



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 31 DISEMBER 2024 (SELASA)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

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Fixing up Subang Jaya

By MEGAT SYAHAR



The 2023 Puchong landslide triggered by monsoon drain failure displaced residents from nine houses along Jalan Wawasan 3/9.

Flood mitigation and landslide rectification works as well as the impending assessment tax increase were among issues faced by residents in Subang Jaya, Selangor, this year.

The city, with a population of 1.2 million, also had a new mayor at the helm, though it took almost three months before the appointment was announced.

When Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) distributed 326,646 new valuation list notices to property owners starting June 21, it set off a storm of protest.

The new valuation meant an impending increase in assessment tax starting Jan 1, 2025, mirroring statewide adjustments in Selangor.

While many ratepayers demanded improved services to justify the proposed 25% increase, over 10,000 of the 326,646 property owners submitted objections.

An ad hoc group of residents even banded together under the People's Coalition Against Assessment Hike (GPMKC) and handed a two-page memorandum to MBSJ, stating that the increase was "unfair and a shock".

Subang Jaya deputy mayor Zulkurnain Che Ali confirmed that 4,000 residents attended subsequent hearings to voice their discontent over the new rates.

However, on Dec 9, despite objections from ratepayers, the Selangor government approved the 25% increase in assessment rates at all local councils next year.

New mayor

Subang Jaya went 52 days without a mayor before Datuk Amirul Azizan Abd Rahim, former Kuala Langat Municipal Council president, was sworn in on July 22.

The vacancy arose after Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim was transferred in June to serve as Shah Alam mayor.

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Fixing up Subang Jaya

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Amirul Azizan appointed fourth Subang Jaya mayor on July 22.

Slope repair works

Victims of the Taman Wawasan landslide in Puchong finally returned home on Nov 1 after nearly a year of displacement.

This follows completion of slope repair works undertaken by landowner Wawasan Indera Sdn Bhd at a cost of RM12.12mil.

The landslide on Dec 16, 2023, was triggered by monsoon drain failure.

The incident displaced residents from nine houses along Jalan Wawasan 3/9.

Each affected resident received RM3,000 in aid from local representatives.

Flood mitigation

The flood mitigation project near IOI Mall Puchong, originally slated for February completion, was delayed until December due to realignment of a pipe beneath the Damansara-Puchong Highway (LDP).

This upgrade aimed to improve flood management by diverting 70% of excess rainwater to a lake behind the shopping centre and the remaining 30% to an existing monsoon drain.

In 2023, heavy rainfall caused water to overflow from the monsoon drain, flooding IOI Mall's North Court carpark and parts of the building.

Complaints channel

To make it easier for residents to submit complaints and receive prompt responses, MBSJ introduced direct WhatsApp channels for all 21 departments.

Zulkurnain said these WhatsApp channels received over 500 complaints in total each month.

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TARIKH: 31 DISEMBER 2024

Fixing up Subang Jaya

Completion of flood management works, slope repair in Puchong among positive developments in city

By MEGAT SYAHAR
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Sultan Sharafuddin (centre) looking at MBDK's mace after officially declaring Klang as a royal city. Also present are Noraini (left) and Amirudin (right). — Photos: Filepic



Bus Selangor is convenient and reduces single-occupant vehicles on the road.

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By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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A SIGNIFICANT event that took place in Klang this year was undoubtedly its official declaration as a city in February.

Being the royal town of Selangor, its city council has been named Klang Royal City Council (MBDK).

On Feb 5, Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah officially declared and bestowed royal city status on the vibrant port town of Klang.

Klang became the fourth city in Selangor after Shah Alam (year 2000), Petaling Jaya (2006) and Subang Jaya (2020).

Klang was a municipality for 47 years from Jan 1, 1977. It was upgraded to a city on Nov 23 last year.

MBDK president Datin Paduka Noraini Roslan, who was born and raised in Klang, became its first mayor.

She retired on Nov 20 and was succeeded by current mayor Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain.

StarMetro recaps other significant news in Klang city over the course of 2024.

Royal patronage

In mid-August, Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin opened Klang's RM800,000 Cat Park at the Wetland Pavilion in Bandar Bukit Raja.

Built by a private developer, the park has various facilities to provide stray cats in the city with shelter and care.

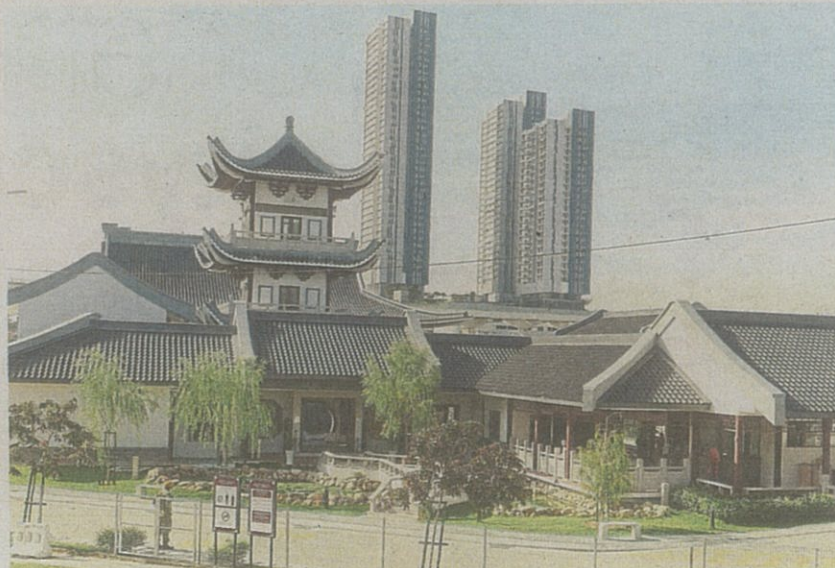
MBDK requires about RM50,000 annually to run and maintain the park.

On Dec 5, Sultan Sharafuddin inaugurated the new Masjid Jamek Cina Muslim Klang.

He told of how on a visit to China's Xi'an City in 2015, he was taken by the beautiful architec-

New royal city rises to the challenge

MBDK has hands full handling cleanliness, floods and preserving glory of Klang's elevated status



Masjid Jamek Cina Muslim Klang, officially opened on Dec 5, was inspired by the mosque architecture in Xi'an, China.

ture of a mosque there.

In his Royal Address at the inauguration event, the Ruler said his dreams of having a mosque with Chinese Muslim architecture had come true.

It all started when a group of Malaysian Chinese Muslims had an audience with the Sultan and conveyed their hope to build a mosque for their community in Selangor. The Ruler pointed them towards Xi'an.

At the inauguration event, the Sultan also reprimanded MBDK over the unsatisfactory standard of cleanliness in Klang, referring

to some areas that remained dirty and poorly organised and rivers filled with rubbish.

He said he received many complaints about rubbish and filth in the city from residents as well as local and foreign tourists, including those on cruises arriving at Port Klang.

He attributed the floods in the city to the rubbish-filled rivers and clogged drains.

The Sultan ordered both MBDK and the Selangor government to take immediate steps to alleviate the flood problem and increase cleanliness level in the city.

Floods in the city

MBDK had its hands full this year dealing with the annual floods in areas such as Meru and Kapar, fallen trees in Taman Bayu Emas and complaints of neglect in cleanliness of drains in several residential areas.

On Nov 28 and 29, more than 300 people were evacuated after their homes were inundated in Meru and Kapar.

Two relief centres — one in SK Sungai Binjai in Meru and another in Kampung Bukit

Kapar community centre — were activated to house the flood victims.

On Dec 1, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Sha announced a RM500 financial assistance to ease flood victims' burden.

Each head of households who had registered at the temporary relief centres and took shelter there were given financial aid.

All affected victims at the relief centres returned home on Dec 1.

MBDK Environmental Service Department allocated over RM500,000 to clean up monsoon drains in three areas in Meru.

Upgrades and enforcement

Sustainable transport through the Smart Selangor free bus service in Klang saw tremendous increase in ridership.

MBDK Town Planning Department's public transport unit saw the free bus service as catalyst to revive some commercial areas and to allow senior citizens to be more mobile and active.

In February, the city council allocated about RM3.3mil for the service's annual operations.

As at end of November, the routes saw a strong growth in ridership. Up to Nov 30, MBDK four free bus routes ferried 331,431 passengers.

In April, strategic tourism plans were drawn up to promote 350 historical landmarks through the Klang Royal City Heritage Trail initiative.

It was to preserve Klang's unique heritage attractions and restore lesser-known historical sites in the city.

MBDK's efforts aligned with the Visit Selangor Year 2025 campaign.

The city council also introduced the Public Sector Conductive Ecosystem (EKSA) at Meru Market Complex to help create a more positive experience for market-goers and traders.

EKSA, an office system, was used for the first time to spruce up a wet market and improve management and



Abd Hamid (right) exchanging documents with AADK deputy director-general (operations) Khairul Anwar Bachok (left) after the MOU signing for the Tekad programme, witnessed by Selangor Palace representative Datuk Mohammed Khusrin Munawi.



MBDK Enforcement Department officers removing illegal advertisements tied to a road sign in Klang.



Children looking at the animals in the Cat Park shelter.

product displays.

The market also had a RM1mil rejuvenation work done.

Separately, MBDK's Enforcement Department had up to Dec 15, removed 10,384 illegal banners and bunting on trees, lamp posts, traffic lights and road signs.

Most of the illegal advertisements were on property and transport rental, household renovations, and moneylending services.

Unlicensed moneylenders' posters also saw 29 phone numbers referred to the Malaysia Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) for further action.

Meanwhile, Selangor folk were up in arms over the increase in assessment tax rates (subject to a 25% cap) starting Jan 1.

Residents were dissatisfied as they said the basic duties of

the city council to clean drains, cut grass, sweep roads and even painting road lines were neglected, which exposed road users to danger.

In the fight against drug abuse, MBDK became the first local authority to provide a written commitment on the implementation of the Drug-Free Workplace (Tekad) programme when it signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK) in December.

Under Tekad, department heads are to make it top priority to address issues of drug and substance abuse in the workplace to create a safe working environment.

From 2016 until now, 10 MBDK employees were found to have been involved in drug abuse. They have undergone rehabilitation.

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Shah Alam Stadium, which used to be the venue for football matches among other sports events and concerts, is now being demolished to make way for a new sports complex.

Shah Alam steers through the year, overcoming small tides

By AIDA AHMAD (MBSA)
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SELANGOR'S capital city of Shah Alam welcomed its 12th mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim in June.

The administration of the city under Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) had been smooth sailing for most of the year.

As 2024 draws to a close, *StarMetro* checks out some events that shaped the city this year.

New stadium

The demolition of Shah Alam Stadium, to make way for the highly anticipated Shah Alam Sports Complex (SASC), is well underway and expected to be completed by June 2025.

With a projected completion date of 2027, the SASC promises to be a state-of-the-art sporting facility.

Development plans for the RM3.28bil SASC were in the final stages. It was reported that the process to demolish the stadium would cost between RM30mil and RM50mil. The entire SASC project on a 69.53ha area will involve Shah Alam Stadium, Malawati Stadium and the surrounding areas.

Fishy act

MBSA faced criticism for releasing the invasive *sutchi* catfish (*ikan patin asing*) into Tasik Bandaraya Shah Alam. While MBSA defended the act, it sparked discussions on social media about responsible environmental practices.

Also known by its scientific



MBSA came under fire for releasing an invasive fish species into Tasik Bandaraya Shah Alam in October.



Mohd Fauzi taking his oath as Shah Alam's 12th mayor.

name *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*, the fish is an invasive species originating from the Mekong river basin.

When MBSA posted the event on its Facebook page, it drew much public criticism.

While the Selangor Fisheries Department expressed regret over the incident, MBSA explained that it released the fish for the Shah Alam Fishing Competition 2024 held on

Oct 27. Moving forward, MBSA stated it would consult with the Fisheries Department to ensure only permitted species would be released.

Cat house

Shah Alam continued to be at the forefront of innovation with the opening of Catopia, the first public cat park built by a local authority in Malaysia. This initiative caters to the growing number of cat owners in the city.

Public safety

A crocodile sighting at Tasik Seksyen 7 caused temporary closure of the area for public safety. The 1.68m-long saltwater crocodile was successfully captured, allowing the park to reopen in September.

On Oct 9, a Russian woman found sitting in the middle of a road with her dog in Setia Alam captured public attention. Her arrest went viral on social media.



Cats relax in the play area at Catopia.



Two traps were set up at Tasik Seksyen 7, Shah Alam, in five water channels to capture the saltwater crocodile.

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Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

MPKj wins big with illegal dumpsite resolution

By VIJENTHI NAIR
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ONE of Kajang Municipal Council's (MPKj) biggest achievements this year was resolving the harmful gas emission and odour problem stemming from an illegal dumpsite in Sungai Long.

MPKj president Nazli Taib said residents in the surrounding areas had been suffering for more than five years as an uncontrolled underground fire at the 2ha dumpsite was emitting smoke and foul smells.

"We had spent about RM500,000 to rehabilitate the site but there had not been much improvement.

"This year, the Economy Ministry allocated RM2mil to address the problem.

"We rehabilitated the area by removing waste and installing pipes to channel the methane gas to other areas before burn-

ing off the gas using flares.

"This action effectively ended the long-standing issue, greatly improving the quality of life for nearby residents."

Nazli said the site's landowners were in the midst of surrendering the land to the state.

"The landowners were unaware that their land had been encroached upon and misused for illegal activities.

"They have volunteered to give up their land to the state," he said.

Another long-standing problem will be settled with the construction of a permanent market for Bandar Sungai Long.

For nearly three decades, the traders had been operating along Persiaran SL1.

A nearby piece of land was redesignated for the market a few years ago, with the Housing and Local Government Ministry allocating RM15mil under



MPKj successfully rehabilitated an illegal dumpsite that had caused misery to residents for years.

Budget 2025 to build a permanent market.

To increase MPKj's non-tax revenue, the municipal council

started collecting parking fees for 3,206 bays at 17 locations in Kajang, Semenyih and Cheras.

Charges have been set at 50sen

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per hour, with monthly passes priced at RM72.20.

MPKj also intensified efforts to legalise unlicensed factories, especially in the Semenyih industrial area.

The initiative is expected to help MPKj ensure safer practices in the factories.

In the council's pursuit of city status, Nazli said MPKj was awaiting new guidelines from Housing and Local Government Ministry.

"We have fulfilled conditions of the existing guidelines and awaiting to see if there are other areas of the new guidelines that we need to comply with in order to be awarded city status," he said.

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Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Big projects and unexpected challenges in Sepang

By VIJENTHI NAIR
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SEPANG Municipal Council (MPSepang) faced a year of significant expenditures in 2024, marked by the start of a RM129mil new headquarters project and a costly programme to mitigate risks posed by ageing trees.

While these initiatives aimed to improve infrastructure and public safety, the local council also faced unforeseen challenges such as a landslide at Cassia Garden Residence in Cyberjaya.

Shiny new headquarters

The new headquarters at Persiaran Semarak Api in Cyberjaya will be funded by the local council's reserves in the coming years.

To preserve cash flow, MPSepang has frozen the purchase of new vehicles and movable assets, as well as paused the hiring of contract positions.

The office tower with a gross floor area of 22,104.9sq m will have a multi-storey parking complex, amphitheatre and multipurpose hall, among other facilities.

The 18-storey building will be able to comfortably accommodate up to 1,500 workers, compared to the current building's capacity of only 700 yet which houses 869 staff.

It is expected to be completed by Jan 18, 2027, following which the present building will be retained for other purposes.

Managing ageing trees

Another big expenditure for MPSepang this year was managing high-risk and ageing trees.

Since February, MPSepang has spent some RM3mil to cut or prune about 1,000 trees of the mahogany species that were mostly over 20 years old, located in Cyberjaya, Puchong and Sepang Putra.

It cost between RM8,000 to RM10,000 to cut down a tree, while pruning works cost RM3,000 to RM5,000 per tree.

It was deemed a necessary expenditure as the weather was unpredictable and it concerned public safety.

Drive-thru recycling

In collaboration with KDEB Waste Management, an



Artist's impression of the planned 18-storey MPSepang headquarters.

Automatic Drive-Through Recycling Centre (Adtrec), which also pays the public for the items they bring, was set up at Cyberjaya Recycling Centre in March.

Until November, a total of 5.69 tonnes of recyclables have been collected.

Claimed to be the first of its kind in Selangor, Adtrec allows

the public to drop off their recyclables in exchange for cash.

The project is in line with efforts to reach the state's 15% recycling goal by 2025.

Landslide scare

In April, a hillslope landslide near the main entrance of Cassia Garden Residence caused a scare

for about 1,000 residents.

The luxury housing development comprises 220 residential units.

It was an active landslide detected in April that formed a crater eight to 10m deep, equivalent to the height of a three-storey building.

MPSepang moved in to repair the slope in May.

Padi cultivation

On the tourism front, MPSepang expanded its padi planting activity in Kebun Bandar, Cyberjaya, to make it a more prominent feature of the urban orchard.

The idea was to give the people a *kampung* feel in the city.

Other than some 400 types of trees and padi plants, there are also three cows and a number of chickens roaming freely.

Outgoing MPSepang president

The year ended with changes at the helm of MPSepang as Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain, who had led the municipal council since Sept 4, 2020, being appointed Klang mayor on Dec 2.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

KL residents want more bang for their increased tax bucks

By BAVANI M
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CITY folk are calling for any potential tax increases in Kuala Lumpur to be accompanied by tangible improvements to infrastructure and local government services.

These include the creation of more public parks, better transportation services, upgraded amenities and stricter enforcement by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

1Razak Mansion management corporation chairman Anthony Tan, 34, hopes for significant upgrades to infrastructure and public services in his area.

"There are around 20,000 residents within a 1km radius of 1Razak Mansion and Razak City Residences, who collectively contribute about RM6mil annually in assessment taxes.

"Yet we still lack basic infrastructure such as access roads, pedestrian walkways and a government clinic," he said.

Tan criticised the delayed pedestrian walkway project reportedly due to budget constraints.

Questioning the lack of investment in the area despite its significant tax contributions, he said the government needed to ensure taxpayers saw returns on what they were paying.

Seputeh Residents Representative Council chairman Alvin T. Ariaratnam said, "If DBKL is planning to increase taxes, the least they can do is address congestion issues and provide better transportation services.

"We need a system that works efficiently for everyone."

Brickfields Rukun Tetangga chairman SKK Naidu called on DBKL to step up enforcement if taxes were raised.

"We need stricter action against roadside parking that clogs traffic, and restaurants encroaching on walkways, making it impossible for pedestrians to move freely," he pointed out.

The residents' request comes amid news that Kuala Lumpur may follow Selangor's lead in raising assessment taxes next year.

StarMetro reported that Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said DBKL might increase taxes, but any changes would be implemented in phases, likely starting with industrial tax rates.

"We are reviewing all types of taxes, not just assessment taxes but also quit rent, and have been collaborating with the finance departments of various agencies to study the matter comprehensively," she had said.

Dr Zaliha also revealed that DBKL had been running a deficit in recent years, necessitating efforts to boost revenue.

City Hall last reviewed assessment rates in 2013 – the first adjustment in 21 years.

In June 2014, then Federal Territories minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Mansor



KL residents want DBKL to ramp up enforcement on public walkways, including tactile paths meant for the disabled community. — Filepic

announced that the increase would be capped at 10% for residential properties and 25% for commercial premises.

Meanwhile, Selangor government recently approved a 25% hike in assessment rates across all local councils, effective Jan 1, 2025.

In justifying the increase, the state said it was necessary to update outdated property valua-

tions and improve local government services.

The revaluation exercise was also deemed overdue, as property charges in Selangor had remained unchanged for 20 to 40 years.

Under Local Government Act 1976, local authorities in Malaysia are permitted to review and revise assessment rates every five years.

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By VIJENTHI NAIR
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HOMEOWNERS affected by a flash flood in Taman Seri Alam, Bandar Saujana Utama, are seeking RM10,000 each in damages from the developer.

Paya Jaras assemblyman Datuk Dr Ab Halim Tamuri said the incident on the evening of Dec 29 in Sungai Buloh, Selangor, marked the second time the bund for a water retention pond in the neighbourhood collapsed.

"The first time the bund broke was in 2015 and it caused flash floods," said Ab Halim.

"The developer, which is responsible for maintaining the bund, had repaired it and gave RM1,000 compensation to every affected household.

"This time, the bund broke at the same place and the flash flood was far more severe, affecting about 200 houses, of which 100 suffered significant damages."

Ab Halim said vehicles were also damaged.

"The residents are upset over the quality of repair works and want the developer to compensate them for their losses," he said when contacted.

Ab Halim said the developer had agreed to repair the bund immediately and that it would be of a better quality.

He said the developer's representatives had agreed to complete repair works within a month, during a site visit with

Tmn Sri Alam folk want flood compensation

They say water retention pond bund broke for second time



Repairs being carried out at the collapsed bund in Bandar Saujana Utama. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

officers from the Kuala Selangor Municipal Council (MPKS) and the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department.

"Work has already begun. An excavator was brought in to start clearing the site for repair works," said Ab Halim.

He also suggested the state government look into ways to close the water retention pond and relocate it in the future.

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VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



"The pond's location is not suitable as it is very close to residential properties and on higher ground," said Ab Halim.

MPKS councillor Maisarah Ismail said although the flash flood was bad, no residents were relocated during the incident.

"The water rose to knee high for about an hour and receded quickly," she said.

"The residents also said the flooding happened very fast and there was nothing much that they could do.

"They are very angry over the matter because the bund broke in the same area," she added.

Maisarah said she distributed food packs to affected residents for lunch yesterday, as many were busy cleaning up their homes.

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Sfr 31/12

SELANGOR aims to generate RM11.7bil worth of transactions during its Visit Selangor Year 2025 campaign, says state local government and tourism committee chairman Datuk Ng Suee Lim.

He is confident this target can be met due to meticulous planning of activities, programmes and enhanced tourism infrastructure, which is expected to

attract eight million visitors.

"For tourism-related infrastructure projects, we have ensured their implementation since last year.

"I see that local authorities and industry players are prepared to accommodate the anticipated influx of tourists to the state," Ng

said in a Bernama report.

"With the cooperation of all quarters, including state assemblymen, MPs, local authorities and tourism agencies, I am confident we can promote the campaign effectively and achieve or even exceed our target."

The Sekinchan assemblyman was speaking after attending ISP Group's corporate social responsibility initiative.

On the programme, Ng noted that it marked the second phase of ISP Group's initiative which would continue until 2026.

The December edition saw the

distribution of food packages to 30 underprivileged families in Sekinchan.

The programme aims to support a total of 120 families through monthly grocery vouchers worth RM300 over four phases, with a total contribution of RM216,000.

Selangor targets RM11.7bil tourism revenue in 2025

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Selangor Customs seizes illegal items worth over RM10mil

9/12 21/12
KLANG: The Customs Department has seized rice, electronic waste (e-waste), cigarettes and snuff tobacco valued at over RM10mil in several raids at West Port here and other locations across Selangor recently.

Customs Department Central Zone assistant director-general Norlela Ismail said 18,500kg of rice, valued at RM169,400, was discovered during a raid on a container at West Port in July.

She said the rice, believed to be illegally shipped in from Pakistan, was falsely declared as cashew nuts and parboiled basmati rice.

"Rice is classified as a prohibited item. It requires an import permit issued by Padiberas Nasional Bhd (Bernas) under Item 25, Part I, Third Schedule of the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Order 2023," she said at a press conference yesterday, Bernama reported.

In a separate case, Norlela said the department foiled an attempt to smuggle 300,000kg of e-waste worth RM1.65mil following an inspection of 13 containers at West Port in September.

She said an investigation uncovered the smuggling of e-waste into Malaysia from a European country, falsely declared as aluminium alloy to mislead authorities and lacking proper authorisation.

Norlela also said that Customs seized 728,972 sticks of white and Kretek cigarettes, valued at RM608,803, during raids on Oct 22 and 24, and Nov 8.

The contraband was found in three unoccupied residential properties in Hulu Langat, Kajang and Bandar Sri Damansara.

"It is believed that the cigarettes belong to multiple syndicates using the houses as storage facilities for distribution in the local

market," she said.

Meanwhile, Norlela said that on Nov 5, Selangor Customs, in collaboration with the special investigation branch from the headquarters, seized 100 plastic bags suspected of containing snuff tobacco.

Seized during an inspection of a container at West Port, the tobacco weighed 3,000kg and was estimated to be worth RM8.44mil.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

'Reward illegal dumping tip-offs'

Expand whistleblower law to include incentives, say experts

By ARFA YUNUS
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PETALING JAYA: The scope of the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 should be widened to include offering incentives for public reporting to combat illegal dumping, environmentalists say.

They also proposed heavier penalties, such as fines of up to RM1mil and publicly naming offenders.

The environmentalists even suggested creating a publicly available "Culprit List" to apply peer pressure, particularly on companies, alongside stricter measures.

These include suspending manufacturing licences and business permits for repeat offenders.

Such steps would be crucial in preventing environmental violations and promoting greater accountability, they said.

Among those supporting the call for the scope of the Act to be widened to include environmental crimes was Sahabat Alam Malaysia president Meena Raman.

"Rewards could be provided for reporting on illegal dumping activities," she said when contacted.

Meena said it is also important to use mass media and communication channels to promote the use of hotlines for reporting such offences.

There is also a need for advanced surveillance tools that include cameras, drones and GPS tracking to monitor environmental crimes, she added.

"These tools could help detect not just household waste dumping but also the disposal of toxic chemicals, plastics and electronic waste in rivers, drains and remote areas."

Meena also proposed reviving

community surveillance efforts akin to the Rukun Tetangga programme, where local communities patrol their neighbourhoods to monitor environmental crimes.

"The revival of such community surveillance must be seriously encouraged, with training by the Environment Department and local authorities to help communities identify offenders and understand appropriate measures," she said.

In addition, Meena recommended training enforcement personnel, including police and People's Volunteer Corps, on environmental crimes.

"They, too, can monitor and patrol, especially at night when such illegal activities often occur," she said.

Echoing her views was Wong Pui Yi, a researcher with the global waste watchdog group Basel Action Network, who stressed the importance of robust whistleblower protection in combating illegal dumping.

"Whistleblower protection is especially important because it is difficult to catch perpetrators in action and acquire sufficient evidence to prosecute. Insider information is therefore very valuable," she said.

Wong underscored the need for safeguards to ensure the safety and confidentiality of individuals who report environmental crimes.

"There must be protection for people who come forward with information, especially workers or contractors," she said.

Citing past incidents, she said whistleblowers' identities had been leaked despite using official complaint channels, discouraging others from reporting wrongdoing.

Prof Dr Mohd Hasni Jaafar, an environmental health and toxicology specialist at Universiti



Garbage situation: Huge piles of renovation debris and shredded industrial rubber waste spilled from large torn bags and plastic drums being dumped into a man-made lake. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

specialist at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, said community involvement can be effective in tracking illegal dumping.

"In the United States, they developed the Smart City Community in San Jose, using a web-based application with near 97% accuracy in detection," he said.

Mohd Hasni called for both monetary and non-monetary incentives to encourage public participation in environmental surveillance.

"By rewarding individuals for monitoring and reporting illegal dumping, we can foster a collective responsibility to keep communities clean and eco-friendly," he said.

Dr Theng Lee Chong, a waste management specialist, called for stronger penalties and greater accountability to deter illegal dumping.

"If a company needs to pay RM1mil for one incident of illegal

dumping, they may not want to take the risk.

"Furthermore, if a company name is disclosed for illegal dumping, it could heavily affect their business," he said.

Theng said companies should also be held responsible for hiring contractors who engage in illegal dumping.

"Suspension of manufacturing licences or business permits could be another approach, as it affects the business as a whole, not just financially," he said.

However, Theng said such measures require clear regulatory frameworks and collaboration among various authorities, including local councils, waste management agencies and the government.

He criticised the current approach of framing the closure of illegal dumpsites as an achievement, calling for a shift in focus.

Theng urged the media to prior-

itise reporting on offenders rather than spotlighting enforcement officials.

"The authorities should emphasise the punishments handed down to culprits and disclose company names when involving rather than treating the closure of illegal dumpsites as an achievement and publicising it as a headline," he added.

Randolph Jeremiah, vice-president of the Environment Protection Society of Malaysia, said public incentives can assist authorities in monitoring illegal dumping, but there is a need for stronger enforcement and prosecution.

"All complaints must be investigated promptly and thoroughly with action taken against perpetrators," he said.

Jeremiah said it is important to publicise enforcement actions to send a clear message that illegal dumping will not be tolerated.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Time to manage your own plastic waste, the West told

By TEH ATHIRA YUSOF
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PETALING JAYA: End the reign of "waste colonialism" as Malaysia is now the second largest-dumping ground for Europe's plastic waste, say environmentalists.

They said this is a modern form of exploitation, where wealthier nations offload their environmental burdens onto developing countries, perpetuating an unjust global waste trade.

Eurostat, the European Union's (EU) data office, recently reported a 35% increase in plastic waste sent from the bloc to Malaysia in 2023 compared with 2022.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia honorary secretary Mageswari Sagaralingam said a rich and developed country should have the capacity to manage its own waste.

"Instead of reducing production and investing in infrastructure for recycling, these countries choose to transfer their

responsibility to developing and under-resourced countries.

"Much of the plastic produced is single-use and of little or no recycling value, but the waste is still destined for recycling operations.

"What we keep stressing is, why does Malaysia have to bear the brunt of recycling imported waste?" she said in a recent interview.

Mageswari said due to the huge scale of waste transfer into the country, the government is unable to monitor or inspect all shipments of waste.

Global waste watchdog group Basel Action Network researcher Wong Pui Yi said Malaysia is at risk of seeing more plastic waste as neighbouring countries are phasing out their plastic waste imports.

She proposed that Malaysia follow its neighbours' moves – for example, Thailand is phasing out its plastic waste initiative starting 2025.

"Vietnam is introducing a new

rule that only factories that process plastic waste into new plastic products can import plastic waste," she said.

Wong also pointed out some serious challenges for Malaysia in managing its domestic waste properly.

"Most of our landfills are open dumps, not sanitary landfills.

"What is happening to all the residual waste from these imports that cannot be recycled?

"We must take this opportunity during the EU plastic waste export ban to enhance our waste collection by incentivising the creation of material recovery facilities, and enforce segregation-at-source for all waste streams – from households to industries, commercial entities, and institutions," she added.

One of the ways to resolve the issue, according to A Greener Malaysia founder Dave Avran, is for Malaysia to focus on taking proactive measures by becoming a leader in plastic waste management.

"While it is clear that the EU is exporting large quantities of waste, Malaysia has the potential to become a leader in sustainable waste management.

"Instead of viewing waste imports as a burden, Malaysia could invest in high-tech recycling facilities that process waste into valuable resources," he said when contacted.

Avran said countries like Sweden and Finland have developed successful models of managing waste imports by enforcing stringent regulations and using advanced technologies.

The Eurostat report also revealed that the EU exported 8.5 million tonnes of paper, plastic and glass to other countries in 2023, up 34% from the year before, of which over a fifth was destined for dumps in Malaysia.

For exports of recyclable plastic, the data site said Türkiye was the largest destination at 22%, followed by Malaysia at 21% and Indonesia with 19%.

The volume exported into

Malaysia amounted to 283,000 tonnes in 2023, an increase of 99,000 tonnes from the previous year.

According to reports, EU lawmakers in November last year pledged to ban exports of plastic waste to countries outside the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which consists of high-income economies and developed countries, starting from mid-2026.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad had declared in June this year that the government did not want the country to become the "world's rubbish bin".

In April, the government established the Malaysian Plastic Sustainability Roadmap (2021-2030) and the Malaysian Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics (2018-2030).

Currently, negotiations on the Global Plastic Treaty are still ongoing.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Mapping better plans through data

Real-time detection could slash road accidents, economic impact during floods

PETALING JAYA: A coordinated approach on mapping flooded roads will help authorities make contingency plans and keep users informed on avoiding deluged routes, according to the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) and a road traffic expert.

They said such a coordinated approach using real-time data would help guide motorists to other routes and prevent drivers from taking last-minute risks to brave the floodwaters.

When contacted, Nadma said it currently gathers information on road closures from the Public Works Department (JKR) and public complaints.

"The public can check traffic situations through portal benca.nadma.gov.my.

"It lists out road closures as reported by JKR.

"It also reports flooded areas so that motorists can plan their journeys and find alternate routes," it added.

Checks on the portal showed basic information on road closures with minimal explanation as to why they were closed or impassable.

Assoc Prof Dr Law Teik Hua, head of the Road Safety Research Centre, Engineering Faculty at Universiti Putra Malaysia, called for an improved detection system to predict flooded roads using



Washed over:

Vehicles wading through flash floods along Jalan Semangat in Section 13, Petaling Jaya.
— File pic

real-time data.

"Road flooding predictions save lives, infrastructure and money.

"Flooded roads make driving dangerous and increase the risk of accidents and drowning.

"Early warnings can help authorities plan traffic detours, reducing risks and enabling easier evacuation work.

"They also minimise economic impact by preventing disruptions caused by road closures and traffic delays, which affect businesses and supply chains."

Law added that flood projections can improve crisis management by using emergency resources more effectively and allowing faster evacuations.

Environmental damage brought about by floods can be reduced as

well, he said.

"Predicting floods ultimately heightens public awareness, thereby encouraging preparedness and readying communities for an effective response," he added.

Law, who created the Automatic Road Incident Detection System (Arids), said he has tweaked it to "forecast deluges through real-time analysis of vehicular movement on thoroughfares and highways".

"This system was primarily intended for pinpointing road crashes but it has now been revamped to pinpoint flood-hit zones," he added.

He said floodwaters on a road renders travel conditions impassable for vehicles, bringing traffic

to a standstill.

"Arids detects a notable absence of traffic signals, then it flags areas as prone to flooding under certain conditions and continuously tracks the traffic flow of flood-prone states.

"It provides real-time updates that enable authorities to respond earlier and manage the rerouting of traffic.

"The flood detection systems monitor traffic patterns and trigger alerts when roads are impassable due to rising water levels.

"Weather forecasts and river levels also help predict floods and help in making preparations for traffic rerouting," he added.

Law also said the real-time data is used by traffic management centres such as highway authorities to quickly close roads and manage rerouting.

"They control traffic signals and variable message signs to guide drivers to safer routes.

"Road closures can then be marked with signs, barriers and traffic cones, while drivers are directed to alternative routes through GPS, traffic apps and public transit adjustments," he said.

On Dec 13, Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said the total cost for repairing roads damaged by the first wave of floods triggered by

the northeast monsoon has been estimated at RM312.1mil.

He said the estimated figure includes RM247mil for federal road maintenance, RM40.3mil for federal road slope repairs and RM24.8mil for state roads.

Meanwhile, Law also said artificial intelligence (AI)-powered systems can improve the efficiency of traffic law enforcement by identifying violations such as speeding, running red lights and illegal parking. Fines can then be automatically issued.

"This automated process minimises human error and bias, ensuring fairer and more consistent enforcement.

"Furthermore, real-time data processing capabilities enables the Road Transport Department (JPJ) to swiftly identify and address high-risk areas, such as accident-prone roads and congested zones," he added.

However, he acknowledged that with AI technology and increased surveillance, concerns about data privacy may arise.

"It is crucial that JPJ ensures strict data protection measures are in place to protect personal information captured through AI systems.

"Transparency about how data will be used and stored is essential to maintain public trust," said Law.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Ipoh folk expect more visitors next year

By IVAN LOH
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IPOH: Local folk here are excited to learn that Ipoh has been named as one of the must-visit cities in Asia for 2025 by London-based lifestyle magazine *Time Out* recently.

Those who spoke to *The Star* said they are happy that the city is getting more international acclaim and being recognised as a global tourist destination.

Kong Fu Kopitiam owner Ricky Soong said he expects more foreign tourists to visit the city next year.

"Ipoh is truly a special city. I believe those who are visiting it will be amazed with what they find here, especially our diverse fare of local delicacies from various cultures," Soong said.

"Our multi-racial society has co-existed for more than a century and the fusion of our cultures has also created some good food, like our curry.

"Our popular Ipoh White Coffee has been listed as one of the top 10 coffees in the world earlier this year.

"Being named as one of the must-visit cities next year really shows that our tourism industry has improved by leaps and bounds," he added.

In its Dec 19 publication, Ipoh was named by the magazine as one of top eight must-visit cities in Asia for 2025.

Sumba, Indonesia, topped the list, followed by Siargao in the Philippines, Da Nang in Vietnam and Tainan, Taiwan.

The other destinations were Osaka, Japan; Nan in Thailand and Lijiang, China.

The magazine noted Ipoh as a welcoming place, with heritage

buildings, limestone cliffs, cave temples and a "city for eating".

This is not the first time Ipoh has been recognised internationally as a tourist destination.

In 2022, CNN Travel named Ipoh on its list of "18 of Asia's most underrated places".

In 2016, Lonely Planet, the world's largest travel guide, named Ipoh the sixth best place to visit in 2017.

Soong said Ipoh also has lots of heritage buildings that are well-kept, which is part of the city's charm.

"The building my eatery is located, the Kwan Tak-hing Memorial Hall, is almost 100 years old.

"With all the recognitions Ipoh has been receiving, it is time for the city's promotion to be shifted into fifth gear.

"We hope our tourism industry can continue to improve the econ-

omy of the country, not just the state," Soong said.

Retired photographer Chen Chee Kong, 75, said it is a good sign of progress for the city to be recognised, especially with acclaim from abroad.

"We are seeing many young people setting up their businesses here, creating a new market to attract more visitors.

"Even at the night markets, more young people have set up stalls, selling food and beverages among others, elevating and modernising the markets.

"It is so good to see many enterprising youth carving their own paths in the city and they should be supported with more platforms," Chen added.

Chen said he hopes that the state government will continue to work with the private sector to promote the tourism industry in Perak, not just Ipoh.

"There are still a lot of things that can be done to improve the city. Some people just need to do away with their negativity, thinking that some things cannot be done here.

"I believe we need to be bolder, create more attractions to bring in more tourists," he added.

Meanwhile, a drink seller, who only wanted to be known as Wong, said he hopes the Ipoh City Council will continue to upkeep and improve the city to give a good image to tourists.

"I think the condition of some of our roads, some filled with potholes or uneven, must be resolved quickly.

"There should also be more parking bays, especially in the Old Town area. There were talks earlier about a multi-storey parking complex to be built there but it seems to have gone quiet," he said.



Food haven: Jalan Dato Tahwil Azhar in Ipoh is a popular spot for tourists looking for local delicacies. — RONNIE CHIN/The Star

THE STAR

31 DEC 2024

Tarikh:.....

Fokus kesihatan mental pekerja

5/12

SHAH ALAM - Fokus utama kerajaan pada tahun depan perlu menguatkusakan polisi berkaitan kesihatan mental pekerja.

Presiden Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC), Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani berkata, ia berikutan kakitangan akan menghadapi tekanan dari pelbagai sudut termasuk perubahan teknologi dan beban kerja yang semakin meningkat.



MOHD EFFENDY

Menurutnya, penguatkuasaan berkenaan perlu dilaksanakan mengikut Akta Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan (OSHA).

"Ini termasuklah keperluan majikan menyediakan persekitaran kerja yang menyokong kesejahteraan mental pekerja seperti menawarkan akses kepada perkhidmatan kaunseling.

"Majikan juga seharusnya melaksanakan program kesedaran yang melibatkan punca seperti tekanan, perubahan teknologi dan ketidakseimbangan kerja-kehidupan," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Mohd Effendy menegaskan agar kerajaan perlu memberi perhatian kepada pelaksanaan gaji yang adil dan progresif agar pendapatan pekerja sejajar dengan kos sara hidup semakin bertambah.

"Pekerja di Malaysia, anda adalah tulang belakang pembangunan negara.

"Pastikan anda memahami hak-hak asas seperti gaji minimum, waktu kerja adil, perlindungan keselamatan sosial dan hak untuk bergabung dengan kesatuan sekerja," katanya.

Mohd Effendy turut mengingatkan semua pekerja untuk terus meningkatkan kemahiran dan pengetahuan khususnya dalam bidang teknologi serta digitalisasi.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:3.1..DEC..2024.....

Tumpu kukuhkan nilai ringgit

Antara empat perkara yang perlu diberi perhatian oleh kerajaan pada 2025

Oleh RAIHAM MOHD SANUSI
SHAH ALAM

Kerajaan disaran memberi tumpuan terhadap empat perkara utama sepanjang 2025 termasuk berusaha memperkukuhkan nilai ringgit dan melaksanakan pelaburan yang telah diluluskan untuk terus memperteguhkan lagi ekonomi.

Penganalisis ekonomi dari UniKL Business School, Profesor Madya Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid berkata, ringgit perlu terus kukuh, berdaya saing dan stabil bagi mengangkat ekonomi negara yang mempunyai momentum baik pada 2024 ke tahap lebih tinggi.

"Dengan ringgit yang lebih kukuh bermakna negara ada keupayaan menyerap kenaikan import makanan lebih tinggi yang nilainya pada masa ini melebihi RM70 billion setahun.

"Ia juga akan membantu menyerap kesan kenaikan kadar inflasi terutamanya pada pertengahan 2025 apabila kerajaan mulai memperkenalkan harga subsidi bersasar untuk petrol RON95. Langkah sebegini akan memberi kesan yang lebih luas kepada kuasa beli rakyat secara amnya," katanya kepada Sinar Harian.



AIMI ZULHAZMI

Aimi Zulhazmi menjelaskan, pelaburan diluluskan untuk tahun 2024 berjumlah RM254.7 billion perlu dilaksanakan dalam tahun 2025 dan tidak boleh ditangguhkan.

Menurutnya, pelaksanaan itu penting supaya dapat menjadi perangsang kepada ekonomi negara dalam usaha kerajaan menjadikan Malaysia negara berpendapatan tinggi seperti disasarkan oleh pelan Malaysia Madani.

"Ini termasuklah membangunkan aspek perniagaan mikro, kecil dan sederhana (PMKS) yang merupakan penyumbang sebanyak 40 peratus Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) negara dan menjadi majikan kepada 60 peratus daripada tenaga buruh Malaysia.

"Prestasi PMKS Malaysia perlu dipertingkatkan seperti usaha mengadaptasi aspek digital sebanyak mungkin dalam



Ringgit perlu terus kukuh bagi mengangkat ekonomi negara yang mempunyai momentum baik pada 2024 ke tahap lebih tinggi.

perniagaan seterusnya dengan menggunakan teknologi kecerdasan pintar (AI) dan Revolusi Industri 4.0 (IR4.0)," ujar beliau.

Aimi Zulhazmi berpandangan, kerajaan juga perlu terus melabur dalam melahirkan pekerja mahir serta separuh mahir dalam bidang Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET).

"Cadangan terbabit bukan sahaja untuk menarik pelaburan asing ataupun menyediakan sumber tenaga manusia yang boleh menyokong pelbagai bentuk pelaburan tetapi juga untuk melonjakkan pendapatan pekerja Malaysia agar lebih tinggi ke arah menjadikan Malaysia negara ber-

pendapatan tinggi.

"Ia juga bakal melahirkan lebih ramai saintis dan jurutera yang akan menjadi pemangkin kepada budaya daya cipta terutama dalam bidang penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) ujaninya.

Menurutnya, dasar fiskal kerajaan yang menggalakkan perkembangan ekonomi turut perlu terus dikekalkan.

"Dasar monetari Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) yang mengekalkan kadar faedah atau kadar dasar semalaman (OPR) juga memberikan kestabilan kepada pasaran kewangan negara serta memastikan kecairan tunai mencukupi," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN
31 DEC 2024

Tarikh:

Konsep bandar span boleh dipertimbang tangani banjir

Alam sekitar digunakan serap, bersihkan dan guna semula air

SHAH ALAM

9/12/24

LAPORAN KHAS

Konsep bandar span iaitu mewujudkan kawasan semula jadi yang banyak seperti pokok, tasik dan pelbagai reka bentuk baik bagi tujuan untuk menyerap hujan dan banjir mungkin antara syor boleh dipertimbangkan dalam menangani kekerapan bencana alam itu daripada melanda negara.

Pensyarah Kanan Fakulti Teknologi Kejuruteraan Kimia dan Proses Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA), Dr Azizul Helmi Sofian berkata, melalui kaedah itu, alam sekitar digunakan untuk menyerap, membersihkan dan menggunakan air tersebut semula, sekali gus dapat mewujudkan pembangunan lebih lestari.

"Terus mesra alam memberi peluang bumi (tanah) untuk ber-

temu dengan air secara semula jadi. Pada musim panas, teres ini berfungsi sebagai taman untuk kegunaan penduduk setempat dan apabila musim hujan, teres ini bertindak sebagai penebat banjir atau tanggam pembendung banjir.

"Usaha ini telah dibangunkan oleh Kementerian Alam Sekitar dan Air (KASA) yang kini dikenali Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam (NRES) melalui Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) menerusi projek pembinaan Denai Sungai Nasional di seluruh negara.

"Usaha ini adalah sebagai langkah mengatasi masalah pencemaran sisa di sungai melalui kaedah pengawalan pencemaran di punca. Apabila landskap aliran sungai menjadi cantik dan bersih, orang ramai akan lebih menghargai dan dapat menjamin kebersihan sungai itu sendiri, sekali gus bertindak sebagai tebatan banjir semula jadi.

"Projek ini sewajarnya dijadi-

kan projek komuniti berkelompok bagi memastikan ia dapat dilaksanakan dengan kadar segera dan berkesan malah dengan kos yang rendah," kata beliau.

Menurutnya, bandar span juga termasuk dinding dan atap hijau, laluan atau jubin serap air dan bangunan mesra alam.

Katanya, Jepun, Korea Selatan dan Taiwan juga boleh dijadikan model pembangunan landskap sungai yang berjaya dan terbukti mampu menjadi span semula jadi yang dapat menyerap aliran air berlebihan pada musim monsun dan taufan.

Ditanya mengenai kemungkinan wujud kekangan untuk melaksanakan konsep yang dicadangkan, Azizul Helmi berkata, tidak dinafikan ia melibatkan kos tinggi.

Mengulas mengenai cadangan lain untuk menangani ban-

jir daripada terus memberi kesan buruk terutama melibatkan kerugian harta benda dan kerosakan infrastruktur, beliau berkata, pembinaan terowong banjir, lebuhraya air bawah tanah dan projek tebatan banjir lebih lestari juga boleh dipertimbangkan.

Bekalkan makanan lebih awal di kawasan risiko putus hubungan

BANJIR gelombang pertama melanda Kelantan tahun ini membuka mata banyak pihak terutamanya yang terlibat dengan pengurusan banjir untuk lebih bersedia dengan situasi luar jangka.

Antara perkara yang perlu diambil kira ialah kemungkinan berlaku banjir besar di kawasan tertentu hingga menyebabkan jalan tidak boleh diakses dengan laluan darat, sekali gus mengakibatkan bekalan makanan terpaksa mengambil masa untuk sampai kepada mangsa terjejas.

Melihat sendiri kesukaran pihak terlibat yang terpaksa menggunakan alternatif menggunakan bot dan pengangkutan udara bagi tujuan itu, Timbalan Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri Kelantan, Datuk Ab Pattah Hasbullah berpandangan perlunya bekalan makanan ditempatkan lebih awal di kawasan berisiko terputus hubungan.

"Kalau boleh di kawasan yang berisiko tinggi terputus hubungan kita buat persiapan awal dengan wujudkan depot atau pangkalan hadapan di lokasi tersebut," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai statistik kerugian yang dialami Kelantan akibat banjir dalam tempoh empat tahun terakhir, Ab Fattah menjelaskan jumlahnya tidak banyak berbeza.

Katanya, pada 2023, sebanyak RM600 juta keseluruhan kerugian direkodkan manakala bagi 2022 pula sebanyak RM550 juta, RM400 juta (2021) dan RM700 juta (2020).



AB PATTAH



AZIZUL HELMI

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Sinar
7/12

Nadma tumpu persiapan sebelum berlaku bencana



KHAIRUL SHAHRIL

AGENSI Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) akan memfokuskan terhadap persiapan sebelum berlaku sesuatu bencana termasuk banjir seperti diamalkan di Jepun bagi mengurangkan risiko terutamanya melibatkan kerugian.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Khairul Shahril Idrus berkata, pengurusan bencana negara ketika ini lebih tertumpu kepada semasa kejadian.

"Kita juga telah merangka dasar

pengurangan risiko bencana negara yang mana ia juga akan memberi penekanan terhadap isu-isu berkaitan dengan pengurangan risiko iaitu perkara-perkara yang perlu diambil kira semasa fasa sebelum berlakunya bencana.

"Apa yang kita lihat sekarang ialah perubahan dari segi keutamaan, dulu kita memberi tumpuan kepada usaha untuk menyelamatkan, membantu mangsa-mangsa semasa berlaku bencana.

"Tetapi kita telah pelajari daripada pengalaman lepas dan daripada negara lain bahawa perkara yang melibatkan pengurangan risiko juga merupakan sesuatu yang penting dalam pengurusan bencana negara," katanya.

Beliau berkata, Arahan Nadma No. 1 juga menjadi panduan utama dalam pengurusan bencana bagi mengurangkan risiko dan impak bencana.

Tambahnya, teknologi diguna-

kan agensi terlibat dalam mengurus bencana bagi mengurangkan kesan khususnya yang banjir melanda setiap kali tiba Monsun Timur Laut (MTL) banyak membantu.

Mengulas mengenai mengenai cabaran lain dihadapi dalam mengendalikan pengurusan bencana negara, Khairul Shahril berkata, ia melibatkan penulisan berita palsu.

"Memerangi berita palsu merupakan salah satu perkara yang kita beri perhatian," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:3..1..DEC..2024.....

Selamat Tahun Baharu 2025

Sinar 11/12



PSIKO LAGI!

MOHD AWANG IDRIS

Setiap kali tibanya tahun baharu, kita akan selalu memasang impian baharu tetapi seperti biasa, yang benar-benar baharu hanyalah usia kita yang meningkat. Selebihnya hidup sepertinya berlalu seperti biasa.

Jangka hayat rakyat Malaysia puratanya sekitar 76 tahun, bawah sedikit dari Singapura dan Thailand sekitar 84 serta 80 tahun. Pun begitu, ada orang hidup lebih lama, ada pula yang lebih singkat. Takdir Tuhan sudah tertulis begitu.

John Tinniswood, antara lelaki paling tua di dunia yang tinggal di Merseyside, United Kingdom meninggal dunia kira-kira sebulan lalu pada usia 112 tahun. Ditanya apa rahsia umur panjang, beliau menjawab itu hanyalah nasibnya.

Pada Ogos tahun ini juga, seorang wanita tertua dunia di Sepanyol, Maria Branyas meninggal dunia pada usia 117 tahun. Katanya, kegembiraan itulah rahsia umur yang panjang. Kini rekod umur panjang itu dipegang oleh wanita Jepun,

Tomiko Itooka berusia 116 tahun. Beliau suka makan pisang dan memanjat gunung.

Akhirnya rahsia umur panjang tetaplah kepunyaan Tuhan. Tidak siapa tahu dengan jelas apakah resipinya. Ada pergi lebih awal, ada dikurniakan usia yang panjang.

Tapi, paling utama ialah persediaan kita melalui umur panjang. Semua orang tahu apabila semakin berusia, banyak kekurangan perlu dilalui. Selain sakit biasa yang dialami orang tua, antara selalu kita dengar ialah sakit nyanyuk atau dimensia.

Ada sekitar 55 juta orang mengalami penyakit tersebut di seluruh dunia. Di Malaysia sahaja, dianggarkan lebih 200,000 orang mengalami dimensia. Masalah utamanya bukan sekadar individu yang melaluinya susah mengawal diri mereka tetapi yang menjaganya juga mungkin tidak begitu sabar untuk menanganinya.

Akhirnya yang selalu kita dengar ialah ada anak-anak mendera atau mengabaikan orang tua mereka. Hendak disalahkan anak yang menjaga pun tak begitu betul juga. Dunia hari ini semua orang sibuk bekerja. Tidak bekerja, sukar pula untuk menanggung beban hidup yang serba serbi mahal.

Lalu orang tua yang menghadapi masalah hilang ingatan atau nyanyuk,

“

Lalu orang tua yang menghadapi masalah hilang ingatan atau nyanyuk, siapa pula yang boleh menjaganya.”

siapa pula yang boleh menjaganya. Di luar negara, masyarakatnya memang terbiasa menghantar ibu bapa yang tua ke rumah jagaan.

Di negara kita khususnya orang Melayu, menghantar orang tua ke rumah jagaan seperti tak mengenang budi. Tapi kita mungkin terlupa, kita melakukan dosa lain pula tatkala menjaga mereka di rumah.

Jadi, dengan trend usia penduduk yang meningkat, pihak pemerintah perlu juga merancang polisi berkaitan warga emas. Tidak hanya sekadar membantu soal ubat-ubatan untuk mereka tetapi melatih generasi muda menguruskan orang tua. Ia mungkin perlu menjadi satu bidang tumpuan baharu di pusat pengajian tinggi atau kolej komuniti.

Begitu jugalah dengan pembinaan lebih banyak pusat jagaan warga emas. Jika di setiap daerah kita biasanya ada

tadika atau sekolah, mungkin difikirkan juga rumah jagaan orang tua. Bagi orang berduit, sekurang-kurangnya mereka ada pilihan menghantar orang tua ke pusat jagaan swasta.

Bagi tidak mampu, menjaga orang tua menjadi cabaran baharu. Dengan adanya pusat jagaan, sekurang-kurangnya orang tua masih ada tempat bagi membolehkan mereka berlingkungan dan bersosial.

Akhirnya itulah realiti hidup. Kita semua berdoa agar umur panjang tetapi umur panjang pun adakala ujian juga. Kita semua tidak pernah mengetahui nasib kita sehinggalah tiba waktunya. Apa pun, mengisi usia kita dengan kebaikan itulah wajar kita lakukan.

Beberapa hari lalu, Timbalan Pengarang Berita *Sinar Harian*, Rosli Hassan pulang menemui Ilahi. Beliau ialah seorang manusia budiman yang banyak jasanya. Selalunya di setiap minggu, beliau jugalah orang yang saya hubungi bagi mengirimi artikel.

Salam takziah untuk keluarganya. Moga Tuhan memberikan rahmat kepada arwah di dunia sana.

* Mohd Awang Idris ialah seorang Profesor dalam bidang Psikologi di Fakulti Sastera dan Sains Sosial Universiti Malaysia. Penulis juga ialah Profesor Adjung di Universiti of South Australia dan Profesor Madya Adjung di Griffith University.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Tubuh segera rangkaian berpusat gempur jenayah kewangan

BH
21/12

● Saban waktu, ada sahaja laporan mendedahkan masih ramai pelanggan bank terus kehilangan wang mencecah jutaan ringgit hanya dalam tempoh beberapa jam

● SPRM dan Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) sudah berulang kali menyuarakan masalah demi masalah berlaku dalam sistem kewangan negara menjadi penyebab jenayah kewangan berterusan



Wartawan BH

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Data baharu kerugian akibat jenayah kewangan setakat 8 Disember lalu seperti dilaporkan baru-baru ini sudah mencecah RM1.34 bilion, meningkat sembilan peratus berbanding RM804 juta pada 2023.

Jumlah itu dilihat terlalu besar dan terus meningkat tahun demi tahun dengan jangkaan mungkin lebih banyak disebabkan ada mangsa tidak berhubung dengan Pusat Respons Scam Kebangsaan (NSRC).

Realitinya bukan sahaja Malaysia, tetapi dunia kini 'diserang' jenayah kewangan seolah-olah pandemik tidak mempunyai ubat dan sukar ditangani mana-mana negara.

Negara maju seperti United Kingdom (UK) sendiri mengalami kerugian mencecah £460 juta pound (RM2.15 bilion) akibat penipuan kewangan pada tahun lalu.

Forum Ekonomi Dunia (WEF) turut menganggarkan ancaman global ini menyebabkan kos kerugian mencecah sehingga AS\$1.6 trilion setiap tahun. Kesan kerugian ini dikatakan menyaingi Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) negara ekonomi utama seperti Australia.

Meskipun ia menjadi ancaman kewangan paling berbahaya setakat ini, WEF tetap berpandangan ia kurang diberi perhatian dan kurang dilaporkan dalam ekonomi global hari ini.

Ini mungkin berpunca daripada cara jenayah itu sendiri seperti bayang-bayang, namun ia mampu mengeksploitasi sistem direka untuk memudahkan perdagangan global.

Hari ini, bank tempatan negara juga sedang meningkatkan sistem antijenayah kewangan atau 'firewall' untuk memastikan tembok pertahanan mereka tidak dicero bohi penjenayah kewangan. Namun, ia tidak semudah disangka kerana biarpun didakwa canggih, ia sering kali dibolosi.

Saban waktu, ada saja laporan mendedahkan masih ramai pelanggan bank terus mengalami kehilangan demi kehilangan wang mencecah jutaan ringgit hanya dalam tempoh beberapa jam.

Dengan kerancakan sistem perbankan dalam talian hari ini, ia menjadikan penjenayah atau scammer semakin kreatif mencari kelemahan sistem keselamatan perbankan untuk melepasi penilaian wajar terhadap pelanggan (CDD) dan saringan sekatan (SS).

CDD dan SS menjadi aspek paling utama dalam sistem perbankan hari ini kerana ia menjadi penilaian risiko berkaitan aktiviti perubahan wang haram dan pembiayaan keganasan (AML/CFT). Sekiranya tindakan penilaian risiko ini tidak di-

lakukan, maka tiada penyiagaan oleh agensi penguat kuasa undang-undang kepada orang berkepentingan atau sesiapa sahaja berkaitan dengan jenayah berkenaan.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) sendiri menyatakan institusi pelapor, termasuk institusi perbankan perlu mematuhi dan melaksanakan proses CDD, memantau transaksi serta memfailkan laporan transaksi mencurigakan (STR) dan laporan nilai ambang tunai (CTR).

Langkah ini mewujudkan tahap ketelusan tinggi dan membolehkan pihak bank mengenal pasti sebarang aktiviti haram atau usaha untuk mengaburi pemilihan aset atas nama proksi, termasuk dalam aspek pembiayaan politik atau berselindung di sebalik transaksi sah seperti pemberian derma kepada badan amal dan pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO).

Biarpun apa sahaja dilakukan pihak perbankan hari ini, penjenayah kewangan semakin licik dengan pelbagai kaedah canggih, termasuk teknologi kewangan (Fintech) dan bantuan kecerdasan buatan generatif (Generatif AI) dilihat sudah memainkan peranan.

Hasilkan pelbagai maklumat palsu

Menerusi generatif AI, penjenayah boleh menghasilkan pelbagai jenis maklumat palsu seperti teks, imej janaan, audio dan data sintetik untuk melakukan penipuan.

Dalam pada itu, inovasi sistem kewangan seperti mata wang digital dan Fintech pula mempunyai tahap kerahsiaan lebih tinggi jika dibandingkan dengan ekosistem perbankan tradisional.

Teknologi baharu ini dilihat menjadi cabaran getir untuk penguat kuasa negara ini khususnya dalam proses mengesan dan menjejaki susur transaksi kewangan.

Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) sendiri melihat siasatan jenayah wang haram, termasuk pembiayaan keganasan di negara ini berdepan aspek teknikal dan diburukkan lagi de-

ngan isu keldai dadah serta masalah integriti dalam institusi kewangan.

Antara isu teknikal dihadapi ialah pembekalan dokumen melebihi tempoh penyimpanan dan pemfailan Transaksi Yang Mencurigakan (STR) diberikan institusi kewangan atau institusi pelapor.

Bekas Pengarah Bahagian Pengubahan Wang Haram dan Pelucuthakan Harta SPRM, Datuk Mohamad Zamri Zainul Abidin turut mengkritik sistem CDD gagal dimanfaatkan institusi perbankan negara menyebabkan kewujudan banyak akaun keldai dan pinjaman kepada pelanggan tidak layak.

Justeru, sudah tiba masanya untuk kerajaan melaksanakan satu pelan tergempar bagi membanteras risiko jenayah kewangan, antaranya seperti mewujudkan Strategi Pembantaranan Rasuah Nasional (NACS) 2024-2028 dalam usaha mengatasi masalah rasuah berakar umbi sejak sekian lama.

Jenayah kewangan kini sepatutnya menjadi isu perlu diberi perhatian segera kepimpinan tertinggi kerajaan dengan tekad oleh mereka paling berpengaruh.

Cadangan untuk mewujudkan satu rangkaian berpusat membabitkan beberapa agensi utama perlu dilaksanakan kerana penguat kuasa seperti SPRM dan PDRM sudah berulang kali menyuarakan masalah demi masalah berlaku dalam sistem kewangan negara.

Sampai bila kita mahu melihat warga emas bersara tiba-tiba buntu apabila wang persaraan hari tua mereka lesap begitu sahaja hanya kerana ditipu dengan satu panggilan atau menekan 'superlink' dihantar melalui SMS.

Sudah tiba masanya untuk diwujudkan satu organisasi tunggal bukan sekadar merancang, malah mampu mengambil tindakan penguatkuasaan kepada mereka bertanggungjawab tanpa menunggu pengesahan atau dokumentasi merumitkan lagi, membazirkan setiap saat yang ada, kerana penjenayah kewangan hari ini beroperasi 24 jam tanpa henti dan penat.



Forum Ekonomi Dunia turut menganggarkan jenayah kewangan global kerugian mencecah sehingga AS\$1.6 trilion setiap tahun.
(Foto hiasan)

Generasi muda mesti kuasai teknologi profesional, relevan



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Dalam era digital berkembang pesat, generasi muda di Malaysia perlu mempersiapkan diri dengan kemahiran teknologi relevan dan profesional.

Dunia pekerjaan masa kini tidak lagi hanya bergantung kepada kemahiran asas seperti komunikasi dan kesungguhan, tetapi juga memerlukan keupayaan menguasai teknologi canggih menjadi tulang belakang pelbagai industri moden.

Antara kemahiran utama perlu dikuasai adalah keupayaan menghasilkan grafik digital. Kemahiran ini bukan sahaja penting untuk industri kreatif seperti reka bentuk grafik, pemasaran dan media sosial, tetapi mempersembahkan data dengan lebih menarik dan efektif dalam laporan korporat atau persembahan profesional.

Penguasaan perisian seperti Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator dan Canva memberikan nilai tambah signifikan kepada individu, terutama graduan dalam pasaran kerja.

Dalam sektor pembinaan misalnya, kefahaman

mengenai konsep Pemodelan Bangunan Bermaklumat (BIM) menjadi semakin penting. BIM bukan sahaja membolehkan pemodelan 3D tepat, tetapi menyokong pelbagai fungsi kritikal seperti anggaran kos, analisis struktur dan perancangan projek lebih efisien.

Penguasaan teknologi ini akan memberi kelebihan besar kepada graduan dan golongan profesional muda dalam industri pembinaan dan kejuruteraan, sekali gus membuka peluang mereka ke arah menjadi pemimpin dalam projek berskala besar.

Selain itu, kemahiran dalam pengaturcaraan seperti Python dan JavaScript kini menjadi asas dalam pelbagai sektor. Pengaturcaraan ini memainkan peranan penting dalam pembangunan laman web, aplikasi mudah alih dan teknologi canggih seperti kecerdasan buatan (AI), analitik data dan internet benda (IoT).

Dalam era menyaksikan teknologi memacu inovasi di setiap bidang, individu menguasai pengaturcaraan berada pada kedudukan terbaik untuk mencipta penyelesaian baharu dan relevan.

Oleh itu, institusi pendidikan dan kerajaan perlu mengambil langkah proaktif untuk memastikan

generasi muda memperoleh pendedahan awal terhadap teknologi ini. Sekolah dan universiti disarankan memperkenalkan modul khusus, kursus pendek berorientasikan teknologi atau menjadikan subjek ini sebagai sebahagian daripada kurikulum wajib.

Syarikat, fakulti ataupun pakar bidang boleh menjalin kerjasama dengan pusat penyelidikan di institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) untuk menyediakan program latihan, bimbingan profesional dan kursus pensijilan bagi mendidik generasi muda dengan kemahiran praktikal diperlukan.

Sebagai generasi bakal memimpin masa depan negara, anak muda perlu melihat diri mereka bukan sekadar pengguna teknologi, tetapi pencipta inovatif dan profesional.

Oleh itu, setiap individu perlu bertindak sekarang. Langkah pertama mungkin bermula dengan menyertai kelas dalam talian, menghadiri bengkel atau mendapatkan pensijilan profesional dalam bidang teknologi diminati.

Penguasaan teknologi bukan sahaja membuka peluang kerjaya lebih luas tetapi juga berperanan penting membantu Malaysia menjadi negara kompetitif pada peringkat global.

BERITA HARIAN
31 DEC 2024
Tarikh.....

Mudahkan mohon lesen, kawal peniaga warga asing

UM
31/12

PETALING JAYA: Peniaga kecil menghadapi pelbagai cabaran yang memerlukan perhatian daripada pihak berkuasa selain menanti penambahbaikan menjelang tahun 2025.

Tinjauan *Utusan Malaysia* mendapati rata-rata peniaga berharap proses pemilikan lesen perniagaan menjadi lebih proaktif serta langkah tegas diambil untuk mengawal orang asing daripada menjalankan perniagaan secara tidak sah.

Seorang peniaga trak makanan, Muhamad Ammirul Syafa Azmi, 32, berkata, kerajaan perlu mempermudah proses pelesenan bagi setiap peniaga di negara ini.

Katanya, syarat-syarat mendapatkan lesen terutamanya trak makanan dilihat terlalu ketat, terutama di kawasan seperti Hartamas.

"Komuniti tertentu ada yang menghalang peniaga Melayu untuk berkembang selain pihak berkuasa yang nak jadikan kawasan perniagaan sebagai kawasan tempat letak kereta.

"Pihak berkuasa perlu mewujudkan ekosistem yang lebih adil bagi semua peniaga kecil agar kesejahteraan rakyat terpelihara," katanya dalam tin-



PARA peniaga berharap proses pemilikan lesen perniagaan dipermudahkan di samping kawalan ketat terhadap warga asing yang berniaga secara haram.

jauan peniaga kecil di sekitar Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, peniaga minuman nanas, Azman Mashudi, 54, berkata, kerajaan perlu memandang kepentingan bagi memantau peniaga asing yang mengambil kesempatan dalam industri seperti mengambil kawasan perniagaan rakyat.

Katanya, pihak berkuasa lebih tegas dalam menangani isu

peniaga tanpa izin yang semakin menggusarkan kebelakangan ini.

"Kalau yang berniaga semuanya rakyat Malaysia, tidak mengapa. Ini saya lihat warga asing yang ramai meniaga di sesuatu kawasan itu.

"Lesen juga perlu diberikan hanya kepada peniaga tempatan bagi memastikan peluang perniagaan kekal adil dan tidak dimonopoli oleh pihak luar," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Pekerja harap lebih dihargai majikan

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UM
7/12

PETALING JAYA- Pekerja-pekerja di sektor swasta dan kerajaan berharap agar Tahun Baharu 2025 membawa perubahan yang lebih baik dalam pengurusan sumber manusia serta insentif yang lebih menghargai mereka.

Tinjauan *Utusan Malaysia* mendapati, rata-rata pekerja mengharapkan majikan lebih menghargai usaha mereka, terutama dengan menyediakan insentif tambahan, sistem kerja yang lebih cekap serta gaji yang lebih relevan dengan kos sara hidup semasa.

Pekerja swasta, Nurul Shafikah Baharudin, 24, berkata, penghargaan daripada majikan penting bagi memastikan keseimbangan antara kehidupan peribadi dan pekerjaan, selain mengekalkan kesetiaan pekerja.

"Saya harap semua majikan selepas ini lebih hargai pekerja sebab bidang pekerjaan ini luas dan banyak syarikat bersaing antara satu sama lain. Bila-bila masa sahaja pekerja boleh tukar ke syarikat lain jika ditawarkan insentif yang menarik.

"Jadi, sebagai pekerja, saya harap majikan lebih menghargai staf dengan menyediakan insentif yang banyak, tingkatkan lagi sistem pengurusan yang membantu pekerja menyelesaikan tugas dengan lebih pantas, dan beri ruang untuk pekerja capai keseimbangan antara kerja dan kehidupan," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Dalam pada itu, Nurul Shafikah juga menyarankan agar gaji bagi graduan baharu dinaikkan seiring dengan kenaikan kos sara hidup.

"Untuk graduan yang baru ingin memulakan kehidupan

di alam pekerjaan, saya harap semua syarikat dapat beri gaji yang setimpal dengan tahun akan datang ini. Tidak relevan lagi gaji bawah RM2,000 sebab harga barang semua mahal," tambahnya.

Seorang kerani swasta, Siti Ruzana Muhammad Ishak, 54, berkata, pekerja sektor swasta berharap kerajaan memperkenalkan program pembelian rumah pertama yang lebih mesra kepada mereka.

Katanya, insentif seperti subsidi pembelian dan pinjaman mudah dilihat dapat meringankan beban pekerja untuk memiliki kediaman sendiri.

"Langkah ini dianggap penting dalam menangani isu kos perumahan yang semakin tinggi, terutama di kawasan bandar.

"Dengan program sebegini, pekerja swasta yakin kehidupan mereka akan lebih stabil dan sejahtera menjelang 2025," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Permintaan rumah mampu milik dijangka terus meningkat

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UM
31/12

PETALING JAYA: Pasaran hartanah Malaysia pada 2025 dijangka terus menyaksikan permintaan hartanah kediaman stabil terutamanya rumah mampu milik.

Aminvestment berkata, pasaran hartanah kediaman tempatan dijangka mengekalkan momentumnya berikutan dasar kerajaan yang menggalakkan bagi menyokong segmen rumah mampu milik.

"Selain itu, ia turut didorong pelancaran semula program Malaysia Rumah Keduaku dan keadaan pasaran buruh yang positif," katanya dalam nota penyelidikan.

Berdasarkan Pusat Maklumat Harta Tanah Negara (Napic), permintaan untuk hartanah kediaman adalah kukuh pada separuh pertama 2024 dengan jumlah bilangan dan nilai transaksi hartanah kediaman meningkat masing-masing sebanyak 6.1 peratus dan 10.4 peratus tahun ke tahun.

Menurut Napic, suku ketiga tahun kewangan 2024 menyak-



PERMINTAAN terhadap rumah mampu milik diunjur meningkat tahun hadapan dan pemaju perumahan juga dijangka memperbanyakkan projek mampu milik dalam pelan 2025 mereka. - GAMBAR HIASAN

sikan sedikit peningkatan dalam kedua-dua volum dan nilai transaksi perumahan, dengan 70,520 unit direkodkan bernilai RM28.74 bilion berbanding RM28.36 bilion setahun lalu.

Secara keseluruhannya, pres-

tasi pasaran hartanah bertambah baik dengan jumlah dan nilai transaksi meningkat masing-masing sebanyak 3.1 peratus dan 0.3 peratus.

Sementara itu, firma penyelidikan, Phillip Capital Research

berkata, urus niaga hartanah pada separuh pertama 2024 menunjukkan aliran positif, dengan nilai dan volum masing-masing mencatatkan pertumbuhan 10 peratus dan 6 peratus tahun ke tahun.

"Segmen rumah mampu milik (di bawah RM300,000) kekal sebagai pemacu utama, menyumbang lebih daripada 53 peratus daripada jumlah urus niaga kediaman dan tanda-tanda pengurangan beransur-ansur di kawasan tidak terjual," katanya.

Katanya, gaji minimum akan datang yang diumumkan dalam Belanjawan 2025 mungkin akan meningkatkan lagi permintaan segmen itu.

Tambah Philip Capital, penjualan tanah perindustrian kepada pengendali pusat data memberikan satu lagi saluran pertumbuhan, apabila pemaju mengewangkan bank tanah dan melabur semula di tanah strategik.

Firma penyelidikan itu berkata, beberapa pemaju, termasuk Sime Darby Property Bhd., UEM Sunrise Bhd. dan Mah Sing Group Bhd. sedang meneroka pelaburan pusat data untuk memenuhi permintaan yang semakin meningkat.

Indeks Hartanah KL telah meningkat 25.8 peratus, didorong oleh sentimen positif sekitar pengembangan pusat data, terutamanya di Johor.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 31 DEC 2024

Social media licensing can make the Internet safe, say experts

NST 31/12

KUALA LUMPUR: The government's decision to require social media platforms to secure a regulatory licence can play a significant role in making the Internet a safe place for all, especially for children.

Experts believe that the anonymity and accessibility provided by social media platforms have made it easy for perpetrators to groom children or distribute exploitative content.

Universiti Utara Malaysia School of Multimedia Technology and Communication senior lecturer Dr Azian Muhamad Adzmi said the licensing framework not only ensured accountability, but also created opportunities to empower citizens through digital literacy to complement regulatory efforts.

It also highlighted the need for a balanced approach to combat the twin challenges of online fraud and misinformation

while preserving free speech.

"This is not just a regulatory initiative.

"It signals Malaysia's intent to position itself as a regional leader in digital governance.

"This comparison with international frameworks such as Australia's Digital Services Act underscores the global relevance of the issues and reflects Malaysia's proactive stance," she said.

She added that the initiative was not merely about censorship but also about fostering accountability by promoting the responsible and appropriate use of social media, ensuring a safer online environment free from threats and dangers.

Criminologist and Universiti Malaya Law Faculty deputy dean (postgraduate affairs) Dr Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid said children sexualised or exposed to pornography had higher

chances of suffering devastating and life-long emotional and psychological consequences.

"Sometimes children who were victimised in this aspect may normalise those acts of sexualisation, making them think that it is normal.

"These will cause them to fall into depression, get traumatised or lose trust among people.

"As a result, they might invite others to engage in such acts or worse, do it to other children.

"They might view being sexualised as an expression of love when it's the exact opposite."

She said although the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017 (Act 792)

was in place to punish those linked to child sexual abuse material (CSAM), it did not address the issue holistically.

She said with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), perpetrators engaging in CSAM could take advantage of the technology to communicate and engage with an unknowing child and persuade them to, among others, perform sexual acts.

The authorities, she said, should consider giving manda-

tory counselling or rehabilitation programmes for those convicted of committing online sexual offences, especially CSAM.

She said CSAM stemmed from an abnormal obsession about children, which could go out of control and disrupt the future of generations to come.

"To offenders, this is just like an interest, but interests do not just fade away. As such, it would require long-term monitoring to see what is wrong with that particular person.

"For instance, it's not normal for a 50-year-old man to be sexually attracted to a child who is 9. We're talking about their obsession and fetish towards children, which definitely calls for attention from the public.

"To do this, it should go beyond just physical aspects. It's also monitoring against any chances of committing this offence online," she said. **Bernama**

"We're talking about their obsession and fetish towards children, which calls for attention from the public. To do this, it should go beyond just physical aspects."

DR HAEZREENA BEGUM ABDUL HAMID

Criminologist and Universiti Malaya Law Faculty deputy dean

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: ...31 DEC...2024....



The collapsed water retention pond bund in Taman Seri Alam, Saujana Utama, Sungai Buloh, yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

COLLAPSED BUND

487 21/12

Sg Buloh MP sends volunteers to help flash flood victims

KUALA LUMPUR: Volunteers from the Sungai Buloh Parliamentary Service Centre helped residents in Taman Seri Alam, Saujana Utama affected by a flash flood after the collapse of a water retention pond bund on Sunday.

Sungai Buloh member of parliament Datuk Seri R. Ramanan said more than 50 houses were affected.

He deployed a team of volunteers to assess the situation and provide aid to those in need.

"The Sungai Buloh Parliamentary Service Centre is committed to ensuring residents' welfare.

"We will work with community leaders and agencies on mea-

sures to prevent similar incidents.

"Hopefully, all matters will be resolved smoothly," he said in a Facebook post.

Ramanan thanked the rescue teams, including the Fire and Rescue Department and police, for their swift response.

On Sunday, Selangor Fire and Rescue Department assistant director (operations) Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar said the department received an emergency call about the incident at 5.15pm.

The bund collapse caused water to overflow into the housing area. There were no injuries or fatalities.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
31 DEC 2024
Tarikh:

KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ BERTARIKH 30 DISEMBER 2024 (ISNIN)

From: "Media MBSJ" <media@mbsj.gov.my> 30/12/24 11:59 am
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Cc: "Nor Najihah Sukor" <najihah.sukor@mbsj.gov.my>, jennifer.mary@mbsj.gov.my
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Salam sejahtera dan dengan segala hormatnya merujuk kepada perkara di atas.

2. Bersama-sama ini, dilampirkan pengurusan keratan akhbar MBSJ bertarikh 30 Disember 2024 (Isnin) untuk informasi dan rujukan pihak YBhg. Dato'/ tuan/ puan.

Sekian, terima kasih.

Bahagian Perhubungan Awam dan Komunikasi Korporat
Jabatan Korporat Dan Pengurusan Strategik
No. Tel : 0380264452 / 4038

" #KITASELANGOR MAJU BERSAMA "

" MALAYSIA MADANI "

" MESRA CEPAT DAN BERINTEGRITI "

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

LAIN-LAIN PBT

BIL	AKHBAR	PBT	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	MBDK MBSA MPKj MPAJ MPS DBKL	- LICENCE RENEWAL - COMPOUND DISCOUNT - MBSA LOCAL PLAN - COUNTER CLOSED - CLOSER WATCH ON SLOPES IN AMPANG JAYA - ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES DOMINATE IN SELAYANG - STATE OF KEPONG MARKET DRIVING CUSTOMERS AWAY 24 BUSINESS IN KUALA LUMPUR SHUT DOWN FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES - FLOODING OF KEPONG ROAD UPSETS MOTORISTS - COUNTDOWNS TO ROCK KLANG VALLEY 45 MINUTES TO TRAVEL 600m

UMUM

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	- S'GOR TO FOCUS ON HIGH-VALUE AGRO PRODUCTS - PLEASE BEHAVE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE - ALL SET TO RING IN 2025 WITH FIREWORKS, MUSIC AND MORE
2.	HARIAN METRO	CUTI HUJUNG MINGGU KEMBALI PADA SABTU DAN AHAD MULAI 1 JANUARI RAKYAT JOHOR SUDAH BERSEDIA
3.	SINAR HARIAN	CADANGAN KENAIKAN TARIF BAHARU ELEKTRIK JEJAS TAHUN MELAWAT MALAYSIA - MITDA
4.	KOSMO	EKONOMI SEMAKIN PULIH, KUASA BELI DIJANGKA MENINGKAT
5.	BERITA HARIAN	- JOHOR KEMBALI CUTI SABTU, AHAD BERMULA 1 JANUARI - DIDIK RAKYAT KEPENTINGAN KITAR SEMULA SISA ELETRONIK - HARGA EV INPORT DIJANGKA MELINJAK TINGGI PADA 2026
6.	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	- JAKIM MINTA PBT JELASKAN DASAR WAJIBKAN SIJIL HALAL - RAKYAT MALAYSIA BELANJA RM1,200 SEBULAN MAKAN DI LUAR - PANTAI TIMUR KEMBALI DILANDA BANJIR - TANGANI CABARAN EKONOMI GLOBAL 2025
7.	NEW STRAITS TIMES	RINGGIT LIKELY TO SOFTEN THIS WEEK, SAY ANALYSTS
8.	THE SUN	FEMALE-ONLY PARKING SPARKS DEBATE ON LONG-TERM IMPACT



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
shaliniravindran@thestar.com.my

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 (JPP).

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

842 30/12 (mpaj) (2)

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
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

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
sheilasripriya@thestar.com.my

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

30 DEC 2024

Tarikh:.....



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

Countdowns to rock Klang Valley

Star 20/12
(DBKL)

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

By MEGAT SYAHAR
megatsyahr@thestar.com.my

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.

Revelers 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, Naqiu Boboy, Noki K-Cligue, 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 revelers, 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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Star 28/12
(DBKL)

45 minutes to travel 600m

Food trucks, indiscriminate parking blamed for jams at Setapak road

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



(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

WATCH THE
VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



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

30 DEC 2024

Tarikh:.....

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."

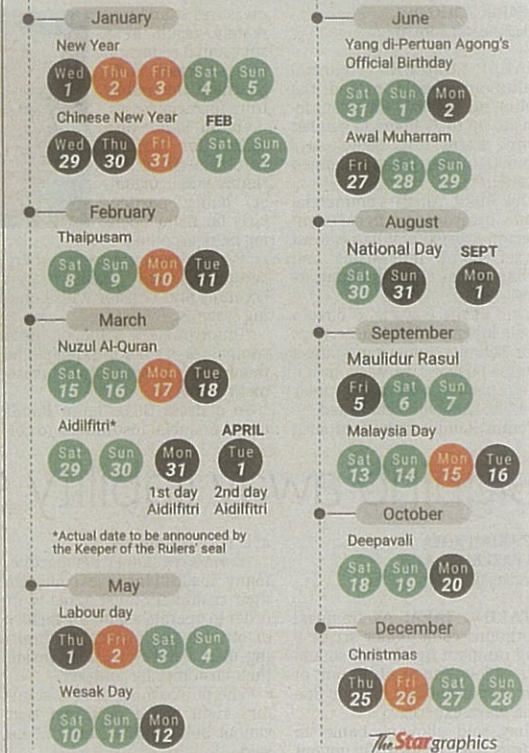
ACP Raub reminded revellers not to make a nuisance of themselves and inconvenience others.

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

30 DEC 2024

Tarikh:.....

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

9/12 30/12

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

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 persiapan 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 meluahkan 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 lebuhraya 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, penyalarsan 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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Malaysia hanya melupuskan 1 peratus sisa elektronik atau e-sisa tempatan secara lestari, sekali gus amat rendah berbanding dengan kadar kitar semula kesefuruhan, 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.....30..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 (HVG), 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 30/12
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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 bukannya sahaja diambil dalam bentuk nyata seperti gula pasir tetapi dalam bentuk tersembunyi, contohnya dalam kuih-muih, minuman manis dan krim.

man 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

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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 Mujab 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
30 DEC 2024
Tarikh:



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 kepercayaan 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

NYT 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. Bernama

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.

Lec 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."



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