



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 30 DISEMBER 2024 (ISNIN)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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STAR METRO WATCH

COUNTER CLOSED ✓

Menara MPKJ payment counters will be closed at noon on Dec 31 to facilitate account closure work for the year. The public are advised to make payment online or via the electronic kiosk. The payment counter will reopen as usual on Jan 2. For details, visit www.mpkj.gov.my.

TRAFFIC MATTERS

> Jalan Persiaran Akuatik in Section 12, Shah Alam will be closed until Feb 14 next year to facilitate public sewerage system repair works.

> Jalan Gasing-Jalan Templer-NPE contraflow lanes in Petaling Jaya will be closed until Jan 1.

> There will be intermittent road closures and traffic diversions on Persiaran Kerjaya in Shah Alam to facilitate road upgrading and other LRT3 project works until Dec 31, 10pm-5am.

MBSA LOCAL PLAN ✓

Draft Shah Alam City Council Local Plan 2035 (Amendment 1) is available for inspection until Jan 11, 9am-4pm (Monday to Friday). It is displayed at MBSA Planning Department, 9th Floor, Wisma MBSA; MBSA Kota Kemuning branch office, Section 31 and Selangor Town and Country Planning Department, 16th Floor, Bangunan Darul Ehsan. It can also be downloaded via drtmbsaP1.mbsa.gov.my

THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

LICENCE RENEWAL

> Klang Royal City Council has extended its industry, business and advertising licence renewal period to Jan 31. For details, visit www.mbdk.gov.my/

> Ampang Jaya Municipal Council will operate a typhoid vaccine clinic for food handlers alongside its business licence renewal counter at Level 4, Menara MPAJ until Dec 31. For details, call 03-4285 7344/7170 (MPAJ Licensing and Entrepreneur Development Department).

COMPOUND DISCOUNT

> Klang Royal City Council is offering a discount on certain parking compounds until Dec 31. The rate ranges from RM15 to RM300, depending on type of violation. Payment can be made via MBDK's website, Smart Parking MBDK and Smart Selangor Parking apps or MBDK's i-Kiosk machines. Details, call 03-3375 8037/8038.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024



Sgt 30/12
(MPAJ) ①
The October landslide in Taman Melawati brought the issue of slope stability to the forefront. (Inset) Occupants in two rows of houses on Jalan E6 were evacuated following the incident.

YEARENDER
24

Closer watch on slopes in Ampang Jaya

Local authority stepped up monitoring of high-risk areas this year

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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MORE landslides in Ampang raised questions about safety this year.

The major one occurred on Oct 15 at Jalan Serdang in Taman Melawati, serving as a stark reminder of the area's vulnerability.

A section of slope measuring 20m x 20m collapsed from a height of 30m, causing the evacuation of residents from 20 terrace houses along Jalan E6.

Fortunately, they were allowed to return home two days later.

The incident gained widespread attention after a viral video made its rounds on social media.

Early investigations, reported by Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi, indicated that a blocked drainage system on Jalan G2 at the top of the slope was the main cause.

The slope engineering branch of the Public Works Department (JKR) had been tasked with conducting a detailed assessment.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari revealed that the site was one of 114 red-zone areas in Ampang Jaya at risk of landslides.

While denying claims that over-development caused the landslide, Amirudin attributed it to possible lapses in infrastructure maintenance.

He stated that the last planning approval for the area, primarily for bungalow lots, was issued in 2014.

Amirudin added that a full report on the landslide would be presented to the Selangor Economic Action Council (MTES) after review, though details were not disclosed.

While no injuries were



The Ampang lookout point was upgraded by MPAJ this year.

reported, the incident raised concerns over slope safety and hillside developments in the area.

In response, residents have formed the Taman Melawati SlopeWatch Volunteer Group to monitor and identify early signs of slope failure, aimed at ensuring timely alerts to authorities.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) stepped up efforts to increase monitoring in high-risk areas too.

Tourism development

In a bid to enhance its appeal, MPAJ embarked on a plan to transform Ampang into a

vibrant tourism hotspot over the next decade.

The council hoped that by attracting more visitors, it would boost the municipality's non-tax revenue.

The council's efforts aligned with Visit Selangor Year 2025, which is expected to bring eight million visitors to the state next year.

Key initiatives included enhancing popular lookout points in Bukit Antarabangsa and Bukit Ampang with amenities like viewing platforms, seating and parking.

MPAJ transformed Panorama @ Bukit Antarabangsa, the site of a 2008 landslide, into a recre-

ational area popular for its sunset views.

MPAJ also upgraded the Tasik Pandan Perdana recreational park in Pandan Perdana earlier this year.

Works initiated by MPAJ included repaving the jogging track, construction of a public toilet and two platform decks around the lake.

More than RM500,000 was allocated to carry out the works, including installing a 3D signboard, fixing playground equipment as well as putting in lighting at the park and carpark areas.

The council also upgraded - at a cost of RM32,000 - an area

near Ampang Point in Taman Dato Ahmad Razali, which has been rebranded as Uptown Lorong Ampang Mampan.

Improvements included repaving roads, roofing over a bazaar site and refreshing faded murals.

In Taman Melawati, an alley off Jalan Negara is now an art-centric hub, featuring an existing art gallery, cafes and street art.

The space played host to the Rahmat Bahgia 2024 street festival in October, which featured artists, musicians, community gatherings and art exhibitions, aimed at fostering creativity and engagement.

Vehicle disposal programme

Since its launch nearly two years ago, MPAJ's voluntary vehicle disposal programme has made a positive impact, with around 50 cars surrendered to the local council.

This initiative has effectively reduced the number of abandoned vehicles cluttering roadsides and housing areas.

This year, MPAJ stepped up efforts to clear abandoned vehicles by offering towing services to its depot for owners unable to transport their vehicles.

To facilitate this, owners needed to provide necessary documentation, including the car grant, and deregister the vehicle with the Road Transport Department (JPJ).

The surrendered vehicles were sent to MPAJ depots, after which they will be considered for disposal through public auction or scrapping.

Despite these efforts, MPAJ said there are still more than

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Environmental issues dominate in Selayang

SELAYANG is popular as an ecotourism destination in Selangor, and attracts nature enthusiasts from near and far. However, beneath its natural beauty lies a disturbing reality: Selayang has emerged as a hotspot for river pollution.

In July, a major pollution incident caused significant disruption across Selangor, affecting water supply for an entire week in 1,140 areas and impacting over 1.1 million consumer accounts.

The source of the pollution was traced to a plastic waste recycling facility in Kuang, Gombak, which had discharged poly(methacrylic acid) chemicals into Sungai Kuang, a tributary of the Selangor River Basin.

Swift action followed the incident, with Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) suspending the operator's licence and issuing an immediate RM1,000 fine.

A Chinese national business owner linked to the illegal disposal of chemical waste was sentenced to three months' jail and fined RM240,000.

This incident sparked urgent calls from the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) for the Selangor government and environmental authorities to increase scrutiny of plastic waste recycling facilities, especially those in high-risk areas.

GHL Geopark

In November, the Gombak Hulu Langat (GHL) Geopark, covering an impressive 112,955ha across Gombak and Hulu Langat districts was launched.

This geopark features 31 geosites, with 20 officially designated as eco- and geo-tourism hotspots, celebrated for their

unique natural and geological landscapes.

The launch event, held at Gua Damai Extreme Park in Batu Caves, was graced by Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah.

Significantly, the GHL Geopark stands out as Malaysia's only geopark located within an urban area.

Tourism Selangor spearheads the GHL Geopark, supported by several key government and community partners, including PLANMalaysia, Mineral and Geoscience Department (JMG), Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ), Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) and MPS.

Designed to meet international standards, GHL Geopark aims for Unesco Global Geopark recognition by 2028.

Eatery in cave

However, one area of concern was illegal activities. Earlier this year, *StarMetro* highlighted concerns about encroachment into the geopark's delicate ecological zones.

One incident involved a food court, "Gua Lepak," operating inside a cave within Batu Caves, known as Swamp Cave.

Issues surrounding the restaurant's operation included risks to visitor safety, geological hazards, damage to fossils, vandalism, biodiversity disruption and sustainability concerns.

MPS clarified that the cave is state-owned land and that no permission was granted for any party to utilise the space.

While a business licence was issued to the operator, it did not cover activities within the cave, which is state land managed by the Gombak District and Land Office (PTD).

Following the expose,



In July, a pollution incident at Sungai Kuang disrupted water supply for one week and affected 1.1 million consumer accounts.

Gombak PTD issued an eviction notice to the operator, citing the lack of approval for activities at the site.

These revelations have prompted calls for urgent action to protect the geopark's integrity, with advocates urging the Selangor government to implement a comprehensive conservation management plan for Batu Caves to safeguard its ecological and geological treasures for future generations.

Fired up over incinerator

A proposed RM4.5bil incinerator project in Batu Arang, Rawang, sparked strong opposition from local communities and non-governmental organisations.

Concerns included safety, health, environmental and traffic risks, along with potential impacts on the area's geological structure, where Malaysia's largest coal mine was located.

Opponents banded together under a coalition called the Rawang Tolak Insinerator (RTI)



The operator of the Gua Lepak food court in Batu Caves was ordered to vacate the premises.

Network, highlighting the contradiction of constructing the incinerator in a heritage town while rezoning agricultural land for industrial use.

Over 4,000 objection forms were submitted to MPS this year, citing issues such as traffic hazards, odour and water pollution, health risks and negative effects on property value.

MPS president Shahman Jalaludin assured that studies would precede the project's commencement, but emphasised that land rezoning must occur beforehand.

On Oct 1, more than 100 protesters gathered in front of MPS headquarters to demand that authorities halt the project. — By SHALINI RAVINDRAN

500 abandoned vehicles yet to be collected from residential and commercial areas in Ampang Jaya.

The issue is more pressing as the council's six depots, which can accommodate up to 900 vehicles, have run out of space.

Public outcry

A confrontation between MPAJ enforcement officers and traders in Taman Lembah Maju led to accusations of bias in the council's enforcement practices.

On Aug 18, a viral video recorded a heated exchange during an inspection of stalls built under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) concept.

The footage showed traders confronting MPAJ officers aggressively, accusing them of giving preferential treatment and failing to take action against a stall reportedly operated by a foreign worker.

The situation escalated when a woman in the video accused one officer of soliciting bribes, further stoking controversy.

In response, MPAJ issued a statement denying the allega-



Since its launch nearly two years ago, MPAJ's voluntary vehicle disposal programme has seen some 50 cars surrendered to the local council.

tions, calling them baseless.

The council insisted that all traders were monitored fairly during inspections and that there had been no misuse of power.

The incident highlighted the strained relationship between traders and enforcement agencies, sparking broader discussions about transparency and

fairness in local governance.

Stalled highway project

Another source of frustration for Ampang residents was the long-delayed East Klang Valley Expressway (EKVE) project, which remains unfinished after a decade of setbacks.

Originally scheduled for



The 36km dual-carriageway EKVE has faced numerous challenges due to complex legal, financial and logistical issues.

completion in 2019, this 36km dual-carriageway has faced numerous challenges due to complex legal, financial and logistical issues.

Nanta Linggi announced in March that the EKVE was only expected to be completed by Dec 31 next year.

The RM1.55bil project, designed to connect Bandar

Sungai Long and Ukay Perdana, even captured the attention of Deputy Works Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan.

During a recent Parliament sitting, he expressed disappointment over the prolonged delays, contrasting it with India's contractors, who completed the 100km Ghaziabad-Aligarh Expressway in just 100 hours.

State of Kepong market driving customers away

DBKL urged to address poor drainage, leaky and rusty roof



A trader showing the broken and uneven surface at the market's rubbish disposal area.

By FARID WAHAB
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TRADERS at Pasar Kepong FRI are calling on Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to urgently upgrade the market, citing a significant decline in customer numbers.

During a site visit, community activist Yee Poh Ping highlighted several pressing concerns, including the leaky and rusty roof as well as poor drainage leading to waterlogging and a foul odour at the rubbish disposal area.

"There is also an issue with the uneven flooring at the market which poses a safety risk.

"These issues are keeping customers away," he said, adding the market served mostly senior citizens in Kepong.

Yee said that he had repeatedly requested DBKL to conduct regular maintenance.

"We are hopeful that DBKL will allocate funds for a comprehensive market upgrade, similar to the recent improvements at Pasar Raja Bot in Chow Kit," Yee added.

He also raised concerns about the market's broken drain covers and clogged sewerage system.

The market at Jalan Silang houses 80 traders, who operate from 6am to 11am daily.



Yee (right) pointing at the leaky and rusty roof at Pasar Kepong FRI. — Photos: LOW BOON TAT/The Star

A trader who wished to be known only as Yap, urged DBKL to reinstate a dedicated officer within the market so that they could easily raise issues with the local authority.

"There used to be DBKL per-

sonnel stationed at an office inside the market," he said.

Yap also stressed the need for a second entrance and additional parking spaces in the vicinity to make the market more accessible.

A TOTAL of 24 business premises in Kuala Lumpur were slapped with closure notices during an operation by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

They were ordered to close for various violations, including operating without valid licences, employing foreign workers and causing obstruction at public spaces.

DBKL in a statement said 70 premises were inspected during the operation on Dec 27.

"Of the 70, 24 were served immediate closure notices for violations under the Local Government Act 1976.

"Twenty-five compound notices were also issued to operators for various infringements," it said.

DBKL carried out enforcement under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 as well as Trades, Businesses and Industries Licensing (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) 2016 and Licensing of Hawkers and Food Placement by-laws.

Meanwhile, a separate operation was carried out around Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur and Pusat Bandar Utara Kuala Lumpur targeting foreign-operated businesses and those without valid licences.

Five businesses causing

24 business in Kuala Lumpur shut down for various offences



DBKL enforcement officers taking action against business premises and traders for violating licence conditions. — Courtesy photos

obstruction were instructed to remove the items.

Enforcement officers also issued four compound notices under the Trades, Businesses

and Industries Licensing by-law.

The items were sent to DBKL's storage facility in Taman Miharja for processing



Officers issuing a compound to a trader during a raid.

and documentation. "Continuous enforcement will be carried out through periodic operations," DBKL said. — By SHALINI RAVINDRAN

THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

9th Dec 2024 (DBKL)

Flooding of Kepong road upsets motorists

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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FOR over five years, residents of Laman Rimbunan in Kepong have been experiencing flooding at Jalan Metro Perdana Timur.

Long-time resident Steven Ng said the flooding had worsened over the years and it now took about two days for the floodwaters to subside.

"The flooding causes cars to stall. Motorcyclists are unable to get through the flooded road and are drenched by splashing water when cars drive past.

"We suspect the drain beside the road and connecting monsoon drain are clogged."

Ng added that when the township was built over 28 years ago,

the developer planted trees on the pavements.

"The trees have now grown and we suspect the roots are clogging the drains below," he said, in calling for Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to address the issue.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping said residents suffer each time it rains heavily.

"We hope DBKL can remove the concrete drain covers to identify the problem."

Yee also raised the issue of Taman Usahawan Kepong business owners who were unhappy about the implementation of the paid parking system there.

They claimed that industrial areas should be exempted from parking fees.

Air conditioning business owner Kris Loh said she had 10 employees who drive to work daily and park there.

"They come to work as early as 8am sometimes and stay on until late evening.

"They will be burdened by the parking charges. This is gazetted as an industrial area and those who come here are mostly our workers.

"People do not drive in and out from here, unlike at commercial areas," said Loh.

Yee said there were 11 areas where DBKL had implemented the paid parking system.

Among the affected areas are Jinjang Selatan, Jinjang Utara, Kepong Baru, Metro Prima-Magna Park, Pekan Kepong,



When Jalan Metro Perdana Timur floods, motorcyclists are drenched by passing cars. — SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star

Taman Petaling Kepong, Taman Sri Segambut, Taman Usahawan Kepong, Sri Edaran Kepong, Laman Rimbunan Kepong and Pusat Kepong.

"Taman Usahawan Kepong and Sri Edaran Kepong are

industrial areas and DBKL should not impose parking fees there.

"However, the rest of the areas are commercial and it is fair to impose parking charges," said Yee.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....



The Exchange TRX is hosting a New Year's Eve party, but proof of identification is required.

Countdowns to rock Klang Valley

87K 20/12
(DBKL)

Live performances, light shows, fireworks and food festival will add to New Year revelry

By MEGAT SYAHAR
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THOSE celebrating the New Year in Klang Valley can look forward to an array of exciting countdown events across Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Petaling Jaya, each offering unique experiences to kick off the year in spectacular fashion.

The Curve in Petaling Jaya is collaborating with Suria FM for its countdown to 2025 which starts at 9am.

The Curve will also be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a lucky draw.

Other activities include a fitness demonstration and food festival.

There will also be performances by Dayang Nurfaizah, Black Hanifah, Suki Low, Iman Troye, Ruffedge and Ezra Kairo, among others.

Revellers can redeem their spot in the Rock Zone by downloading the Mutiara X mobile app to receive 500 points.

To redeem Rock Zone tickets, Mutiara X users will need to have 500 points in their accounts.

At IOI City Mall in Putrajaya, the countdown party kicks off at 5pm tomorrow at Symphony East.

Guests can enjoy mesmerising performances from LED jugglers, magicians and violinists, along with an outdoor movie screening and food truck fare.

The MeleTop Countdown Concert begins at 10pm featuring a star-studded lineup of performers, including Aina Abdul, Shila Amzah and William So Wing Hong.

Celebrity guests also include Ayda Jebat, Dennis Lau, Drama

Band, Khai Bahar, Nagiu Boboy, Noki K-Clique, Noraniza Idris, Ramli Sarip, Shiha Zikir and Bunga Isme.

The mall will also welcome 2025 with a stunning 10-minute fireworks show at the stroke of midnight.

The Pinkfish Countdown, which is well known for featuring renowned international and local DJs in addition to attracting big names in the electronic dance music scene, will be taking place at Sunway Lagoon in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Sunway Pyramid will remain open until 1am tomorrow for those looking to shop or enjoy the celebration.

Meanwhile, Sunway Velocity in KL will see a large-scale street countdown that begins at 4.30pm with local artistes such as Dolla, DJ Blink, 3P, Elva Suyan, DJ Musher and Shi En.

Those looking to shop can head to Rows Market, a bazaar offering local crafts, fashion and food. A spectacular fireworks display will mark the transition into the new year.

Gates to The Exchange TRX New Year's Eve celebration open at 4.30pm, with performances beginning at 5pm.

Admission is free on a first-come, first-served basis. Entry requires MyKad or passport verification.

Live performances feature Henry Lau, Capital Cities, Joe Flizzow, Sonaone, Daiyan Trisha, K-Town Clan, NYK and Saint Kylo, among others.

The Exchange TRX will also be open until midnight to keep shoppers entertained.

Lalaport Bukit Bintang City Centre will host a glow-in-the-dark New Year's Eve celebration until Dec 31, featuring exciting



A stunning light show is part of KLCC's New Year celebrations.



Pop trio Dolla is part of Sunway Velocity's street countdown.

activities like fun games and a glow night market.

Its Neon new year eve countdown 2025 begins at 4.30pm with free admission.

Some of the activities include fun games, glow night market, DIY fluorescent T-shirts, dance competition and paint-in-the-dark workshop.

The countdown performances include "LED butterflies", "LED Jellyfish", and "mirror man".

It will also feature performances by KLP48, Hoshi-No-Oka and DJ Shawn Zed.

The countdown at KLCC Park

will be a festive one, as there is a stunning light show lined up to showcase the iconic PETRONAS Twin Towers.

According to a spokesperson, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will host its Gema Munajat event, featuring prayer recitations at Dataran Merdeka tomorrow.

To ensure a smooth journey for revellers, Rapid KL is extending its operating hours on Jan 1.

Rapid KL's rail and BRT services will run until 3am, while selected bus routes and DRT



Dayang Nurfaizah will be performing at the Curve.



Joe is among the live acts at The Exchange TRX's New Year's Eve celebration.

(Demand Responsive Transit) will run until 3.30am. For details, visit www.myrapid.com.my

By VIJENTHI NAIR
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MOTORISTS using Jalan Danau Saujana, Setapak, in Kuala Lumpur are frustrated by congestion along the 600m stretch.

They claim that it takes them between 30 and 45 minutes to pass through the road during peak hours, due to haphazard parking and the presence of food trucks.

The three-lane road connects Jalan Langkawi and Jalan Genting Kelang.

Residents of PV16 Platinum Lake Condominium and Crystal Ville commercial centre stakeholders complained that the situation was worse between 7am and 10am, noon to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm, as the entrance to their place is blocked by traffic.

Speaking on behalf of all those affected by this situation was PV16 Management Corporation chairman Awtar Singh.

He suggested that the food trucks be relocated.

"Due to the development of many high-rise residential buildings in the surrounding area, the residential road now functions more like a main road," he said.

Awtar said there was also a need for enforcement to tackle indiscriminate parking.

"For those heading to Crystal

45 minutes to travel 600m

Food trucks, indiscriminate parking blamed for jams at Setapak road



(From left) Awtar and Lai speaking to DBKL officers during their visit to Jalan Danau Saujana. — Photos: SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star

Ville, there is ample space at the paid underground parking lot under the commercial centre but some of the condominium residents park by the roadside."

When Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) officers from several

departments visited the site with DBKL advisory board member Andre Lai to assess the situation, they found one food truck with many vehicles parked along both sides of Jalan Danau Saujana.



Vehicles forced to drive in the centre of the three-lane Jalan Danau Saujana due to indiscriminate parking along both sides of the road.

Lai said DBKL acknowledged the public's concern and proposed enforcement to address illegal parking along the road as a temporary measure.

"DBKL suggested putting a 'no parking sign' and drawing yellow lines to warn motorists not to park along the road.

"Ten food trucks are licensed

to operate along that road," added Lai.

He said the licences had been issued when the road was not busy, but DBKL now needed to relocate them.

Lai said without the food trucks and indiscriminate parking, congestion wouldn't be an issue.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

By MEGAT SYAHAR
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THE Selangor Agricultural Transformation Plan (PeTA), implemented to ensure food security, will prioritise modern and high-value agriculture projects next year.

State infrastructure and agriculture committee chairman Datuk Izham Hashim said the plan, currently in the final phase of its first stage, is focused on agricultural products with strong market demand to boost farmers' income.

"The state will focus on high-value agricultural products such as melons, vanilla and onions next year – all of which have shown strong market demand.

"We want to ensure these products are consistently available in the market.

"So far, Phase I of PeTA has been a success and we will build on this achievement," he said after presenting aid for the

S'gor to focus on high-value agro products



Izham (centre) with the aid recipients at the ceremony in Pandan Dalam. — SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star

Urban Farming and Community Garden programme at Kampung Pandan Dalam, Ampang Jaya.

Izham said Selangor has over 200 registered

community gardens.

A total of RM450,000 was allocated to 30 community gardens and six local councils where RM50,000 was given to each

council while community garden representative received RM5,000 each.

Izham said Phase II of PeTA, beginning in 2026, would focus

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on animal husbandry and seed development.

Key initiatives included rearing Barbados Black Belly sheep, lobster farming and onion cultivation.

"This effort will ensure food supply continuity," he said.

Challenges faced by the sector in Selangor, he added, included the lack of breed stock and seeds.

Izham said that the state would focus on overcoming those issues.

PeTA was launched in 2022 to secure food supply.

The initiative also aligns with the National Food Security Policy Action Plan 2021–2025 to increase agricultural output.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

Please behave on New Year's Eve

Police presence to be increased at hotspots

KUALA LUMPUR: It's that time of the year to let your hair down and boogie the night away, but do not get carried away and step out of line.

Police are increasing their presence at hotspots at various parts of the country to maintain order as the New Year's Eve revelling gets underway tomorrow.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Comm Datuk Rusdi Mohd Isa said his personnel were all set to ensure things do not get out of hand, specifically at strategic areas on the radar, such as the vicinities of KLCC, The Exchange TRX and Dataran Merdeka, where countdown events and fireworks are expected.

He said traffic will also be monitored closely for aggressive behaviour and drink driving offences, which he said were common occurrences after the year-end partying.

"Provocation leading to violence is another fight on our hands. Always be mindful of your safety and do not let a happy occasion be ruined by tragedy."

Comm Rusdi said all OCPDs have been directed to be prepared with a focus on the hotspots, adding that drink driving

operations will be intensified. "To put it simply, do not drink and drive."

Selangor deputy police chief Deputy Comm Datuk S. Sasikala Devi said there was enough manpower to maintain order.

"We will focus on several hotspots where countdown parties will be held. Operations will be stepped up on New Year's Eve."

DCP Sasikala advised motorists to prepare ahead by assigning a designated driver if they were planning on consuming alcohol at the parties.

"Please do not drive while intoxicated. Get someone else to drive you home or use e-hailing services. Always prioritise safety."

She said other crime prevention operations to deter burglaries, vehicle thefts and street crime are ongoing.

"These will be conducted at residential areas, commercial zones and shopping complexes," she added.

In Penang, police will also stand guard against illegal racing, with roadblocks planned at several spots.

George Town OCPD Asst Comm Abdul Rozak Muhammad said an additional 200 police officers

would be deployed for the New Year's Eve watch.

Areas to be monitored included Straits Quay, Gurney Drive, Batu Ferringhi, Times Square, Karpal Singh Drive and Esplanade.

"Traffic on the Penang Bridge and key routes from Sungai Nibong to Batu Ferringhi will be under close scrutiny. There will also be spot checks at entertainment centres for drug abuse," said ACP Abdul Rozak.

In Johor, Johor Baru South OCPD Asst Comm Raub Selamat said police would be keeping an eye on several locations around the city where celebrations will be held such as Dataran Bandaraya Johor Baru.

"We are expecting a large number of people including Singaporeans to usher in the New Year with family and friends here. We want to make sure that they do so in a safe environment."

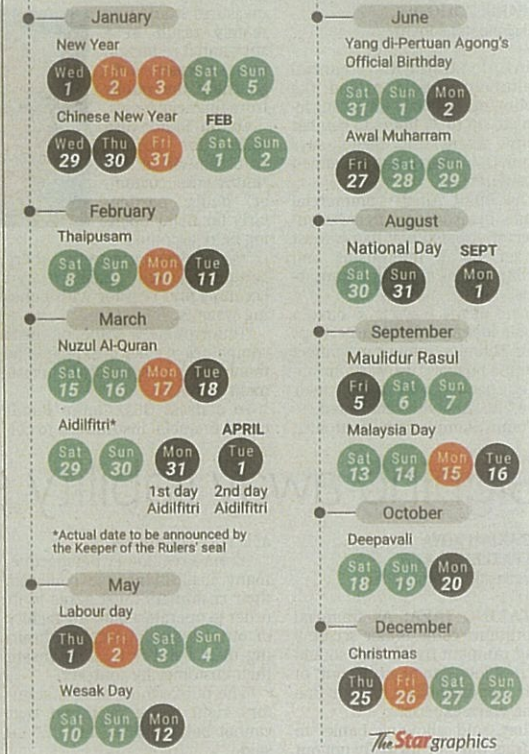
ACP Raub reminded revellers not to make a nuisance of themselves and inconvenience others.

With the large number of nightspots in the city, he said police will be ready to act against those who drink and drive. The rule is there to make sure that everyone is safe on the road," he added.

2025 long weekend/ holidays

● Holiday ● Weekend ● Leave Required

Many public holidays in 2025 will fall close to a weekend. Check out the calendar below to see how you can best enjoy all the long weekends next year with a bit of strategic leave planning.



THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

All set to ring in 2025 with fireworks, music and more

PETALING JAYA: From the bustling streets of Kuala Lumpur to the serene shores of Penang, and not forgetting the vibrancy of Johor and cultural uniqueness of Sabah and Sarawak, the country will light up for a spectacular countdown to 2025.

With a blend of tradition, creativity and global appeal, the New Year's Eve celebrations tomorrow promises to be special.

In Kuala Lumpur, the iconic KLCC The Place will be the epicentre of celebration. As the city bids adieu to 2024, visitors can revel in a series of enthralling activities.

The Music & Lights show at Lake Symphony Fountains promises to be mesmerising spectacle, celebrating 25 glittering years of KLCC's brilliance.

For those inclined towards wellness and creativity, sessions like Wellness at KLCC and Art in the Park, inspired by the majestic PETRONAS Twin Towers, offer an ideal way to end the year.

The Exchange TRX is all set for a free public extravaganza with its countdown party. The event will feature international and local stars with Canadian sensation Henry Lau and American indie-pop duo Capital Cities.

Adding local flavour are artistes like Saint Kylo, PALENCIA, Daiyan Trisha and Joe Flizzow, among others.

The night will crescendo with deejays Aidaho and Ashley Lau setting the stage for the climactic countdown and breathtaking fireworks display over the Kuala Lumpur skyline. The festivities



Counting down: The roads around Dataran Putrajaya in Precinct 3 are closed off for the Light and Motion Festival (Lampu) 2024 and New Year's Eve countdown. — LOW LAY PHON/The Star

kick off at Raintree Plaza, TRX City Park, with performances starting from 5pm.

In Putrajaya, the Festival Light & Motion Putrajaya (LAMPU2024) will illuminate Dataran Putrajaya in a unique offering to the countdown.

IOI City Mall in Putrajaya adds to the festive spirit with its MeleTOP Countdown 2025 con-

cert, featuring popular artistes like Aina Abdul and Shila Amzah.

At The Curve, the Suria X the Curve concert promises to be a family-friendly celebration with activities such as food festivals, fitness events and performances by local performers like Dayang Nurfaizah and Ruffedge, with the night culminating in a dazzling fireworks display.

Menara Kuala Lumpur offers an exclusive experience with its "Quarter Century Celebration", combining fireworks and live music for a memorable evening.

Sunway Lagoon extends its hospitality with an open invitation to its Night Park till midnight, while LaLaport will hosts a unique NEON NYE Countdown 2025, offering glow-in-the-dark experi-

ences and live performances at WoW Plaza and Central Rooftop Garden.

Over in Penang, the Straits Quay Promenade invites revellers to a night of music, dance, and a spectacular fireworks show, while The TOP Penang offers panoramic views and live entertainment at its Level 68 Countdown Party.

A spokesperson of the Straits Quay's management said some 10,000 revellers were expected to gather for the countdown celebration.

"The police will ensure public safety and maintain order throughout the celebration. We are taking all necessary precautions to ensure that things go smoothly and that revellers are in a safe environment," the spokesperson said.

In Johor, the Sutera Together Countdown Celebration at Sutera Mall in Skudai will see live performances and a fireworks display.

Puteri Cove Quayside in Johor Baru will host games and a grand fireworks display.

In Sabah, Kota Kinabalu will be amplified with the Kota Kinabalu Countdown 2025. Inspired by global countdown events, the event will feature a stunning fireworks display with 1,000 synchronised drones and performances by international artists, marking a milestone event for Sabah at Dataran Bandaraya.

In Sarawak, the celebrations at the Kuching Waterfront will be a culturally enriching experience with four exciting segments from the day till midnight.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

Cadangan kenaikan tarif baharu elektrik jejas Tahun Melawat Malaysia - MITDA

7H 30/12

SHAH ALAM - Cadangan kenaikan tarif elektrik oleh Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) sebanyak 14 peratus bermula Julai 2025 didakwa bakal mengancam sektor pelancongan khususnya perisian Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026 (VMY 2026).

Presiden Persatuan Pembangunan Pelancongan Antarabangsa Malaysia (MITDA), Mahadzir Mansor berkata, peningkatan daripada 39.95 sen

kepada 45.62 sen setiap sekilowatt-jam (kWj) bersamaan pertambahan bayaran sebanyak 5.67 sen bagi setiap kWj.

"Ini bermakna rakyat dan perniagaan akan bayar tambahan 5.67 sen bagi setiap kWj yang digunakan atau secara mudah setiap jam meter elektrik berpusing kos meningkat lebih tinggi. Keuntungan TNB melonjak empat kali ganda kepada RM1.45 bilion membuktikan syarikat ini mempunyai kemampuan kewangan yang kukuh.

"TNB sepatutnya menggunakan keuntungan ini untuk menampung kos operasi dan penyelenggaraan sebab dana tersebut cukup bagi menampung keperluan mereka tanpa membebankan rakyat," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Ahad.

Sebelum ini, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) mencadangkan jadual tarif baru dengan tarif asas 45.62 sen KwJ bagi Semenanjung Malaysia di bawah Tempoh Kawal Selia 4 (RP4) untuk di-



MAHAZDIR

laksanakan bermula 1 Julai 2025.

Mengulas lanjut Mahadzir berkata, kenaikan itu bakal memberi kesan langsung kepada semua sektor ekonomi di mana kos sara hidup juga akan melonjak.

"Sektor pelancongan akan mendapat tekanan di

mana perniagaan hotel, restoran dan tempat pelancongan terpaksa menaikkan harga untuk menampung kos. Semua ini akan menjadikan Malaysia kurang kompetitif sebagai destinasi pelancongan.

"Impak kepada VMY 2026 akan merudum di mana pelancong antarabangsa bakal berkurangan kerana kos penginapan dan perkhidmatan tinggi menyebabkan pelancong memilih destinasi lebih murah seperti jiran kita Thailand, Indonesia atau Vietnam," katanya.

Ujarnya, isu itu juga bakal menjejaskan pulangan daripada kesempatan Malaysia sebagai Pengerusi ASEAN selama lima tahun bermula 2025.



Laporan Sinar Harian pada 28 Disember lalu.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

Kosmo 30/12 Ekonomi semakin pulih, kuasa beli dijangka meningkat

PETALING JAYA – Pertumbuhan ekonomi negara dijangka terus berkembang dalam tempoh dua tahun ke hadapan ekoran beberapa inisiatif diperkenalkan kerajaan termasuk pelaksanaan gaji minimum bermula tahun hadapan.

Malah kata pakar ekonomi, Prof Emeritus Dr. Barjoyai Bardai, perdagangan import dan eksport akan turut berkembang termasuk peningkatan Hasil Dalam Negeri Kasar (GDP).

"Begitu juga dengan pelaburan asing (FDI) yang juga akan meningkat pada tahun hadapan. Ini menggambarkan ekonomi negara dilihat semakin pulih dan meningkat dengan baik dari segi aspek pembangunan.

"Kuasa beli rakyat juga akan semakin meningkat pada tahun hadapan ekoran kenaikan gaji minimum dan pelarasan gaji kepada lebih 1.6 juta penjawat awam sekali gus menambah pendapatan hampir RM10 bilion," katanya kepada Kosmo.

Bagaimanapun katanya, kesan kuasa beli itu tidak melibatkan



DR. BARJOYAI

sektor Perusahaan Mikro, Kecil dan Sederhana (PMKS) yang mewakili hampir 85 peratus pekerja di negara ini.

"Ini kerana mungkin gaji mereka tidak naik seperti yang dijangkakan. Malah kebanyakan perniagaan di sektor PMKS pada ketika ini masih bergelut untuk mengikut saranan gaji minimum RM1,700 itu.

"Jadi kita lihat gaji bagi golongan ini dijangka tidak akan meningkat. Oleh itu, sekiranya gaji hanya satu kumpulan sahaja (swasta dan kerajaan) meningkat, manakala yang lain tidak meningkat, ia akan menambahkan



KUASA beli rakyat pada tahun hadapan dijangka makin meningkat ekoran kenaikan gaji minimum dan pelarasan gaji penjawat awam.

inflasi dalam pasaran.

Mengulas lanjut, Barjoyai berkata kadar inflasi yang tinggi itu juga akan mempengaruhi

harga barangan pada masa akan datang.

"Jadi bagi mereka (gaji tidak naik) ia akan memberikan kesan

yang teruk kerana secara keseluruhan harga barangan akan naik disebabkan peningkatan gaji kumpulan terbabit," ujarnya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: **30 DEC 2024**

CUTI Hujung Minggu KEMBALI PADA SABTU DAN AHAD MULAI 1 JANUARI

Rakyat Johor sudah **bersedia**

Perubahan dijangka beri impak kepada sektor awam, swasta termasuk penyesuaian jadual kerja

Oleh Omar Ahmad
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Johor Bahru

Rakyat Johor akan mula menikmati cuti hujung minggu pada Sabtu dan Ahad bermula 1 Januari depan menjadikan semalam adalah Ahad terakhir bekerja.

Tinjauan di sekitar bandar raya ini mendapati, proses bekerja dan bersekolah berjalan seperti biasa dan rata-rata masyarakat meluahkan kesediaan untuk menikmati cuti hujung minggu pada Sabtu dan Ahad mulai minggu depan.

Ejen insurans, S Reeshan, 33, berkata perubahan cuti hujung minggu itu akan meningkatkan aktiviti ekonomi kerana lebih ramai keluarga akan keluar bercuti.

Katanya, sektor ekonomi pada cuti Sabtu dan Ahad dijangka meningkat, ditambah dengan kehadiran pengunjung dari negara jiran yang mempunyai waktu cuti hujung minggu sama.

"Bagi sektor kerajaan memang akan ada impak yang besar, contohnya jika pasangan suami isteri, suami kerja kerajaan dan isteri bekerja swasta akan ada impak besar iaitu mereka akan meluangkan masa bersama keluarga sepenuhnya pada hujung minggu.

"Cuma pastinya kesesakan jalan raya akan berlaku di bandar raya ini apabila pengunjung Singapura datang pada hujung minggu. Kesesakan di kawasan sempadan dan lebuh raya perlu diberi perhatian," katanya.

Sementara itu, peniaga, Raendang Awang, 55, ber-



"Bagi sektor kerajaan memang akan ada impak yang besar, contohnya jika pasangan suami isteri, suami kerja kerajaan dan isteri bekerja swasta"

Ejen insurans,
S Reeshan



"Dulu Jumaat pelanggan ramai sebab urusan kerajaan. Sekarang kena lihat kesan dalam sebulan dua. Kami akur dan harap semuanya baik"

Peniaga,
Raendang Awang

harap perubahan ini memberikan kesan positif walaupun perlu menyesuaikan diri.

"Dulu pelanggan ramai pada Jumaat sebab urusan kerajaan. Sekarang kena tunggu dan lihat kesannya dalam sebulan dua. Kami akur dan harap semuanya baik," katanya.

Bagi peguam, Baharudin Bahrin, 40-an menyambut baik penyesuaian ini yang memudahkan pengurusan kes mahkamah.

"Apabila cuti selaras dengan negeri lain, urusan kerja lebih lancar. Masa untuk keluarga juga lebih banyak," katanya.

Mulai 1 Januari 2025, cuti

hujung minggu di Johor akan ditukar kembali kepada Sabtu dan Ahad.

Perubahan ini diumumkan oleh Pemangku Sultan Johor, Tunku Mahkota Ismail selepas mendapat perkenan Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar dan pandangan daripada Jabatan Agama Islam Negeri Johor

(Jaini).

Sebelum ini, pada 2014, Johor mengubah cuti hujung minggu kepada Jumaat dan Sabtu.

Perubahan ini dijangka memberi impak kepada sektor awam dan swasta di Johor termasuk penyesuaian jadual kerja serta operasi perniagaan.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

Johor kembali cuti Sabtu, Ahad bermula 1 Januari

Johor Bahru: Johor akan kembali bercuti hujung minggu pada Sabtu dan Ahad bermula 1 Januari ini, menjadikan Ahad semalam hari terakhir hari bekerja di negeri ini.

Ia selaras titah Pemangku Sultan Johor, Tunku Mahkota Ismail pada Oktober lalu bahawa mulai 1 Januari 2025, cuti hujung minggu di negeri ini ditukar kepada Sabtu dan Ahad selepas mendapat perkenan dan restu Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Ibrahim serta pandangan Jabatan Agama Islam Negeri Johor (JAINJ).

Perubahan itu dijangka memberi impak kepada sektor awam dan swasta, termasuk penyesuaian jadual kerja dan operasi perniagaan selepas 10 tahun Johor mengubah cuti hujung minggu kepada Jumaat dan Sabtu, iaitu cuti asal yang dilaksanakan sekian lama di negeri ini sebagai Negeri Melayu Tidak Bersekutu.

Tiga negeri masih mengekalkan cuti hujung minggu pada Jumaat dan Sabtu adalah Kedah, Kelantan dan Terengganu.

Tinjauan di sekitar bandar raya ini semalam mendapati sektor

pekerjaan dan operasi sekolah berjalan seperti biasa dan rata-rata penduduk yang ditemui meluahkan kesediaan untuk menikmati cuti hujung minggu pada Sabtu dan Ahad.

Ejen insurans, S Reeshan, 33, berkata perubahan cuti hujung minggu akan meningkatkan aktiviti ekonomi kerana lebih ramai akan keluar bercuti, ditambah dengan kehadiran pengunjung dari negara jiran yang mempunyai cuti hujung minggu pada hari sama.

"Bagi sektor kerajaan, memang akan ada impak yang besar. Contoh jika pasangan suami isteri, suami kerja kerajaan dan isteri bekerja swasta, akan ada impak besar, iaitu mereka akan meluangkan masa bersama keluarga sepenuhnya pada hujung minggu.

"Cuma pastinya kesesakan jalan raya akan berlaku di bandar raya ini apabila pengunjung dari Singapura datang pada hujung minggu. Jadi, kesesakan di kawasan sempadan dan lebuh raya

perlu diberi perhatian," katanya.

Peniaga, Raendang Awang, 55, berharap perubahan cuti hujung minggu memberikan kesan positif kepada sektor perniagaan walaupun perlu menyesuaikan diri.

"Kena tunggu dan lihat kesannya dalam sebulan dua selepas

cuti hujung minggu diubah, tetapi kami akur dan berharap semuanya baik," katanya.

Bagi peguam, Baharudin Baharin, 40, penyelarasan cuti memudahkan pengurusan kes mahkamah dan melancarkan urusan kerja.



Perubahan cuti hujung minggu di Johor mendapat reaksi positif pelbagai pihak. (Gambar fail)

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....3.0 DEC. 2024.....

Didik rakyat kepentingan kitar semula sisa elektronik



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30/12

Malaysia hanya melupuskan 1 peratus sisa elektronik atau e-sisa tempatan secara lestari, sekali gus amat rendah berbanding dengan kadar kitar semula keseluruhan, iaitu sekitar 35 peratus.

Angka ini tentu mengecewakan apatah lagi di peringkat global, jumlah isipadu e-sisa dijangka meningkat daripada 34 juta tan pada 2010 kepada 82 juta tan (2030).

Kemajuan teknologi dan penggunaan gajet bakal meningkatkan penggunaan bahan elektronik, malah ia diburukkan lagi dengan pengurangan jangka hayat peranti elektronik

serta peningkatan pengeluaran pelbagai jenis peranti terkini.

Kadar kitar semula e-sisa rendah akan menyebabkan lambakan sisa elektronik lazimnya berakhir di tapak pelupusan sampah.

Pihak berkuasa sebenarnya sudah melaksanakan pelbagai inisiatif, termasuk mewujudkan lebih 300 tempat pengumpulan dan kemudahan perolehan di seluruh negara.

Peluasan tanggungjawab pengeluar (EPR) juga mula diperkenalkan bagi memastikan syarikat memikirkan kaedah menguruskan sisa produk apabila berada di akhir hayat.

Pada 2022, hanya tiga negara dalam Kesatuan Eropah (EU), iaitu Bulgaria, Latvia dan Slovakia menca-

pai sasaran 65 peratus kadar pungutan e-sisa ditetapkan.

Di Jerman, kadar pungutan dilaporkan di bawah sasaran 45 peratus, meskipun sistem pengurusan e-sisa dilaksanakan. Ini menunjukkan, selain sistem pengurusan mantap, kesedaran pengguna menjadi kunci peningkatan kadar kitar semula.

Justeru, strategi baharu perlu ditekankan ke arah memberi kesedaran kepada masyarakat supaya memahami ciri kompleks dan nilai tinggi e-sisa berbanding sisa boleh kitar semula lain seperti kertas, plastik dan aluminium.

E-sisa meliputi semua jenis barang berunsurkan elektronik, bukan hanya gajet seperti telefon bimbit. Ramai tidak menyedari e-sisa turut membabitkan barangan elektronik seperti kipas, peti sejuk, radio dan televisyen.

Tidak hairanlah, pelupusan barangan ini tidak diuruskan dengan kaedah sepatutnya, apatah lagi rata-rata pengguna tidak memahami kitar hayat suatu barangan elektronik, terutama bagaimana pengurusan sisa dilaksanakan dan apakah impak setiap tahap hayat produk kepada alam sekitar.

Kurang kesedaran keperluan kitar semula e-sisa

Dari segi populariti, masyarakat umumnya tidak mengetahui keperluan kitar semula e-sisa atau kemudahan pengumpulan e-sisa disediakan. Akibatnya, ramai lebih memilih untuk menyimpan peranti sudah tamat hayat dalam koleksi sendiri selama mungkin.

Apa membimbangkan, sebahagian melupuskan e-si-

sa melalui tong sampah biasa bersama sisa pepejal lain.

Pengakhiran e-sisa di tapak pelupusan sampah boleh mengundang ancaman kepada persekitaran dan kesihatan manusia. Berbeza dengan plastik, e-sisa terdapat boleh mengalirkan kandungan bahan berbahaya dan larut resap ke dalam tanah serta sistem pengairan.

Contohnya, bahan arsenik terkandung dalam semikonduktor dan diod boleh memberi kesan kepada sistem saraf serta kulit. Dioxin dalam kabel pula meningkatkan risiko untuk kanser. Logam berat dan bahan kalis api dalam e-sisa juga boleh membahayakan sumber air bawah tanah atau kawasan tanaman.

Malah, masyarakat tidak mengetahui bahan bernilai terkandung dalam e-sisa, contohnya emas. Sesetengah bahan dalam e-sisa mempunyai tenaga terkandung tinggi.

Maka, penggunaan bahan ini boleh membawa kepada nilai jejak karbon tinggi. Dengan kitar semula, nilai jejak karbon ini dapat dikurangkan, sekali gus dapat menyokong hasrat mencapai pelepasan karbon sifar bersih menjelang 2050.

Oleh itu, masyarakat di negara ini perlu didedahkan dengan kisah kejayaan penggunaan semula e-sisa. Antaranya penghasilan medal pemenang untuk Sukan Olimpik Tokyo 2020.

Menerusi projek ini, lebih 78,000 tan e-sisa dikumpulkan dan hampir 32 kilogram emas berjaya diperoleh. Kisah kejayaan sebegini akan lebih mudah memberikan kefahaman kepada masyarakat mengenai potensi bahan dalam e-sisa dalam penghasilan produk baharu.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....3..0..DEC..2024....

Harga EV import dijangka melonjak tinggi pada 2026

Kenaikan
berikutan tempoh
pengecualian cukai
bagi kenderaan
elektrik tamat
akhir tahun depan

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Harga kenderaan elektrik (EV) import sepenuhnya (CBU) dijangka meningkat tinggi selepas tamat tempoh pengecualian duti import dan eksais pada akhir 2025.

RHB Investment Bank dalam nota penyelidikannya menjangkakan kerajaan kini lebih fokus untuk menarik pengeluaran peralatan tulen (OEM) bagi tujuan pemasangan tempatan (CKD).

"Pengecualian cukai bagi EV CKD akan berterusan sehingga akhir 2027. Walaupun EV import mungkin mendapat manfaat daripada tamatnya had harga minimum RM100,000 selepas 2025, ia akan diimbangi dengan pengenaan semula cukai," kata RHB Investment Bank.

Kajian mereka menunjukkan bahawa harga EV CBU boleh meningkat secara mendadak jika

dikenakan duti eksais antara 75 peratus hingga 105 peratus seperti kereta penumpang berkuasa enjin pembakaran dalaman, berserta cukai jualan 10 peratus.

"Ini selaras dengan maklum balas yang kami terima daripada pemeriksaan saluran kami dengan pengedar EV di pasaran," tambah RHB Investment Bank.

Walaupun dijangka berlaku lonjakan permintaan EV pada tahun hadapan sebelum tamat tempoh pengecualian cukai, RHB Investment Bank berpendapat ia tidak akan memberi kesan ketara kepada Jumlah Industri Keseluruhan (TIV).

"Pasaran EV tempatan masih kecil, hanya sekitar 2.0 peratus daripada jualan kereta setakat tahun ini. Lonjakan permintaan EV tidak mungkin akan menggerakkan jarum TIV untuk 2025," jelas RHB Investment Bank.

Kurang stesen pengecasan

Kekurangan infrastruktur pengecasan juga menjadi kebimbangan. Sehingga akhir Oktober, terdapat hanya 3,354 stesen pengecasan awam di seluruh negara, jauh di bawah sasaran 10,000 menjelang 2025.

Dalam perkembangan lain, RHB Investment Bank meramalkan TIV 2025 sebanyak 730,000 unit, penurunan 8.0 peratus berbanding unjuran 790,000 unit bagi 2024.

"Kami menjangkakan TIV yang lebih rendah, kerana kesan asas yang tinggi mula terasa dan tiada faktor menarik untuk jualan kenderaan pada 2025 dikekalkan pada tahap semasa," kata RHB Investment Bank.

Penurunan ini dijangka disumbangkan terutama oleh jenama bukan nasional yang menghadapi persaingan sengit daripada pengeluaran kereta China.

Sementara itu, Cukai Barang Bernilai Tinggi (HVTG), walaupun tidak disebut dalam Belanjawan 2025, namun ia masih boleh dilaksanakan dan memberi kesan nega-

tif kepada industri automotif.

Dalam pada itu, penarikan balik subsidi RON95 yang dijangka pada pertengahan 2025, boleh meningkatkan kos pemilikan kereta dan mendorong pengguna beralih kepada EV atau pengangkutan awam.

RHB Investment Bank turut mengulas mengenai pengukuhan Ringgit Malaysia yang memberi manfaat kepada syarikat automotif tempatan seperti Sime Darby dan Tan Chong Motor, kerana pembelian CBU dan alat ganti CKD kebanyakannya dalam mata wang asing.



BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 30 DEC 2024.....

Jakim minta PBT jelaskan dasar wajibkan sijil halal

UM
30/12

PETALING JAYA: Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) memandang cadangan kerajaan negeri untuk mewajibkan pengusaha premis makanan dan minuman memiliki sijil halal sebelum memperbaharui lesen perniagaan sebagai usaha promosi positif.

Ketua Pengarah Jakim, Datuk Dr. Sirajuddin Suhaimi berkata, langkah tersebut diyakini dapat meningkatkan bilangan pemegang Sijil Pengesahan Halal Malaysia (SPHM) di kawasan pentadbiran masing-masing selain memastikan kualiti dan piawaian halal terus dipatuhi.

Katanya, Jakim bagaimanapun menekankan pentingnya penjelasan menyeluruh oleh PBT mengenai pelaksanaan dasar baharu ini bagi mengelakkan sebarang kekeliruan dalam kalangan pengusaha dan orang ramai.

"Kami berharap kerjasama strategik yang berterusan antara JAKIM, Majlis atau Jabatan Agama Islam Negeri (MAIN atau JAIN) dan agensi pembimbing akan terus menggalakkan pengusaha memohon SPHM.

"Langkah ini bukan sahaja menjamin kualiti produk dan perkhidmatan tetapi turut memperluas pasaran perniagaan pemegang sijil halal," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Sirajuddin berkata, permohonan SPHM bagaimanapun kekal bersifat sukarela dan terbuka kepada mana-mana pengusaha yang bersedia mematuhi keperluan, piawaian dan standard pensijilan halal.

Katanya, langkah tersebut sejajar dengan Akta Perihal Dagangan 2011 (Akta 730) yang mengawal semua perkara berkaitan halal di negara ini.

"Dasar sedia ada ini disokong oleh keputusan Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri pada 18 September 2024 yang bersetuju mengekalkan permohonan SPHM secara sukarela.

"Dasar tersebut sekali gus memberi nilai tambah kepada pemegang sijil melalui komitmen mematuhi standard pensijilan halal serta meningkatkan keyakinan pengguna terhadap produk atau perkhidmatan mereka," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:3..0..DEC..2024...

Malaysia kedua tertinggi di Asia Tenggara masalah obesiti

Rakyat Malaysia belanja RM1,200 sebulan makan di luar

UM 34/12

Oleh **FATIN NORIZATI MAT ISA**
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PETALING JAYA: Ketagihan makan di luar menyebabkan sebahagian besar pendapatan bulanan rakyat negara ini dihabiskan untuk memenuhi keinginan tersebut.

Amalan itu mengakibatkan penyusutan pendapatan isi rumah, sekali gus menjadikan mereka lebih terkesan terhadap kenaikan mendadak harga makanan dimasak, meskipun kadar inflasi utama menunjukkan penurunan.

Berdasarkan laman web rasmi Majlis Keselamatan Negara, kajian menunjukkan rakyat Malaysia menghabiskan purata RM800 hingga RM1,200 sebulan untuk makanan di luar.

Statistik menunjukkan kos perubatan Malaysia meningkat

sebanyak 12.6 peratus tahun lalu, melebihi purata inflasi global sebanyak 5.6 peratus.

Peningkatan selari dengan pertambahan 600,000 rakyat dewasa yang menghidap penyakit tidak berjangkit (NCD) sejak 2019.

Mengulas isu itu, Profesor Pemakanan, Pusat Pengajian Sains Kesihatan, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Prof. Dr. Hamid Jan Jan Mohamed berkata, rakyat Malaysia perlu segera mengubah gaya hidup terutama corak pemakanan dan tahap kecergasan yang menyumbang kepada masalah kesihatan sekali gus meletakkan Malaysia negara kedua tertinggi kadar obesiti di Asia Tenggara.

Corak perbelanjaan rakyat untuk membeli makanan dan menanggung kos kesihatan juga

menunjukkan peningkatan ketara mencatatkan antara jumlah tertinggi dalam Indeks Harga Pengguna (IHP).

Di Malaysia, harga bahan makanan asas seperti gula dan beras adalah antara yang terendah berbanding negara pengeluar lain.

Contohnya, gula dijual pada harga RM2.85 sekilogram dan beras RM2.96 sekilogram, jauh lebih rendah berbanding Thailand, gula RM3.20 sekilogram dan beras RM9.23 sekilogram.

Harga makanan murah ini menyumbang kepada pola pemakanan tidak sihat sekali gus meningkatkan kos perubatan di negara ini.

Hamid Jan berkata, gula bukan sahaja diambil dalam bentuk tersembunyi, contohnya dalam kuih-muih, minuman

manis dan krim.

Beliau berkata, pengambilan gula tersembunyi sukar dikawal kerana ramai tidak menyedari kandungan yang tinggi dalam makanan dan minuman harian mereka.

"Setiap gram gula mengandungi empat kalori dan jika diambil secara berlebihan tanpa aktiviti fizikal yang mencukupi, ia akan ditukar menjadi lemak dan menyumbang kepada obesiti.

"Dalam jangka panjang, tabiat ini boleh menyebabkan peningkatan berat badan, obesiti serta penyakit berkaitan seperti diabetes dan hipertensi," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Mengulas lanjut, Hamid Jan berkata, harga gula dan beras yang rendah memberi kesan berbeza terhadap pola pemakanan.

Kata beliau, beras adalah ma-

kanan asas untuk sumber tenaga, manakala gula lebih bersifat untuk kenikmatan.

"Walaupun harga beras rendah memastikan rakyat mampu mendapatkan makanan ruji, hidangan nasi boleh menjadi sihat atau tidak bergantung pada kuantiti yang dimakan.

"Sebaliknya, harga gula yang rendah boleh mendorong kepada penggunaan secara berlebihan terutama dalam penyediaan makanan dan minuman yang menyumbang kepada peningkatan masalah kesihatan seperti obesiti dan diabetes," katanya.

Tambah beliau, makanan sihat yang mahal juga menjadi cabaran bagi ramai rakyat Malaysia seperti buah-buahan, sayur-sayuran dan susu yang dianggap sukar diakses golongan berpendapatan rendah.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024



ANGGOTA Angkatan Pertahanan Awam (APM) melakukan pemantauan di kawasan yang mula dinaiki air di Tanah Merah, Kelantan. - IHSAN APM

Pantai Timur kembali dilanda banjir

Oleh ROSMIZAN RESDI
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KOTA BHARU: Hujan lebat di Pantai Timur menyebabkan beberapa kawasan di Kelantan dan Terengganu dinaiki air sejak semalam.

Antara kawasan terlibat di Kelantan membabitkan Jajahan Tanah Merah seperti Bendang Nyiur, Kelewek, Batu Gajah, Manal, Gual Ipoh, Manal, Barol Pial, Batu 8, Batu 5, Batang Merbau, Jedok Tua dan Felda Kemahang manakala di Kuala Krai pula membabitkan beberapa kawasan di Bukit Sireh, Lubuk Simpul dan Keroh.

Pengarah Angkatan Pertahanan Awam (APM) negeri, Kolonel (PA) Mohd. Adzhar Mujaib berkata, setakat ini pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Lawang, Tanah Merah mula dibuka untuk mangsa banjir.

"Banjir ini berpunca daripada hujan lebat yang luar biasa di sekitar Tanah Merah dan Kuala Krai sejak pagi semalam. Penduduk diingatkan supaya berpindah PPS serta ke tempat yang lebih selamat sekiranya paras air semakin meningkat yang boleh mengakibatkan bahaya," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Di Terengganu, hujan lebat

berterusan sejak semalam menyebabkan beberapa buah kampung di Hulu Terengganu dilanda banjir yang menyaksikan ada penduduk berpindah ke PPS.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JPKK) Peneh, Che Khalid Jusoh berkata, sehingga kini, seramai 27 penduduk daripada 10 keluarga di kampung berkenaan berada di PPS setelah rumah mereka dinaiki air.

"Paras air menunjukkan penurunan petang ini namun memandangkan hujan masih berterusan, kita siap sedia hadapi sebarang kemungkinan berlakunya pertambahan jumlah mangsa," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Sementara itu, antara kampung-kampung lain lagi yang turut dinaiki air ialah Kampung Betong, Kampung Pengkalan Ajal, Kampung Pelandan, Kampung Basung, Kampung Peroh, Kampung Kuala Menjing serta Felcra Bukit Kapah.

Berdasarkan laporan semasa aras air sungai di Hulu Terengganu oleh JPS Daerah Hulu Terengganu, bacaan di Sungai Peneh, Felda Mengkawang ialah 38.40 meter iaitu 0.9m melebihi aras bahaya, manakala Sungai Tersat, Sekayu di paras 20.72m (0.72m melebihi aras amaran.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
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MD. FAUZI AHMAD

MALAYSIA dijangka menghadapi keadaan ekonomi global yang mencabar pada 2025. Pertumbuhan KDNK negara diunjurkan antara 4.5 hingga 5.5 peratus. Ekonomi Malaysia berkembang 4.9 peratus bagi 2024 dan diunjurkan 4.7 peratus pada 2025.

Ketidakstabilan geopolitik di Eropah dan Timur Tengah serta ketegangan perdagangan global terus memberi kesan kepada ekonomi negara. Inflasi yang stabil dan dasar monetari yang baik telah membantu negara, tetapi risiko ketidakstabilan ekonomi masih tinggi disebabkan pelbagai faktor. Malaysia juga perlu meningkatkan daya saing dalam sektor bernilai tinggi seperti elektronik untuk mengekalkan kedudukan globalnya. Belanjawan 2025 memperuntukkan RM421 bilion untuk menangani cabaran ini, dengan fokus kepada pembangunan mampan dan kebajikan sosial.

Data terkini Jabatan Perangkaan menunjukkan eksport negara menyumbang sebanyak 61.8 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) pada 2024. Eksport elektronik dan elektrik (E&E) terus menjadi penyumbang utama, merangkumi hampir 40 peratus daripada keseluruhan eksport.

Namun, kebergantungan kepada China dan Amerika Syarikat sebagai rakan dagangan utama masih mencetuskan risiko ketidaktentuan akibat konflik perdagangan.

Perubahan landskap ekonomi dunia Malaysia perlu bersiap sedia dengan lebih dinamik untuk menghadapi cabaran ekonomi global pada 2025. Perubahan landskap ekonomi global yang semakin kompleks, ketidaktentuan politik antarabangsa, dan perkembangan teknologi yang pesat memerlukan pendekatan yang lebih tangkas dan strategik.

Malaysia perlu memperkukuh asas ekonominya, menyesuaikan diri dengan perubahan, dan memperkenalkan langkah inovatif untuk kekal relevan di pentas dunia.

Antara cabaran utama yang dihadapi oleh ekonomi global pada masa kini ialah inflasi yang tinggi, ketidaktentuan kadar faedah, dan gangguan rantaian bekalan.

Malaysia perlu bersedia



PERUBAHAN landskap ekonomi global yang semakin kompleks, ketidaktentuan politik antarabangsa, dan perkembangan teknologi yang pesat memerlukan pendekatan yang lebih tangkas dan strategik.

Tangani cabaran ekonomi global 2025

untuk menangani impak cabaran ini dengan memperkuat daya tahan ekonomi domestik. Langkah seperti mempelbagaikan sumber pendapatan negara, mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada komoditi tertentu, dan memperkukuh sektor eksport boleh menjadi kunci untuk memastikan kestabilan ekonomi. Misalnya, memperluas eksport produk bernilai tinggi seperti peralatan elektronik, teknologi hijau, dan bahan kimia dapat membantu meningkatkan daya saing Malaysia di pasaran antarabangsa.

Di samping itu, ketidaktentuan geopolitik, seperti konflik antara negara besar dan perubahan dalam pakatan perdagangan, turut memberi kesan kepada Malaysia.

Oleh itu, Malaysia perlu meningkatkan hubungan diplomatik dan perdagangan dengan negara lain untuk mengurangkan risiko ini. Penekanan kepada Perjanjian Perdagangan Bebas (FTA) dengan negara-negara baharu dan penglibatan aktif dalam blok perdagangan seperti ASEAN dan CPTPP adalah langkah strategik yang perlu diteruskan.

TEKNOLOGI INDUSTRI 4.0

Pelaburan dalam penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) serta

peningkatan kemahiran tenaga kerja adalah elemen penting untuk memastikan negara bersedia untuk menghadapi era digital.

Penekanan kepada teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI), data raya, dan automasi industri boleh membantu Malaysia meningkatkan produktiviti dan daya saing.

Namun, peningkatan teknologi juga membawa cabaran dalam bentuk gangguan kepada tenaga kerja tradisional. Banyak pekerjaan konvensional mungkin akan digantikan oleh automasi, dan ini boleh membawa kepada peningkatan pengangguran jika tidak ditangani dengan baik. Oleh itu, Malaysia perlu mengutamakan program latihan semula dan peningkatan kemahiran bagi membolehkan tenaga kerja menyesuaikan diri dengan keperluan pasaran kerja baharu.

Pendidikan teknikal dan vokasional (TVET) harus ditingkatkan dan usaha untuk menggalakkan pembelajaran sepanjang hayat perlu menjadi agenda nasional.

PERUBAHAN IKLIM

Pengenalan dasar yang mesra alam seperti pengurangan pelepasan karbon, penggunaan tenaga boleh diperbaharui, dan pemeliharaan biodiversiti adalah langkah penting. Di samping itu, menggalakkan

sektor swasta untuk mengamalkan prinsip Alam Sekitar, Sosial, dan Tadbir Urus (ESG) dalam operasi mereka boleh membantu Malaysia memenuhi tuntutan global untuk pembangunan yang bertanggungjawab.

Malaysia juga perlu menggalakkan budaya inovasi dan menyokong pembangunan ekosistem syarikat pemula yang dinamik. Insentif untuk perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) dalam sektor teknologi tinggi boleh menjadi pemacu pertumbuhan ekonomi yang penting. Sektor ini bukan sahaja menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi tetapi juga mencipta peluang pekerjaan berkualiti tinggi untuk rakyat Malaysia.

KEPERCAYAAN PELABUR

Tadbir urus yang cekap, dasar fiskal yang berhemat, dan pengurusan hutang yang bijak adalah elemen penting dalam memastikan kestabilan ekonomi jangka panjang. Kepercayaan pelabur terhadap ekonomi Malaysia bergantung kepada kestabilan politik dan keupayaan kerajaan untuk melaksanakan dasar yang konsisten dan berkesan.

Oleh itu, usaha untuk meningkatkan ketelusan, mengurangkan ketirisan dan memperkukuh institusi harus diberi keutamaan.

KETIDAKSAMAAAN EKONOMI

Program-program bantuan sosial, peningkatan akses kepada pendidikan berkualiti, dan langkah untuk mengurangkan jurang pendapatan adalah penting bagi memastikan keseimbangan antara pertumbuhan ekonomi dan keadilan sosial.

Sebagai sebuah negara yang bergantung kepada eksport, Malaysia perlu memastikan bahawa ia dapat bertindak balas dengan pantas terhadap perubahan dalam permintaan pasaran global. Pelaburan dalam infrastruktur logistik, seperti pelabuhan dan sistem pengangkutan, adalah penting untuk memastikan bahawa produk Malaysia dapat sampai ke pasaran antarabangsa dengan cekap. Teknologi seperti rantaian blok juga boleh digunakan untuk meningkatkan ketelusan dan kecekapan dalam rantaian bekalan.

Peningkatan taraf hidup rakyat juga harus menjadi fokus utama dalam menghadapi cabaran ekonomi. Akses kepada perumahan mampu milik, perkhidmatan kesihatan berkualiti, dan pendidikan yang inklusif adalah elemen penting dalam memastikan kesejahteraan rakyat. Kerajaan perlu memastikan bahawa setiap dasar yang dilaksanakan memberi impak positif kepada kehidupan rakyat, terutamanya golongan yang terpinggir.

Akhir sekali, Malaysia perlu mengukuhkan kedudukan geopolitiknya di rantau Asia Tenggara. Sebagai sebuah negara yang terletak di tengah-tengah laluan perdagangan global, Malaysia mempunyai kelebihan strategik yang baik. Kerjasama dengan negara-negara jiran melalui ASEAN perlu diperkukuh untuk memastikan kestabilan dan kemakmuran serantau.

Cabaran ekonomi dunia pada 2025 memerlukan Malaysia untuk lebih dinamik dan bersedia dengan pelbagai strategi yang inovatif.

Pendekatan holistik melibatkan kerjasama antara kerajaan, sektor swasta dan masyarakat, adalah kunci kepada kejayaan negara. Dengan komitmen yang kukuh dan langkah-langkah yang berkesan, Malaysia boleh mengatasi cabaran ini dan terus maju sebagai sebuah negara yang berdaya saing dan makmur.

PROFESOR Madya Dr. Md Fauzi Ahmad ialah Pensyarah dan Penyelidik Kanan Pengurusan Teknologi Pengeluaran di Fakulti Pengurusan Teknologi dan Perniagaan, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM).

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 30 DEC 2024

UNCERTAINTIES PREVAIL

NST 30/12

Ringgit likely to soften this week, say analysts

KUALA LUMPUR: The ringgit is set to exhibit softness against the US dollar this week, with movements likely to range between 4.47 and 4.50.

SPI Asset Management managing partner Stephen Innes expects Asian currencies to face a cautious period as market participants navigated mixed signals and geopolitical concerns during the thin trading week.

He said the US dollar would weaken seasonally at this time, but with United States president-elect Donald Trump's tariffs on the horizon, there was an added layer of uncertainty.

"Locally, investors are also maintaining a cautious stance due to concerns over China's economic issues, particularly the record US\$411 billion special bond issuance slated for next year and its potential impact on consumer demand.

"This uncertainty has cast a shadow over the ringgit."

Similarly, UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors investment research head Mohd Sedek Jantan anticipated a lower ringgit movement this week.

He said market expectations of only two US rate cuts next year would support the greenback.

"Entering 2025, Asian currencies



On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit appreciated against the US dollar to 4.4680/4750 from 4.5055/5100 previously. NSTP FILE PIC

are expected to weaken against the US dollar in the first six months, driven by market reactions to Trump's anticipated trade tariffs."

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit appreciated against the US dollar to 4.4680/4750 from 4.5055/5100.

Last week, the ringgit traded

higher against other major currencies.

It gained versus the British pound to 5.5904/5991 versus 5.6328/6384 previously. It rose versus the euro to 4.6543/6616 from 4.6776/6823.

The ringgit traded mixed against Asean currencies. Berna-

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NEW STRAITS TIMES
30 DEC 2024
Tarikh:

Female-only parking sparks debate on long-term impact

► Experts call for better enforcement, infrastructure and cultural change to enhance women's safety

BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: Female-only car parks are designed to enhance women's safety but their long-term effectiveness remains uncertain, according to All Women's Action Society deputy president Khairiah Abdul Malik.

She noted that while such designated spaces may provide immediate reassurance for women, they do little to address broader public safety concerns.

"The introduction of female-only car parks in Malaysia aims to address women's safety concerns in urban areas, particularly following incidents like the tragic 2003 case of Canny Ong, who was abducted from a basement car park and later found murdered."

Khairiah said female-only facilities, such as parking spaces, show mixed results in reducing crime.

She referenced a 2020 nationwide survey by Engender Consultancy, an organisation promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, which found that 58.6% of respondents had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces, with 70.4% of incidents occurring during the daytime.

"These findings demonstrate that while women-only zones offer a temporary buffer against certain crimes, they do not address the underlying systemic issues contributing to gender-based violence."

Khairiah said female-only parking spaces are often strategically located near mall entrances and should be made mandatory in all multi-storey buildings for safety.

Essential features include better lighting, surveillance cameras, panic buttons and security personnel to enhance protection.

"Female-only parking spaces promote security, empowering women to engage in public life more freely. However, misuse by men or couples undermines their purpose. This issue persists due to insufficient legal enforcement as there are no penalties for rule-breakers," she said.

Lee Ming Hui, a 24-year-old banker from Damansara, expressed frustration over the frequent misuse of female-only parking spaces by men.

"I usually shop alone and always park in the female-only section. Many times, I've seen men parking there despite clear signs indicating it's reserved for women. It's infuriating and I always confront them, but they just brush it off, claiming there's no difference in where anyone parks."

"I'm sure there are CCTV cameras or security personnel around but every time this happens it feels like nothing is being done to address it," she said.

Women's Aid Organisation acting executive director Nazreen Nizam stressed that stricter enforcement

and penalties are necessary to prevent the misuse of female-only parking spaces.

"The effectiveness of these spaces depends on rigorous enforcement and public respect. While they contribute positively to women's safety, continuous efforts are crucial to ensure their impact," she said.

Nazreen suggested penalties, such as fines or towing vehicles, to deter misuse.

Additionally, constant surveillance through CCTV, regular security patrols and clear signage would support enforcement efforts and increase the likelihood of detection and punishment.

"These measures not only reinforce the rules but also underscore the importance of these spaces in protecting women's safety in public areas," she said.

Khairiah highlighted that several factors still need to be addressed to improve the safety of female-only parking areas, including better infrastructure and, more importantly, changing societal attitudes towards

women's safety.

"Many malls in Malaysia offer good security for female-only car parks, but poor lighting, inadequate surveillance and unclear signage can undermine their effectiveness, increasing fear. Well-maintained areas with good lighting and visible security are essential for safety," she said.

While female-only car parks provide temporary relief, Khairiah stressed the need for a broader approach encompassing better urban design, stricter rules and cultural education to create inclusive and safe public spaces for everyone.

"Safety in female-only car parks is a shared responsibility among women, facility management and the public. Women should also remain vigilant and use available security systems."

"Through cooperation, awareness, and consistent use of safety resources, female-only parking spaces can achieve their intended purpose of providing a secure and accessible environment for women."



Khairiah said female-only parking spaces are often strategically located near mall entrances and should be made mandatory in all multi-storey buildings for safety. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN