we have seen positive impacts that we believe will be sustained."

"The most significant is that community members have an increased awareness and understanding of local risks and DRR practices, which has resulted in behavioural changes."

She said that beyond the programme partners, more government agencies became involved in the SeDar programme, resulting in a network of DRR experts.

"The DRR experts were also encouraged to further engage with communities, utilising their technical knowledge to increase the community's awareness."

"It succeeded in enabling the development of strong ties and relationships between the local

government and the communities, and this will significantly contribute to planning, implementation and continuity of DRR activities into the future," said Motoyama.

In addition, Bukit Antarabangsa assemblyman Mohd Kamri Kamaruddin said there had been an increase of DRR activities within the community over the past several years.

"Residents were definitely more aware of their surroundings and quick to alert the authorities."

"Under the SeDar programme, the activity has intensified, with some community members even teaching those in other areas," he said.

Mohd Kamri, who is also Selangor state assembly Deputy Speaker, emphasised the importance of continuing to share knowledge, especially at the grassroots level.

"This is crucial for building

community resilience.

"I fully support the use of the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) community hall for DRR initiatives."

"This is a good example of different agencies and communities working together to reduce disaster risks," he said, adding that there were about 60,000 residents staying in Bukit Antarabangsa and Ukay Perdana.

During the tabling of the Selangor 2024 Budget last year, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari had said RM400,000 would be allocated this year to sustain community projects, providing participants with an understanding of local disaster risks.

He said that through SeDar project, communities would be exposed to understanding local disaster risk based on scientific facts and empirical analysis, and knowledge about disaster risk preparedness.



Residents participating in a disaster drill to better familiarise themselves with evacuation routes in Kapar.

Key concepts of SeDar programme



Reps defend Selangor FC

More offer to help settle newly reduced RM60,000 fine

By GERARD GIMINO

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PETALING JAYA: More Selangor state assemblymen have offered to donate their salaries to help Selangor FC settle the fine imposed by the Malaysian Football League (MFL).

Selangor FC was initially slapped with a fine of RM100,000 for not playing in the Charity Shield match but the amount was brought down to RM60,000.

The decision to reduce the fine was announced by MFL late yesterday evening.

However, compensation for losses incurred by Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) and MFL due to Selangor FC's refusal to play the match is maintained.

Selangor's three-point deduction for the 2024-2025 Super League season has also been cancelled, while the ban on spectators to the match against JDT at the Petaling Jaya City Council

Stadium has also been lifted.

Meanwhile, Sungai Air Tawar assemblyman Datuk Rizam Ismail said he would donate half of his salary for next month to help the football club settle the fine.

He is the third state representative to do so, following in the footsteps of Lembah Jaya assemblyman and rapper Altimet and Kota Damansara's Izuan Kasim.

Rizam, who is state rural development, unity and consumers committee chairman, said he is 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 in a statement.

"I hope the supporters will continue their strong support for Selangor so that all the players remain motivated to face this challenge. May the Red Giants

continue to be a force in Malaysian football," he added.

Earlier, a crowdfunding initiative was launched to help Selangor FC pay off the RM100,000 fine.

Taking to X, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari announced the campaign.

"The fund will be managed by Selangor FC officials. Let's put our support together for the team!" he said in a tweet yesterday.

The tweet was accompanied by a poster calling for donors to donate only RM1 as a sign of solidarity with the Red Giants.

This came after MFL fined the club RM100,000 and deducted three points for its refusal to play against JDT on May 10.

Apart from the fine, Selangor also has to compensate for losses incurred by MFL and JDT as the host team and for its home game against JDT to be played in Petaling Jaya without spectators.

Selangor had requested a postponement of the match after its

player, Faisal Halim, suffered grievous injuries in an acid attack on May 5.

When MFL refused to grant the postponement, Selangor withdrew from the game for security reasons.

On Wednesday, Selangor's Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah hit out at MFL over the move to punish Selangor FC, saying the decision was made "without compassion".

In a strongly worded statement, His Royal Highness slammed the punishment, saying it was "excessive and illogical".

Apart from MFL, Sultan Sharafuddin also took members of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), and in particular FAM president Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin, to task.

The Sultan also voiced his "shock and disappointment" at Hamidin for not speaking out, even though he was once Selangor FA's secretary-general.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

Klang to get second water treatment plant by end of next year

KUALA LUMPUR: A second water treatment plant for Klang is being constructed to boost water security, says Air Selangor.

Its acting chief executive officer Abas Abdullah said the Rasau water treatment plant is being built. It will produce 700 million litres per day by the end of 2025.

"This will add additional water reserve margin, especially to the Klang region, which currently receives supply solely from the Sungai Selangor water treatment plant.

"The move will also reduce the risk (of water disruptions) in the Klang region," he said at a press conference here yesterday after releasing the Air Selangor Sustainability Report 2023.

Earlier, Abas said the water reserve margin in 2023 rose to 15.34% from 12.02% in 2022.

This was due to an additional supply of 275 million litres per day from Langat 2 Western Corridor starting in August 2023.

The increase in distributable capacity of 250 million litres per day from the Sungai Rasa water treatment plant from November last year was also a factor behind the higher margin.

Air Selangor also wants to reduce non-revenue water (NRW), which is water loss from leaks, incorrect metering of water and stolen water.

Abas said that in 2023, the NRW rate was at 27.75%, a decrease of 0.01% from 2022.

Air Selangor has set a target of reducing the rate to 25% by 2030.

Abas also announced that Air Selangor recorded RM2.82bil in total revenue in 2023.

This was an increase of 15.1% from RM2.45bil recorded in the previous year.

Air Selangor, he noted, is the largest water service provider in the country, serving 9.3 million consumers in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

Air Selangor head of operations, capital planning and work, Ainul Azhar Mohd Jemoner, said the water operator plans to complete four water treatment plants by 2030 to increase the water reserve margin to 20%.

THE STAR

28 JUN 2024

Tarikh:.....

2.93 juta ahli KWSP buat pengeluaran hampir RM7b

84 22/6
Melalui Akaun Fleksibel dan daripada jumlah itu, purata pengeluaran adalah sebanyak RM2,382

Oleh MOHD HAFIZ ISMAIL
KUALA LUMPUR

Seramai 2.93 juta ahli Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) membuat pengeluaran daripada Akaun Fleksibel melibatkan amaun sebanyak RM6.98 bilion.

Kementerian Kewangan menerusi jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat pada Rabu berkata, daripada jumlah tersebut, purata pengeluaran adalah sebanyak RM2,382.

"Setakat 10 Jun, sebanyak RM10.68 bilion amaun pemindahan dilakukan sebagai pilihan ahli bagi mempunyai amaun permulaan di dalam Akaun Fleksibel.

"Pada masa sama, sejumlah RM4.82 bilion juga telah dipindahkan ke Akaun Persaraan ahli. Inisiatif ini menunjukkan peningkatan seramai 39,000 ahli yang mencapai simpanan asas iaitu RM240,000," katanya.

Kenyataan tersebut sebagai jawap-



Seramai 2.93 juta ahli telah membuat pengeluaran daripada Akaun Fleksibel melibatkan amaun sebanyak RM6.98 bilion.

an kepada pertanyaan Mohd Misbahul Munir Masduk (PN - Parit Buntar) mengenai insentif atau bantuan kepada ahli yang memilih untuk memindahkan baki daripada Akaun Sejahtera kepada Akaun Fleksibel.

Menurut Kementerian tersebut, pada masa ini tiada sebarang insentif atau bantuan tambahan diberikan kepada ahli yang memilih untuk mempunyai amaun permulaan iaitu dengan membuat pindahan sebahagian simpanan dalam Akaun Sejahtera ke

Akaun Fleksibel.

"Tujuan utama Penstrukturan Semula Akaun KWSP dibuat adalah untuk memastikan kesejahteraan kewangan semasa persaraan yang lebih mapan dan pada masa yang sama mengimbangi keperluan semasa ahli.

"Inisiatif ini juga dapat membantu meningkatkan simpanan persaraan ahli supaya mereka mempunyai pendapatan persaraan yang mencukupi untuk membiayai kehidupan persaraan mereka kelak," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

84
28/6

Enam penjawat awam wanita direman 4 hari

MELAKA - Enam penjawat awam wanita sebuah jabatan kerajaan direman empat hari berkaitan kes tuntutan palsu berjumlah RM13,586.

Perintah tahanan terhadap suspek berusia 40 hingga 57 tahun dikeluarkan Majistret Nabilah Nizam, bermula Khamis hingga Ahad.

Mereka ditahan ketika hadir ke Pejabat Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) Melaka antara jam 2 hingga 4 petang pada Rabu.

Pengarah SPRM Melaka, Adi Supian Shafie berkata, semua suspek ditahan bagi membantu siasatan berhubung dakwaan mengemukakan dokumen mempunyai butiran matan palsu.

Menurutnya, ia berkaitan Banci Penduduk dan Perumahan Malaysia 2020: Rekod Kemajuan Kerja Harian Pembanci dengan jumlah keseluruhan RM13,586 kepada unit kewangan jabatan pada 2020.

"Tuntutan itu bagi tujuan bayaran pekerja *Personel MySTEP* sedangkan ia tidak wujud atau bekerja di jabatan kerajaan tersebut," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini pada Khamis.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:28 JUN 2024.....

Jualan diesel turun petunjuk subsidi disalah guna – Fuziah

84 19/6



Laporan *Sinar Harian* pada Selasa lalu.

PUTRAJAYA - Penjualan diesel yang turun mendadak selepas pelaksanaan rasionalisasi menunjukkan subsidi bahan api itu sebelum ini disalahgunakan.

Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN), Fuziah Salleh berkata, sejak pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel pada 10 Jun lalu, terdapat perubahan besar dalam pola penggunaan diesel di Malaysia.

"Jualan diesel menurun sebanyak 30 peratus, yang setara dengan pengurangan lapan juta liter sehari sementara pembelian diesel komersial yang dijual pada harga pasaran telah meningkat sebanyak empat juta liter sehari," katanya menerusi hantaran di Facebook pada Khamis.

Ujar beliau, stesen minyak berhampiran sempadan Malaysia juga mengalami penurunan 40 peratus dalam jualan diesel.

"Ini menunjukkan bahawa penyeludupan ke negara jiran adalah isu yang besar," jelasnya.

Kata Fuziah, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menekankan bahawa matlamat utama dasar rasionalisasi subsidi diesel adalah untuk memastikan pembaziran subsidi tidak lagi berterusan dan memastikan potongan perbelanjaan memberi manfaat kepada populasi yang lebih luas.

Penyasaran subsidi yang sedang dikuatkuasakan membolehkan kerajaan dijangka menjimatkan kira-kira RM4 bilion setahun dan mengukuhkan kedudukan kewangan negara.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

KENAIKAN GAJI PENJAWAT AWAM

HM 28/6

Umum perincian Oktober ini

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
am@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya

Perincian berhubung kenaikan gaji penjawat awam akan diumumkan sebelum pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 pada Oktober ini.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, perkara itu penting kerana sudah terlalu lama penjawat awam tidak menikmati kenaikan gaji yang setaraf dengan kerja keras mereka selama ini.

"Sudah sekian lama tidak ada satu kenaikan yang bermakna (membabitkan) gaji penjawat awam dalam keadaan kita bagi tekanan lebih kuat sekarang, kerja lebih kuat, pemantauan lebih kuat dan penguatkuasa termasuk SPRM (Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia) lebih hebat, terjah ke kawasan dan jabatan."

"Sebab itu saya di Parlimen semalam (kelmarin), apabila dite-



"Insyallah saya akan umum sebelum bajet atau belanjawan"
Anwar

gur, saya tegaskan saya tidak bertolak ansur kerana tanggungjawab kita untuk memberikan apa yang mampu dan munasabah kepada penjawat awam dan insya-Allah saya akan umumkan sebelum bajet atau belanjawan tahun ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap pada Majlis Apresiasi 2024 Jabatan Perdana Menteri di Pu-

sat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC) di sini, semalam.

Perdana Menteri ketika menyampaikan amanat sempena Sambutan Hari Pekerja pada 1 Mei lalu, mengumumkan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam lebih 13 peratus bermula 1 Disember depan.

Kenaikan lebih 13 peratus adalah yang tertinggi pernah diumumkan kerajaan sebelum ini.

Malah, Perdana Menteri juga turut memberi jaminan bahawa kenaikan gaji penjawat awam seperti diumumkannya, akan dilu-

luskan di Parlimen dengan bergaya pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 Oktober ini.

Perdana Menteri berkata, semua parti komponen dalam Kerajaan Madani termasuk Timbalan Perdana Menteri merangkap Pengerusi Barisan Nasional, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi; Premier Sarawak, Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg dan Ketua Menteri Sabah, Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor memberi sokongan penuh terhadap kenaikan terbabit supaya ia dapat dilaksanakan pada 1 Disember depan.

HARIAN METRO
28 JUN 2024
Tarikh:

Kerajaan pantau penyasaran subsidi diesel

Kuala Lumpur: "Kerajaan akan sentiasa memantau situasi semasa pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel dan sekiranya perlu, penambahbaikan bantuan dari semasa ke semasa akan dibuat sekiranya per-

lu," kata Kementerian Kewangan (MoF).

MoF berkata, ia bagi memastikan golongan benar-benar layak terus mendapat perhatian kerajaan dalam mendepani cabaran kos sara hidup.

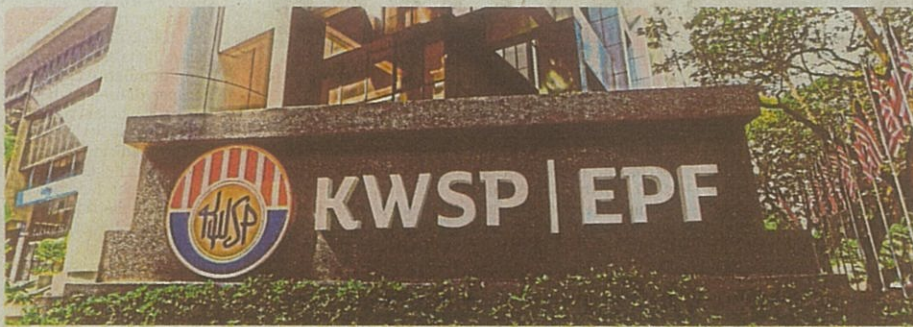
Kerajaan menyediakan bantuan bersasar terutama sektor logistik serta individu memiliki kenderaan diesel di samping petani kecil dan pekebun kecil komoditi bagi mengurangkan impak kepada kos sara hi-

dup dan rakyat yang dikenali sebagai Bantuan Subsidi Madani (atau Budi Madani).

"Mekanisme pelaksanaan penyasaran semula subsidi memerlukan kajian yang teliti," katanya.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024



PENSTRUKTURAN semula Akaun KWSP dilihat tidak memberi kesan signifikan kepada kedudukan kewangan KWSP.

AKAUN FLEKSIBEL KWSP

4m 28/6

3.5 juta pencarum pindah **RM10.86b**

Bernama

Kuala Lumpur

Sebanyak 3.45 juta ahli Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) membuat pilihan untuk mempunyai amaun permutuaan dalam Akaun Fleksibel dengan jumlah perpindahan daripada Akaun Sejahtera RM10.86 bilion setakat 10 Jun lalu, menurut Kementerian Kewangan (MOF).
Kementerian itu menja-

laskan angka itu merangkumi 26.6 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan ahli KWSP di bawah umur 55 tahun sudah membuat pilihan terbabit.

"Jumlah ahli yang sudah membuat pengeluaran melalui Akaun Fleksibel adalah sebanyak 2.93 juta atau 22.6 peratus (daripada jumlah keseluruhan ahli di bawah umur 55 tahun), membabitkan jumlah pengeluaran RM6.98 bilion," menurut kementerian itu

dalam jawapan bertulis Dewan Rakyat kelmarin.

Kementerian itu menjawab soalan **Datuk Seri Sh Mohmed Puzi Sh Ali (BN-Pekan)** mengenai statistik semasa peratusan pengeluaran wang pencarum daripada Akaun Fleksibel KWSP dan kesan jangka panjang terhadap kestabilan simpanan persaraan pencarum.

Selain itu, MOF memaklumkan penstrukturan semula Akaun KWSP dilihat

tidak memberi kesan signifikan kepada kedudukan kewangan KWSP kerana KWSP sudah memperuntukkan baki tunai mencukupi menampung permintaan pengeluaran Akaun Fleksibel oleh ahli.

Ia bagi menjawab soalan **Sim Tze Tzin (PH-Bayan Baru)** mengenai peratus pencarum KWSP memilih pindahan ke Akaun 3 dan jumlah pengeluaran setakat ini selain impak kedudukan kewangan KWSP.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024...

2.93 juta ahli membuat pengeluaran daripada Akaun Fleksibel sehingga 10 Jun lalu

RM6.98 bilion wang KWSP dikeluarkan

Kosmo
28/6
**DEWAN
RAKYAT**

Oleh NURUL IZZATI ZAINI

KUALA LUMPUR – Seramai 2.93 juta ahli Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) sudah membuat pengeluaran melalui Akaun Fleksibel membabitkan jumlah pengeluaran bernilai RM6.98 bilion setakat 10 Jun lalu.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan berkata, purata pengeluaran adalah sebanyak RM2,382, selain RM4.82 bilion juga dipindahkan ke Akaun Persaraan ahli.

Ujarnya, tiada sebarang insentif atau bantuan tambahan diberikan kepada ahli yang memilih untuk memiliki amaun



KWSP sentiasa memastikan simpanan ahli adalah mencukupi untuk membiayai kehidupan selepas bersara. – GAMBAR HIASAN

permulaan dengan memindahkan sebahagian simpanan Akaun Sejahtera ke Akaun Fleksibel.

"Inisiatif ini menunjukkan impak positif apabila berjaya me-

nunjukkan peningkatan 39,000 ahli mencapai simpanan asas iaitu RM240,000," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat, di sini semalam.

“

Inisiatif ini menunjukkan impak positif apabila berjaya menunjukkan peningkatan 39,000 ahli mencapai simpanan asas iaitu RM240,000.”

AMIR HAMZAH

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab soalan Mohd. Misbahul Munir Masduki (PN-Parit Buntar).

Katanya, seramai 3.45 juta ahli memilih untuk memiliki amaun permulaan di Akaun Fleksibel membabitkan jumlah perpindahan RM10.86 bilion daripada Akaun Sejahtera yang sebelum ini dikenali Akaun 2.

Ujarnya, tujuan penstrukturan

semula akaun KWSP dibuat bagi memastikan kesejahteraan kewangan semasa persaraan lebih mapan, selain mengimbangi keperluan semasa ahli.

"Inisiatif ini juga dapat membantu meningkatkan simpanan persaraan ahli supaya mereka memiliki pendapatan persaraan mencukupi untuk membiayai kehidupan persaraan kelak," katanya menjawab soalan mengenai pemindahan caruman ke Akaun Fleksibel serta strategi pelaburan jangka panjang dibangkitkan Khoo Poay Tiong (PH-Kota Melaka) dan Datuk Seri Sh. Mohmed Puzi Sh. Ali (BN-Pekan).

Mengenai strategi jangka panjang, Amir Hamzah berkata, bagi memastikan KWSP boleh mencapai objektif pelaburan itu, pelaburan dibuat berpandukan Alokasi Aset Strategik (SAA).

Katanya, strategi itu mempe-
runtukkan aset secara optimal dengan mengambil kira had toleransi risiko KWSP sebagai dana simpanan persaraan.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

2.93 juta ahli KWSP buat pengeluaran

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Seramai 3.45 juta ahli Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) memilih untuk memiliki akaun permulaan di Akaun Fleksibel, setakat 10 Jun lalu.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, berkata ia membabitkan jumlah perpindahan RM10.86 bilion daripada Akaun Sejahtera yang sebelum ini dikenali Akaun 2.

Selain itu, katanya, seramai 2.93 juta ahli KWSP sudah membuat pengeluaran melalui Akaun Fleksibel membabitkan jumlah pengeluaran RM6.98 bilion.

"Tujuan utama Penstrukturan Semula Akaun KWSP dibuat bagi memastikan kesejahteraan kewangan semasa persaraan lebih mapan, selain mengimbangi keperluan semasa ahli," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat.

Beliau menjawab soalan mengenai pemindahan caruman ke Akaun Fleksibel serta strategi pelaburan jangka panjang dibangkit Khoo Poay Tiong (PH-Kota Melaka) dan Datuk Seri Sh Mohamed Puzi Sh Ali (BN-Pekan).

BERITA HARIAN

28 JUN 2024

Tarikh.....

AI bantu elak kesesakan, wujud sistem pengangkutan mampan

BH
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- AI boleh digunakan untuk mengoptimumkan laluan pengangkutan awam, mengurangkan masa menunggu dan meningkatkan keberkesanan sistem pengurusan trafik di negara ini

- Dengan memanfaatkan analitik ramalan dipacu AI, syarikat logistik boleh mengoptimumkan laluan penghantaran, mengurangkan penggunaan bahan api dan meminimumkan kesan alam sekitar



Pensyarah Kanan
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Pada tahun lalu, jualan kenderaan bermotor baharu di negara ini meningkat sebanyak 11 peratus, sekali gus mencapai paras tertinggi sepanjang masa.

Peningkatan ini berlaku terutama subsegi kereta penumpang dengan pendaftaran kenderaan meningkat kepada 799,731 unit, iaitu mengatasi rekod sebelumnya sebanyak 721,177 unit pada 2022 seperti dilaporkan Persatuan Automotif Malaysia (MAA).

Berdasarkan data terkini daripada Kementerian Pengangkutan, peningkatan jumlah trafik juga dilaporkan meningkat kepada 16 peratus. Begitu juga dengan pengendalian kargo domestik dan antarabangsa menunjukkan peningkatan ketara berbanding tahun sebelumnya.

Bagaimanapun, ini juga bermakna mobiliti hijau dan sistem pengangkutan cekap semakin penting di negara ini disebabkan peningkatan jumlah kenderaan serta trafik yang semakin membebankan.

Langkah kepada kedua-dua tanggungjawab penting itu diperlukan untuk mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas, pencemaran udara dan pelepasan karbon yang memberikan kesan buruk kepada alam sekitar serta kehidupan manusia sendiri.

Justeru, penggunaan teknologi Revolusi Industri 4.0 (IR4.0) terutama kecerdasan buatan (AI) dapat memainkan peranan penting dalam mencapai objektif ini.

Hakikatnya AI sedang merevolusikan sektor pengangkutan yang akan membawa kepada penyelesaian mobiliti lebih hijau dan lebih cekap. Transformasi ini membentuk semula cara orang dan barangan bergerak terutama di sekitar bandar, meningkatkan keselamatan, mengurangkan kesan alam sekitar dan meningkatkan kecekapan keseluruhan sistem pengangkutan.

AI juga boleh digunakan untuk mengoptimumkan laluan pengangkutan awam, mengurangkan masa menunggu dan meningkatkan keberkesanan sistem pengurusan trafik di negara ini.

Antara perkembangan terkini dalam AI dan pengangkutan ialah kemunculan kenderaan elektrik dan autonomi. Kenderaan ini, dilengkapi dengan algoritma AI yang mampu membuat keputusan secara bebas, sekali gus mengurangkan pergantungan kepada pemandu manusia.

Dengan memanfaatkan penderia (*sensor*), kamera dan perisian berkuasa AI, kenderaan autonomi boleh menavigasi keadaan jalan kompleks, mengesan halangan dan membuat keputusan pantas untuk memastikan perjalanan selamat serta cekap.

Penyepaduan AI dalam kenderaan autonomi berpotensi merevolusikan mobiliti di kawasan bandar semakin sesak. Dengan peningkatan perkhidmatan perkongsian perjalanan dan pengangkutan atas permintaan (*on-demand transportation services*), kenderaan autonomi boleh digunakan sebagai sebahagian daripada

ekosistem mobiliti bersama, mengoptimumkan penggunaan kenderaan dan mengurangkan jumlah keseluruhan kenderaan di jalan raya.

Dengan mempromosikan penggunaan kenderaan elektrik dan autonomi, bukan sahaja mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas, tetapi juga mengurangkan pelepasan karbon dan meningkatkan kecekapan keseluruhan rangkaian pengangkutan.

Tambahan pula, AI sedang digunakan dalam sistem pengangkutan pintar untuk mengoptimumkan aliran trafik dan meningkatkan mobiliti keseluruhan. Sistem pengurusan trafik oleh AI boleh menganalisis data masa nyata daripada penderia dan kamera untuk mengenal pasti lokasi kesesakan semasa, melaraskan isyarat lalu lintas dan mengubah laluan kenderaan untuk meminimumkan kelewatan.

Tingkat kecekapan infrastruktur

Sistem ini bukan sahaja meningkatkan kecekapan infrastruktur sedia ada, tetapi juga membuka jalan untuk bandar pintar masa depan yang mengutamakan pengangkutan mampan dan cekap.

Selain meningkatkan mobiliti penumpang, AI juga mengubah sektor logistik dan pengangkutan barang. Platform logistik berkuasa AI boleh mengoptimumkan operasi rantai bekalan, daripada perancangan laluan dan penjadualan kenderaan kepada pengurusan inventori dan penyelenggaraan ramalan.

Dengan memanfaatkan analitik ramalan dipacu AI, syarikat logistik boleh mengoptimumkan laluan penghantaran, mengurangkan penggunaan bahan api dan meminimumkan kesan alam sekitar.

Faedah alam sekitar AI dalam pengangkutan adalah penting. Dengan mengoptimumkan laluan, mengurangkan masa terbiar dan menggalakkan mobiliti bersama, sistem pengangkutan berkuasa AI boleh membantu mengurangkan pelepasan gas rumah hijau dan mengurangkan kesan perubahan iklim.

Selain itu, penggunaan kenderaan elektrik dan autonomi dikuasakan tenaga boleh diperbaharui seterusnya menyumbang kepada ekosistem pengangkutan lebih hijau dan mampan.

Bagaimanapun, penyepaduan AI dalam pengangkutan juga memberikan cabaran dan pertimbangan perlu ditangani. Kebimbangan privasi berkaitan dengan pengumpulan dan penggunaan data, risiko keselamatan siber dan pertimbangan etika sekitar pembuatan keputusan AI adalah bidang penting memerlukan perhatian dan peraturan teliti.

Adalah penting untuk membangunkan rangka kerja dan piawaian kukuh untuk memastikan penggunaan teknologi AI bertanggungjawab dan beretika dalam pengangkutan.

Kerjasama dalam kalangan pihak berkepentingan, termasuk kerajaan, syarikat teknologi, institusi pengajian tinggi, penyedia pengangkutan dan komuniti, adalah penting untuk memanfaatkan potensi penuh AI dalam pengangkutan.

Perkongsian awam-swasta boleh memacu inovasi, memudahkan perkongsian data dan menggalakkan pembangunan penyelesaian dikuasakan AI yang memberi manfaat kepada masyarakat secara keseluruhan.

Selain itu, pelaburan dalam penyelidikan dan pembangunan, pendidikan dan infrastruktur adalah penting untuk menyokong evolusi AI berterusan dalam pengangkutan.

Realitinya, AI memacu anjakan paradigma dalam sektor pengangkutan, membawa kepada penyelesaian mobiliti lebih hijau, selamat dan cekap.

Daripada kenderaan autonomi dan sistem pengangkutan pintar kepada logistik berkuasa AI serta inisiatif kemampanan alam sekitar, penyepaduan teknologi AI membentuk masa depan pengangkutan dengan cara mendalam.

Dengan menerima inovasi, kerjasama dan tadbir urus bertanggungjawab, ini akan membuka kunci potensi penuh AI untuk mencipta ekosistem pengangkutan lebih mampan dan saksama untuk generasi akan datang.



AI hanya pemangkin dalam mencari ilmu

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**Mohd Rizal
Mohd Rosli**
Bandar Baru Bangi

Saya membaca rencana 'Perlu Cermat Terap AI Dalam Dasar Pendidikan, Elak Hilang Makna Ilmu' dalam *BH* siaran 12 Jun lalu dengan penuh keinsafan dan kesedaran.

Sejujurnya saya menyokong buah fikiran Pengerusi Yayasan Pusat Polisi dan Hal Ehwal Ekonomi Malaysia (PEACE), Mohd Jamizal Zainol, iaitu penulis rencana berkenaan.

Ideanya tersusun, lancar dan memberi makna jelas mengenai sikap cermat perlu diterapkan tatkala masyarakat kita ghairah dengan kecerdasan buatan (AI) ini.

Antara sikap yang perlu dalam mencermati AI ini ialah kepentingan membangkitkan dalam proses pemikiran kita bahawa sebagai pengguna, AI pada hakikatnya hanya alat tersedia untuk diaplikasi-

kan dalam kehidupan kita. Ia bukan matlamat dan bukan juga sumber utama.

Proses pemikiran ini perlu dipasakkan ke dalam jiwa dan sanubari masyarakat kita, khususnya AI yang digunakan secara meluas dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran (PdP) bahawa AI ini bukan sumber ilmu, tetapi hanya pemangkin dalam mencari pengetahuan.

Ilmu mestilah datang daripada guru, yakni murabbi yang berupaya mendatangkan dan menghadirkan pengertian nilai dan adab dalam kehidupan.

Penulis menegaskan andainya penggunaan AI tidak dicermati maka 'lama-kelamaan manusia hilang kebolehan daya fikir sendiri kerana semuanya dilakukan robot.' Tiada nilai dan adab.

Tanpa nilai dan adab, penulis menyebut bahawa 'sains adalah ilmu alat dan adalah bahaya jika men-

jadikan AI dan sains moden sebagai nilai hidup.'

Dalam konteks ini, Prof Tan Sri Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas dalam bukunya, *Risalah Untuk Kaum Muslimin* ketika menegaskan 'bahawa sains itu hanya alat bagi kehidupan manusia dan alat tiada dapat dijadikan nilai kehidupan', beliau memberi tamsilan penggunaan pisau 'jikalau yang menggunakannya itu manusia yang baik maka pisau itu alat yang berguna, jikalau yang menggunakannya itu manusia yang jahat maka pisau itu senjata yang berbahaya.'

Oleh itu, semua pihak terutama pembuat polisi dalam pendidikan perlulah ditaklifikasikan betapa pentingnya untuk ditanamkan dalam proses pemikiran masyarakat kita bahawa AI hanya alat dan sumber ilmu tetaplah serta mesti datang daripada pendidik, guru dan juga murabbi.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh..... 28 JUN 2024.....

Kilang disyaki proses buangan e-waste secara haram



Sharifah Zakiah (kanan) menunjukkan sisa buang elektronik yang diproses di kilang haram di Sungai Petani, semalam. (Foto Wan Nabil Nasir/BH)

BH
28/6

Sungai Petani: Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) Kedah menahan operasi sebuah kilang yang disyaki menjalankan aktiviti memproses kembali buangan e-waste secara haram, di sini semalam.

Pengarahnya, Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab, berkata serbuan dilakukan pihaknya bersama Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) dan Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia Kedah selepas melakukan intipan selama dua bulan.

Katanya, tindakan kilang itu berpotensi menyebabkan pencemaran alam sekitar seperti pelupusan haram buangan terdual, pencemaran udara dan pencemaran air di kawasan berkenaan.

"Kilang terbabit disyaki memproses buangan e-waste secara ha-

ram yang juga buangan terjadual secara haram tanpa kelulusan serta tanpa sebarang alat kawalan. Berdasarkan siasatan awal, buangan yang diproses itu disyaki diimport dari luar negara.

"Tindakan Penahanan Operasi Kelengkapan (POK) dibawah Seksyen 38 (1)(a), Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974 telah dikenakan terhadap kilang itu," katanya dalam kenyataan selepas serbuan itu.

350 tan buangan elektrik

Sharifah Zakiah berkata, operasi yang bermula jam 9.30 pagi itu turut menemui sebanyak 350 tan buangan elektrik dan elektronik di kilang berkenaan dan kesemua buangan itu sudah disita untuk tindakan lanjut.

Katanya, kes itu akan disiasat mengikut Seksyen 18(1), 34A(1) dan 34B(1), Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974.

"Selain itu, JIM juga telah menahan seorang wanita dan sembilan lelaki warga China dan Bangladesh atas pelbagai kesalahan di bawah Akta Imigresen.

"Kesemua warga asing bersama pemilik tanah yang ditahan dalam serbuan itu akan diambil keterangan untuk tindakan susulan," katanya.

Sharifah Zakiah turut menasihatkan pemilik tanah untuk mengambil tahu semua aktiviti yang akan dijalankan bakal penyewa sebelum menyewakan tapak kepada orang lain kerana tindakan perundangan juga boleh dikenakan terhadap mereka.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....2.8.JUN.2024.....

RM6.98 bilion dikeluarkan dari Akaun Fleksibel KWSP

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KUALA LUMPUR: Seramai 2.93 juta ahli Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) mengeluarkan sebanyak RM6.98 bilion daripada Akaun Fleksibel setakat 10 Jun lalu.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan berkata, sejumlah 3.45 juta ahli KWSP sudah membuat pilihan untuk mempunyai amaun permulaan di dalam Akaun Fleksibel dengan jumlah perpindahan daripada Akaun Sejahtera sebanyak RM10.68 bilion.

"Bagi memastikan KWSP boleh mencapai objektif pelaburan, pelaburan KWSP adalah berpandukan Alokasi Aset Strategik (SAA) yang mengalokasikan aset secara optimal dengan mengambil kira had toleransi risiko KWSP sebagai sebuah dana simpanan persaraan.

"SAA ini dikaji semula secara berkala bagi memastikan jangkaan pulangan dan risiko adalah relevan dengan keadaan pasaran modal semasa serta sebarang perubahan polisi, regulatori, perakaunan dan profil aset-liabiliti KWSP.

"Antara pertimbangan yang akan dikaji adalah profil kecairan portfolio pelaburan serta alokasi kepada baki tunai bagi mengambil kira impak daripada penstrukturan semula akaun KWSP," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam jawapan bertulisnya di Dewan Rakyat bagi menjawab persoalan ditimbulkan Khoo Poay Tiong yang memintanya menyatakan jumlah pencarum



AMIR
HAMZAH
AZIZAN



Sejumlah 3.45 juta ahli KWSP sudah membuat pilihan untuk mempunyai amaun permulaan di dalam Akaun Fleksibel dengan jumlah perpindahan daripada Akaun Sejahtera sebanyak RM10.68 bilion."

AMIR HAMZAH AZIZAN

KWSP yang memindahkan caruman dari Akaun 1 ke Akaun 3, jumlah pencarum dan caruman yang telah dikeluarkan dari Akaun 3 setakat ini.

Mengulas lanjut, Amir Hamzah berkata, KWSP menga-

lokasikan baki tunai pelaburan pada julat dua hingga enam peratus daripada jumlah aset pelaburan berdasarkan SAA semasa.

Katanya, KWSP menjangka-kan sebahagian besar pengelu-

aran daripada pengstrukturan semula akaun KWSP boleh ditampung oleh baki tunai semasa dan aliran masuk tunai bersih daripada caruman, kematangan serta pendapatan pelaburan.

"KWSP akan terus mengamalkan pendekatan pelaburan berdisiplin dan pengurusan kecairan yang baik dan berpandukan SAA untuk memastikan portfolio pelaburan KWSP tidak terjejas dengan penstrukturan semula akaun KWSP.

"Ini dapat memastikan prestasi pelaburan yang kukuh dapat dikekalkan selaras dengan objektif KWSP sebagai sebuah dana persaraan jangka panjang," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh:2.8...JUN...2024.

Kerajaan pantau penyasaran subsidi diesel

WM
28/6

KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan akan sentiasa memantau situasi semasa pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel dan akan melakukan penambahbaikan bantuan dari semasa ke semasa.

Kementerian Kewangan (MoF) berkata, penambahbaikan bantuan dari semasa ke semasa akan dibuat sekiranya perlu bagi memastikan golongan yang benar-benar layak terus mendapat perhatian kerajaan dalam mendepani cabaran kos sara hidup.

Menurutnya, kerajaan menyediakan bantuan bersasar terutamanya untuk sektor logistik serta individu yang memiliki ken-

deraan diesel di samping petani kecil dan pekebun kecil komoditi bagi mengurangkan impak kepada kos sara hidup dan rakyat yang dikenali sebagai Bantuan Subsidi MADANI (atau BUDI MADANI).

“Mekanisme pelaksanaan penyasaran semula subsidi memerlukan kajian yang teliti supaya tidak meningkatkan kos kepada industri sedia ada serta menitikberatkan aspek pelaksanaan dan komunikasi yang berkesan kepada pihak industri agar tidak berlaku kejutan kepada ekonomi,” kata MoF dalam jawapan bertulis Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

KDNK Malaysia berkembang cepat berbanding negara maju

Wm
28/6

KUALA LUMPUR: Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNK) bagi suku pertama 2024 berkembang lebih cepat apabila mencatat pertumbuhan kukuh sebanyak 4.2 peratus berbanding negara maju dan serantau lain.

Kementerian Kewangan (MoF) berkata, prestasi mem-berangsangkan itu turut dicer-minikan indikator ekonomi dan kewangan antaranya pasaran buruh menunjukkan momen-tum pertumbuhan positif den-gan kadar pengangguran suku pertama 2024 kekal rendah iaitu 3.3 peratus berbanding 3.5 peratus bagi tempoh sama ta-hun lalu.

"KDNK negara bagi suku

pertama 2024 juga berkembang lebih cepat berbanding negara maju dan serantau seperti Sin-gapura (2.7 peratus), Thailand (1.5 peratus), dan United King-dom (0.2 peratus).

"Indeks Pelopor terus mere-kodkan pertumbuhan positif selama empat bulan berturut-turut dengan peningkatan 2.3 peratus, pada Mac lalu.

"Pelancongan domestik merekodkan peningkatan 19 peratus kepada 58.6 juta pela-wat pada suku pertama 2024 dengan jumlah perbelanjaan melonjak 25.3 peratus kepada RM24.1 bilion," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024



KESEMUA suspek direman empat hari bagi membantu siasatan di bawah Seksyen 18 Akta SPRM 2009. - UTUSAN/SYAFEEQ AHMAD

6 wanita direman, disyaki kemuka tuntutan palsu

WM
28/6

MELAKA: Mahkamah Majistret di sini mengeluarkan perintah reman selama empat hari kepada enam penjawat awam sebuah jabatan kerajaan negeri, selepas disyaki berkomplot membuat tuntutan palsu berkaitan Banci Penduduk dan Perumahan Malaysia 2020 berjumlah RM13,586.

Perintah reman sehingga Ahad ini dikeluarkan Majistret Nabilah Nizam terhadap kesemua suspek wanita berusia antara 40 hingga 57 tahun bagi membantu siasatan di bawah Seksyen 18 Akta Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) 2009.

Kesemua suspek tiba di pekarangan mahkamah pada pukul 9 pagi dengan memakai pakaian lokap SPRM.

Suspek ditahan antara pukul 2 hingga 4 petang semalam ketika hadir memberi keterangan di Pejabat SPRM Melaka, Alai.

Pengarah SPRM negeri, Adi Supian Shafie berkata, kesemua suspek ditahan bagi membantu siasatan berhubung dakwaan mengemukakan dokumen mengandungi butiran matan palsu.

Katanya, butiran itu adalah dokumen Banci Penduduk dan Perumahan Malaysia 2020: Rekod Kemajuan Kerja Harian Pembanci berjumlah keseluruhan RM13,586 yang diberikan



Kes disiasat di bawah Seksyen 18 Akta SPRM 2009 yang memperuntukkan hukuman denda lima kali ganda daripada nilai suapan atau RM10,000 mengikut mana yang lebih tinggi, jika sabit kesalahan."

kepada Unit Kewangan pada 2020.

"Tuntutan tersebut dinyatakan sebagai pembayaran gaji pekerja Personel MySTEP sedangkan ia tidak wujud.

"Kes disiasat di bawah Seksyen 18 Akta SPRM 2009 yang memperuntukkan hukuman denda lima kali ganda daripada nilai suapan atau RM10,000 mengikut mana yang lebih tinggi, jika sabit kesalahan," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

Pertanian bandar isi masa lapang

UM
28/6

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PROGRAM kebun komuniti semakin popular dalam kalangan penduduk bandar yang mahu melibatkan diri dalam dunia penanaman.

Ia bukan sahaja membantu mengurangkan kos sara hidup melalui penanaman sendiri sayuran keperluan, malah turut membantu penduduk yang kebanyakannya bekerja di sektor korporat untuk kekal cergas melalui aktiviti bertani.

Program Kebuniti Madani dijalankan di Program Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) Desa Rejang di Setapak Jaya misalnya, mengusahakan kebun komuniti seluas 180 meter persegi di bahagian belakang kawasan perumahan berkenaan.

Tapak terbiar yang dahulunya merupakan parkir motosikal dibersihkan dengan bantuan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) untuk dijadikan tapak kebun.

Pengerusi Kawasan Rukun Tetangga (KRT) PPR Desa Rejang, M. Noor M. Tahir berkata, kebun diusahakan sejak awal tahun lalu membolehkan penduduk memperoleh sayuran dan herba keperluan harian dapur dengan lebih mudah.

"Dahulu semua (sayur) beli sendiri, namun melalui program kebun komuniti, kita dapat menjimatkan kos perbelanjaan dapur kerana kebanyakan sayuran dan herba ditanam adalah dalam kategori kegunaan harian seperti serai,



M. NOOR M. TAHIR



MOHD. ISKANDAR JALAWAN

daun kunyit, daun bawang dan pelbagai lagi," katanya kepada Utusan Malaysia.

Merealisasikan Kebuniti Madani, kerajaan memperuntukkan RM30 juta melaksanakan program berkenaan mulai 2022 hingga 2025.

Jabatan Pertanian diperuntukkan sebanyak RM16,136,200 untuk melaksanakan Program Kebuniti Madani di seluruh negara.

M. Noor yang juga Ketua Unit Kebajikan Desa Rejang, berkata selain menjimatkan perbelanjaan, aktiviti berkebun juga dapat mengeratkan silaturrahim antara penduduk.

Memiliki sekitar 16,000 penduduk di PPR itu menjadikan perpaduan merupakan antara elemen utama diterapkan dalam kalangan penduduk.



KEBUN Komuniti inisiatif kerajaan untuk menjadikan aktiviti pertanian sebagai gerakan negara ke arah keterjaminan makanan.

"Walaupun tidak semua menyertai kebun komuniti ini, tapi setidaknya bagi yang menyertainya, mereka ada aktiviti harian untuk dilakukan terutamanya bagi golongan sudah berpenen.

"Jika sebelum ini kebanyakan orang pencen banyak menghabiskan masa minum di kedai sahaja, tetapi kini ramai yang bergilir-gilir turun ke kebun untuk mengusahakan tanaman. Setidak-tidaknya mereka dapat mengeluarkan peluh dan kekal sihat," jelasnya.

APLIKASI TEKNOLOGI TANAMAN

Timbalan Pengarah Bahagian Pertanian Bandar Jabatan Pertanian Malaysia, Mohd. Iskandar Jalawan berkata program itu merupakan inisiatif kerajaan untuk menjadikan aktiviti pertanian komuniti sebagai gerakan negara ke arah keterjaminan makanan. Ia juga bertujuan

Ada 33 lokasi Kebuniti Madani di Kuala Lumpur melibatkan 11 Parlimen."

mengurangkan kos sara hidup dengan menghasilkan tanaman makanan untuk kegunaan sendiri selain menjana pendapatan komuniti melalui jualan hasil tanaman.

"Jabatan Pertanian turut menyediakan bantuan daripada segi kursus dan tunjuk ajar daripada pegawai mengenai pertanian bandar.

"Kami juga menyediakan teknologi pertanian, misalnya pertanian bandar seperti kepok tanaman yang menggunakan campuran tanah yang lebih subur kerana kebanyakan tanah di kawasan bandar adalah tanah tambak," katanya.

Turut disediakan adalah tangki tadahan hujan bagi menyelesaikan isu air di kawasan kebun berkenaan selain menyediakan tong kompos bagi memudahkan penduduk melupuskan sisa makanan dengan kaedah lebih mesra alam.

Malah, kompos berkenaan dapat digunakan untuk tumbesaran tanaman secara lebih sihat.

"Tanaman di sini adalah organik kerana kita tidak menggunakan racun perosak sebaliknya kita ajar penduduk untuk guna bio-repellent seperti guna cuka kayu, bawang putih dan sebagainya.

"Jadi, tanaman boleh dikategorikan sebagai organik dan lebih selamat untuk dimakan oleh penduduk," katanya.

Ada 33 lokasi Kebuniti Madani di Kuala Lumpur melibatkan 11 Parlimen dengan kesemuanya mengemukakan permohonan kepada Jabatan Pertanian terlebih dahulu sebelum penilaian dilakukan untuk kesesuaian tapak kebun.

ILMU BERTANI

Penyelia kebun yang juga penduduk PPR, Ab. Hamid Ab. Ghani berkata, penduduk boleh mempelajari ilmu pertanian yang disalurkan daripada Jabatan Pertanian dalam menguruskan tanaman.

"Kami banyak belajar ilmu-ilmu pertanian baharu dan mencuba menanam pelbagai tanaman untuk kegunaan harian.

"Dengan keluasan yang terhad, kebun ini tidak mampu untuk menampung keperluan semua penduduk. Hasil kebun akan dibahagikan kepada penduduk yang mengusahakan dan jika ada lebihan akan dijual dengan harga yang rendah kepada penduduk yang lain," jelasnya yang sudah 20 tahun menetap di situ.



*Selagi stok masih ada.

Keluarkan gula daripada barang kawalan

um

28/6

①

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PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan disaran mengeluarkan pewartaan gula di bawah Akta Kawalan Harga dan Antipencatutan 2011 dalam usaha mengurangkan penyakit diabetes dalam kalangan rakyat.

Kawalan harga menyebabkan kerajaan terpaksa memberi insentif RM42 juta sebulan kepada semua pengilang gula di negara ini mulai November 2023 yang turut mendorong harga bahan itu kekal rendah di pasaran.

Situasi ini menyebabkan penggunaannya meningkat yang menyumbang kepada kadar diabetes tinggi dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia di rantau Pasifik Barat dan antara tertinggi di dunia.

Bersambung di muka 2

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024....



KERAJAAN dicadang mengeluarkan gula daripada barang kawalan dalam usaha mengawal penyakit kencing manis yang makin meningkat di Malaysia. - GAMBAR HIASAN

Keluarkan gula daripada barang kawalan

MM
25/6
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Dari muka 1

Menerusi kajian Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS), sebanyak 15.6 peratus atau satu daripada enam dewasa di Malaysia menghidap kencing manis.

Lebih menakutkan, 84 peratus dewasa muda berumur lingkungan 18 ke 29 tahun tidak menyedari yang mereka sebenarnya menghidap kencing manis dan penyakit tidak berjangkit ini merupakan punca utama kematian di Malaysia.

Presiden Persatuan Perubatan Kesihatan Awam Malaysia (PPKAM), Datuk Dr. Zainal Ariffin Omar berkata, langkah mengeluarkan gula daripada senarai barang kawalan wajar dilakukan bagi mengawal pengambilannya dalam kalangan rakyat.

Katanya, langkah itu mungkin dilihat 'agak keras' untuk dilakukan kepada pengguna tetapi merupakan tindakan pencegahan terbaik kepada kesihatan.

"Mungkin tidak popular dari segi politik dan sosial, tetapi merupakan 'ubat' atau

pencegahan kesihatan awam bagi mengatasi masalah kesihatan dan kos kesihatan rakyat yang semakin tinggi," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Kerajaan dilaporkan menanggung RM9.65 bilion atau 16.8 peratus melibatkan perbelanjaan langsung penjagaan kesihatan untuk menangani penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) daripada jumlah perbelanjaan kesihatan di negara ini.

Anggaran tersebut dibuat berdasarkan perbelanjaan pada 2017 dan laporan itu dikeluarkan pada 2022 melalui Kos Penjagaan Kesihatan Penyakit Tidak Berjangkit di Malaysia oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) dan KKM.

Jumlah perbelanjaan bagi penyakit diabetes adalah sebanyak RM4.38 bilion (45.38 peratus) daripada keseluruhan perbelanjaan penyakit NCD.

Perbelanjaan ini adalah merangkumi perbelanjaan kemasukan ke hospital, penjagaan primer di klinik kesihatan, rawatan pesakit luar di hospital, pemeriksaan dan ujian kesihatan serta pembia-

yaan perubatan.

Dalam pada itu, Pakar Kesihatan Komuniti Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof. Dr. Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh berkata, beberapa negara luar seperti United Kingdom, Afrika Selatan dan Mexico telah pun mengenakan cukai ke atas minuman manis bergula (SSB).

"Langkah itu boleh dilakukan Malaysia bagi menurunkan pembelian dan penggunaan kandungan gula seperti air manis yang boleh membawa kepada peningkatan diabetes dan kencing manis," katanya.

Beliau berkata, bagi pengeluaran makanan dan industri yang terlibat dengan subsidi gula pula diturunkan atau ditarik balik.

Mac lalu, Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Fuziah Salleh berkata, pemberian insentif kewangan sebanyak RM42 juta kepada pengilang gula yang dilaksanakan ketika ini merupakan langkah sementara bagi memastikan kesinambungan pengeluaran bahan makanan asas itu.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh:2..8...JUN...2024..

Kepercayaan rakyat terhadap kerajaan melonjak - Edelman

UM
28/6

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PETALING JAYA: Tahap kepercayaan rakyat Malaysia terhadap kerajaan melonjak dengan ketara, sekali gus mencerminkan keyakinan terhadap tadbir urus demokrasi di bawah kerajaan Madani walaupun menghadapi cabaran ekonomi yang berterusan.

Penemuan Barometer Amanah Edelman 2024 menunjukkan Skor Indeks Kepercayaan keseluruhan Malaysia sebanyak 68 peratus, peningkatan enam mata berbanding 2023, sekali gus melet-

akkan Malaysia antara 10 negara yang paling dipercayai daripada 28 negara yang dikaji.

Laporan yang dijalankan dari 3 hingga 22 November 2023 itu meninjau lebih 32,000 responden di 28 negara, termasuk lebih 1,000 responden dari Malaysia, memberikan gambaran yang kukuh tentang sentimen orang ramai tentang kepercayaan, inovasi dan tadbir urus.

Ketua Pegawai Operasi Edelman Malaysia, Chris de Cruz berkata, kerajaan perpaduan baharu yang dipimpin oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim telah melihat peningkatan 13 mata yang luar biasa dalam kepercayaan awam sejak tahun lepas.

"Peningkatan keper-

cayaan Malaysia menggariskan anjakan positif dalam persepsi orang ramai terhadap tadbir urus dan rangka kerja institusi kami.

"Peningkatan ini menandakan keyakinan yang semakin meningkat dalam kepercayaan negara untuk mengharungi cabaran ekonomi dan memupuk pertumbuhan inklusif," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Menurut laporan, kebimbangan utama rakyat Malaysia ialah pertumbuhan ekonomi yang perlahan, perpecahan masyarakat dan maklumat yang salah.

Selain itu, 97 peratus rakyat Malaysia yang bekerja bimbang tentang kehilangan pekerjaan, dengan perubahan iklim (85 peratus daripada populasi umum) dan peningkatan peperangan maklumat (73 peratus). Sementara itu, penyepad-

uan kecerdasan buatan (AI) ke dalam masyarakat secara global telah membentuk semula persepsi dan menetapkan peringkat untuk era inovasi baharu.

Barometer 2024 menyerlahkan bahawa 63 peratus rakyat Malaysia merasakan pengawal selia kerajaan kurang pemahaman untuk mentadbir teknologi baru muncul dengan berkesan.

De Cruz berkata, memandangkan AI terus mengubah industri dan kehidupan seharian, terdapat keperluan kritikal bagi perniagaan dan kerajaan untuk bekerjasama dengan berkesan.

"Perkongsian ini penting untuk memanfaatkan manfaat teknologi baharu sambil menangani pertimbangan etika dan memastikan kebolehcapaian merentas semua segmen

masyarakat," katanya.

Selain itu, De Cruz menjelaskan, dapatan kajian mendapati rakyat Malaysia menggesa kerjasama yang lebih penting antara perniagaan dan kerajaan untuk menangani isu-isu sosial yang mendesak.

"Sokongan awam untuk perniagaan yang bekerjasama dengan kerajaan dalam inovasi telah melonjak 19 peratus sejak 2015.

"Memulihkan kepercayaan bergantung pada penglibatan yang telus antara perniagaan, kerajaan dan orang ramai," katanya.



UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ...28 JUN 2024...

Tak mampu dapatkan makanan sihat

UM
28/6

Kuala Lumpur: Golongan berpendapatan rendah di negara ini didapati semakin tidak mampu untuk memilih pemakanan sihat berikutan faktor kos, sekali gus mendorong ketidaksamaan dari segi nutrisi.

Institut Penyelidikan Khazanah (KRI) menerusi kertas perbincangan '*Unhealthy but not by Choice: Food Environment and Nutrition Inequalities*' mendapati ia berpunca daripada peningkatan kos pemakanan sihat.

Katanya, golongan yang memiliki masa terhad juga mempunyai kecenderungan sama, walaupun berkemampuan membeli makanan segar dan sihat.

Kumpulan itu cenderung memilih makanan segera atau diproses kerana lebih mudah diperolehi atas kekangan masa.

Buah dan sayur adalah keperluan pemakanan sihat, namun muncul sebagai kos terbesar amalan berkenaan, menjadikannya bukan lagi pilihan mampu dibeli semua pihak.

"Harga faktor paling utama pemilihan makanan keluarga berpendapatan rendah, berbanding faktor seperti ketersediaan makanan dan selera," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

'Malaysia's first-quarter growth better than several countries'

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.2 per cent was better than several countries, said the Finance Ministry.

In a parliamentary written reply, the ministry said the strong growth was achieved despite challenging external conditions.

The ministry said Malaysia's first-quarter GDP growth had outperformed countries such as Singapore (2.7 per cent), Thailand (1.5 per cent) and the United Kingdom (0.2 per cent).

"This encouraging performance is also reflected in eco-

nomic and financial indicators, including the labour market which shows positive growth momentum with unemployment rate in the first quarter remaining low at 3.3 per cent compared with 3.5 per cent in the same period last year.

"Simultaneously, the Leading Index has also continued to record positive growth for four consecutive months, with an increase of 2.3 per cent in March 2024," the ministry said in response to Mohd Syahir Che Sulaiman (PN-Bachok).

Syahir had enquired about the

projections for GDP growth for this year and next year.

The ministry said domestic tourism increased by 19 per cent to 58.6 million visitors in the first quarter.

It said inflation also remained low at 1.7 per cent, compared with 3.6 per cent in the same quarter last year.

The ministry also said Malaysia's stock market capitalisation reached a new high, exceeding RM2 trillion for the first time on May 7, and had reached RM2.059 trillion as of June 12.

Following this, the ministry

said the government was confident that GDP would grow between four and five per cent this year.

"Additionally, the Global Economic Prospects report by the World Bank published on June 11 stated that Malaysia's economic growth is projected to increase to 4.4 per cent in 2025 compared with 4.3 per cent in 2024.

"This outlook aligns with the World Bank's global economic growth projection, which is expected to rise 2.7 per cent in 2025 compared with 2.6 per cent in 2024."

In May, Bank Negara Malaysia governor Datuk Abdul Rasheed Ghafour had said Malaysia's economy grew faster than expected at 4.2 per cent in the first quarter, supported by higher household spending.

He had said private consumption grew by 4.7 per cent in the quarter buoyed by discretionary and necessities spending.

Other factors that catalysed growth were a turnaround in goods exports and higher tourist arrivals, improvement in labour market conditions and stronger investment activities.

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh:28 JUN 2024..

Of law and plastics producers

NST
28/6

Civil cases take off, but not in Malaysia

LATEST research by the United States-based Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), a public non-profit organisation, shows that Americans are ingesting plastics of all sorts the size of a credit card every week. By that calculation, we are all walking plastics. The research isn't just stopping at being a mere study. It is calling for the law to test its theories against Big Plastics, mainly Big Oil. The title of the report by the CIEL is itself a call to action: "Making Plastic Producers Pay: How cities and states can recoup the rising cost of plastic pollution." For now, the report is directed at cities and states in the US, the most litigious nation in the world. A series of laws are being talked up by the CIEL: consumer protection, product liability and public nuisance.

Where do we start? Causation, the darling of tort lawyers, is a good place to begin. Plastics do not biodegrade. They accumulate in drains, rivers and landfills. And, as microplastics, they contaminate the human body, the report argues. Armed with science and internal documents, the CIEL says petrochemical manufacturers and disposable plastic goods producers have known this for a long time and yet they continue to produce them. Numbers crunched by the CIEL show that the global production of plastics spiralled from 2 million tonnes in

Remember the tobacco titans? With deep pockets, they live to fight.

1950 to 460 million tonnes per annum in 2019. With such a mountain of plastics, it is not difficult to imagine the impact of plastic pollution on the purse of governments around the world. Time, resources and money that could be better spent are being directed to repair damage to drainage systems, stormwater management facilities, water treatment plants, not

to mention clean-up of public land and waterways.

The CIEL acknowledges that the problems with plastic production and pollution are not new. But two new developments have brought them into focus again. One is the increasing inability of plastic waste-producing countries in North America and Europe to offload their waste to other countries. In 2017, the US exported 1.6 million tonnes to China. In 2018, China banned waste imports. Others, like Malaysia, are doing the same. For the first time in decades plastic waste-producing countries are forced to confront the damaging consequences of plastic waste. The second development is the dramatic increase in public understanding of the hazards of plastic pollution. CIEL says new studies are being released at an ever-accelerating pace, linking the harm caused by plastics to the companies that produce them. Hence the call to action by CIEL. As one news portal in the US puts it, nearly 60 suits have been filed in courts from South Carolina to California since 2015. Baltimore joined the list this month, suing six plastic-producing companies. But it will be an uphill task, even in the US where class action is common. Remember the tobacco titans? With deep pockets, they live to fight. In class action unfriendly Malaysia, plaintiffs may have a mountain to climb. Environmentalists and non-governmental organisations just don't have the locus standi to pursue a legal action on their own, says lawyer Arik Zakri. The best case scenario is regulators imposing fines or hauling them to court. Of which, we don't hear much.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS

STAYING SANE IN DIGITAL AGE

NST
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THE digital age has led to people's cognitive abilities deteriorating. When we talk of cognitive problems, we think of the challenges people have with thought processes, memory and other compromised mental functions.

These include learning difficulties like dyslexia, attention disorders like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), memory diseases like Alzheimer's, and difficulty making or solving problems.

What's contributing to the rise in cognitive deterioration?

The first factor is the abundance of information, as people constantly use smartphones, social media and the Internet to access information.

Decision fatigue results from this deluge of information, which makes processing it difficult.

Reduced attention spans have emerged as a factor contributing to the rise in cognitive impairment.

Reduced attention spans have been connected to the popularity of short-form content, such as tweets and TikTok videos.

The inability to concentrate on long-term work is another detrimental effect.

Sleep disturbance too has been linked to a reduction in cognitive abilities. A healthy sleep schedule is essential for cognitive processes, including problem-solving and memory consolidation.

A sedentary lifestyle has detri-



Receiving too much information through smartphones, social media and the Internet can impair cognitive functions. FILE PIC

mental effects. We watch television, use phones, read, work at desks without getting enough exercise, or spend extended periods of time sitting or lying down.

This way of living negatively impacts cognitive performance and brain health.

Plus, there is a correlation between stress and anxiety elements and cognitive decline.

People who are frequently under pressure, overexposed to bad news or who make social comparisons,

exhibit this.

Higher stress and anxiety levels impair cognitive function.

Other issues due to the acceleration of cognitive deterioration include difficulty in focusing, making decisions and finishing tasks.

Mental health problems can occur. Chronic cognitive stress can set off an unstable loop that impairs cognitive function by worsening mental health conditions like anxiety and depression.

Negative effects are also seen in

an educational setting. Pupils have trouble remembering things.

Additionally, there are problems with social contact. Reduced cognitive function can make it harder for people to communicate and interpret social cues.

To address cognitive decline, we can practise digital detox, which are time limits for using digital devices and taking breaks from screens.

People should practise meditation to focus better, feel less stressed and boost their cognitive abilities.

A healthy diet, enough sleep and regular exercise are crucial for preserving cognitive function.

People should control and filter information.

Cognitive tasks like reading, solving puzzles and picking up new skills can support and improve cognitive abilities.

DR NURUL SALIKIN SA'ARI

Cognitive neuropsychologist
Adjunct senior lecturer
Asiae University

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

Microplastics a **serious threat** to environmental ecosystem

■ BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
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PETALING JAYA: Food is essential for survival and when properly enjoyed, some may even view it as a hobby.

However, INTI International University Faculty of Business and Communications lecturer Prof Dr Walton Wider discovered that "the one thing that keeps us alive is silently killing us".

Wider discovered this in his research titled, "Are we eating Microplastics? Science mapping of microplastic pollution in the aquatic food chain".

Carried out in collaboration with several other researchers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah, he said the research leveraged on bibliographic analysis of 216 journal articles from 2008 to 2023.

"Our research shed light on the emerging, current and future themes of microplastic pollution, and its effects on the ecosystem.

"We found that microplastic pollution emerged as early as 2014 and has affected us since then. Microplastics are derived from non-biodegradable materials that

► Lack of proper waste management leading to alarming accumulation of plastic waste that can also affect health: Lecturer

produce plastic debris and have accumulated in terrestrial and aquatic systems.

"Plastic products are dispersed into the ecosystem through day-to-day activities such as household littering, losses from landfill sites, illegal dumping, agricultural waste and even remnants of household products that were not adequately managed."

Wider said the lack of proper waste management for these plastics led to the alarming accumulation of waste and resulted in the uncontrolled release of plastics into the environment.

"This issue requires immediate attention and action considering that we consume microplastics daily and it is a hazard to everyone."

Wider said plastic samples (in the form of microplastics) have already been found in human tissues, placenta, blood and stools.

Organisms in the marine

ecosystem unknowingly consume these plastic molecules which then end up in human bodies as mankind consumes marine products such as fish and seafood.

He stressed that microplastic pollution is a direct result of human activity and causes severe harm to Earth's freshwater ecosystems such as lakes and rivers.

"These plastics are then transported to downstream lakes, coastal areas and oceans. We must be aware of this and take action to prevent further damage."

In terms of what contributes to microplastics, Wider said studies revealed that across the world, textiles comprise nearly 35% of microplastics in marine environments.

Moreover, food with plastic packaging is also a contributing factor, with plastic teabags cited as an example to demonstrate plastic degradation in water.

"A single brewing of a teabag at 95°C releases approximately 11.6 billion microplastics and 3.1 billion nanoplastics into a single cup.

"Unfortunately, there are no fully effective approaches to remove microplastics from the environment."

Wider said currently the most effective way is to reduce plastic emissions and to instil awareness and knowledge in the public.

He said while there is still a long way to go with regard to public policy on plastic use, Malaysia has implemented the pay-per-plastic-use policy.

However, he questioned if it is effective as Malaysians still depend on plastics in their daily lives, especially when finding cheaper and more accessible alternatives such as disposable plastic cups as opposed to reusable mugs.

"Plastic use will significantly increase and the global population will reach 9.7 billion by 2050.

Thus, education on the use of plastic and its proper waste management is crucial to ensuring that the impact of plastic use does not increase in tandem with the growth of the human population."

THE SUN
Tarikh: 28 JUN 2024

Air Selangor ready to meet demand from data centres

28th JUN

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) is prepared to meet new demand from data centres without compromising water distribution to the public.

Acting CEO Abas Abdullah said

Air Selangor has received water application requests from data centres in areas like Setia Alam, Bukit Jalil, and Cyberjaya.

"Based on our forecasts, before these data centres came in, we have prepared ourselves to have a reserve margin of at least 20%," he reporters after the release of its Sustainability Report 2023 yesterday.

Abas said the company is also prepared to accommodate any new developments, stating, "We must be ready, whenever the federal government or state government wants to have a spin-off of the catalyst, say for example."

Air Selangor, on average, spends about a billion in capital expenditure (capex) annually.

One of the key initiatives is ramping up the pipe replacement programme, Abas said.

"Last year, our pipeline replacement programme covered 150km. Starting this year, we are increasing that to 300km annually," he added.

Abas said Air Selangor will award contracts for 300km of pipeline replacement this year and plans to continue at this rate until 2034.

"Beyond that, we aim to increase the replacement to 400km annually. This plan is designed to improve the reliability of our network."

Abas said Air Selangor is still undertaking expansion projects that began years ago.

"For example, our district metering zones, our meter replacements, besides going harder and tougher on illegal connections. We are tracking them and resolving these illegal connections."

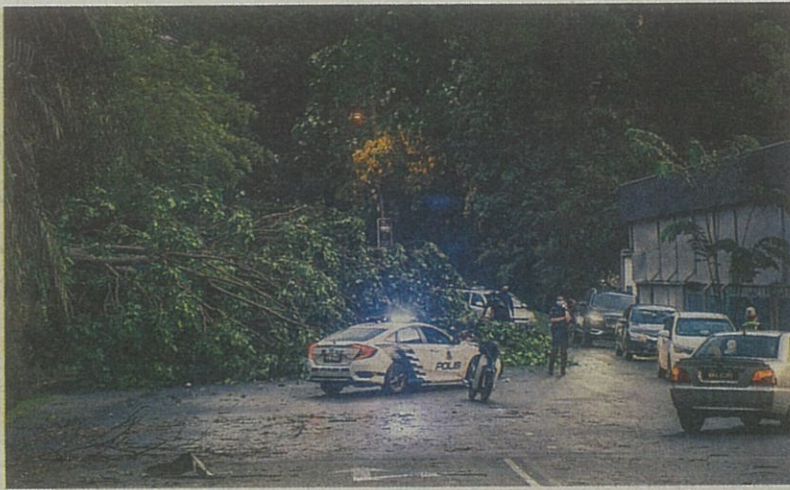
"We are also using a lot of technology in terms of being able to detect leaks using sensors automatically without needing manual leak detection," he added.



From left: Air Selangor head of risk management Thavendran Loganathan, acting director/head of operations Ainul Azhar Mohd Jemone, Abas, head of distribution department Kelvin Siew, and head of finance & strategy Kevin Lee at the press conference yesterday.

THE SUN
28 JUN 2024

Tarikh:



Zaliha said from 2017 to 2024, falling trees had caused 14 accidents, with nine resulting in injuries and five resulting in deaths. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

KL City Hall cuts down 173 high-risk trees

KUALA LUMPUR: The Dewan Rakyat was yesterday told that out of 1,488 aged trees inspected around the federal capital since 2019, 173 have been cut down because they posed a high risk to the public.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the assessment was carried out by Kuala Lumpur City Hall and continuous inspections will be conducted on aged trees.

"To reflect City Hall's commitment, 21 contractors have been appointed starting June 15 for the regular maintenance of shade trees," she said during a question-and-answer session.

She was replying to Zahir Hassan (PH-Wangsa Maju) on measures to ensure that trees under City Hall's supervision and on private premises comply with guidelines to ensure public's safety.

She said according to City Hall records, maintenance work has been carried out on 22,283 trees from January to June.

As for trees on private premises, Zaliha said City Hall has issued 65 notification letters regarding risky trees on private properties based on public complaints from 2021 to last May.

Answering Zahir's question, she said from 2017 to 2024, such incidents had caused 14 accidents, with nine resulting in injuries and five resulting in deaths. — Bernama

THE SUN
28 JUN 2024

Tarikh:

Rates of civil servants wage hike to be known in Oct

PUTRAJAYA: The rates of salary increase for civil servants which will be implemented from December this year will be announced before the tabling of the 2025 Budget in October, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said it has been very long since the last salary adjustment was made for civil servants.

"While we (the government) expect them (civil servants) to work harder, there has been no review of salary adjustment and fair reward for them for at least the past 10 years.

"That's why I said it is our responsibility to give what is possible and reasonable to civil servants. *Insha-Allah*, I will announce (the rates) before the tabling of the national budget this year," Anwar said at the Prime Minister's Department Excellent Service Award 2023 ceremony here on Wednesday.

The review of the Public Service Remuneration System was undertaken by the unity government last year after the last review

of the salary scheme was conducted in 2013.

Following the completion of the review on May 1, Anwar announced that civil servants would enjoy a salary hike of more than 13% starting December, the highest increase in the nation's history.

Meanwhile, Anwar reminded civil servants not to be swayed and get carried away with the Opposition's claims pertaining to the issue of the sale of Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) shares.

He said civil servants should follow the development of the issue to know the truth and get the right picture.

"Do not get too involved in political talks of cursing other people, slandering and accusing other Muslims of being infidels, just like what they (Opposition) did in Sungai Bakap (by-election campaign).

"They called me the adopted child of America, they said the Finance Ministry is

borrowing money from the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and that I followed the advice of the Jews."

During the Minister's Question Time at the Dewan Rakyat sitting on Wednesday, Anwar clarified that Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) was selected after the company agreed to continue appointing a Malaysian citizen as MAHB chairman and CEO and to maintain the collective national majority ownership of shares.

He said other bidders had disagreed with the strict requirements set by Khazanah Nasional Bhd and the Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

Khazanah and the EPF had set strict conditions that would see the collective Malaysian ownership of MAHB increase to 70% from the current 41% once the restructuring of the airport operator is completed, he said. - Bernama

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