



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 29 APRIL 2024 (ISNIN)

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Vacant MBSJ councillor spot reserved for BN now filled by PKR



Nanthakumar Poapalan (left) and Sri Devi Chenchiah taking their oath of office at the Subang Jaya City Council as councillors.

SUBANG JAYA: PKR'S Nanthakumar Poapalan has been appointed to the vacant councillor post in the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) which had been earlier reserved for Selangor Barisan Nasional (BN).

Nanthakumar, 33, took up the seat for the 2024-2025 term after it was left empty for three months. The seat was supposed to be filled by a BN representative as part of the quota for the unity government in the state. However, the coalition failed to name anyone for the post.

Sri Devi Chenchiah, 38, from PKR was also appointed as MBSJ councillor to fill up the seat vacated by Gunasunthari Kanniappan from PKR who quit on April 1 due to personal reasons.

With her resignation, MBSJ had two vacancies to fill.

Both Nanthakumar, who is involved in landscape business, and Sri Devi, who is in car park management, took their oaths and signed their letters of appointment in front of Subang Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim and deputy mayor Zulkurnain Che Ali on April 24.

Mohd Fauzi said Nanthakumar and Sri Devi's term was effective April 8, 2024 to Dec 31, 2025.

In January this year, all 12 local authorities in Selangor had completed their swearing-in ceremonies but left 20 local councillor seats available to BN and its component parties.

Both Nanthakumar and Sri Devi said that they would not only represent their communities and residents, but would work with MBSJ to shape council policies to build strong relationships with community groups.

Mohd Fauzi said a councillor must take the initiative to understand the workings of the local council to be able to help ratepayers.

"Councillors must know what is going on in his or her area and help solve issues or provide answers to questions that the community may have on assessment tax, trading licences, clogged drains, rubbish collection, and floods, as well as the general well-being of a neighbourhood," he added.

MBSJ had appointed 23 councillors -- six new faces and 17 reappointments -- for the 2024-2025 term on Jan 19, with the remaining one seat to be filled by BN.

DAP had 13 councillors, PKR six and four were from Amanah. With the new appointments, PKR now has seven councillors in MBSJ.

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH: 29 APRIL 2024

MBSJ PBT pertama di Selangor lancar 'WhatsApp Biz'

Oleh MOHD AZLIM ZAINURY

Follow

26 April 2024 12:59pm Masa membaca: 4 minit



Mohd Fauzi (tiga kiri) melancarkan pelancaran 'WhatsApp Biz MBSJ' pada Majlis Sambutan Aidilfitri MBSJ di sini pada Khamis.

INTERFACE (Antarmuka) Aplikasi 'WhatsApp Biz MBSJ'



MBSJ menjadi pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) pertama di Selangor yang melaksanakan Whatsapp Biz MBSJ.

Terdahulu, Datuk Bandar Subang Jaya, Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim melancarkan pelancaran 'Whatsapp Biz MBSJ' pada Majlis Sambutan Aidilfitri MBSJ di sini pada Khamis.

Dalam pada itu, kenyataan itu menambah, WhatsApp Biz MBSJ juga telah mendapat pengesahan dari pihak Meta di mana keselamatan serta privasi data pengguna adalah terjamin.

"Para pengguna boleh menggunakan perkhidmatan ini melalui nombor 03 80263100 pada bila bila masa dalam tempoh 24 jam.

"MBSJ yakin melalui perkhidmatan WhatsApp Biz MBSJ akan membantu meningkatkan kualiti penyampaian perkhidmatan kepada komuniti bandar raya sekali gus memberikan impak positif kepada pengguna dari segi masa, tenaga, kewangan dan alam sekitar," kata kenyataan itu.

SUBANG JAYA - Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) menjadi pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) pertama di Selangor yang melaksanakan Whatsapp Biz MBSJ.

MBSJ dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, kemudahan tersebut menyediakan platform interaktif komunikasi secara langsung antara MBSJ dan komuniti bandar raya.

"Pelaksanaan 'WhatsApp Biz MBSJ' merupakan perkhidmatan saluran pemudah cara kepada pelanggan untuk membuat semakan dan pertanyaan berkaitan dengan enam perkhidmatan utama.

"Perkhidmatan merangkumi cukai taksiran MBSJ, kompaun trafik MBSJ, lesen pemiagaan dan permit berniaga, permit bangunan, saluran bayaran serta pembersihan iaitu maklumat sisa pepejal dan pembersihan awam termasuk maklumat pengurusan sisa kitar semula, sisa restoran dan industri," kata kenyataan itu pada Jumaat.

SINAR HARIAN ONLINE

TARIKH: 29 APRIL 2024

WHATSAPP BIZ MBSJ Launched to Provide Fast and Accurate Info

By Teoh - April 25, 2024



SUBANG Jaya residents and business owners can now make enquiries "live" with the launch of the Subang Jaya City Council's "Whatsapp Biz MBSJ".

The new interactive communications platform was launch by MBSJ mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim at the council's Hari Raya Open House recently.

The launch of the round-the-clock (24hrs) platform makes MBSJ the first local authority in Selangor to adopt this approach to help residents conduct checks and enquiries on six primary services.



The primary services included in the platform are MBSJ Bill Assessment; MBSJ Traffic Compounds; License and Permits; Building Permits; Payment Channels and Public Cleaning Management Services (which include solid waste and general cleaning; and information on management of recycled materials, restaurant and industrial waste).

The privacy and security of Whatsapp Biz MBSJ users is assured and has received confirmation from META. Users can utilize this service via 03-8026 3100 anytime.

In the statement, MBSJ said it hoped to further improve its services to the community via Whatsapp Biz MBSJ.

Give it a try at 03-8026 3100 and let us know what you think of this new service introduced by MBSJ.

地方 | 都市动态

发布: 1:10pm 26/04/2024 [254点阅](#)

[罚款](#) [梳邦再也市政厅](#) [门牌税](#) [WhatsApp Biz MBSJ](#)

方便快捷查询事务 MBSJ推介WhatsApp Biz



莫哈末弗兹（左三）在星期四（25日）推介梳邦再也市政厅的WhatsApp Biz服务。左起是王诗棋和阿巴斯沙理半，右起为巴拉卡斯、黄美诗和朱古纳因。（梳邦再也市政厅提供）

（首邦市25日讯）全雪州首个推出WhatsApp Business的**梳邦再也市政厅**今日正式启动“WhatsApp Biz MBSJ”平台，让市民通过即时通信应用程序WhatsApp的方式，更方便和快速查询**门牌税**、**罚款**等六大事务。

梳邦再也市长拿督莫哈末弗兹指出，这也是雪州第一个推出这项服务的地方政府，市民可以通过这个平台查询**门牌税**、**交通罚单**、**商业执照与准证**、**建筑物准证**、**付款平台**和**卫生事务**。



梳邦再也市政厅推出WhatsApp号码（03-8026 3100），民众也可扫描宣传单上的二维码发送WhatsApp讯息，随时查询各项事务。

在卫生事务方面，民众可查询**固体废料**、**公共卫生**、以及**餐馆**、**工业区**和**回收**的管理事项。

莫哈末弗兹今日下午在梳邦再也市政厅开斋节开放门户活动上，同时也推介“WhatsApp Biz MBSJ”平台服务。

SIN CHEW DAILY ONLINE

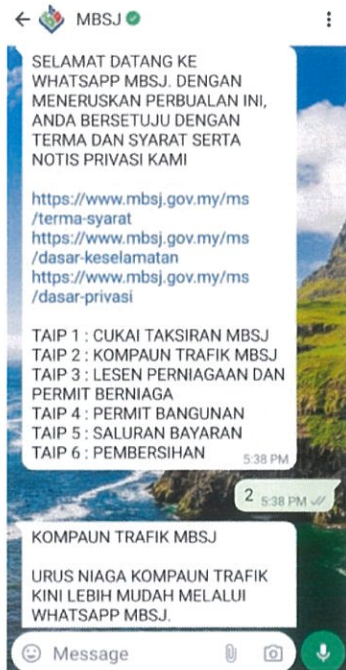
TARIKH: 29 APRIL 2024

地方 | 都市动态

发布: 1:10pm 26/04/2024 254点阅

罚款 梳邦再也市政厅 门牌税 WhatsApp Biz MBSJ

方便快捷查询事务 MBSJ推介WhatsApp Biz



梳邦再也市政厅启用的WhatsApp Biz服务提供马来文和英文选项，让民众查询六大事务，而且此系统能够快速自动回复。

可任何时间发送信息

他指出，“WhatsApp Biz MBSJ”的号码是03-8026 3100，市民可以在任何时间内透过WhatsApp方式发送信息给这个号码，系统将会24小时内运作和自动回复。

此外，据记者观察，有关系统设有两种语文，包括马来文和英文，用户输入号码后，系统可快速自动回复，让用户省时又省力。



梳邦再也市政厅举办开斋节开放门户，莫哈末弗兹（坐着左四）与嘉宾们同欢共庆。坐着左起是诺莱妮、黄美诗和巴拉卡斯；右起是旺阿兹兰、王诗棋和叶国荣。后排左起是叶国荣、朱古纳因和卡马鲁希山。（苏俐娣摄）

另一方面，梳邦再也市政厅举办开斋节开放门户，逾千名职员、执法机构代表、人民代议士、市议员、企业公司的代表等均受邀出席，场面非常热闹。

出席者包括梳邦再也副主席朱古纳因、也是梳邦再也前市长的现任巴生市长拿汀巴杜卡诺莱妮、行动党首府市州议员黄美诗、史里肯邦安州议员王诗棋、哥打哥文宁州议员巴拉卡斯、诚信党斯里沙登州议员阿巴斯沙理米、梳邦再也警区主任旺阿兹兰助理总监、市议员卡马鲁希山和前市议员叶国荣。

SIN CHEW DAILY ONLINE

TARIKH: 29 APRIL 2024

RECYCLE FOR REWARDS

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) is offering in-game rewards for Mobile Legends gamers in exchange for recycled goods. Game enthusiasts can bring recyclable items to Stadium MBSJ Serdang Jaya in Seri Kembangan, Selangor to receive exciting prizes. For details, call 03-8026 3131 or visit mbsj.gov.my

MBSJ
Star

29/4

 THE STAR
12 9 APR 2024
Tarikh:.....

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Citycism

Ponder pup-friendly ways to manage strays

Star
27/4
(MBSA)

Local authorities should consider carrying out spay, neuter programmes periodically instead of taking lethal measures to control population

ANIMAL lovers were outraged recently over Shah Alam City Council's (MBSA) planned big-scale elimination of stray dogs.

Media reports had quoted a notice from the city council about an exercise to catch and kill 500 strays over three days in Setia Alam.

It also offered a RM30 reward for each dog caught with the help of volunteers.

However, MBSA councillor Simon Slow subsequently said the city council had no intention of killing the strays.

He clarified that the procedure was to catch the strays and if the animals were unclaimed after seven days, they would be sent to animal welfare organisations.

Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, in a statement on the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page, had objected to MBSA's plan and expressed her sadness on the matter.

The operation was then postponed indefinitely by Shah Alam mayor Datuk Cheremi Tarman.

The whole matter has since died down, yet I cannot help but wonder why local authorities are not getting to the root of the problem.

How about gradually catching the strays in different areas every month, neutering them before releasing them to where they were caught?

If MBSA is successful in reducing the stray population as a result, other councils can follow suit.

A forum on stray dog management held last year revealed that some of these animals are



Local authorities should use humane ways to reduce the number of strays.

used to guard construction sites.

Once a development is complete, the dogs are left to fend for themselves.

Local councils should look into creating or modifying existing regulations to include requiring these dogs to be spayed or neutered by their owners.

Additionally, backyard breeders must be regulated to minimise instances of inbreeding.

Inbred dogs with genetic defects are abandoned because of the high medical cost to take

care of them.

These unethical breeders should be taken to task.

There should be no compromise when it comes to dogs that are a danger to others as well.

In this respect, the authorities must be allowed to do their job.

Having said that, it should again be within reason and the authorities must not resort to lethal measures where possible.

There should be compassion and a sustainable solution when dealing with strays.

The authorities should not

waste anymore time and should start neutering stray animals immediately.

All local councils must go all out to make use of every available resource, work with Veterinary Services departments and rope in veterinary interns if needed, as well as private animal clinics and relevant bodies to make the programme effective.

The country has a Veterinary Services Department with many vets under its payroll.

If all departments can work

together to carry out a mass neutering of stray animals once a month, we will be able to reduce the stray population.

The authorities must also work with those feeding strays and have guidelines in place.

These feeders should be encouraged to take on the responsibility of spaying and neutering the animals too.

We need a long-term solution and this neutering programme is by far our best shot at humanely controlling the stray population.

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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SHAH Alam City Council (MBSA) will instal open scupper drains along Jalan Plumbum 7/100 in section 7, Shah Alam in Selangor to channel surface runoff more effectively into a nearby monsoon drain.

An open scupper drain is a three-sided drain with the top opened for smooth flow of water and facilitates easy cleaning.

Motorists using the road daily had complained to the city council about flash floods, which caused traffic snarls.

Shah Alam mayor Cheremi Tarman said the plan to replace the current closed scupper drainage with open ones was a better long-term solution to tackling flash floods.

"MBSA received complaints of ankle-deep flash floods caused by recent intense rains.

"Our engineers had found that the area sees a backflow of rain-water.

"Surface runoff collects on the road as it is the lowest point along the stretch of Jalan Plumbum 7/100," he said.

Cheremi added that further checks showed that the closed scupper drains had sustained structural damage which hampered water flow to the main drain.

"It was also noticed that the drains were choked with dried leaves and sand silt," he said.

Cheremi said the immediate

Mitigating Section 7 flash floods with new drains

Replacement part of long-term solution to improve water flow

"The immediate measure to be taken is to clean up the closed scupper drains."

Cheremi Tarman

measure to be taken was to clean up the closed scupper drains.

"As there are downpours in the evenings, the city council has instructed contractors to repair the damaged closed scupper drains as a temporary measure to alleviate the flooding," he said.

Cheremi said as a long-term measure, MBSA planned to upgrade them to open scupper drains that were wider than the current structures.



A motorcyclist riding through ankle-deep water along Jalan Plumbum 7/100, Shah Alam. — Courtesy photo

THE STAR
29 APR 2024
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mbsa
Star
29/4

PHOTO CONTEST

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. The winner will receive RM2,000, second place (RM1,500), and third place (RM1,000), with a consolation prize of RM200 set aside for five participants. There are two categories available – public and professional. For further details, visit <http://www.mbsa.gov.my/>

 THE STAR
29 APR 2024
Tarikh:.....

By AIDA AHMAD
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FIFTY underprivileged pupils from two primary schools in Petaling Jaya, Selangor received certificates for completing an information technology (IT) and soft skills programme.

The Lifelong-Learning IT (LIT) and Lifelong-Learning IT Soft Skills (LITS) programme was organised by Petaling Jaya Learning City under Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ).

Held from May to November last year, it aimed to provide access to quality education on IT for underprivileged students.

Certificate recipients comprised Year Five and Six pupils from SK Bukit Lanjan and SK Lembah Subang.

Through 18 sessions, they learnt the basics of how to use Microsoft Office software, knowledge that is expected to be useful for school and even after completing their education.

In his speech, MBPJ deputy secretary (management) Mohd Fauzi Maarop said the LIT programme offered training to schoolchildren from the B40 group, including Orang Asli pupils, to use Microsoft Office programmes.

"Modules for the programme are designed in accordance with current needs and pupils have learned the fundamentals of how to use Microsoft software," he said at the certificate presentation ceremony at Dewan Sivik MBPJ.

On June 7, 2018, Petaling Jaya was accepted as a member of the Unesco Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC), making it the first and only Malaysian city to be acknowledged as a Learning City by the United Nations agency.

Meanwhile, MBPJ's information technology unit had been offering training in computer repair as part of the LITS programme since 2021,

MBPJ equips 50 pupils with lifelong knowledge

City council's IT programmes offer training in software, tech repair to kids from B40, Orang Asli communities



Mohd Fauzi (left) with participants of the city council's IT programmes in Petaling Jaya. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

Mohd Fauzi said.

He added that this programme was intended to give trainees exposure to central processing unit (CPU) component installation.

"Last year, 30 students from the B40 group participated in 10 computer main-

tenance and repair sessions.

"The programme involved Form Four and Form Five students from two schools, SMK Taman Medan and SMK Taman Dato' Harun."

At the certificate ceremony, Mohd Fauzi and PJ Learning City secretariat head

Samsul Bahari Nonchi also presented computer donations to SMK Taman Medan and SMK Taman Dato' Harun.

"On behalf of MBPJ, I hope this contribution will meet the needs of teaching and learning activities at both schools," said Fauzi.

By FARID WAHAB and
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Mar
27/4
(MPAJ)

Ampang Jaya folk say tax hikes unjustified

THE planned assessment tax hike in Ampang Jaya, Selangor, has drawn criticism from rate-payers who question if the quality of the local council's service justifies the increase.

During its full board meeting on Thursday, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) announced a revaluation exercise that would increase the rate by up to 25% for unaltered or unmodified properties.

Renovated properties might be subject to higher rates.

Taman Melawati Residents Association chairman Azahari Abdul Taharim said members were unhappy with the local council's lack of maintenance

of public facilities.

He said there were many pot-holes and faulty streetlights in the municipality that needed repairs.

"There is no schedule for maintenance and residents often have to call the council to ask for repairs to be done.

"Even then, it takes days before action is taken. Sometimes, our complaints fall on deaf ears," he told *StarMetro*.

Dallas Villa Pandan Heights joint management body chairman Hareesh Vikram Jayakumar said the residents were planning to submit an appeal to MPAJ.

"We were notified about the hike on Wednesday.

"Many residents have expressed concern that the figure is too high.

"We are collecting signatures to ask MPAJ to reduce the rate," he said, adding that many unit owners were retirees with no income.

Pandan Jaya apartment unit owner Nafisah Abd Hamid, however, understands the need for the rate increase but hope it would not be too high.

"The revaluation is overdue. If it's not revised, this might affect the council's ability to serve the municipality," she said.

The revaluation exercise was approved during the state executive council meeting last Dec 6.

The last evaluation was done in 1997.

The new rates, if approved, would come into effect next year.

At the full board meeting, MPAJ president Dr Ani Ahmad said the valuation would involve some 180,000 properties, comprising some 85,000 landed ones and 95,000 strata units.

She said the tax increase would add RM14mil to MPAJ's coffers, on top of its current annual collection of RM85mil.

A video explaining the valuation exercise is set to be uploaded to the local council's social media pages.

Additionally, a service counter

would be set up at MPAJ's headquarters for property owners to seek details on the assessment process.

They can also file appeals there before May 15.

On a related matter, Ani said an operation would be conducted on tax defaulters in Taman Melawati and Lembah Maju on April 29 and 30.

It would target 150 residential properties with total accumulated arrears amounting to about RM660,000, she said.

"Those who fail to pay will have their household items seized.

"We urge those with outstanding payments to settle them."

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Tarikh:.....

Bar 27/4 (MPSepang)

First Orang Asli rep for Selangor

Mah Meri tribesman aims to help indigenous people access govt assistance

By VIJENTHI NAIR
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SELANGOR'S first Orang Asli councillor was sworn in at Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) yesterday.

Businessman Yusoh Alip, 57, from the Mah Meri tribe, stood proud while taking his oath.

He wore a traditional headgear typically woven from *nipah* leaves that is worn by the Orang Asli to indicate their tribal identity.

Yusoh said his involvement in politics was to help the community.

"The Orang Asli are very poor. The community is lacking in several areas, with infrastructure in their villages in dire straits.

"The government has many initiatives to help the Orang Asli, but because many are not educated or well-versed in getting access to the aid, they are losing out.

"Political links can help to bet-

ter channel the assistance and I am taking this responsibility as a challenge," he said.

Although he had been with PKR for 15 years and held the position of Sepang PKR committee member for the last five years, Yusoh said his appointment was a surprise.

"I am grateful for the opportunity.

"I never expected to hold such an important position in the council.

"I have been a representative for Orang Asli communities but now that I have been given the Arked zone, I will also be representing other communities," he said.

Yusoh grew up in Bukit Bangkong, Sungai Pelek in Sepang.

He moved to Kampung Orang Asli Kolam Air Bangkong, Dengkil, in the late 1980s to live in the Temuan community after getting married.

Yusoh is one of two PKR mem-

bers to fill the vacant councillor positions at MPSepang for 2024-2025.

The other is Mohd Shah Rezza Mohd Tuniman, who has returned as councillor for the second time after skipping the previous term.

Separately, MPSepang president Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain said he was looking forward to working with Health Ministry to get restaurateurs to stop serving *shisha* (water-pipe used to smoke flavoured tobacco).

He was commenting on news reports quoting ministry deputy director-general of health (public health) Datuk Dr Norhayati Rusli that there were many repeat offenders in the municipality.

She said the ministry was only able to issue a RM250 compound against offending operators or patrons, as other enforcement actions such as confiscating the items were under local council jurisdiction.



Yusoh (left), who is from the Mah Meri tribe, with Abd Hamid after being appointed MPSepang councillor.

THE STAR

29 APR 2024

Tarikh:.....

8th 27/4 (MPS)

Selayang council goes full swing against illegal structures

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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SELAYANG Municipal Council (MPS) is cracking down on property and business owners who have carried out renovations on their buildings or built structures without approval.

MPS deputy president Adi Faizal Ahmad Tarmizi said action was being taken against those who had ignored the council's notices, warnings and advice to remove such structures.

"This includes those who have modified or extended their homes without obtaining the necessary approvals.

"This is also for small industry factories and businesses that are unlicensed and have been refused or are ineligible for the factory legalising programme," Adi Faizal said after chairing the council's monthly full board meeting.

Since January, more than 10

such operations had been carried out, he said, adding that four demolitions were carried out this week.

Operations were conducted in locations such as Kampung Sungai Tua, Kampung Melayu Sungai Buloh, Taman Desa Mas and Taman M-Residensi.

Adi Faizal said MPS had been gathering data on unauthorised constructions for the past three years.

According to MPS data, 471 factories in Selayang municipality are yet to be licensed, while more than 222 are not eligible as they are operating on government land.

A total of 547 factories have so far been legalised while 1,018 factories have been identified to be operating without MPS approval.

"We have given ample time for the owners and proprietors to rectify their mistakes and now MPS will take action.



MPS demolished an illegal workshop in Kampung Melayu Sungai Buloh earlier this week.

"This is not a one-off operation, as we have been taking such action periodically," said Adi Faizal.

Between September 2019 and

Dec 31, 2020, the Selangor government kicked off an initiative to legalise unlicensed factories. The programme focused on factories that were already oper-

ating in industrial areas but had failed to obtain the required approvals and permits.

The initiative was only applicable to those who had failed to convert existing agricultural or residential land to industrial status or had not sought approval for building permits.

Meanwhile, before the start of the full board meeting, two new councillors were sworn in, filling the last seats.

Councillor Megat Mohd Fadhl Zakaria from PKR will be in charge of Zone 1, which covers areas such as Kampung Simpang Tiga, Kampung Sungai Chinchin and Kampung Sungai Pusu.

Muhammad Najmi Samsudin from DAP will oversee Zone 9, which comprises areas such as Kawasan Industri Batu Caves, Kampung Gombak Indah and Taman Industri Bolton.

Muhammad Najmi was previously an MPS councillor from 2018 to 2023.

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TRAFFIC MATTERS

- > There will be road closures and traffic diversions on Jalan Langat, Persiaran Batu Nilam 1 and Jalan Mahogani in Klang, Selangor to facilitate LRT3 project works from 10pm to 6am until May 7.
- > Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) is currently carrying out scheduled road maintenance works (pavement repairs and road markings) along Sungai Besi Highway in Kuala Lumpur until June 30. Road maintenance works are being carried out in stages in both directions.
- > The one-way stretch along Jalan Sultan Ismail from Jalan Raja Chulan junction to Jalan Bukit Bintang junction in the city centre will be a two-way road starting May 1. For details, call 03-2028 2280 or email jpb@dbkl.gov.my
- > Part of Kuala Lumpur-Seremban Highway from Sungai Besi toll plaza to the exit near Plaza Perabot heading towards Kuala Lumpur will be a contra lane from 6am to 9am.

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Land around Bohol flood retention pond has been earmarked for a housing project. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

Bohol pond in peril again with new development plan

Stakeholders worried over tender notice on KL land office website

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

KUALA Lumpur's second-largest flood retention pond is once again under threat as new development plans emerge for the area.

This comes nearly a year after the Federal Government stopped a similar proposal by the previous administration to allocate the land to a private developer.

Concerns have resurfaced following a recent tender notice by Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTGWP), which called for bids to design and upgrade the 63.45ha Bohol flood retention pond in Seputeh for alienation under Section 76 of the National Land Code (Act 828).

PTGWP published the tender notice on its website, inviting companies to submit bids for the project to facilitate construction of a massive housing project.

Six plots of land totalling 10.85ha are being alienated on Lot 102996 for a development project.

An accompanying map shows the plots to be alienated for housing projects, namely Plot 1 (Rumawip), Plot 2 (residential condo), Plot 3 (residential condo), Plot 4 (Rumawip), Plot 5 (residential condo) and Plot 6 (Madani housing) (see graphic).

"What this means is that the government wants to develop the flood retention pond for a housing project and is calling for developers to submit a tender for the project.

"The successful developer must ensure that certain condi-



Taman Kinrara Batu 7½ and Kinrara Court surroundings, close to Bohol pond, flooded on March 7, 2022. — Filepic



Bohol flood retention pond has been shrinking for decades.

tions are fulfilled, which involves re-aligning Sungai Kuyoh, which flows into the pond," said a source from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

The tender opened on Jan 26 and closed on Feb 16.

A document on the website outlined requirements for tender submission, including the need to be a registered company and to submit four copies of the proposal document.

The tender notice along with the map has caused unease among stakeholders.

When contacted, Seputeh MP Teresa Kok said, "I am also in the dark over this project.

"I have told DBKL many times to keep me informed about any new projects coming up in Seputeh.

"This is news to me; I will not

support any project on flood retention pond land, especially one that is already a flood hotspot."

Equally surprised by the news was Kinrara assemblyman Ng Sze Han, who said he was not aware of it.

"Bohol pond should function as originally intended, as a retention pond," he said.

The Bohol flood retention pond, while located in Kuala Lumpur, borders Kinrara township in Selangor and Shah Alam Expressway (Kesas).

This area has seen floods in the past few years, with the last inundation occurring in March 2022.

StarMetro reached out to the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for comments on the project, but its spokesper-

son neither confirmed nor denied the project, merely stating that Bohol pond came under the purview of the Federal Territories Department and was maintained by DBKL.

"Hence, any queries in relation to government land, please check with PTGWP," the spokesperson said in an email statement.

Meanwhile, a DID officer who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "It's already out there, published on the PTGWP website.

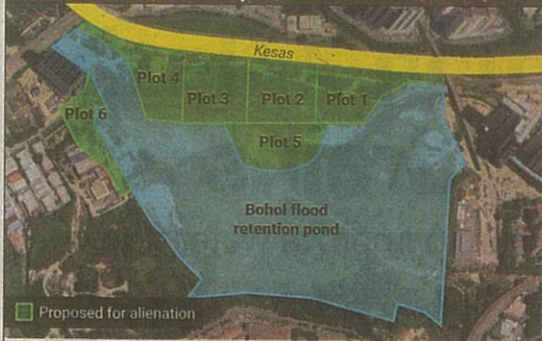
"We were not told about this decision, so it surprised everyone here, especially since we opposed it the first time."

The PTGWP director, when contacted, declined to comment on the issue.

In an August 2022 letter, Kuala Lumpur DID had opposed development on the land as the pond

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Bohol flood retention pond



The six plots of land being alienated on Lot 102996 for a mixed development project. **Total: 10.85ha**

Plot 1 (Rumawip)	1.92ha	Plot 4 (Rumawip)	1.92 ha
Plot 2 (Residential condo)	2.0ha	Plot 5 (Residential condo)	1.78 ha
Plot 3 (Residential condo)	2.0ha	Plot 6 (Madani housing)	1.21 ha

Source: PTGWP

The Star graphics

The Star EXCLUSIVE
 Stories by SITIHALI Bt and
 MUKA K. K. K.

Bohol land deal scrapped

Developer failed to meet key technical requirements, says PM's political secretary

DID has rejected the proposal to alienate the Bohol flood retention pond for a mixed development project, a political secretary of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

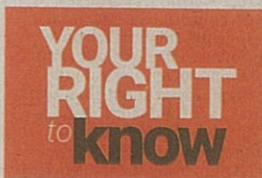


The Bohol flood retention pond, which is a key flood mitigation project for the Klang Valley, is a reserve land under the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda).

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The Bohol flood retention pond, which is a key flood mitigation project for the Klang Valley, is a reserve land under the Federal Land Development Authority (Felda).

StarMetro's article on May 15, 2023.



was part of a RM300mil Sungai Kuyoh Basin Flood Mitigation Plan, which was supposed to start in October last year.

The mitigation plan, however, did not take off as scheduled and it is unclear when it will take place.

DID's consultants, in an assessment report for the project, said Bohol pond's capacity was not large enough for excess rainwater.

In an exclusive report on May 8, 2023, titled "Gripped by flood fears", *StarMetro* highlighted the proposed alienation of land surrounding Bohol pond for a residential project consisting of affordable housing (40%) and residential condominiums (60%).

The pond is gazetted as reserve land for recreation.

According to documents sighted, PTGWP gave conditional approval to a company to alienate part of Lot 102996 for development on Oct 22, 2021.

In a follow-up report on May 15, 2023, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's political secretary Datuk Azman Abidin stated that a decision to cancel the alienation had been made after a meeting with various government agencies.

The developers had also failed

to fulfil key technical requirements for the alienation process, he said.

Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said in a statement at that time, "The ministry, together with DID, is committed to resolving flood issues in Kuala Lumpur by ensuring that the basic function of flood retention ponds is maintained and any development does not happen before the gazettelement process is completed."

"As such, Lot 102996 still remains as government land and has not been transferred to any individual or companies."

Nik Nazmi said approval in principle was to allow a comprehensive study or analysis based on conditions set by DID to be carried out by the applicant while bearing related costs.

However, he emphasised that approval in principle was not a guarantee that the transfer of ownership would be allowed.

He further explained that Bohol's technical and design requirements reports prepared by DID, which took into account future development and climate change, determined that Bohol pond required 33.1ha of land.

As such, DID requested that the lot remain as a river reserve and retention pond so that the area as a whole would maintain the design requirements of Bohol pond with a storage volume of 1.28 million cubic metres.

At press time, neither Azman nor Nik Nazmi has responded to calls for comments.

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ROAD upgrading works along Jalan Sentul Pasar in Kuala Lumpur will be completed as scheduled despite a sinkhole that appeared two weeks ago.

The sinkhole, which was caused by a burst sewage pipe, had left a gaping hole in the road diversion but it has since been filled.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) advisory board member Andre Lai who visited the site said contractors had to check if there were still any underground pipes leaking.

"Once the soil was found to be stable, back fill and resurfacing works were done immediately."

"Despite the minor hiccups, the project will go on as planned," he said.

Also present during the site visit were representatives from DBKL Civil Engineering and Irrigation Department.

Sinkhole on Jalan Sentul Pasar filled, road resurfaced

The road upgrading works, which started last Aug 7, would be completed on schedule in December, he said.

On April 4, *StarMetro* reported that residents had complained about the uneven surface of a road diversion along Jalan Sentul Pasar because of roadworks at an adjacent lane.

The sinkhole appeared at the road diversion a few days later and was repaired by DBKL-appointed contractors on April 16.

Lai urged motorists to be patient and exercise caution while using the road.

"There will be two lanes for motorists while upgrading works are being carried out in the area," he said. — **By JAROD LIM**



The road diversion along Jalan Sentul Pasar has been repaved.

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'Maintain trees regularly, don't cut them down'

DBKL
Star
24/4

Trees along Jalan Ara in Bangsar have been poorly maintained and are leaning, putting the public at risk of falling branches.—
Filepic



By FARID WAHAB
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A PROMINENT activist is calling on local authorities to step up maintenance of trees in the Klang Valley to ensure their longevity as well as public safety.

Alliance for Safe Community founder and chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said there was growing concern for trees being cut down in urban areas.

He cited the trees along Jalan Maarof in Bangsar, as well as Jalan Mahkota and Jalan Jejaka in Cheras, as recent examples.

"The local authority says the trees need to be cut down to prevent accidents

during thunderstorms.

"However, the felling of these trees would not have been needed if there had been proper maintenance and inspection," he told *StarMetro*.

The authorities, said Lee, must conduct regular inspections to identify tree branches that were at risk of falling.

"They could prune these branches without cutting the trees," he said, adding there was also a need to replace trees that were cut down.

He reminded the government of its pledge to plant 100 million trees by 2050 in an effort to achieve carbon neutrality.

"Trees are important to provide a cooling effect especially in

urban areas where the impact of global warming is most felt."

On concerns that the local authorities might face constraints such as lack of resources and manpower, Lee said the Federal Government should allocate more funds for this.

He also urged the local authorities to work with the relevant government agencies to identify suitable tree species to be planted.

In December 2021, then Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias, in a parliamentary reply, said some 8,700 trees were felled by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) following safety issues and complaints by residents.

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Ringgit likely to trend around 4.77 to US dollar

KUALA LUMPUR: The ringgit is expected trend around 4.77 to a US dollar this week as the greenback maintains its strength and as market continues diminishing the expectations of interest rate cuts, particularly in the United States.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said, however, much hinges on the responses of global bond markets as many traders are currently factoring in a level of central bank alignment with the US Federal Reserve (Fed).

He said this anticipation of central bank synchronicity could dampen the momentum of the strong US dollar in the coming days.

"The primary concern for the ringgit is whether the Fed will adopt a hawkish stance and rule out rate cuts at the upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting.

"However, it is likely that the Fed will wait to gauge US employment data and the next series of consumer price index figures before committing to a fully hawkish stance," Innes told Bernama. — Bernama

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A step in pension reform

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THE restructuring of the Employees Provident Fund's (EPF) members' accounts with the introduction of account 3 (Akaun Fleksibel) is a middle ground approach between meeting the contributors' short-term needs and long-term financial security.

The initiative reflects EPF's greater goal of addressing Malaysia's social security coverage gap, which is still wide among Malaysia's workforce.

However, there is a high likelihood of members making full or continuous withdrawals from Akaun Fleksibel, resulting in a zero balance and ultimately reducing their savings for retirement.

To minimise this risk, contributors should be made aware of the consequences of the withdrawals on their long-term savings, including missing out on the compounding effect. The coming months will be crucial in evaluating the impact of the accounts restructuring on attracting new members, reallocation of savings and withdrawal patterns.

In light of Malaysia's rapidly ageing population and serious old age income insecurity, this initiative can be seen as a step towards a broader reform of the retirement ecosystem.

It is time to review the EPF's existing withdrawal age policies considering that some were



determined in the 1950s when life expectancy was much lower.

For example, the full withdrawal age at 55 years was set in 1952 when life expectancy was 54.2 years. Our life expectancy has now increased to 75 years. This means that retirement savings need to be adequate to sustain life for at least 20 years after the full withdrawal age.

Khazanah Research Institute's (KRI) analysis indicates that extending the contribution period through a higher retirement age is expected to have the largest impact on EPF members' savings, followed by progressive dividends and progressive contributions.

Beyond these, it is essential to emphasise that Malaysia's multi-tiered retirement ecosystem has yet to fully achieve its intended objectives and continues to grapple with coverage gaps, inadequate

benefits and unsustainable financing.

The tax-funded old age pension scheme only covers civil service retirees and selected poor elders via the Bantuan Warga Emas (Welfare Aid for Senior Citizens).

Funding these pensions is challenging, particularly with the challenges associated with an ageing population.

Additionally, while EPF is meant to cover workers in the private sector, many remain unregistered, and among those who do, many have savings that are insufficient for a comfortable retirement.

We need to seriously explore other financing options as old age poverty is expected to be higher in the future. One alternative is a contributory pension within the EPF schemes, namely a hybrid of a defined benefit (DB) plan and defined contribution

(DC) scheme.

In this scheme, retirement funds are saved collectively rather than individually, with everyone putting in a small amount into a collective fund when they are working. By a certain age, say 60 or 65, the fund can be dispersed to all the contributors as a pension until death (an annuity).

The government plays an important role in ensuring continuity of contribution even when we are unable to contribute, such as when suffering from illness or disability, after being laid off work or while taking time off to take care of young children or the elderly.

KRI's report titled "Building Resilience: Towards Inclusive Social Protection in Malaysia", unpacks the proposal with several options on how to make the scheme feasible. This might entail earmarking or ring-fencing a share of EPF contributions to the collective fund.

Ultimately, Malaysia must seriously consider moving towards a model where we minimise our individual risks and maximise our collective potential as we move towards an ageing society.

**HAWATI ABDUL HAMID
and PUTERI MARJAN MEGAT
MUZAFAR**
Researchers
Khazanah Research Institute

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BIG and complicated issues don't just appear overnight. These issues compound a little at a time and snowball into a large mess that would take great effort, time, and resources to resolve.

Thus, immediate solutions are crucial in today's fast-paced world for addressing short-term issues.

For instance, accumulation of debt until it is too much to handle is likely to cripple a person's life – causing tremendous financial distress which hampers the ability to enjoy life and affect overall well-being. This issue can also affect a person's retirement plan, which in recent years has become a growing concern.

The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has reported that most Malaysians do not have enough savings for their retirement, with only 33% of active EPF members having recorded basic savings of RM240,000 as of last year.

According to EPF chief executive officer Ahmad Zulgarnain Onn, the 33% represented 2.4 million members aged between 18 and 55 in the formal sector.

This was an improvement from the 31% in 2021 and 30% in 2022 – which were due to withdrawal facilities for EPF members during Covid-19 lockdowns – but still a plunge from 37% in 2020.

He also pointed out that 75% of members who had retired and taken out their savings in a lump sum ran out of money within five years.

Recognising these pressing matters, EPF announced a restructuring of its members' accounts effective May 11, 2024 that seeks to enhance their income security after retirement, address members' current life cycle needs, while ensuring there is a solution to their short-term problems.

Ensuring sufficient retirement funds

The account restructuring initiative will see the EPF Account 1 being renamed as Akaun Persaraan, Account 2 as Akaun Sejahtera and the formation of the new Account 3 or the Akaun Fleksibel.

Akaun Persaraan will be for the accumulation of savings that will serve as income during retirement. Akaun Sejahtera will address life cycle needs that contribute to wellbeing during retirement.

The latest addition of Account 3 – Akaun Fleksibel – will provide flexibility for short-term financial needs, whereby savings in this account can be withdrawn at any time according to members' needs.

According to news reports, industry experts have lauded EPF's move, saying that it is a "win-win proposition" that would help contributing members resolve short-term problems or emergencies that may arise.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad Economics and Social Finance head Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said EPF has mapped out a perfect distribution since Account 1 or the Akaun Persaraan still represents the largest proportion in the account hierarchy of its members.

"This means more than two-thirds of EPF savings in Account 3 will give a lot of space to con-

SAFEGUARDING LONG-TERM WELLBEING

EPF's Account Restructuring Initiative aims to enhance its members' retirement fund



EPF's latest addition of Account 3 (Akaun Fleksibel) will provide flexibility for short-term financial needs. Savings in this account can be withdrawn at any time according to members' needs. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

tributors to use their savings for whatever purpose or emergency," said Mohd Afzanizam.

Meanwhile, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Malaysia and International Studies research fellow Muhammed Abdul Khalid hailed EPF's introduction of a third account as a "win-win proposition", saying it will allow contributors flexibility in accessing their funds and improving their retirement savings.

Noting that the allocation of funds under the new account structure strikes a "reasonable balance", Muhammed said: "This strategy represents a middle ground, and shouldn't come as a surprise."

"Once we opened the door for members to tap into their retirement savings as we did in 2020 and 2021, the demand for further withdrawals became almost inevitable."

Muhammed added that Account 3 was a "less damaging solution" to the needs of members requiring access to cash.

Pointing out that EPF's Account Restructuring initiative is to empower members in making decisions to balance future needs for retirement between short, medium and long-term financial needs, Ahmad Zulgarnain said: "This initiative will also help increase members' retirement savings so that they will have sufficient retirement income to sustain their needs after retirement."

He added that this initiative is not just EPF's response to current needs, but also a proactive step to help members facing the changing job landscape.

"With these enhancements, EPF strives to ensure that every member can manage finances with confidence and resilience in this dynamic and challenging

environment," said Ahmad Zulgarnain.

However, members are advised to exercise self-control when making withdrawals.

Is it mandatory?

EPF's account restructuring announcement was met with mixed reactions.

At the time of writing, an on-going poll titled "Will you opt in to transfer funds to your EPF Account 3?" by Star Media Group saw a total of 6,677 votes cast with 44.03% (2,951 votes) of yes, 44.47% (2,981 votes) of no, 10.47% (702 votes) being undecided, and 1.03% (69 votes) of "other" reasons.

And to answer the question, no, it is not mandatory for EPF members to utilise Account 3.

EPF is giving members a one-time only option to transfer part of the savings balance in their Akaun Sejahtera (previously Account 2) as an initial amount to the new Akaun Fleksibel.

This offer is only valid from May 11, 2024 till August 31, 2024. It is important to note that the opt-in cannot be cancelled.

Mechanics wise, the introduction of Account 3 for anytime withdrawals means EPF members can choose to take out up to a third of the balance in their existing Akaun Sejahtera (Account 2).

On May 11, 2024, all EPF members (including contributing members who are non-Malaysians) under the age of 55 will have their accounts restructured into Akaun Persaraan (Account 1), Akaun Sejahtera (Account 2), and Akaun Fleksibel (Account 3).

Balances in Account 1 and Account 2 will remain in the Akaun Persaraan and Akaun Sejahtera respectively, while Akaun Fleksibel will start with a zero balance.

All contributions after this date will be allocated into the new accounts based on the following breakdown:

- 75% into Akaun Persaraan
- 15% into Akaun Sejahtera
- 10% into Akaun Fleksibel

Between May 11, 2024 and August 31, 2024, members will have a one-time only option to transfer part of the savings balance in their Akaun Sejahtera (previously Account 2) as an initial amount to Akaun Fleksibel.

If the member chooses not to opt-in for an initial amount, no transfer will be made and the existing balance will remain in the Akaun Sejahtera.

The Akaun Fleksibel will start with new contributions that would be credited into the member's account after the implementation date.

If the member opts in for an initial amount, the transfer of the initial amount to Akaun Fleksibel and other accounts (if applicable) is based on the balance of the member's Akaun Sejahtera on the date the opt-in application is made.

The transfer method is according to the following breakdown: >Balance in Akaun Sejahtera of RM3,000 and above:

- Ten out of thirty (10/30) of the balance in the Akaun Sejahtera will be transferred to the Akaun Fleksibel;

- Five out of thirty (5/30) of the balance in the Akaun Sejahtera will be transferred to Akaun Persaraan;

- Fifteen out of thirty (15/30) will be retained in the Akaun Sejahtera.

>Balance in the Akaun Sejahtera below RM3,000:

- For Akaun Sejahtera with a balance of RM1,000 and below, all amounts will be transferred to Akaun Fleksibel;

- Akaun Sejahtera with a bal-

ance of more than RM1,000 and less than RM3,000, only RM1,000 will be transferred to the Akaun Fleksibel, while the remainder will be retained in the Akaun Sejahtera;

- No distribution will be made to the Akaun Persaraan if the savings balance falls below RM3,000

Withdrawals made simple

EPF says its members can make withdrawals from the Akaun Fleksibel at any time for any purpose. However, the minimum withdrawal amount stands at RM50. Applications for withdrawals from the Akaun Fleksibel can be made online through KWSP i-Akaun or at any EPF branches nationwide.

Members who have yet to register with KWSP i-Akaun are encouraged to do so in order for smooth withdrawal transaction to be made.

Meanwhile, there are no charges to current practices for Akaun 55 and Akaun Emas. All savings accrued in the Akaun Persaraan Akaun Sejahtera and Akaun Fleksibel by members who have reached age 55 will be merged into Akaun 55, while new contributions received by members from the age of 55 will be credited into their Akaun Emas.

In summary, the account restructuring seeks to:

- Increase savings adequacy to increase retirement income security for members;

- Align short, medium and long term requirements with members' life cycle and lifespan;

- Develop EPF schemes that factor in the evolving employment landscape, demographic shifts, and members' present and future needs;

- Address short-term financial needs that may affect members' wellbeing during retirement.

Ahmad Zulgarnain noted that the initiative is not just EPF's response to current needs, but a proactive step to help members facing the changing job landscape and demographics of the population as well as the life cycle needs of EPF members.

"With these enhancements, EPF strives to ensure that every EPF member can manage their finances with confidence and resilience in this dynamic and challenging environment."

He added that EPF has placed enough safeguards in place to ensure members' long-term wellbeing is not compromised, and conscientious of the needs of its members.

Download the KWSP i-Akaun mobile app, or visit any EPF branches nationwide for details.



Scan the QR code for details on EPF Account Restructuring Initiative.

Celebrating sustainability:
Participants of Bumi Kita Festival and Selangor Earth Day 2024 during its launch in Kelana Jaya on Sunday.
— RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star



Selangor plastic use still high despite green efforts

By **FAZLEENA AZIZ**
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PETALING JAYA: Despite calls to action such as the almost-daily "no plastic day" and imposing charges for single-use bags in shops, Selangor still records a high usage of plastics, says Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

The Selangor Menteri Besar said that plastic usage remains prevalent not only in rural areas but also in urban settings.

"We need to intensify our efforts to avoid repeating what we've been doing for the past

eight years with initiatives like 'no plastic days' and charging for plastic bags.

"People have a sense of awareness when it comes to bringing their own bags, but we also have to increase awareness and implementing additional measures such as rainwater harvesting and recycling.

"This will be discussed further with the relevant state excos.

"We will also use funds from recycled plastics sales for campaigns and to enhance rewards for recycling efforts.

"We have to step up our strate-

gy by not just campaigning in schools, but also engage the younger generation," he said.

Amirudin was speaking after launching the Bumi Kita Festival and Selangor Earth Day 2024 at Tasik Bandaran in SS7 Kelana Jaya, here, yesterday.

Also present were Petaling Jaya mayor Mohamad Zahri Samingon, state public health and environment exco Jamaliah Jamaluddin, state Islamic affairs and cultural innovation exco Dr Mohammad Fahmi Ngah and Ini Bumi Kita Association chairman Madeline Chong Kah Yee.

He added that it was important to nurture a generation that was less reliant on plastics due to their detrimental long-term effects on the environment.

On the continuous use of banned polystyrene containers in the state, he said the issue now was to find an alternative and cost-effective solution for these containers.

According to Mohamad Zahri, a total of 4,227.9 tonnes of waste was successfully separated and recycled last year in Petaling Jaya.

From the same amount, he said 761.6 tonnes were plastic waste.

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AI content must not cross the line

Concerns over the tech being misused in by-elections

By ZAKIAH KOYA
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PETALING JAYA: Advanced chatbots and apps have made it easier for even the most novice of content creators to generate election campaign materials, but this has also caused concerns of artificial intelligence (AI) being misused.

Some content creators claim that the toxic and defamatory AI-generated content during election campaigns is usually not party-endorsed but made voluntarily by party "vigilantes".

Content creator Ramli Ali said even before ChatGPT became popular, he had been using AI to assist him in creating visuals of politicians.

"For political campaigning, AI content can be generated easily. All you have to do is request whatever you want from the app.

"Then, you just have to add finishing touches to the images and your watermark to make it yours.

"AI-generated content is legal. The question is whether the content is ethical or morally acceptable to all parties.

"Election campaigns can be very vicious, with personal attacks and defamatory remarks.

We content creators have to be careful to ensure that we do not cross the line.

"Professional content creators know the moral lines not to be crossed," said Ramli, adding that most content creators using AI-generated content work in the shadows.

(While AI-generated content is still legal, there are many lawsuits going on in the United States and Europe, filed by creators who say their copyrighted works were used without their permission to "train" AI tools).

Another content creator, who wanted to be known only as Tan, said creators have to be quick but creative to make sure their content is effective during election campaigns.

"Time is short during by-elections. The defensive content is what we have to come up with instantly. There is no time to waste, or the rival will have the upper hand," he said.

Tan said the "cheap and defamatory ones" are not done by content creators but by party supporters who get ahead of themselves and do not follow any guidelines.

While AI content is being used to vie for voter attention, political



It's how fast you get it out: Content creators have to be quick and creative in order for their content to be effective during election campaigns. — ART CHEN/The Star

party leaders in charge of social media campaigning for the Kuala Kubu Bharu by-election said content creators cannot do as they please.

PKR information chief Fahmi Fadzil, who is also Communications Minister, said he will not hesitate to crack the whip on those who misuse AI to propagate hate.

"There are many scams which mislead the people, apart from those posts that defame and spread lies," he said.

He added that the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission has been directed to take action against these.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan said the party has a special team of lawyers monitoring content posted by its rivals, including parties in the government, during campaigning.

"We have a team headed by information chief Datuk Seri Azalina Othman," he said when

contacted, referring to the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reforms).

An Umno official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the party has guidelines that any materials used in attacking rivals must not be unethical or breach the law.

DAP national publicity secretary Teo Nie Ching had also said that she believes there will be more fake accounts impersonating party candidates or leaders to spread disinformation and hate speech during the Kuala Kubu Bharu by-election.

"Pang Sock Tao's candidacy was announced on Wednesday. Yesterday, someone used her photos to create a fake account on Facebook," she said.

Teo, who is also Deputy Communications Minister, said with the help of AI, generating content has become easy.

Selangor PAS information chief

Zurk Ahmad said the party is very careful with what its content creators post on social media as it has many political enemies.

"Among the guidelines given to content creators are that all content must be in line with party principles, uphold people's priorities, and be based on facts, not perceptions.

"PAS uses AI on a small scale to assist our campaigners and party volunteers to speed up their production.

"Overall, PAS uses more 'human intelligence', using big data analysis and data engineering that is geared towards information. PAS has a specific workforce for each task," he added.

Zurk said the party also constantly monitors all social media platforms on any issue that has to do with PAS.

"We have a legal team that is always prepared to take action should there be political exaggeration," he said.

Star 29/4

Selangor Sultan advises haj pilgrims to be well prepared

SHAH ALAM: Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah has advised prospective haj pilgrims to be well prepared to perform the fifth pillar of Islam this year.

The Ruler said the pilgrimage requires physical and emotional strength as well as clear knowledge.

"As long as you are in the holy land, purify your intentions and use your time and energy to perform religious worship," Sultan Sharafuddin said when officiating the state-level Perdana Haj Course at the Sultan Salahuddin

Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque here yesterday.

His Royal Highness also called on all prospective haj pilgrims to join hands, help and respect each other.

Also present were Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Sultan Sharafuddin also hoped that the pilgrims continue to maintain self-discipline while in

the holy land and to protect the good name of Selangor and Malaysia.

"Thus far, I have been informed that Malaysian pilgrims, including those from Selangor, are among the pilgrims who are disciplined and obey the rules set by the government of Saudi Arabia," Sultan Sharafuddin said.

His Royal Highness hoped that the prospective pilgrims would focus on religious worship in the holy land and avoid getting involved in any protests or demonstrations.

Sultan Sharafuddin also said

that Malaysian pilgrims should always be in contact with haj officials and follow all the instructions issued by Tabung Haji.

His Royal Highness said he has been informed that the number of Tabung Haji depositors in Selangor is around 1.81 million people with a total savings of RM18.797bil while there will be 8,061 prospective haj pilgrims this year.

The Sultan of Selangor also ordered the state government to sponsor 36 underprivileged participants from nine districts in the state who could not afford the haj pilgrimage.

"The state government will spend as much as RM1.2mil for the programme," Sultan Sharafuddin said.

Meanwhile, Mohd Na'im in his welcoming speech said 31,600 prospective pilgrims have started attending the course, which is being held in stages nationwide from April 20 to May 5.

He said the course, organised by Lembaga Tabung Haji, is the final preparation for prospective pilgrims before they leave for the holy land, which involves practical activities such as tawaf, sa'ie and throwing of pebbles.



THE STAR

12 9 APR 2024

Tarikh:.....

MB nafi rumah terbuka langgar akta

HULU SELANGOR - Penganjuran Rumah Terbuka Aidilfitri Peringkat Negeri Selangor yang diadakan pada malam Sabtu di pekan Kuala Kubu Bharu di sini tidak melanggar Akta Kesalahan Pilihan Raya 1954.

Menteri Besar Selangor, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari berkata, ini kerana tiada sebarang unsur kempen dibuat ketika majlis tersebut.

"Kita telah atur lebih kurang sebulan lalu atau lebih khusus pada awal Ramadan lepas untuk menetapkan tarikh hari raya dan majlis jamuan ini.

"Ini bukan program kempen atau parti politik tetapi (program) kerajaan negeri. Sepanjang program ini juga tidak ada langsung elemen kempen.

"Tetapi, kalau orang datang pakai baju (ada unsur parti) saya tidak boleh halang atau suruh tukar baju,"

katanya kepada pemberita selepas selesai majlis berkenaan.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas dakwaan Gabungan Pilihan Raya Bersih dan Adil (Bersih) bahawa penganjuran rumah terbuka itu bercanggah dengan banyak peruntukan dalam Akta Kesalahan Pilihan Raya 1954.

Bersih dalam masa sama mempersoalkan lokasi dan masa penganjuran rumah terbuka ini kerana ia dianjurkan di kawasan dan ketika Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Kuala Kubu Bharu berlangsung.

Sementara itu, ditanya punca pembatalan acara penyampaian sumbangan raya yang sepatutnya diadakan dalam majlis tersebut, Amirudin berkata, tindakan dibuat atas nasihat pelbagai pihak.

Amirudin ketika ditemui pemberita di Rumah Terbuka Aidilfitri Peringkat Negeri Selangor pada Sabtu malam.



Penjawat awam teruja tunggu pengumuman PM

Penambahbaikan struktur gaji baharu yang akan beri manfaat kepada seluruh kakitangan kerajaan

Oleh SITI NOOR FAEZAH MUDA
SHAH ALAM



FAZNIN



JUPRI



NOR HIDAYAH



MUSTAQUEEM

Pengumuman Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengenai penambahbaikan struktur gaji baharu penjawat awam akan memberi manfaat kepada seluruh kakitangan kerajaan.

Rata-rata penjawat awam berasa teruja dengan apa yang akan dihabarkan dan berharap ia dapat membantu meringankan beban kos sara hidup yang ditanggung mereka.

Guru, Faznin Abdul Aziz, 40, berkata, ia suatu berita yang sangat dinantikan penjawat awam dan dianggap tepat pada masanya untuk mereka menikmati pelaksanaan skim pelarasan gaji.

"Saya sangat teruja menunggu pengumuman kerajaan ini. Semoga terlaksana kerana sebelum ini kajian agak lama di mana kali terakhir disemak pada 2012 iaitu lebih 10 tahun lalu.

"Kami hanya merasai kenaikan gaji tahunan mengikut kepada gred jawatan, namun sudah lama ia tidak dibuat pe-

larasan," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Pembantu Perawatan Kesihatan, Jupri Jalal, 42, pula berkata, ramai kakitangan kerajaan tidak lagi mampu menghadapi kos sara hidup tinggi seperti ditanggung ketika ini.

Menurutnya, kenaikan gaji kumpulan tersebut terutama yang bergaji rendah masih di bawah garis kemiskinan wajar dinaikkan sejajar perubahan zaman.

"Ini waktu yang sesuai, memang kami sudah tunggu lama terutama penjawat Gred 23 dan ke bawah memang terasa sangat gaji terlalu rendah," katanya.

Sementara itu, guru, Nor Hidayah Zakaria, 40, melahirkan rasa bimbang menunggu pengumuman Perdana Menteri, 1 Mei ini.

Katanya, apabila gaji penjawat awam dinaikkan, ia sekali gus akan meningkatkan kos sara hidup rakyat.

"Risau pula saya dengan pengumuman kenaikan (jika ada), apabila kos sara hidup meningkat ia akan membebankan semua golongan termasuk

yang bekerja sendiri mahupun swasta," katanya.

Bagi Pembantu Tadbir, Nur Muhammad Mustaqeem Quddus, 31, pengumuman itu nanti menjadi rezeki tambahan buat diri yang bakal menimang cahaya mata tidak lama lagi.

"Moga penambahbaikan struktur gaji baharu penjawat awam dapat membantu kehidupan kami sekeluarga dalam ekonomi yang semakin mencabar ini.

"Tangga gaji penjawat awam juga jauh tercicir jika dibandingkan swasta, lebih-lebih lagi untuk anggota pelaksana dalam kakitangan kerajaan," ujarnya.

Sebelum ini, Anwar memaklumkan keputusan penambahbaikan struktur gaji baharu penjawat awam akan diumumkan pada perhimpunan Hari Pekerja, 1 Mei ini.

Ia termasuk komitmen kerajaan untuk meningkatkan kadar pendapatan bersih penjawat awam yang dibuat melalui Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA).

SINAR HARIAN

29 APR 2024

Tarikh:

Peningkatan gaji konsisten dapat tingkatkan simpanan KWSP hari tua

Sinar 17/4

SHAH ALAM - Peningkatan gaji yang konsisten dan berterusan memainkan peranan penting dalam meningkatkan simpanan pekerja di Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) sebagai persediaan kehidupan pada hari tua.

Presiden Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC), Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani berkata, usaha memastikan simpanan yang mencukupi untuk masa hadapan merupakan kunci dalam kestabilan kewangan jangka panjang.

"Dengan mengambil kira semua pertimbangan ini akan dapat membuat keputusan yang lebih tepat dan bijak mengenai penggunaan akaun Fleksibel KWSP atau alternatif lain yang sesuai dengan keperluan serta matlamat kewangan yang bukan menggalakkan pengeluaran tetapi menggalakkan perancangan

kewangan yang teratur dan terancang bagi kehidupan hari tua nanti," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Menurut Mohd Effendy, beberapa perkara pencarum perlu dipertimbangkan sebelum membuat pengeluaran akaun Fleksibel KWSP termasuk faktor kecemasan dan kestabilan kewangan; ketidakpastian ekonomi serta perancangan kewangan.

"Jika memerlukan akses segera kepada dana untuk kecemasan atau situasi mendesak lain, akaun Fleksibel KWSP boleh menjadi pilihan yang baik," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, katanya, penggunaan akaun Fleksibel KWSP untuk mengeluarkan



MOHD EFFENDY

simpanan boleh memberi kesan dari segi simpanan untuk persaraan dan potensi kurang pendapatan pelaburan.

"Selain itu, pengeluaran berulang dari akaun Fleksibel KWSP boleh mengurangkan kemampuan simpanan untuk berkembang secara maksimum

melalui pelaburan jangka panjang.

"Walaupun fleksibiliti untuk mengeluarkan simpanan adalah baik, ia penting untuk menyeimbangkan keperluan semasa dengan matlamat jangka panjang persaraan.

"Memastikan simpanan yang mencukupi untuk masa depan adalah penting untuk kestabilan kewangan jangka panjang," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 12 9 APR 2024

**Kadar dividen Akaun 3 sama dengan
Akaun 1 dan 2 - KWSP**

SHAH ALAM – Kadar dividen bagi Akaun 3 (Akaun Fleksibel) Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) adalah sama dengan kadar dividen bagi Akaun 1 (Akaun Persaraan) dan Akaun 2 (Akaun Sejahtera).

"Dividen bagi Akaun Fleksibel adalah sama dengan kadar dividen bagi Akaun Persaraan dan Akaun Sejahtera," kata KWSP dalam satu hantaran di aplikasi X.

KWSP berkata demikian menjawab pertanyaan seorang pengguna X, @ongmalimi mengenai kadar dividen bagi Akaun 3 sama ada ia serupa dengan dua lagi akaun atau sebaliknya.

KWSP pada Khamis mengumumkan pengenalan Akaun Fleksibel sebagai pilihan bagi sejumlah 16.07 juta ahlinya.

Sehubungan itu, mulai 11

Mei, 2024, akaun ahli di bawah usia 55 tahun akan distruktur semula kepada tiga kemudahan iaitu Akaun Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera dan Akaun Fleksibel.

Baki dalam Akaun 1 dan Akaun 2 masing-masing kekal dalam Akaun Persaraan untuk mengumpul simpanan sebagai pendapatan sewaktu persaraan.

Akaun Sejahtera pula bagi menangani keperluan kitaran hayat yang menyumbang kepada kesejahteraan semasa persaraan manakala Akaun Fleksibel bermula dengan baki sifar.

Ahli boleh membuat pengeluaran daripada Akaun Fleksibel pada bila-bila masa, tertakluk kepada amaun minimum pengeluaran sebanyak RM50.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: ...2...9...APR...2024...

Op Hibur: 11 penjawat awam antara 49 individu ditahan kerana dadah

JOHOR BAHRU - 11 penjawat awam antara 49 individu yang ditahan dalam operasi khas di sebuah premis hiburan di Batu Pahat pada awal pagi Ahad.

Ketua Polis Johor, Komisioner M Kumar berkata, kesemua mereka ditahan dalam Op Hibur oleh Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik (JSJN) Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Johor, sekitar jam 1 pagi hingga 10 pagi.

Menurutnya, operasi khas yang turut disertai tiga pegawai dan tujuh anggota itu turut mendapati pusat hiburan berkenaan telah beroperasi melebihi had masa yang ditetapkan.

"Hasil saringan awal air kencing mendapati 30 individu positif dadah jenis methamphetamine, ketamin dan benzodiazepine melibatkan 24 warga tempatan dan enam warga asing.

"Kesemua yang ditahan dalam lingkungan usia antara 17 tahun hingga 52 tahun manakala 11 penjawat awam yang ditahan berusia antara 24 tahun hingga 49 tahun," katanya pada sidang akhbar di Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Johor di sini pada Ahad.

Beliau berkata, polis turut menahan seorang lelaki berusia 29 tahun yang mengaku sebagai penjaga premis dan didapati positif dadah serta menjalankan perniagaan melebihi had masa ditetapkan.

Bagaimanapun, ujar beliau, hasil pemeriksaan lanjut mendapati premis tersebut mempunyai lesen perniagaan dan lesen hiburan yang sah.

Kesemua yang ditangkap direman empat hari mulai 28 April hingga 1 Mei 2024 untuk siasatan lanjut.

Kes disiasat di bawah Seksyen 39(b) Akta Imigresen 1959/63; Seksyen 55B Akta Imigresen 1959/63; Seksyen 6(1)(c) Akta Imigresen 1959/63; Seksyen 11(2) Enakmen Hiburan Negeri Johor 4/98 dan Seksyen 15(1)(a) Akta Dadah Berbahaya (ADB) 1952.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024

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Kuala Lumpur

Pengeluaran Akaun Fleksibel Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) bagi keperluan kecemasan dijangka lebih mendesak kepada pencarum B40 dan M40, kata penganalisis.

CIMB Treasury and Markets Research berkata, kedua-dua kumpulan itu masing-masing memegang RM11 bilion dan RM180 bilion dalam jumlah simpanan persaraan.

Namun, ia berkata, pengeluaran dijangka sederhana berikutan KWSP pada 2021 mengangarkan 60 peratus ahli kehabisan baki Akaun 2, kini dinamakan sebagai Akaun Sejahtera berikutan kemudahan pengeluaran disediakan ketika pandemik.

Katanya, keadaan itu sekali gus berpotensi memperlihatkan aliran keluar yang sederhana bagi Akaun Fleksibel jika segmen T2o bermotivasi untuk menyimpan dengan pengekalan kadar dividen yang beragam merentas semua akaun buat masa ini.

"Aliran keluar Akaun Fleksibel mungkin bertindih dengan kadar biasa pengeluaran Akaun 2 bersyarat, dengan itu menyederhanakan pengeluaran kasar," katanya dalam nota penyelidikannya.

Pada Khamis lalu, KWSP



PENCARUM B40 dan M40 masing-masing memegang RM11 bilion dan RM180 bilion dalam jumlah simpanan persaraan.

PENGELUARAN AKAUN FLEKSIBEL KWSP

PENCARUM B40, M40 LEBIH MEMERLUKAN

mengumumkan akaun ahli KWSP akan distruktur semula daripada dua akaun iaitu Akaun 1 dan Akaun 2 kepada tiga akaun iaitu Akaun Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera dan Akaun Fleksibel berkuat kuasa 11 Mei 2024.

Semua caruman selepas

11 Mei 2024 akan diperuntukkan ke dalam akaun baharu dengan 75 peratus ke dalam Akaun Persaraan, 15 peratus ke dalam Akaun Sejahtera dan 10 peratus ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel.

Antara 11 Mei 2024 dan 31 Ogos 2024, ahli diberi pilihan sekali sahaja untuk

memindahkan sebahagian baki simpanan dalam Akaun Sejahtera mereka (sebelumnya Akaun 2) sebagai amaun permulaan ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel.

Akaun Fleksibel adalah akaun baharu yang diperkenalkan untuk memenuhi keperluan jangka pendek

ahli dan simpanan dalam Akaun Fleksibel boleh dikeluarkan oleh ahli pada bila-bila masa untuk sebarang tujuan, tertakluk amaun minimum pengeluaran sebanyak RM50.

CIMB Treasury and Markets Research berkata, KWSP telah memberi pan-

Aliran keluar Akaun Fleksibel mungkin bertindih dengan kadar biasa pengeluaran Akaun 2 bersyarat, dengan itu menyederhanakan pengeluaran kasar"

duan bahawa jika setiap ahli memilih untuk memindahkan sekali sahaja sebahagian baki Akaun Sejahtera sebagai amaun permulaan ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel, ia dijangka berjumlah RM57 bilion.

Ia berkata, dianggarkan RM25 bilion mungkin mengalir keluar pada tahun pertama berasaskan corak yang diperhatikan membatalkan skim pengeluaran berkaitan pandemik sebelum ini dan kemudian menyederhana kepada RM4 bilion hingga RM5 bilion setahun selepas itu.

Katanya, KWSP menjangkakan tiada kesan kepada portfolionya walaupun pegangan aset cair mempunyai pertukaran terhadap pulangan.

Sementara itu, Kenanga Research menjangkakan pelancaran Akaun Fleksibel dijangka tidak memberi kesan ketara kepada sektor budi bicara pengguna, termasuk industri automotif.

Ia menjangkakan, impak ekonomi berikutan pengeluaran Akaun Fleksibel tidak ketara seperti pengeluaran khas ketika pandemik sebelum ini.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 12.9.APR.2024...

Struktur baharu KWSP penuhi keperluan kecemasan M40, B40

Pengeluaran Akaun Fleksibel Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) bagi keperluan kecemasan dijangka lebih mende- sak kepada pencarum B40 dan M40, kata penganalisis.

CIMB Treasury and Markets Research berkata, kedua-dua kumpulan itu masing-masing me- megang RM11 bilion dan RM180 bilion dalam jumlah simpanan persaraan.

Namun, ia berkata, pengeluar- an dijangka sederhana berikutan KWSP pada 2021 menganggarkan 60 peratus ahli kehabisan baki Akaun 2, kini dinamakan sebagai Akaun Sejahtera berikutan kemu- dahan pengeluaran disediakan ketika pandemik.

Katanya, keadaan itu sekali gus berpotensi memperlihatkan aliran keluar yang sederhana bagi Akaun Fleksibel jika segmen T20 bermotivasi untuk menyim- pan dengan pengkalan kadar dividen yang seragam merentas

semua akaun buat masa ini.

"Aliran keluar Akaun Fleksi- bel mungkin bertindih dengan kadar biasa pengeluaran Akaun 2 bersyarat, menyederhanakan pengeluaran kasar," katanya dalam nota penyelidikannya.

Pada Khamis lalu, KWSP me- ngumumkan akaun ahli KWSP akan distruktur semula dari- pada dua akaun iaitu Akaun 1 dan Akaun 2 kepada tiga akaun iaitu Akaun Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera dan Akaun Fleksibel berkuat kuasa 11 Mei 2024.

Semua caruman selepas 11 Mei 2024 akan diperuntukkan ke dalam akaun baharu dengan 75 peratus ke dalam Akaun Persa- ran, 15 peratus ke dalam Akaun Sejahtera dan 10 peratus ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel.

Antara 11 Mei 2024 dan 31 Ogos 2024, ahli diberi pilihan sekali sahaja untuk memindahkan se- bahagian daripada baki simpa- nan dalam Akaun Sejahtera



Akaun 3 boleh dikeluarkan pada bila-bila masa dengan jumlah minimum RM50.

mereka (sebelumnya Akaun 2) se- bagai amaun permulaan ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel.

Akaun Fleksibel adalah akaun baharu yang diperkenalkan un-

tuk memenuhi keperluan jangka pendek ahli dan simpanan dalam Akaun Fleksibel boleh dieluar- kan oleh ahli pada bila-bila masa untuk sebarang tujuan, tertakluk

amaun minimum pengeluaran se- banyak RM50.

CIMB Treasury and Markets Research berkata, KWSP telah memberi panduan bahawa jika sefiap ahli memilih untuk me- mindahkan sekali sahaja seba- bagian baki Akaun Sejahtera se- bagai amaun permulaan ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel, ia dijangka ber- jumlah RM57 bilion.

Katanya, KWSP menjangka- kan tiada kesan kepada portfo- lionya walaupun pegangan aset cair mempunyai pertukaran ter- hadap pulangan.

Sementara itu, Kenanga Re- search menjangkakan pelan- caran Akaun Fleksibel dijangka tidak akan memberi kesan ketara kepada sektor budi bicara penggu- na, termasuk industri automotif.

Ia menjangkakan, impak eko- nomi berikutan pengeluaran Akaun Fleksibel tidak ketara sep- erti pengeluaran khas ketika pan- demik sebelum ini.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh....2..9..APR..2024.....

Pengenalan Akaun Fleksibel bukan langkah ke belakang

64-29/4

Inisiatif KWSP atasi keperluan kewangan ahli tanpa jejas dana persaraan

Oleh Kamarulzaidi Kamis
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Pengenalan Akaun 3 atau Akaun Fleksibel kepada pencarum bukan langkah ke belakang dalam pengurusan dana persaraan akibat tekanan pihak tertentu.

Sebaliknya, prinsip asas Kumpulan Simpanan Wang Pekerja (KWSP) dalam menyusun semula akaun berkenaan adalah pendekatan seimbang dalam menyediakan keperluan jangka pendek, sederhana dan jangka panjang pencarumnya, demikian mengikut Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn.

Malah Akaun Fleksibel adalah pilihan dalam memenuhi keperluan sebagai simpanan kecemasan pencarum yang boleh dikeluarkan untuk mendepani cabaran menjalani kehidupan

sebelum bersara dan jika ahli tidak memerlukannya, baki dalam itu boleh dipindahkan ke dalam Akaun 2 atau Akaun Sejahtera.

"Ini sejajar amalan terbaik umum dari segi jangka panjang, kaedah ini menjaga keperluan tabungan persaraan mencukupi."

"Dari segi jangka sederhana, ia adalah pelaburan yang memberi pulangan dalam meningkatkan tabungan sebelum ahlinya bersara."

"Sementara itu, dari segi jangka pendek, ia juga boleh membantu ahlinya menangani keperluan kewangan, contohnya akibat daripada kecemasan atau bencana yang akan menjejaskan kehidupan harian," kata Ahmad Zulqarnain apabila ditanya mengenai perkara pada taklimat pengarang media di ibu pejabatnya di Kwasa Damansara, baru-baru ini.

Pada Khamis lalu, KWSP mengumumkan struktur baharu akaun ahlinya yang menyaksikan perubahan pembahagian peratusan caruman serta pengenalan Akaun 3 atau Akaun Fleksibel iaitu 75 peratus ke dalam Akaun 1 atau Akaun Persaraan (naik daripada 70 peratus sebelum ini), 15 peratus ke dalam Akaun 2 atau Akaun Sejahtera (lebih rendah daripada 30 per-

tus sebelum ini) dan 10 peratus ke dalam Akaun 3 atau Akaun Fleksibel (alokasi baharu yang lebih fleksibel).

Nisbah carumannya selepas ini menjadi 75:15:30 berbanding sebelumnya iaitu 70:30.

Nisbah akaun 1 dinaikkan

Jika dilihat dari sudut itu, jelas Ahmad Zulqarnain, Akaun 1 atau Akaun Persaraan tidak disentuh, malah nisbah sumbangan carumannya dinaikkan daripada 70 kepada 75.

"Ia akan meningkatkan tahap simpanan asas (sebagai timbal balas kepada pengenalan Akaun Fleksibel). Dari segi ini, ia sebenarnya bertambah baik susulan peningkatan kadar sumbangan daripada 70 kepada 75 peratus."

"Sementara itu, apa yang kami akan cuba lakukan secara serentak dengan pengenalan

Akaun Fleksibel ini adalah meningkatkan lagi literasi kewangan dalam kalangan ahli untuk mewujudkan kesedaran dan pemahaman bahawa pengeluaran daripada akaun berkenaan hanya wajar dibuat jika benar-benar diperlukan," kata beliau.

Katanya, berdasar tinjauan gelagat pencarum, pihak menjangka tidak semua ahli akan mengeluarkan tabungan Akaun Fleksibel masing-masing.

"Secara keseluruhan diunjurkan RM54 bilion akan dipindahkan ke akaun fleksibel. Tidak semua ahli akan memilih mengeluarkannya."

"Daripada RM54 bilion itu, kami percaya hanya RM25 bilion (pada tahun pertama) dikeluarkan berdasarkan corak pengeluaran masa lalu," katanya.

Menyingskap semula, katanya, penstrukturan semula akaun KWSP adalah hasil mak-

lum balas ahli melalui rundin-gan awam pada 2020 hingga 2021 serta libat urus bersama pihak berkepentingan.

"Beberapa maklum balas menarik telah diperoleh iaitu 83 peratus mahukan autonomi melalui akaun tambahan yang bersifat fleksibel."

"Selain itu, majoriti besar iaitu 63 peratus bersetuju kenalkan agihan caruman dalam Akaun 1 jika fleksibiliti diberi kan."

"Kami juga mengadakan li-bat urus dengan pelbagai kum-pulan, iaitu Kementerian dan agensi kerajaan, Ahli Parlimen, kesatuan pekerja, key opinion leaders dan kumpulan media."

"Tiga maklum balas diterima iaitu pertamanya, ahli perlu diberi pilihan untuk mempunyai amaun permulaan dalam akaun fleksibel; kedua amaun yang bermakna perlu diberikan kepada ahli terutama mereka yang memiliki simpanan rendah dan ketiga adalah naratif serta komunikasi yang mudah difahami," kata beliau.

Pengenalan Akaun Fleksibel juga tidak hanya dibuat ber-dasarkan tinjauan, tetapi meng-kaji pelbagai skim ditawarkan oleh dana persaraan di seluruh dunia."

Berdasar tinjauan gelagat pencarum, pihak menjangka tidak semua ahli akan mengeluarkan tabungan Akaun Fleksibel masing-masing

Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn,
Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif KWSP



BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 29 APR 2024

20 SYARIKAT TERBESAR MINGGU LALU

Kaunter	Harga (RM)	Nilai Pasaran	Kaunter	Harga (RM)	Nilai Pasaran
MAYBANK BHD	9.79	118,135	PETRONAS GAS	18.02	35,657
PUBLIC BANK BHD	4.21	81,719	MISC BERHAD	7.89	35,219
CIMB GRP BHD	6.61	70,569	YTL CORPORATION	3.03	33,427
TENAGA NASIONAL	11.92	68,985	SIME DARBY PLANT	4.43	30,637
IHH HEALTHCARE	6.27	55,220	NESTLE (M) BHD	12.72	29,828
PETRONAS CHEML	6.87	54,960	MAXIS BERHAD	3.58	28,039
CELCOMDIGI	4.18	49,038	IOI CORP BHD	4.05	25,455
PRESS METAL	5.35	44,082	KLUMPUR KEPONG	23	25,277
HONG LEONG BANK	19.26	41,750	AXIATA GROUP BHD	2.75	25,250
YTL POWER	4.42	36,101	RHB BANK BHD	5.5	23,575

KAUNTER YANG AKAN MENDAPAT PERHATIAN KERANA PEMBAYARAN DIVIDEN

Syarikat	Dividen	Ex-date	Lodgement date	Payment date
UTPDT	70 sen/saham	26 April 2024	29 April 2024	14 Mei 2024
UTPDT	40 sen/saham	26 April 2024	29 April 2024	14 Mei 2024
WILLOW	1.5 sen/saham	15 April 2024	16 April 2024	20 Mei 2024
UEMS	0.75 sen/saham	29 April 2024	30 April 2024	24 Mei 2024
MALAKOFF	4.50 sen/saham	29 April 2024	30 April 2024	29 Mei 2024
MRCB	1 sen/saham	30 April 2024	02 Mei 2024	20 Mei 2024
CPETECH	115 sen/saham	30 April 2024	02 Mei 2024	20 Mei 2024
ASIAFL	3.5 sen/saham	30 April 2024	02 Mei 2024	23 Mei 2024
PTRANS	0.0075 sen/saham	02 Mei 2024	03 Mei 2024	21 Mei 2024
SNS	0.25 sen/saham	02 Mei 2024	03 Mei 2024	20 Mei 2024
ORNA	2.0 sen/saham	02 Mei 2024	03 Mei 2024	20 Mei 2024
IDEAL	2.0 sen/saham	02 Mei 2024	03 Mei 2024	31 Mei 2024

HARGA MINYAK MENTAH DIJANGKA STABIL TAHUN INI

Oleh ZAKKINA WATI
AHMAD TARMIZI
zakkina.tarmizi@mediamula.com.my

PETALING JAYA: Kenangan Research menjangkakan harga minyak mentah sebahagian besarnya stabil dalam tahun kewangan 2024.

Firma penyelidikan itu berkata, pihaknya mengesahkan semula ramalan harga minyak mentah tahun kewangan 2024 Brent mereka pada AS\$84/setong (RM401.25), dan memperkenalkan andaian harga purata tahun kewangan 2025 sebanyak AS\$79 setong (RM377.37).

"Unjuran ini sejajar dengan US Energy Information Administration (EIA) sebanyak AS\$87.0/84.8 (RM415.57 atau RM405.7) setiap setong untuk tahun kewangan 2024/2025," kata satu nota penyelidikan.

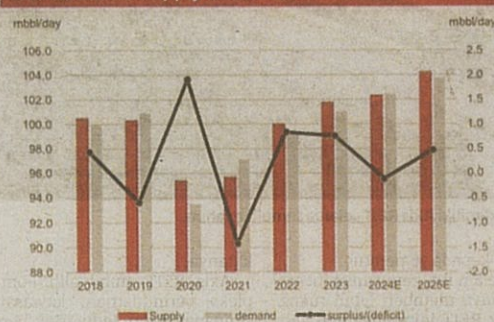
Jelasnya, analisis mereka untuk tahun ini menjangkakan penurunan dalam pertumbuhan pengeluaran minyak mentah global kepada peningkatan sebanyak 0.5 juta setong sehari berbeza dengan peningkatan 1.8 juta setong sehari 2023.

"Disebabkan oleh kelemahan ini kepada Pertubuhan Negara-Negara Pengeksport Petroleum dan sekutu (OPEC+) dan melanjutkan pemotongan pengeluarannya sehingga 2024 dan normalisasi dalam pengeluaran pertumbuhan daripada negara-negara bukan OPEC berbanding tahun sebelumnya.

"Bagi tahun kewangan 2025, jangkaan kami terhadap tahun ke tahun Brent yang sedikit lebih rendah harga adalah berdasarkan kesimpulan jangkaan pemotongan pengeluaran OPEC+ yang membawa kepada kenaikan 0.7 juta sehari, di samping pertumbuhan pengeluaran yang berterusan daripada sumber bukan OPEC," katanya.

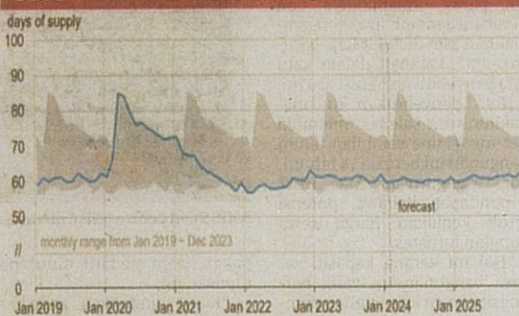
Mengulas mengenai andaian permintaan, firma itu mengang-

Global Crude Supply-Demand



Source: EIA, Kenanga Research

OECD Commercial Crude Oil Inventories



Source: EIA, Kenanga Research

"PENURUNAN YANG DIJANGKAKAN INI ADALAH BERDASARKAN UNJURAN BAHAWA PASARAN MINYAK MENTAH AKAN MENGALAMI LEBIHAN SEBANYAK 0.5 JUTA SETONG SETIAP HARI, MEMPENGARUHI PELARASAN MENURUN DALAM HARGA."



PETRONAS dijangka mencapai sasaran capex RM60 billion pada tahun ini.

gap pertumbuhan permintaan yang lebih rendah sebanyak peningkatan 1.4 juta setong sehari pada tahun ini berbanding peningkatan 1.8 juta setong sehari pada 2023.

"Ia berdasarkan laporan penilaian impak alam sekitar (EIA) dengan pertumbuhan yang diketuai oleh negara-negara Asia bukan OECD (India dan China).

"Sementara itu, kami percaya bahawa negara-negara OECD secara amnya akan mencatatkan pertumbuhan mendatar dalam permintaan tahun ke tahun untuk minyak mentah disebabkan oleh cabaran ekonomi global.

"Oleh itu, ini akan menyebabkan harga minyak mentah Brent yang lebih tinggi sedikit kerana pengurangan bekalan ringan sebanyak 0.1 juta setong sehari

adalah dijangka untuk 2024," katanya.

Memandang kepada 2025, firma itu turut menjangkakan sedikit kelemahan dalam harga minyak mentah Brent, dengan ramalan purata daripada AS\$80 (RM382.12) setong.

"Penurunan yang dijangkakan ini adalah berdasarkan unjuran bahawa pasaran minyak mentah akan mengalami lebih

han sebanyak 0.5 juta setong setiap hari, mempengaruhi pelarasan menurun dalam harga," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Kenanga Research berkata, Petronas berkeungkinan mencapai sasaran perbelanjaan modal (capex) RM60 bilion pada 2024.

"Kami menjangkakan capex huluah Petronas untuk meneruskan trend menaik dalam tahun kewangan 2024, dengan struktur kosnya mampu menyokong harga minyak mentah Brent serendah AS\$75 (RM358.27) setong," katanya.

Firma itu mengunjurkan bajet capex sekitar RM60 bilion untuk tahun kewangan 2024, dengan bahagian penting dikhusaskan untuk aktiviti peringkat awal.

"Petronas mungkin memberi tumpuan kecenderungan dalam memberi tumpuan kepada pengemaskinian platform pengeluaran minyak yang sudah uzur di seluruh Malaysia.

"Komitmen untuk mencapai sasaran capex tahunannya menandakan melepasi dari tempoh 2021 hingga 2023, di mana perbelanjaan Petronas kurang daripada paras RM60 bilion," katanya.

'PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL STRENGTH'

Sultan advises prospective pilgrims to be prepared

SHAH ALAM: Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah advised prospective pilgrims to be well-prepared to perform the fifth pillar of Islam this year.

His Majesty said the pilgrimage required physical and emotional strength and clear knowledge.

"As long as you are in the Holy Land, purify your intentions and use your time and energy to perform religious worship," he said.

Sultan Sharafuddin also advised the pilgrims to join hands, help and respect each other.

He said this while gracing the state-level Perdana Haj Course Season 1445H/2024M organised by Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque here yesterday.

Present were Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Sultan Sharafuddin said he hoped the pilgrims would continue to maintain self-discipline while in the Holy Land and to protect the good name of Selangor and Malaysia.

"I have been informed that Malaysian pilgrims, including those from Selangor, are among

the most disciplined in obeying rules set by the government of Saudi Arabia."

He also hoped that prospective pilgrims would focus on religious worship in the Holy Land and

avoid getting involved in protests or demonstrations.

Sultan Sharafuddin said Malaysian pilgrims should keep in contact with haj officials and follow instructions by TH.

He added that he had been informed that the number of TH depositors in Selangor was 1.81 million with total savings of RM18.797 billion.

The state will send 8,061 pilgrims this year.

The sultan instructed the state government to sponsor 36 underprivileged pilgrims.

"The state government will spend as much as RM1.2 million for the programme."

Na'im, in his welcoming speech, announced that

31,600 prospective pilgrims had started attending the Perdana Haj Course for the Season 1445H/2024M organised by TH, which is being held in stages nationwide from April 20 to May 5.

He said the two-day, one-night course was the final preparation for prospective pilgrims before leaving for the Holy Land, which involved practising haj rituals such as tawaf, sa'ie and stoning of the devil. **Bernama**



“As long as you are in the Holy Land, purify your intentions and use your time and energy to perform religious worship.”

SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH
Sultan of Selangor

NCT
29/4

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024.....

Ringgit forecast to trend around 4.77 to US dollar

SUN
29/4

THE ringgit is expected trend around 4.77 to a US dollar this week as the greenback maintains its strength, and as market continues diminishing the expectations of interest rate cuts particularly in the United States.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said, however, much hinges on the responses of global bond markets as many traders are currently factoring in a level of central bank alignment with the US Federal Reserve (Fed).

He said this anticipation of central bank synchronicity could dampen the momentum of the strong US dollar in the coming days.

The primary concern for the ringgit is whether the Fed will adopt a hawkish stance and rule out rate cuts at the upcoming Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting.

"However, it is likely that the Fed will wait to gauge US employment data and the next series of consumer price index (CPI) figures before committing to a fully hawkish stance," Innes told Bernama.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said this week would be a data heavy week and markets would be very cautious and possibly leaning towards the safer side, with the US dollar probably well supported.

"On that note, the ringgit-US dollar shall linger around RM4.77 this week," said Mohd Afzanizam.

Investors will also be looking out for the US Institute of Supply Management Index for Manufacturing as well as the non-farm payroll and unemployment rate.

Last week, on a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit traded higher to 4.7650/7710 versus the greenback from 4.7810/7855 a week earlier.

THE SUN
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024

Innovative means to process AI data 500 3/14

COMMENT by Dr Rais Hussin

As we navigate the complexities of modern artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, the environmental impact and computational demands of data centres are becoming increasingly critical issues.

Amid these challenges, an innovative approach to AI data processing has emerged, promising significant advancements in efficiency and sustainability.

Traditional AI processing involves large, power-intensive data centres that are becoming a significant strain on global electricity grids.

The computational demands of modern AI are escalating rapidly, with the industry's electricity demand expected to grow exponentially in the coming years.

This growth is driven by sophisticated generative AI models and expansive data processing needs that require massive computational power and storage capacity.

In response to these challenges, a new method has been developed that revolutionises how data is handled by focusing on the direct computation of compressed data.

This technique avoids the need for decompression before processing, which traditionally consumes significant amounts of power and computational resources.

By enabling AI systems to operate directly on compressed data, this method significantly reduces the

energy consumption of data centres, cutting down on carbon emissions and helping meet sustainability goals.

This innovative approach delivers multiple advantages beyond just energy efficiency.

It drastically reduces the memory requirements for processing AI workloads, a critical factor as the cost of memory and processing power continues to climb.

Furthermore, it enhances the ability of systems to perform online learning on compressed data streams, which is essential for developing real-time AI applications that can process information as it becomes available.

The underlying technology operates as a middleware layer that integrates seamlessly with existing AI frameworks and models, ensuring that enterprises can adopt this new method without overhauling their current systems.

This ease of integration is crucial for widespread adoption, particularly in industries where companies may be hesitant to make substantial changes to their established data infrastructure.

Moreover, the approach is designed to leverage the latest advances in AI hardware, facilitating the development of fully autonomous systems that are not only more efficient but also capable of understanding and interacting in more human-like ways.

This alignment with emerging hardware technologies ensures that the method remains at the cutting edge of



The computational demands of modern AI are escalating rapidly, with the industry's electricity demand expected to grow exponentially in the coming years. — REUTERSPIC

AI research and application, offering scalability and improved performance that can keep pace with the rapid evolution of AI demands.

The potential of this technology is vast, with applications across various sectors including healthcare, finance, and automotive industries, where large-scale data processing and real-time decision-making are paramount.

By reducing the ecological footprint of these operations, the technology not only addresses the immediate needs of reducing operational costs and enhancing performance but also contributes to broader environmental goals.

This new method of AI processing represents a significant shift in how data centres operate, pointing the way towards a more sustainable and efficient future for AI development.

As industries continue to adopt and adapt to these technologies, we can anticipate a reduction in the overall environmental impact of AI, making it a key component in the drive towards greener technological solutions.

There are several significant reasons why energy-efficient AI processing technologies are particularly relevant and crucial for Malaysia at

this juncture:

Alleviating strain on power supplies: The global issue of AI's increasing demand on electricity supplies is particularly relevant to Malaysia as the nation continues to develop its technological infrastructure while simultaneously managing energy resources efficiently.

Adopting AI solutions that optimise power consumption can help mitigate the risk of overwhelming the local energy grid, especially as Malaysia pushes towards integrating more renewable energy sources as part of its national policy.

Supporting national AI ambitions: The Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministry through its agency Technology Innovation Park Malaysia (MRANTI) recently launched an AI Sandbox Pilot Programme.

This initiative aims to create 900 startups and cultivate 13,000 new talents by 2026.

Energy-efficient AI processing technologies could play a crucial role in this scheme by providing a more sustainable and scalable foundation for these startups, ensuring that the burgeoning AI ecosystem in Malaysia

grows in a manner that is both technologically advanced and environmentally responsible.

Facilitating advanced research and development:

Technology Innovation Park Malaysia (MRANTI) focuses on fostering innovation and commercialisation of research.

By integrating advanced, energy-efficient AI technologies, MRANTI can enhance its support for AI research and development, particularly in areas that require extensive data processing and computational power, such as autonomous driving and AI hardware development.

Encouraging sustainable economic growth:

Malaysia's broader economic strategies include significant investments in digital infrastructure and sustainability.

Energy-efficient AI technologies align well with these strategies by enabling more sustainable growth in the tech sector, reducing operational costs, and lessening the environmental impact of digital expansion.

Strengthening international competitiveness:

As global attention increasingly focuses on the environmental impact of technological advancements, Malaysia's commitment to sustainable AI development can enhance its attractiveness as a destination for international technology investments.

This is particularly important as the country aims to become a regional leader in AI.

Dr Rais Hussin is the CEO of Technology Park Malaysia (MRANTI), a government agency aimed at accelerating demand-driven R&D in technology, positioning Malaysia as a nucleus for innovation and a leading technology producer nation. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

THE SUN
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024



Safety first for all: Sim (front centre) with Malaysian workers at the World Occupational Safety Health Day 2024 event at Cyberjaya yesterday. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

New rules to benefit workers

Amended law on workplace safety to take effect on June 1

By ARFA YUNUS and HO JIA WEN
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

CYBERJAYA: Employers must analyse risks in the workplace and appoint a health safety coordinator under a newly amended law that takes effect on June 1.

The amended Occupational Safety and Health Act is targeted at improving safety and health at workplaces throughout the country, said Human Resources Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong.

"The employer is obliged to appoint a safety and health coordinator if there are five employees and above," he explained.

With the presence of these trained people, he voiced hope that the work environment would

be safer.

He said the Act was meant to ensure that employers are responsible for identifying risks in the workplace.

As for the workers, he said they had the right to remove themselves from an unsafe environment at work.

"This is in line with Convention 155 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)," he said.

C155, which is the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155), called for, among others, a national policy to prevent accidents and injury to health in the course of work.

Speaking yesterday after officiating the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, Sim said the

newly amended Act would provide more benefits to employees because of the additional provisions to look after their welfare.

"One of the advantages of this Act is that workers have the right to isolate themselves from high-risk places," he said.

He noted that the amendments were approved back in 2021 but its enforcement had been delayed.

However, he said he had looked into its implementation within 100 days of becoming the minister.

"I always insist that the safety and health practices of workers must catch up with the changing times," he said.

On yesterday's event which brought together 2,500 health and safety practitioners, Sim also said

the ministry had launched a campaign to create awareness about the mental safety of workers.

He said that about 13,000 workers had registered for the Occupational Mental Health First Aid training programme since it was launched in February.

About 4,000 of them had been trained so far, he added.

"We hope that this effort will further strengthen safety and health practices in the workplace, especially in the aspect of mental care," he said.



THE SUN
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024

Five states dominate March trade

► Penang remains top exporter, followed by Johor, Selangor, Sarawak and Kuala Lumpur

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's total trade for March 2024 amounted to RM244.5 billion with exports and imports recorded RM128.6 billion and RM115.8 billion, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia.

Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said

exports was valued at RM128.6 billion in March 2024, decreased RM1 billion (-0.8%) as compared to the same month of the previous year.

The decrease in exports was attributed to the lower exports in most states such as Selangor (-RM2.1 billion), WP Labuan (-RM1.6 billion),

Malacca (-RM686.2 million), Sabah (-RM443.8 million), Sarawak (-RM260.9 million), Penang (-RM129.8 million), Negri Sembilan (-RM118.5 million), Johor (-RM44.6 million) and Perlis (-RM27 million).

However, exports increased in Perak by RM1.5 billion, WP Kuala Lumpur (+RM1.3 billion), Terengganu (+RM929.9 million), Pahang (+RM522 million), Kedah (+RM151.7 million) and Kelantan (+RM36.2 million).

Penang remained as the top exporter with 32% share, followed by

Johor (20%), Selangor (16.9%), Sarawak (8.1%) and WP Kuala Lumpur (4.5%).

Looking at the performance of imports by state, Mohd Uzir said imports in March 2024 increased RM12.9 billion (+12.5%) as compared to the same month in 2023. The increase in imports was attributed to the higher imports in most states such as Johor (+RM8.2 billion), Malacca (+RM1.6 billion), Negri Sembilan (+RM1.2 billion), WP Kuala Lumpur (+RM1 billion), Selangor (+RM996.7

million), Kedah (+RM419.7 million), Pahang (+RM152.6 million), Terengganu (+RM92.1 million), Kelantan (+RM71 million), Sabah (+RM55.5 million) and WP Labuan (+RM30.3 million).

However, imports decreased in Penang by RM521.9 million, Perak (-RM393.8 million), Sarawak (-RM115.9 million) and Perlis (-RM6.8 million).

Johor dominates Malaysia's imports with a share of 27.9%, followed by Selangor (23.6%), Penang (19.2%), WP Kuala Lumpur (7.5%) and Kedah (5%).

THE SUN
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024

Push for **more** to join Socso housewives security scheme

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The government should immediately act to increase the number of contributors to the Housewives' Social Security Scheme, said economist Assoc Prof Dr Ida Md Yasin.

"One important aspect to achieve this is to disseminate information about the scheme for maximum impact, and overcome its insufficient awareness among homemakers and rural folk."

The scheme introduced by the Social Security Organisation (Socso) serves to recognise and address the vulnerabilities faced by homemakers.

Launched in December 2022, it aims to improve social protection and includes widows and single mothers by providing coverage against domestic disasters, disability, illness and infirmity, with a monthly contribution of RM10 or an annual fee of RM120.

"This is so affordable and grants prospective contributors access to numerous benefits, which effectively extends the safety net for them," Ida said.

However, the Human Resources Ministry reported that as of January this year, only 200,000 housewives have been included in the scheme.

"This is such a low figure compared with the three million housewives in the country."

"Since the scheme was launched, many rural folk are not aware of it as they may not have access to such information."

"Elected representatives should communicate government initiatives effectively and ensure their constituents are aware of the support available to them through schemes such as this."

Ida said with a nominal fee of RM10 monthly, reaching out to everyone is essential to ensure that no eligible homemaker misses out on this opportunity for social security coverage.

She added that tackling the issue of limited exposure is paramount as the scheme is commendable from a socio-economic standpoint.

For one, it serves as a form of insurance for homemakers and offers them protection against various risks at an affordable fee.

It also contributes to the overall well-being of households by mitigating the financial impact of unforeseen events on income and stability.

"The scheme acknowledges the valuable but often unrecognised contributions of homemakers to their families and communities, providing them with financial security and peace of mind."

"Overall, the scheme represents a

► Govt needs to raise awareness among homemakers, rural folk on affordable safety net offering many benefits: Expert

The scheme acknowledges the valuable but often unrecognised contributions of homemakers to their families and communities, providing them with financial security and peace of mind. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN



proactive and inclusive approach to social policy, and promotes the welfare and empowerment of homemakers and their families," she said.

For instance, benefits of the scheme's domestic injury protection include medical, permanent disability, personal care allowance, physical rehabilitation or dialysis, funeral expenses and survivor pension.

Ida said offering such coverage reassures the homemakers that they are protected in case of unforeseen events.

She said the benefits could be worth up to RM50,000, depending on the length of contribution and the nature of the injury sustained.

"Additionally, in the event of the policyholder's death before the age of 55, the benefits would be allocated to the spouse, children, or parents," she said.

Women's Centre for Change programme director Karen Lai said while the scheme provides basic protection, it aligns with broader efforts to promote women's

economic empowerment.

"The scheme recognises the significant contributions of homemakers to the economy and national development, but its effectiveness is contingent upon families being able to contribute regularly."

"Given the current economic challenges and pressures, many families may find it difficult to make monthly contributions."

"Reports indicate that some husbands are not registering or contributing to their wives' coverage, leaving the latter without access to the benefits."

Lai said the issue arises when wives rely entirely on their husbands for financial support, as they are the primary breadwinners.

She added that this dependency can lead to a situation in which women miss out on benefits they are entitled to.

"Situations like this underscore the importance of raising awareness to ensure that homemakers can fully access the benefits provided by this social protection initiative," Lai said.

Selangor Sultan advises haj pilgrims to be well prepared

SHAH ALAM: The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah has advised prospective haj pilgrims to be well prepared to perform the fifth pillar of Islam this year.

"As long as you are in the Holy Land, purify your intentions and use your time and energy to perform religious worship," Sultan

Saharufuddin said at the state-level *Perdana Haj Course Season 1445H/2024M* organised by the Lembaga Tabung Haji at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque yesterday.

He also called on all prospective haj pilgrims to join hands, help and respect one another.

Also present was the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Sultan Sharafuddin also expressed hope that the pilgrims would maintain self-discipline while in the Holy Land and protect the good name of Selangor and Malaysia.

"Thus far, I have been informed that Malaysian pilgrims, including those from Selangor, are among the pilgrims who are disciplined and obey the rules set by the government of Saudi Arabia."

He urged pilgrims to focus on religious worship and avoid getting involved in any protests. — Bernama



Sultan Sharafuddin, accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari (left), at the event in Shah Alam yesterday. — BERNAMAPIC

THE SUN
Tarikh: 29 APR 2024