



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 06 MEI 2024 (ISNIN)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• MBSJ Debuts Automated WhatsApp For Enquiries

MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• MBSJ DEBUTS AUTOMATED WHATSAPP FOR ENQUIRIES • RECYCLE FOR REWARDS

LAIN-LAIN PBT

BIL	AKHBAR	PBT	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	MBDK DBKL	• KLANG RESIDENTS DEMAND ACTION AFTER YEARS OF INUNDATION • MUCH TO DO BEFORE VMY2026 • KEPONG BUSINESSES BRACING FOR FLOODS

UMUM

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• DEAD FISH STINKING UP KL POND • BROKEN PROMISES : HERITAGE BUILDINGS IN KL LEFT TO DECAY • GROUPS WANT LAWS INTEGRAL TO ANTI-CORRUPTION TABLED • ENHANCED PLAN TO FIGHT GRAFT • TURN THE TIDE ON RAMADAN FOOD WASTE • RCE CAP TO BENEFIT FROM CIVIL SERVANTS SALARY HIKE
2.	SINAR HARIAN	• PENJAWAT AWAM BERMASALAH, LEMBAB TAK NAIK GAJI SECARA AUTOMATIK – ANWAR • HARGA BARANG NAIK DULU SEBELUM GAJI • RINGGIT DIJANGKA DINIAGA SECARA BERHATI-HATI MINGGU INI • LEBIH BANYAK PELUANG BELI RUMAH • KERAJAAN LANCAR STRATEGI BAHARU PERANGI RASUAH SELASA INI
3.	HARIAN METRO	• STRUKTUR SEMULA EKONOMI MALAYSIA
4.	BERITA HARIAN	• TIADA KEPUTUSAN MUKTAMAD ISU PENARIKAN SUBSIDY • KERAJAAN LANCAR STRATEGI BAHARU CEGAH RASUAH • KAEDAH KENAIKAN GAJI BERDASARKAN PRESTASI AKAN DIPERKENAL • TENTUKAN KAEDAH NILAI PRESTASI, HAK NAIK GAJI PENJAWAT AWAM • GRADUAN PERLU UBAH MENTALITI MAKAN GAJI
5.	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	• PENJAWAT AWAM BERMASALAH TIDAK NAIK GAJI AUTOMATIK
6.	NEW STRAITS TIMES	• NO DECISION YET ON FUEL PRICES, SAYS PM • MINISTRY EYES AI FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT • CAUTIOUS TRADE AGAINST GREENBACK IN NEAR TERM • RINGGIT OUTPERFORMS REGIONAL PEERS • PAY RAISE NOT FOR LAZY CIVIL SERVANTS
7.	THE SUN	• HIGHER PAY CALLS FOR EFFICIENCY, PRODUCTIVITY : ECONOMIST • PM TO LAUNCH NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION PLAN

MBSJ debuts automated WhatsApp for enquiries



(From left) Wong, Abbas, Mohd Fauzi, Zulkurnain, Ng and Preakas at the launch of WhatsApp Biz MBSJ, the first automated channel run by a local authority in Selangor.

RESIDENTS may now contact Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) via Whatsapp to enquire about its services.

Named "WhatsApp Biz MBSJ", the platform allows Subang Jaya residents to make enquiries without waiting for a response from a human operator.

The council released a statement announcing that they were the first local authority in Selangor to use the application as a live interactive communication platform.

MBSJ director (revenue) Sharifah Rohaida Abdul Rahman explained the steps to use the channel.

"Once you have saved the number, the system will ask you to choose a language that you are most comfortable in, which in this case would be English or Malay.

"Then, you may choose the kind of service that you would like to enquire about," she said.

The six main categories of services provided are related to assessment tax, traffic compounds, business licences, building permits, payment channels, solid waste disposal, preliminary cleaning as well as the management of recycling, restaurant and industrial waste.

Once the service is chosen, users will be given further instructions.

"As an example, if your vehicle has been compounded, you may check the status by keying in the compound number or vehicle number plate," said Sharifah Rohaida.

"WhatsApp Biz MBSJ is special because it operates 24 hours, allowing users to access the latest information at any time of day," she added.

The channel has been validated by Meta to guarantee users' data security and privacy.

MBSJ said it was confident this channel would improve its services to the community in terms of time, energy, finance and environment.

WhatsApp Biz MBSJ was launched during the city council's Hari Raya celebration.

Present were Subang Jaya mayor Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim, deputy mayor Zulkurnain Che Ali, and assemblymen Wong Siew Ki (Seri Kembangan), Abbas Salimi Azmi (Seri Serdang), Michelle Ng Mei Sze (Subang Jaya) and Preakas Sampunathan (Kota Kemuning).

For more details, contact 03-8026 3100.

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH: 06 MEI 2024

By AISYAH ANESEE
metro@thestar.com.my

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MBSJ debuts automated WhatsApp for enquiries

Subang Jaya residents can access chat 24/7 on assessment tax, compounds, permits, waste disposal



(From left) Wong, Abbas, Mohd Fauzi, Zulkurnain, Ng and Preakas at the launch of WhatsApp Biz MBSJ, the first automated channel run by a local authority in Selangor.

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THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

RECYCLE FOR REWARDS

The Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) is offering Mobile Legends in-game rewards for recycled goods. Game enthusiasts can bring recyclable items to Stadium MBSJ Serdang Jaya to receive exciting prizes. For details, call 03-80263131 or visit mbsj.gov.my.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Klang residents demand action after years of inundation

By AIDA AHMAD
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WITH extreme weather and heavy rainfall becoming more common, residents of Taman Petaling Indah in Klang, Selangor, are calling for increased cleaning frequency for monsoon drains, particularly along Jalan Bagor.

This was a problematic area prone to overflowing during downpours, they said, and called on Klang Royal City Council (MBDK) to be proactive in addressing the issue.

"Just 10 minutes of rain is all it takes to flood the neighbourhood and people's homes," said Taman Petaling Indah Residents Association (TPIRA) committee member Anthony Dass, 58.

He said contractors carried

out minor cleaning about a week ago but it had not done any good.

"About 380 houses are affected.

"We have contacted the assemblyman, city councillor and the Klang MP to do something.

"All we get is finger-pointing, from MBDK to Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and Public Works Department (JKR).

"There is so much growth in the monsoon drain that needs to be cleaned out," said Anthony.

TPIRA committee member Joseph Arokiasamy said his home had flooded five times this year.

"There was a news report on this same matter published 25 years ago highlighting floods in Leboh Seraya here.

"Despite past complaints,

there has been no tangible action.

"In 2008, we tried to prevent floodwater from entering our homes by elevating our kitchen by two feet as temporary relief.

"However, the flooding persists. We are still hopeful for permanent solutions," said Joseph.

TPIRA president Ganesan Thangaraju, 64, said the authorities were late in addressing the problem.

"The monsoon drain cannot accommodate water that flows through from Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah and Taman Sri Andalas areas," he said.

He stressed that the relevant authorities urgently needed to fix structural issues at the drain.

Resident Rahman Ismail, 80, who has lived in the neighbourhood for 44 years, said it made

no sense to widen the monsoon drain. He said it needed to be deepened instead.

Resident Kenny Yap, 58, said the monsoon drain needed to be desilted and unclogged as soon as possible.

"It floods from the Taman Chi Liung roundabout all the way to the drain," he said.

Meanwhile, Klang MP V. Ganabathirau in his recent social media post said he had conducted a site visit to Taman Palm Grove with Telok Gading Rukun Tetangga committee members as well as representatives from Klang DID and MBDK.

This is to address issues in Persiaran Seraya and Taman Sungai Sireh, including the Sungai Sireh sluice gate.

"Among the areas visited were Persiaran Raja Muda Musa (in

the residential area), Persiaran Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, the residential roads, Persiaran Seraya, Leboh Turi and Taman Radzi."

He said Klang DID officials had delineated the division of labour between itself and MBDK on maintenance areas, and DID sluice gate operations during high and low tides.

He added that Klang DID said it would send a written application to Klang JKR on the issue.

"We believe there is blockage in the culvert drain maintained under Klang JKR," said Ganabathirau.

"MBDK officials said they carried out a site visit last week in Persiaran Seraya and will manage the work of cleaning the bushes and widening the concrete at the bottom of the drain

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024



The FT Minister says Kuala Lumpur has all the necessary tourism products like heritage buildings and parks that just need proper maintenance. — Photos: IZZRAFIQ ALIAS, AZMAN GHANI, WILLIAM GARY/The Star

Much to do before VMY2026

FT Minister on challenges such as neglected heritage buildings, homelessness in KL

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

WITH less than 20 months until Visit Malaysia Year 2026 (VMY2026), Kuala Lumpur is gearing up for one of its most significant events since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Dr Zaliha Mustafa, who is responsible for the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan, faces the challenging task of preparing the capital city for this much-anticipated occasion.

In an exclusive interview with *StarMetro*, Dr Zaliha revealed that while the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry was to oversee VMY 2026 as the secretariat, there was a special committee comprising Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and agencies such as the Social Welfare Department dedicated to readying the city for the event.

Dr Zaliha, who recently completed her 100 days in office, said efforts were underway to ensure Kuala Lumpur would be prepared for VMY 2026.

"A special committee was established during a recent Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, with subsequent sessions to be led by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"As the nation's capital, Kuala Lumpur will be the primary focus and the initial destination for tourists. We have a lot of groundwork ahead.

"Are we prepared? Frankly, all the necessary elements — heritage sites, parks and such — are in place.

The Star
EXCLUSIVE

"We have the products, they simply require proper maintenance," Dr Zaliha said.

Addressing the issue of sprucing up the city's historical buildings, the minister responded to calls from various stakeholders advocating for Unesco status for the heritage enclave of Jalan Raja and Kampung Baru in the city centre.

She clarified that Kuala Lumpur did not meet the criteria for Unesco recognition.

"It is not as straightforward as people think it is, to obtain Unesco status," she said.

"The process involves three qualifying rounds: Heritage site, National Heritage site, and then Unesco Heritage site, each with stringent criteria.

"Even if we attempted, we wouldn't qualify. That is why I said in Parliament that we won't apply for Kampung Baru (for Unesco recognition) because our priority is the redevelopment of Kampung Baru," she said.

"Furthermore, seeking Unesco status would restrict our ability to develop Kampung Baru."

Dr Zaliha also acknowledged the deterioration of heritage buildings in the vicinity of Jalan Raja.

"It is sad but the good news is that Khazanah, through Think City, is now tasked with revitalising these buildings in alignment with the Prime Minister's vision.



Dr Zaliha faces the challenging task of preparing the capital city for VMY2026.



Dr Zaliha: There won't be any Unesco status application for Kampung Baru because the priority is to redevelop it.

"However, we need to give them time," she said.

"On the other hand, during my visits to the site with relevant agencies, I observed poor rubbish management and unpleasant odours," she added.

Dr Zaliha also expressed concern about tackling homelessness within the city, citing it as a significant obstacle.

"I have engaged with all stakeholders and relevant agencies to understand the complexity of the challenge ahead.

"It is clear that we can't tackle the issue of homelessness in Kuala Lumpur alone. We require the cooperation of all parties involved," she noted.

Dr Zaliha elaborated on the existence of transit homes in the city for the homeless to access basic necessities.

"We also need to work and collaborate with NGOs in coordinating the meal distribution sessions," she said.

Transitioning to meet the challenges of her role, Dr Zaliha,

a 59-year-old medical doctor who previously served as the Health minister, acknowledged the distinct nature of her responsibilities.

She reflected on her activist background and the adaptability required in her current role, particularly in addressing issues such as development, poverty and homelessness in Kuala Lumpur.

Regarding the Draft Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 (KLLP2040), Dr Zaliha highlighted the ongoing review process and encouraged feedback from stakeholders.

She acknowledged the importance of addressing future changes to accommodate infrastructure, housing, demographics and environmental concerns.

"I am happy to know that the residents are actively participating in the review process and are very vocal about it —

which I appreciate.

"It is better to have your say now than after the KLLP2040 is gazetted," she said.

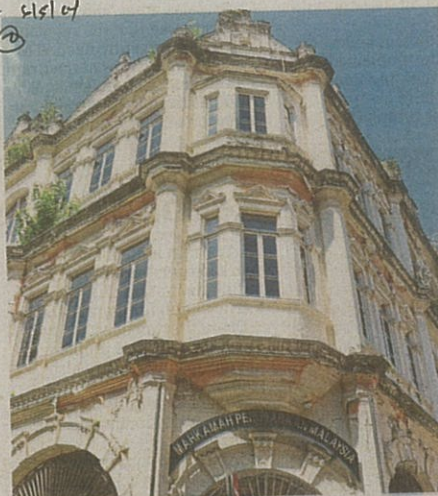
On the topic of local government elections, Dr Zaliha echoed the stance of Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming, emphasising that implementing such elections was not presently a priority.

"We revived the Federal Territory Residents Representative Council (MPPWP) and the Federal Territories Minister Council as platforms for channelling feedback on policy matters as well as other issues," she said.

She highlighted the importance of keeping communication channels open with MPs and stakeholders.

"I am also in a WhatsApp group with the MPs, so I am aware of their concerns and we are on top of things," Dr Zaliha assured.

24/5/24
2



Khazanah via Think City has been tasked with revitalising heritage buildings in the vicinity of Jalan Raja.



Dr Zaliha says the cooperation of multiple agencies is necessary to tackle the issue of homeless people in the city. — Filepic

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024



Dirty and narrow drainage along the industrial and commercial areas blamed for floods.

Kepong businesses bracing for floods 26/4

HEAVY rain in Kepong has sparked concerns of flash floods in Jinjang Utara industrial area, a crucial hub for manufacturing.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping attributes this problem to narrow drains that are also poorly maintained.

He said the drains had not been properly maintained for years.

"We have voiced our concerns, but nothing has been done," he said.

Rapid development has strained the existing drainage

system, creating a bottleneck for rainwater, he said.

He added that areas from Taman Sri Segambut to Jalan Kepong were particularly vulnerable due to inadequate drainage.

Yee said the neglect of the drainage system had worsened the situation.

He said the drains simply could not handle the water volume, and downhill areas from Jalan Kepong to Taman Sri Segambut and Sungai Keroh would likely be affected as well.

Yee said widening the drainage along the road might improve the water blockage in the bustling industrial area.

However, he said a more permanent solution was needed.

"We urge Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to intervene, with upgrades to the drainage network and Alam Flora to do a quick cleaning.

"Local businesses and residents near the area are looking for a comprehensive solution," he reiterated. — **By RACHANAH SUGUMARAN**

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Dead fish stinking up KL pond 20/05/24

By BAVANI M
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THOUSANDS of dead fish at Sungai Midah flood retention pond in Bandar Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur, have triggered widespread concern among the surrounding community.

It has prompted urgent calls for the relevant authorities to investigate the cause.

Residents who frequent the area for their daily exercise were shocked to find the pond littered with decaying carcasses of fish since last week.

"We are puzzled by the dead fish," said Sahniah Ramli, 43.

"Is it due to the heatwave or lack of oxygen caused by the dense growth of water hyacinths, which now blankets the entire lake?"

Water hyacinths, locally known as *bunga kembang*, are floating aquatic plants that are considered an invasive species capable of rapidly spreading and clogging waterways, leading to various environmental problems.

"The Sungai Midah flood retention pond is overwhelmed by this plant, giving the lake an appearance akin to a football field from above," said Sahniah.

She hopes that the agency responsible in investigating the incident at the lake will come forward to explain what had happened.

Residents blame neglect for once-vibrant Bandar Tun Razak recreational area being ruined



Sungai Midah Flood Retention Pond Nature Lovers Club chairman Mohd Zainuddin Amran blamed poor pond maintenance for the fish deaths.

He chided Kuala Lumpur Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for the neglect.

Mohd Zainuddin said a DID officer admitted that the maintenance contract hadn't been renewed for four months, but had offered no explanation.

The pond, he added, served as

a natural habitat for fish and a cherished green space for residents.

Other residents are also dismayed over the deteriorating state of the once-vibrant area.

Siti Noraini Mohd Jabar said, "My husband and I used to enjoy fishing here, but now it is just disheartening to see this."

Rosie Ahmad from Kampung Malaysia Raya attributed the fish deaths to poor water quality, which had spoiled her enjoyment of the area.

"The foul smell of decaying fish wafts into my home. It is distressing to witness such beauty turn into ugliness," she added.

Expressing his frustration, Fadil Zainuddin said, "This used to be my daily jogging route, but its current condition has robbed it of its charm."

A visit by *StarMetro* confirmed an overpowering stench of rotting fish and empty lakeside area once said to be a hive of activity.

The Sungai Midah flood retention pond, constructed in 2008



(Above) Decaying carcasses of fish and (left) plant-choked Sungai Midah flood retention pond. — Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

for flood mitigation, spans 17.5ha with a water holding capacity of 300,000 cu metres.

The surrounding land, once overgrown with bushes and foliage, was transformed into a recreational area through collaborative efforts between residents and Kuala Lumpur DID.

When contacted, a DID spokesperson said water quality concerns fell under the Environment Department (DOE).

Meanwhile, a DOE spokesperson was informed of the matter but had yet to respond at press time.

THE STAR

Terikh: 06 MAY 2024

Broken promises: Heritage buildings in KL left to decay

By **BAVANI M**
bavanim@thestar.com.my

TWO heritage buildings within the historic enclave of Jalan Raja in Kuala Lumpur, near Merdeka Square, have been virtually abandoned even as the nation's capital city prepares for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

Both buildings, the old Chartered Bank building and the Industrial Court are in a very sorry state today.

The Standard Chartered building was built in 1891 to house the Standard Chartered bank. A new three-storey building replaced the original building in 1909. It last housed the Music Museum from Aug 1, 2015, to Jan 9, 2017.

Meanwhile, the Industrial Court building was built in 1905 and housed Chow Kit & Company, a department store catering to European women.

Both buildings belong to the Selangor government.

Despite the promise of rejuvenating the two buildings, nothing has been done at both sites.

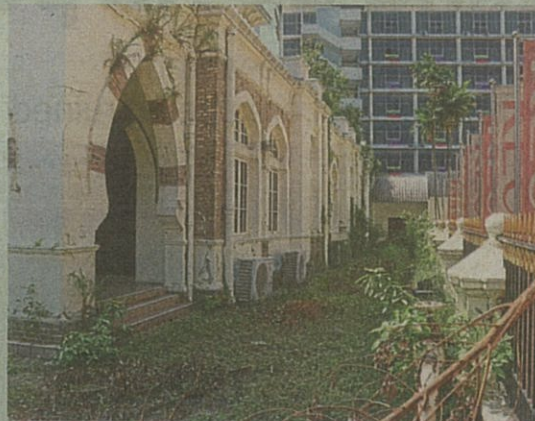
In an exclusive report titled "New life planned for heritage buildings" in 2022, *StarMetro* reported that the Selangor government intended to open the doors of the two buildings to the public by the end of 2023.

Menteri Besar Incorporated (MBI), the state's strategic investment arm, had said it planned to turn the two historical buildings into information centres to promote the state as a tourist destination.

Referring to the buildings as "Selangor House" and "The Court" respectively, MBI said the two historical buildings in the heart of Kuala Lumpur would get a major makeover following years of neglect.

It said the court building in Jalan Mahkamah would become a tourist centre to provide information on Selangor's historical and unique attractions as well as initiatives introduced by the state.

MBI said the buildings were to become the Kuala Lumpur "gateway to Selangor", providing visitors a sneak peek of the state's best attractions.



The Chartered Bank building, which last housed the Music Museum, is in a derelict state with wild shrubs and plants invading the building.

This, it said, would be in line with the "Selangor in A Day" programme that would showcase cultural, heritage and tourist attractions, besides providing information on business and investment opportunities in the state.

MBI was supposed to work on the project with Selangor Malay Customs and Heritage Corporation (Padat) and other state agencies.

StarMetro reached out to MBI and a company spokesperson responded via WhatsApp: "The project is on hold until further notice. We are in the midst of looking for a new contractor."

During a recent visit to both buildings, *StarMetro* discovered that the buildings were in bad shape and had not been maintained for a long time.

The old Chartered Bank building was in a derelict condition, with wild shrubs and plants creeping on the walls.

The building's classic architecture showed signs of deterioration, with visible mould, overgrown vegetation, and areas where the paint had peeled off revealing the underlying brickwork.

Ferns and plants had taken root in the structure itself, suggesting prolonged neglect.

In contrast, the newer build-

ing in the background looked well maintained.

The juxtaposition created a stark contrast between old and new, which made the neglect even more pronounced.

There was a chandelier hanging from the ceiling in the centre of the archway.

Its presence added an element of faded grandeur to the scene, suggesting that the space might have once been used for formal, prestigious events.

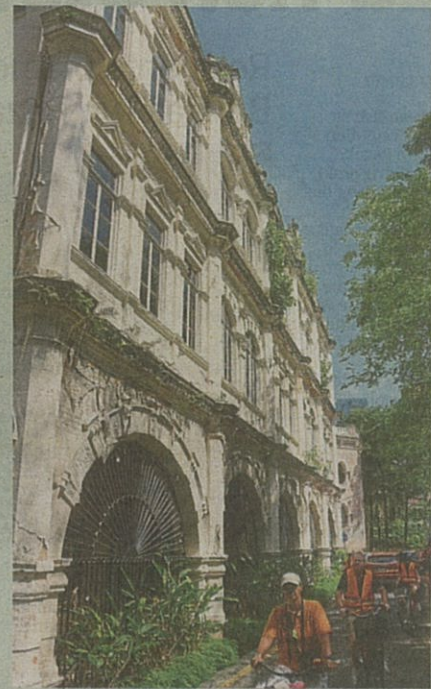
The Industrial Court building is also in a bad state, with wild plants and shrubs growing on its roof and the upper part of the structure.

The corridors were littered with rubbish and looked shabby.

In an earlier report by *StarMetro*, the National Heritage Department (JWN), responsible for preserving heritage buildings nationwide, said it was aware of the situation.

The then JWN director-general Mohd Azmi Mohd Yusof said that it had been pursuing Padat for two years after noticing the building's deterioration but had not received any response.

Mohd Azmi said that the responsibility of a heritage building laid with its owner under the National Heritage Act 2005, stressing that owners must maintain their properties.



The Industrial Court building has wild plants growing on its roof and upper floors. — WILLIAM GARY/The Star



StarMetro report on Feb 7, 2022.

THE STAR

06 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

Groups want laws integral to anti-corruption tabled

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
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PETALING JAYA: Ahead of the launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategies 2024-2028 (NACS), anti-graft crusaders have shared their wish list on what the national strategy should entail, including the tabling of certain laws which are seen as integral to the fight against corruption.

Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) chief executive officer Pushpan Murugiah said the next edition of the NACS should continue the reforms that were not accomplished within the time frame the previous edition was in effect.

"C4 was invited for a stakeholder meeting to discuss the NACS last year. However, they have not shared the exact details of the current NACS, which to us should be the continuation of the implementation of the NACP," he said when contacted.

"However, we do have a concern on the basis of the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019-2023 (NACP), which was initially parked under the National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC).

"The GIACC was an agency that looked at the overall implementation of the NACP and the agency that coordinated with the many different ministries and agencies on the reforms listed in the NACP.

"The NACP itself was also a comprehensive roadmap that looked at all the differ-

ent segments of the government machinery from the legislative functions, judiciary, legal reforms, and institutional independence of government bodies and regulators.

"We know that the GIACC has now been parked under the MACC since April of last year and renamed as the National Governance Planning Division.

"Due to this restructuring of the GIACC into a division under the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), we are unsure if the NACS initiatives will have the same broad reform initiatives as the NACP," he said.

He asked if pertinent reforms which are crucial to combat corruption such as the separation of power between the Attorney General (AG) and the Public Prosecutor as well as the political financing laws, be included in the NACS.

"These are some of the crucial reforms that are needed if we are serious in combating corruption, especially grand corruption," Pushpan said.

Pasir Gudang MP Hassan Abdul Karim said the NACS should ensure the appointment of the next MACC chief goes through Parliament.

"I hope the new MACC chief commissioner will be appointed through new procedures, whereby the Prime Minister would propose the candidates to the parliamentary special select committee for vetting and confirmation," he said.

Hassan, who is also part of the Special Committee on Corruption (SCC) – an independent body that provides a check on the MACC and is governed by Section 14 of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Act 2009 (Act 694) – said that once approved by Parliament, the new MACC chief can then be formally appointed.

Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Dr Muhammad Mohan said the NACS should also include amendments to the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010 by addressing the flaws related to the reporting of wrongdoings.

He said an Ombudsman Bill to encourage individuals reporting on improper conduct under a one-stop agency must also be included.

"Aside from that, the Political Financing Bill, which has not come to fruition despite calls for the past 15 years, and the much awaited Parliamentary Services Act, are other laws that must be part of the roadmap. The Public Procurement Act which was promised in 2018 to strengthen governance in public procurement is another law that must be realised.

"Having this in the NACS will be crucial to show the government is serious about institutional reforms. Amendments to the MACC Act to strengthen and have greater transparency on the appointment of the chief commissioner of the MACC and at the same time to ensure the tenure of office for the chief commissioner is fixed so that the

executive cannot remove him or her as he wishes," he said.

He said the "Misconduct in Public Office" provision should also be included in the MACC Act.

"This provision will criminalise and impose punitive actions against public officials who deliberately cause leakages or wastage of public funds," he said.

"This Act is important to strengthen governance in public procurement. The government should introduce independent oversight in the 'Integrity Pact' for mega projects above US\$1bil. Such mega projects should go through Parliament for approval with proper justification and cost-benefit analysis.

"If the government had introduced this in the past, the LCS scandal would not have happened. We hope to see these key reforms in the NACS," he said.

Malaysia Corruption Watch president Jais Abdul Karim said the roadmap should include education and awareness on anti-corruption, increasing public accountability, stepping up enforcement and the active participation of civilians and civil society groups in anti-corruption efforts.

"To continue surveillance and evaluation, the government should set up a special body to monitor the implementation of the NACS, provide periodic reports to the Cabinet and Parliament as well as gathering feedback and spur the active participation of civil society groups," he said.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Enhanced plan to fight graft

National strategy aims to improve governance and integrity

PUTRAJAYA: The government will launch the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024-2028, focusing on enhancing anti-corruption efforts to improve governance and integrity in public administration and government-linked companies.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said the NACS 2024-2028, which will replace the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP) 2019-2023, would be officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre tomorrow, Bernama reported.

In a media statement, Azam said NACS was a government ini-



"NACS was developed with a focus on five main strategies: education, public accountability, public voice, enforcement, and incentives."

Tan Sri Azam Baki

tiative to develop a national anti-corruption strategy in line with Article 5 of the United Nations Convention Against

Corruption, which mandates all member countries, including Malaysia, to produce a document serving as the primary reference

for national-level anti-corruption initiatives.

"The NACP, which concluded in 2023, has been recognised as one of the indirect factors that contributed to Malaysia's improved ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index in 2019.

"As a result, Malaysia rose from the 61st position in 2018 to 51st spot.

"For this reason, NACS was developed with a focus on five main strategies: education, public accountability, public voice, enforcement, and incentives," he said.

Azam added that to ensure the effectiveness of implementing NACS, a comprehensive monitoring mechanism will be estab-

lished by the MACC's Governance and Compliance Monitoring Bureau, where monitoring and evaluation reports will be presented to the National Governance Cabinet Special Committee chaired by the Prime Minister for endorsement before being submitted to the Cabinet and Parliament.

He said MACC is fully prepared to coordinate various programmes under the strategies outlined in NACS.

"MACC is also highly hopeful of getting the cooperation of all parties to implement NACS successfully over the next five years, which aligns with the national aspiration of building Malaysia Madani, he added.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Turn the tide on Ramadan food waste

More prudent, price-conscious consumers contribute to less disposal this year

By SHYAFIQ DZULKIFLI
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PETALING JAYA: Efforts to reduce food waste during Ramadan is getting a boost from consumers who have become more prudent and price conscious when buying food.

These are among the reasons for a 6.5% drop in the amount of food waste in the first two weeks of the fasting month this year compared to the same period last year, said Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation (SWCorp).

The company said 40,723 tonnes of food waste was generated in the first half of Ramadan this year compared to 43,566 tonnes last year – a reduction of 2,843 tonnes.

SWCorp's figures refer to waste accumulated from 25 designated disposal sites which run across six states as well as Kuala Lumpur.

The company said it has yet to finalise figures for the month of Ramadan this year.

"People are choosing to shop in a more prudent and modest manner, carefully selecting food items according to their specific needs and financial means.

"SWCorp's frequent field initiatives to implement the Value Food, Avoid Waste campaign to the community have also played a role," SWCorp CEO Datuk Ahmad Husaini Abdul Rahman said in an interview.

Food waste often goes up dur-

FOOD WASTE			
State/FT.	First two weeks of Ramadan 2023 (tonnes)	First two weeks of Ramadan 2024 (tonnes)	Comparison (%)
Johor	9,248.78	7,362.76	-20.39
Perlis	908.93	791.21	-12.95
Kedah	8,212.57	7,632.90	-7.06
Kuala Lumpur	11,402.47	10,900.86	-4.40
Pahang	3,732.65	3,632.03	-2.70
Negri Sembilan	5,115.59	5,280.62	3.23
Melaka	4,945.18	5,123.29	3.60
Total	43,566.18	40,723.68	-6.52

Source: SWCorp

The Star graphics

ing festivals and Ramadan, but awareness campaigns and programmes collecting unsold Ramadan bazaar food for distribution to the needy have become more common.

Food waste is defined as food that is not eaten or wasted at the stages of production, processing, retail and consumption.

SWCorp's figures show that Kuala Lumpur tops the food waste production in the first two weeks of Ramadan this year.

Kuala Lumpur accumulated 10,900 tonnes, followed by Kedah (7,600 tonnes) and Johor

(7,363 tonnes).

Johor recorded the biggest drop in food waste with a 20.39% year-on-year reduction in the first half of Ramadan this year compared to the same period last year.

Perlis came second (-12.95%) while Kedah came third (-7.06%).

On the other hand, Melaka and Negri Sembilan saw increases in the collection of food waste.

According to SWCorp, the residential sector was the main contributor to food waste at 38%, followed by wet markets, night markets and Ramadan bazaars at 24%, and food premises at 23%.

A study done by the company last year found that of the total food waste disposed of, 70% was unavoidable (inedible) food waste while 30% was avoidable (edible) food waste.

For instance, during the first two weeks of Ramadan this year, residential areas produced about 15,500 tonnes of food waste of which 30% (4,700 tonnes) was still edible.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, unavoidable food waste includes bones, fruit peels and vegetable roots while avoidable food waste

includes items like excess meat and vegetables.

SWCorp's study on solid waste composition found that food waste constitutes the largest proportion at 35.45% of the total solid waste disposed of last year. This is followed by plastics (26.94%), paper (10.34%) and disposable diapers/napkins (8.19%).

There are also waste categories with tiny percentages in the solid waste composition ranging from slightly over 0% to almost 3.4%, such as textile waste, garden waste, wood, metal and face masks.

In conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Ahmad Husaini said SWCorp worked with state governments, local authorities, NGOs and hotel associations to implement a "Value Food, Avoid Waste" campaign.

"During the last week of Ramadan, SWCorp issued announcements and shared tips on avoiding food wastage and cultivating 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) practices at 'pocket talk' events or talks at bazaars.

"SWCorp also conducts the Recycling Market-Preloved Raya Clothes programme at the Ramadan bazaars, allowing bazaar visitors to obtain used festive clothing for free," he added.

The company also conducts a "Trash to Cash" campaign in the run-up to Hari Raya to encourage the community to collect and sell recyclable items generated from house-cleaning activities during the festive celebration.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

RCE Cap to benefit from civil servant salary hike

By GURMEET KAUR
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PETALING JAYA: Non-bank financial institutions generally do not attract as much interest like their banking counterparts.

However, the salary hike for civil servants from December may put RCE Capital Bhd on the radar.

The company, which is majority-owned by banker Tan Sri Azman Hashim via his private vehicle Cempaka Empayar Sdn Bhd, provides personal financing with its customers being civil servants.

The government had announced that civil servants' salaries are to rise by more than 13% from Dec 1, 2024, which will cost over RM10bil per year.

"This windfall for civil servants is a boon for RCE Capital.

"We see its financing growth likely to accelerate," said Maybank Investment Bank (Maybank IB) Research, which is raising the stock's earnings per share and dividend per share by up to 10% and 9% respectively.

It has upgraded the stock to "buy" with a

higher target price of RM3.02, from RM2.44 before.

The re-rating reflects stronger earnings and dividend prospects, the research firm added.

According to Maybank IB, there is a strong correlation between government emoluments and RCE Capital's financing receivables balance.

"RCE Capital explained that it will extend more financing to civil servants if they receive higher salaries as long as their debt service ratio does not exceed 60% as per Bank Negara guidelines."

With a gross financing balance of RM2.1bil, Maybank IB estimated that the company's market share is about 2% in the personal financing industry.

However, competition is easing as competitors have been reducing their exposure to personal financing.

The group also seemed to enjoy lower cost of funds where Maybank IB estimates that "every 25 basis point reduction in cost of funds will accrue 3% to earnings".

It has a unique salary deduction scheme whereby the instalments are collected through monthly instalments via two

agents, namely, EXP Payment Sdn Bhd and Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia or Angkasa.

However, the group will experience non-performing financing (NPF) receivables and credit costs if civil servants retire early or resign from the civil service, to seek employment opportunities out of the civil service to cope with the higher cost of living.

Maybank IB said it gathered that the group's NPF ratios and credit costs have been creeping up but could decelerate as the higher salaries may see fewer individuals leave the civil service going forward.

The stock is currently trading at a premium of 2.56 times price-to-book. But an analyst said the valuation is justified given its higher return on equity of 17% as compared to the banking sector average of 10% to 12%, while its dividend yield is attractive at about 5%.

RCE Capital posted a net profit of RM34.56mil for the third quarter ended Dec 31, 2023, bringing the nine-month period profitability to RM109.70mil.

It raised its dividend payout ratio policy from 20%-40% to 60%-80%.

THE STAR

Tarikh:.....06.....MAY.....2024

Penjawat awam bermasalah, lembab tak naik gaji secara automatik - Anwar

Sinar
6/5

GEORGE TOWN - Penjawat awam yang bermasalah dan lembab dalam menjalankan tugas berkemungkinan besar tidak akan dinaikkan gaji secara automatik.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, adalah tidak adil untuk mereka yang tidak melaksanakan tugas dengan baik menerima kenaikan yang sama seperti penjawat awam yang efisien.

"Tidak benar apabila dikatakan kita naikkan gaji dengan kekalkan kaedah yang ada, tidak. Sekarang ini ikut tahun, kadang-kadang orang itu lembab bekerja, dia tak hadir dan ada masalah disiplin tetapi terus dinaikkan gaji secara automatik.

"Jadi kita nak ingatkan, bahawa ia tidak automatik, mungkin automatik bagi 95 peratus, empat lima peratus yang lembab atau ada masalah, kita akan perkenalkan kaedah agar mereka dinafikan.

"Tidak adil orang bekerja bertungkus-lumus, dapat kenaikan, orang yang malas dan lembab, pun dapat kenaikan secara automatik. Jadi harus diberikan pertimbangan," katanya di sini pada Ahad.

Beliau berkata, perkara itu akan diumumkan sekali gus dengan sistem persaraan supaya pemilihan (kenaikan gaji) itu berdasarkan prestasi.

Sementara itu, Perdana Menteri meminta semua pihak pelaksana terutamanya kementerian untuk memberi fokus melatih golongan anak muda mengenai teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) supaya negara tidak ketinggalan dalam bidang itu.

Beliau berkata, dalam hal itu, pendedahan bidang Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET) harus diberi penekanan dan ditingkatkan dengan memastikan sesiapa sahaja yang berminat termasuk pelajar maahad tahfiz dapat memanfaatkan program disediakan kementerian mahupun agensi kerajaan.

"TVET itu harus ditingkatkan untuk memenuhi (permintaan pelabur) seperti tiga atau empat hari lalu, kita ada Microsoft yang melabur RM10.5 bilion dan ini memerlukan puluhan ribu pekerja.

"Kalau (pelaburan itu melibatkan) semua ekosistem maka ratus ribu pekerja harus dilatih. Apakah kita ada keupayaan itu?" kata Anwar sambil memaklumkan bahawa Malaysia kekurangan 30,000 jurutera ketika ini.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Harga barang naik dulu sebelum gaji



UNTUNG
RUGI

ANUAR SHAH BALI MAHOMED

Kerajaan telah mengumumkan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam mulai Disember 2024 iaitu kurang lebih tujuh ke lapan bulan dari sekarang. Berita ini menggembirakan penjawat awam dan amat tepat untuk dilaksanakan ketika kos sara hidup terus meningkat. Kenaikan harga barang sekarang dilihat tidak selari dengan gaji dan upah yang diterima oleh penjawat awam dan pekerja swasta.

Bagi mengawal ketidakseimbangan yang ketara antara pendapatan dengan kenaikan harga barang, kerajaan melaksanakan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam agar jurang ini mengecil. Namun, manfaat kenaikan gaji ini akan dinikmati jika harga barang dapat dikawal sekali gus membantu penjawat awam mempunyai lebihan pendapatan yang boleh digunakan.

Berdasarkan perkembangan semasa, penulis tidak menolak kemungkinan berlakunya pengurangan subsidi bahan api tidak lama lagi dan

ini tentu sekali akan memberi kesan kepada golongan T20 dan sebahagian M40. Penulis berpandangan sebelum dilaksanakan, amat penting untuk kerajaan semak semula pengelasan pendapatan isi rumah. Persoalan yang timbul, adakah semua T20 atau sebahagian M40 ini tergolong dalam kelompok yang mewah?

Berdasarkan pengelasan isi rumah pada tahun 2020 oleh Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia, isi rumah yang berpendapatan bawah RM4,850 sebulan dikategorikan sebagai B40, isi rumah M40 berpendapatan antara RM4,851 hingga RM10,970, manakala kumpulan isi rumah yang berpendapatan melebihi RM10,971 dikategorikan sebagai T20. T20 pula dibahagikan kepada dua iaitu T1- RM10,971 hingga RM15,040 dan T2- RM15,041 dan ke atas.

Sebagai contoh, dalam sebuah rumah, hanya suami yang bekerja dengan pendapatan RM12,000 sebulan. Beliau bekerja di sektor swasta dan tinggal di Kuala Lumpur serta menanggung perbelanjaan isi rumah yang melibatkan isteri dan lima orang anak. Mengikut pengelasan semasa, beliau ialah T20.

Namun, berapakah sebenarnya anggaran baki pendapatan beliau setelah ditolak cukai pendapatan, KWSP dan Perkeso? Anggaran baki pendapatannya

adalah antara RM9,000 ke RM10,000. Dengan baki ini jika tolak pinjaman rumah, contohnya RM1,500, kereta RM800, bil utiliti RM500, petrol RM500, tol RM200, insurans keluarga sekitar RM600 dan kad kredit katakanlah RM500. Maka baki pendapatan adalah sekitar RM4,000 ke RM5,000 sahaja.

Baki tersebut akan digunakan untuk membeli barang keperluan harian dan barang dapur, selain perbelanjaan untuk lima orang anak yang masih bersekolah dengan mengambil kira kos pengangkutan, makanan dan duit belanja sekolah. Ini belum mengambil kira hutang lain seperti pinjaman peribadi, bayaran PTPTN, ada masa perlu servis kereta, sampai masa perlu membayar cukai jalan dan insurans kereta serta lain-lain.

Jika ditolak semua perbelanjaan berapakah yang tinggal? Berapakah baki di tangan beberapa hari sebelum hari gaji seterusnya? Tidak mustahil baki di tangan tinggal beberapa ratus sahaja ataupun berkemungkinan defisit.

Jika pengurangan subsidi bahan api dilaksanakan, kumpulan ini akan tambah terkesan dengan lebih ketara. Pengurangan subsidi bahan api juga berpotensi memberi kesan terhadap inflasi termasuk bagaimana ia memberi kesan impak terhadap pembelian kendera-

an dan perbelanjaan yang lebih tinggi bagi kos perjalanan menggunakan kenderaan sendiri. Pengurangan subsidi bahan api turut berpotensi memberi kesan kepada kenaikan harga barang disebabkan kenaikan kos pengangkutan dan logistik.

Subsidi bersasar juga memberi kesan terhadap kuasa beli yang berpotensi menyebabkan rakyat lebih berhati-hati dalam berbelanja. Kita tidak mahu situasi yang mana kenaikan gaji penjawat awam belum diperoleh tetapi harga barang pula yang naik terlebih dahulu dalam beberapa bulan mendatang.

Penulis berpandangan terdapat keperluan untuk kerajaan mengkaji semula pengelasan pendapatan isi rumah terutamanya dalam konteks peralihan subsidi agar ia benar-benar selari dengan realiti di lapangan. Kerajaan juga perlu mengambil kira pendapatan isi rumah yang bersesuaian berdasarkan bilangan tanggungan khususnya anak yang masih bersekolah atau sedang belajar di institusi pengajian tinggi. Lokalti tempat bekerja dan tempat tinggal juga harus diambil kira.

* Dr. Anuar Shah Bali Mahomed
Profesor Madya dan Timbalan Dekan

Sekolah Perniagaan dan Ekonomi
Universiti Putra Malaysia/The Future Research

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Ringgit dijangka diniaga secara berhati-hati minggu ini

KUALA LUMPUR - Ringgit dijangka diniagakan secara berhati-hati berbanding dolar AS dalam masa terdekat berikutan pelabur terus memantau dengan teliti kemajuan ekonomi tempatan dan global pada masa depan, kata seorang penganalisis.

Ketua Ahli Ekonomi Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd, Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid berkata, antara yang diperhatikan berkaitan Pengerusi Rizab Persekutuan (Fed) AS, Jerome Powell yang jelas menyatakan bahawa kenaikan kadar bukan sebahagian daripada senario garis dasar bank pusat itu walaupun ia masih bimbang dengan kadar inflasi.

"Satu peristiwa penting minggu depan ialah mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Dasar Monetari Bank Negara Malaysia pada 9 Mei, terutamanya mengenai penilaiannya terhadap perubahan dasar baru-baru ini dan prospek inflasi.

"Selain itu, siri Indeks Pengurus Pembelian, keputusan kadar faedah Reserve Bank of Australia dan data perdagangan China yang akan dikeluarkan minggu depan. Sehubungan itu, ringgit sepatutnya kekal sekitar RM4.73 hingga RM4.74 bagi setiap dolar AS minggu depan," katanya kepada *Bernama* pada Sabtu.

Pada asas Jumaat ke Jumaat, ringgit mengukuh kepada

MATA WANG

STRAY 5/5

4.7370/7400 berbanding dolar AS daripada 4.7650/7710 seminggu sebelumnya.

Mata wang tempatan juga meningkat berbanding pound Britain kepada 5.9487/9525 daripada 5.9644/9719 sepanjang minggu dan meningkat berbanding euro kepada 5.0890/0922 daripada 5.1157/1221 sebelum ini, tetapi ia merosot berbanding yen Jepun kepada 3.0947/09683 daripada 3.0408/0451.

Sementara itu, ringgit, diniagakan bercampur-campur berbanding mata wang ASEAN. Ia naik berbanding baht Thailand kepada 12.8723/8850 daripada 12.8902/9120 pada Jumaat lepas, namun merosot berbanding rupiah Indonesia kepada 294.4/294.8 daripada 293.9/294.4 seminggu sebelumnya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:06...MAY...2024..



Kenaikan gaji penjawat awam diyakini boleh membawa kepada lebih banyak peluang untuk kumpulan itu membeli hartanah. - Gambar hiasan

Lebih banyak peluang beli rumah

Sejajar dengan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam Disember ini

KUALA LUMPUR

Persatuan Pemaju Hartanah dan Perumahan (Rehda) percaya bahawa kenaikan gaji penjawat awam pada Disember ini boleh membawa kepada lebih banyak peluang untuk kumpulan itu membeli hartanah.

Presidennya, Datuk NK Tong berkata, walaupun kenaikan kos sara hidup dan bahan binaan terus menjejaskan kemampuan orang ramai dan pemaju, berita mengenai kenaikan gaji penjawat awam dapat memberikan sedikit kelegaan.

"Bagi pekerja yang mencarum kepada Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP), walaupun terdapat

kebimbangan mengenai penstruktur-an semula akaun pencarum, apabila Akaun 1 telah dinaikkan kepada 75 peratus, mereka masih mempunyai sehingga 25 peratus daripada simpanan mereka untuk digunakan membeli rumah idaman mereka, dalam Akaun 2 dan 3 mereka," katanya kepada *Bernama*.

Beliau berkata, walaupun cadangan kenaikan gaji itu mungkin tidak dapat mengurangkan isu rumah tidak mampu dibeli di Malaysia dengan segera, Rehda berharap langkah itu akan memberi impak positif yang berterusan kepada industri dan negara dalam jangka masa panjang.

Ditanya bagaimana pemaju akan menguruskan kos binaan yang meningkat, katanya, ia terpulang kepada pemaju untuk menjadi inovatif.

"Mereka boleh terus menurunkan margin mereka untuk menyerap kos tersebut yang meningkat dengan ketara beberapa tahun ini.

"Selain itu, kos juga boleh di-

cerminkan daripada yang dipindahkan kepada pengguna yang akan membawa kepada kenaikan harga. Cara lain adalah dengan menggantikan bahan dengan kualiti dan ketahanan yang sama. Ini mungkin disebabkan ringgit yang rendah.

"Oleh itu, terpulang kepada pemaju untuk menjadi inovatif," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kos pematuhan adalah satu lagi isu berterusan yang termasuk kelewatan untuk kelulusan.

Kos pematuhan termasuklah masa dan perbelanjaan yang ditanggung oleh pemaju untuk mematuhi dasar, perundangan dan peraturan kerajaan yang meningkatkan kos menjalankan perniagaan.

Tong menjelaskan dengan peningkatan kos tenaga yang tidak dapat dielakkan di peringkat global, yang merupakan input utama kepada bahan binaan, kos pematuhan sekurang-kurangnya perlu dikurangkan, tanpa menjejaskan peraturan dan undang-undang.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Kerajaan lancar strategi baharu perangi rasuah Selasa ini

PUTRAJAYA - Kerajaan akan melancarkan Strategi Pembanterasannya Rasuah Nasional (NACS) 2024-2028 yang memberi fokus terhadap keberkesanan usaha pencegahan rasuah, meningkatkan tatakelola dan integriti dalam pentadbiran perkhidmatan awam serta syarikat berkaitan kerajaan.

Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM), Tan Sri Azam Baki berkata, NACS yang menggantikan Pelan Antirasuah Nasional (NACP) 2019-2023 itu akan dirasmikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya pada Selasa ini (7 Mei).

Beliau berkata, peluncuran NACS itu merupakan langkah kerajaan dalam membangunkan suatu strategi pembanterasannya rasuah selari dengan Artikel 5 Konvensyen Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu Menentang Rasuah yang menetapkan semua negara anggota termasuk Malaysia untuk menghasilkan satu dokumen bagi rujukan utama inisiatif-inisiatif antirasuah di peringkat nasional.

"NACP yang berakhir pada 2023 telah dikenal pasti sebagai salah satu faktor secara tidak langsung yang membantu kejayaan memperbaiki reputasi negara dalam kedudukan Indeks Persepsi Rasuah (CPI) pada 2019 di mana Malaysia melonjak ke tangga ke-51 berbanding kedudukan ke-61 pada 2018.

"Atas faktor ini, NACS dibangunkan dengan memberi penekanan kepada lima strategi utama iaitu pendidikan, kebertanggungjawaban awam, suara rakyat, penguatkuasaan dan insentif," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Ahad.

Menurut Azam, bagi memastikan keberkesanan pelaksanaan NACS, satu mekanisme pemantauan yang menyeluruh akan diwujudkan oleh Bahagian Perancangan Governans Nasional SPRM.

Katanya, Laporan Pemantauan dan Penilaian mengenai NACS akan dibentangkan pada Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Khas Kabinet Tatakelola Nasional yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri untuk diperakukan sebelum dikemukakan kepada Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri dan juga Parlimen.

- Bernama



AZAM

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

Bisnes



SUBSIDI bahan api pada 2022 berjumlah RM51 bilion.

PENGAPUNGAN HARGA BAHAN API DAN SUBSIDI BERSASAR

STRUKTUR SEMULA EKONOMI MALAYSIA

Oleh Sri Ayu Kartika

Amri

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Kuala Lumpur

Pengapungan harga bahan api dan subsidi bersasar yang bakal dilaksanakan kerajaan tidak lama lagi dilihat mampu menstrukturkan kembali ekonomi negara bagi jangka panjang.

Penganalisis Ekonomi Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) Business School Prof Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid berkata, jumlah subsidi bahan api pada 2022 berjumlah RM51 bilion melebihi 60 peratus

daripada jumlah keseluruhan subsidi yang ditanggung kerajaan.

"Sekiranya ia dapat dijamin, wang itu dapat digunakan dengan lebih bijak seperti bantuan tunai langsung kepada warganegara Malaysia dan juga penyediaan infrastruktur yang lebih banyak dan berkualiti kepada rakyat seperti hospital, sistem pengangkutan awam, pendidikan dan sebagainya.

"Penjimatan daripada pemberian subsidi secara

pukul yang berlaku akan membantu kerajaan mengurangkan defisit kepada 4.3 peratus di atas perbelanjaan tahunannya, sekali gus mengurangkan

"Hutang negara yang sekarang berjumlah sekitar RM1.2 trilion"
Dr Aimi Zulhazmi

hutang negara yang sekarang berjumlah sekitar RM1.2 trilion," katanya.

Katanya, peningkatan hutang negara bersamaan dengan pertambahan subsidi pukal setiap tahun yang memberi kesan negatif kepada ekonomi negara dan pasti, ia tidak harus berterusan selamanya.

Justeru, beliau berkata, tindakan kerajaan pada awalnya dilihat akan memberi kesulitan pada peringkat awal perubahan ini dibuat, antaranya rantaian nilai bekalan barangan akan meningkat secara langsung kepada sektor pengangkutan, runcit, restoran dan pelbagai lagi.

"Bagaimanapun, kebajikan utama dalam jangka pendek adalah kepada kerajaan, iaitu dapat menstruktur semula ekonomi negara daripada belanja subsidi yang tinggi sekarang, meringankan beban kewangan, menurunkan hutang dan defisit perbelanjaan," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

'Tiada keputusan muktamad isu penarikan subsidi'

PM anggap media antarabangsa tidak beretika petik sumber tidak diketahui

Oleh Nur Izzati Mohamad
bhnews@bh.com.my

Butterworth: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menganggap media antarabangsa yang mendakwa kononnya kerajaan akan mengurangkan subsidi bahan api menjelang bulan depan dalam laporan yang sekadar memetik sumber tidak diketahui, sebagai tidak beretika.

Tegas Perdana Menteri, setakat ini belum ada sebarang keputusan muktamad diputuskan kerajaan berhubung subsidi bahan terbabat walaupun ada perbincangan awal bersama Jemaah Menteri.

"Saya dapati kebelakangan ini, mungkin kerana pendirian kita dalam isu politik yang tegas, maka ada media antarabangsa yang terus menyerang dari segi berita yang negatif, umpamanya kasi-no. Ia tidak pernah dibincangkan dan tidak pernah sampai pada maklumat saya, tetapi dijadikan isu yang panas.

"Kemudian, isu penarikan subsidi pula. Walaupun ada perbincangan awal, tetapi tidak ada keputusan muktamad tarikh pelaksanaannya kerana kaedah itu harus diterangkan supaya tidak membebankan rakyat," katanya.

Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan menjelaskan demikian

kepada pemberita pada majlis perjumpaannya bersama hampir 100 pemimpin masyarakat Permatang Pauh, dekat sini semalam.

Perdana Menteri menegaskan, beliau menerima prinsip kebebasan media, namun penulisan yang dibuat perlu beretika dan berlandaskan fakta.

Belum ada keputusan

Dalam hal subsidi bahan api, Anwar mengulangi bahawa Kabinet belum membuat sebarang keputusan muktamad.

"Jadi bagaimana (media antarabangsa) pastikan sekian dan sekian (berita) yang tidak sihat. Prinsipnya, apa sahaja penyusunan subsidi bagi saya, (pastikan) tidak akan membebankan rakyat.

"Bila media antarabangsa ini mempermainkan atau memanfaatkan isu, perlu tengok fakta. Kenapa rujuk dasar, mana boleh sumber. Kalau kerajaan nak umum, kita bagi tahu dengan bagi notis, bukan nak rahsia," katanya.

Kelmarin, media asing melaporkan Malaysia akan mengurangkan subsidi bahan api menjelang Jun ini dengan memetik sumber rasmi dan industri.

Menurut laporan itu, harga diesel didakwa akan diapung pada kadar pasaran dalam tempoh beberapa minggu selepas Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Kuala Kubu Bharu pada 11 Mei ini dan akan disusuli dengan kenaikan berperingkat petrol dalam kadar run-cit.

Ibadat&Fadilat

Abu Hurairah RA meriwayatkan Rasulullah SAW bersabda: "Sedekah tidak akan mengurangi harta seseorang. Seseorang yang pemaaf, Allah menambahkan kemuliaan baginya. Dan seorang tawaduk (merendahkan diri) kepada Allah, maka Allah menaikkan darjatnya." (HR Muslim)

KAWASAN	SUBUH	ZUHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Kangar	5:52	1:18	4:36	7:28	8:41
Alor Setar	5:53	1:17	4:36	7:27	8:40
P. Pinang	5:54	1:17	4:36	7:26	8:39
Ipoh	5:53	1:15	4:35	7:23	8:36
Kuala Lumpur	5:52	1:13	4:32	7:20	8:32
Shah Alam	5:52	1:13	4:32	7:20	8:32
Johor Bahru	5:46	1:04	4:24	7:08	8:20
Kuantan	5:47	1:07	4:27	7:13	8:25
Seremban	5:52	1:11	4:31	7:17	8:29
Bandar Melaka	5:51	1:10	4:30	7:16	8:28
Kota Bharu	5:46	1:10	4:29	7:20	8:28
K. Terengganu	5:43	1:06	4:25	7:15	8:28
Kota Kinabalu	4:50	12:14	3:33	6:24	7:36
Kuching	5:20	12:39	3:59	6:44	7:56

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....0.6 MAY 2024.....

Kerajaan lancar strategi baharu cegah rasuah

Putrajaya: Kerajaan akan melancarkan Strategi Pembanteraan Rasuah Nasional (NACS) 2024-2028 yang memberi fokus terhadap keberkesanan usaha pencegahan rasuah, meningkatkan tata kelola dan integriti dalam pentadbiran perkhidmatan awam serta syarikat berkaitan kerajaan.

Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM), Tan Sri Azam Baki, berkata NACS yang menggantikan Pelan Antirasuah Nasional (NACP) 2019-2023 itu akan dirasmikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC) esok.

Beliau berkata peluncuran NACS itu adalah langkah kerajaan dalam membangunkan suatu strategi pembanteraan rasuah selari dengan Artikel 5 United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) yang menetapkan semua negara anggota, termasuk Malaysia untuk menghasilkan satu dokumen bagi rujukan utama inisiatif antirasuah pada peringkat nasional.

"NACP yang berakhir pada 2023 dikenal pasti sebagai salah satu faktor secara tidak langsung yang membantu kerajaan memperbaiki reputasi negara dalam kedudukan Indeks Persepsi Rasuah (CPI) pada 2019 di mana Malaysia melonjak ke tangga ke-51 berbanding kedudukan ke-61 pada 2018.

"Atas faktor ini, NACS dibangunkan dengan memberi penekanan kepada lima strategi utama iaitu pendidikan, keberterangjawaban awam, suara rakyat, penguatkuasaan dan insentif," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Azam berkata bagi memastikan keberkesanan pelaksanaan NACS, satu mekanisme pemantauan yang menyeluruh akan diwujudkan Bahagian Perancangan Governans Nasional (BPGN) SPRM.

Beliau berkata Laporan Pemantauan dan Penilaian mengenai NACS akan dibentangkan di Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Khas Kabinet Tatakelola Nasional (JKKTN) yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri untuk diperakui sebelum dikemukakan kepada Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri dan juga Parlimen.

Katanya, SPRM menerusi BPGN bersiap sedia sepenuhnya untuk menggalas tanggungjawab menyelaraskan pelbagai rancangan di bawah strategi terkandung dalam NACS.

BERNAMA

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....0.6 MAY 2024

Kaedah kenaikan gaji berdasarkan prestasi akan diperkenal

Georgetown: Kerajaan bakal memperkenalkan kaedah yang melihat prestasi kerja dan kecakapan penjawat awam bagi menentukan, sama ada mereka berhak menerima kenaikan gaji, kata Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Langkah itu, kata Perdana Menteri, bagi memastikan kenaikan gaji tidak akan ber-

laku secara automatik seperti amalan lazim mengikut tahun perkhidmatan yang ada ketika ini turut membabitkan penjawat awam bermasalah.

"Pemilihan (kenaikan gaji) itu berdasarkan prestasi, sekarang umpamanya ikut tahun (perkhidmatan). Kadang-kadang orang itu lembab bekerja, tidak hadir, ada masalah disip-

lin, terus dinaikkan gaji secara automatik. Kita hendak mengingatkan, ia tidak automatik.

"Mungkin automatik untuk 95 peratus, lima peratus yang dirasakan lembab dan ada masalah, itu kita akan perkenal kaedah supaya mereka dinaikkan (kenaikan gaji)," katanya berucap pada Majlis Perasmian Penutup Program MADANI

Rakyat 2024 Zon Utara dan Sambutan Hari Raya Aidilfitri di Sungai Nibong, semalam.

Anwar menekankan, kenaikan gaji harus dinikmati secara adil, sekali gus kaedah atau mekanisme sesuai perlu dipertimbangkan bagi mencapai hasrat berkenaan kerana tidak adil jika yang bekerja bertungkus lumus mendapat kenaikan dan mereka

yang malas serta lembab pun mendapat kenaikan automatik.

Rabu lalu, beliau mengumumkan penjawat awam akan menikmati kenaikan gaji lebih 13 peratus mulai Disember depan yang dijangka membabitkan kos lebih RM10 bilion, antara kadar kenaikan tertinggi dalam sejarah perkhidmatan awam negara.

PH/6/5

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh...06...MAY...2024.....

Tentukan kaedah nilai prestasi, hak naik gaji penjawat awam

Ada satu persepsi terhadap penjawat awam yang walaupun tidak seratus peratus benar, ia terus menjadi stigma menjatuhkan imej sektor berkenaan. Tanggapan itu ialah 'penjawat awam walaupun lembab bekerja, selalu tuang atau ponteng kerja dan menimbulkan masalah disiplin, mereka susah untuk dibuang', malah kerajaan dianggap akan terus 'memikul biawak hidup' termasuk terpaksa menaikkan gaji secara automatik kerana ia berdasarkan *time-based* atau berasaskan masa.

Ia tidak seratus peratus benar kerana pada 2022, seramai 148 penjawat awam ditamatkan perkhidmatan dan dibuang kerja sepanjang tahun berkenaan disebabkan gagal dalam tempoh percubaan dan masalah tatatertib serta kelakuan. Selain itu, sejumlah 302 pegawai dan anggota Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) dibuang kerja kerana didapati melakukan pelbagai kesalahan bagi tempoh 2022 hingga Februari lalu.

Hakikatnya, proses itu bukan mudah kerana kedudukan penjawat awam termaktub dalam Perlembagaan Persekutuan. Pada umumnya, mereka yang melanggar peraturan ditetapkan berdepan tindakan tatatertib akan disusuli sebaik dibawa Ketua Jabatan atau Lembaga Tatatertib berkenaan di kementerian dan jabatan, manakala hukuman lazimnya bermula dengan amaran manakala peringkat terakhir ialah diturunkan pangkat dan pemecatan.

Bagaimanapun, ia lebih kepada pelanggaran peraturan atau undang-undang, sebaliknya penjawat awam yang bermasalah dari segi prestasi kerja tetap menikmati kenaikan gaji berasaskan masa. Ketika pekerja swasta dinilai berdasarkan petunjuk prestasi utama (KPI) kerana usaha mereka boleh menentukan untung rugi syarikat, maka rekod prestasi kakitangan awam tentu lebih memerlukan penilaian lebih tegas kerana ia faktor utama perkhidmatan sampai kepada rakyat dan pembangunan dirancang terlaksana.

Justeru, kita menyokong langkah kerajaan untuk memperkenalkan kaedah melihat prestasi kerja dan kecekapan penjawat awam bagi menentukan sama ada berhak menerima kenaikan gaji, tidak lagi berlaku secara automatik seperti amalan lazim mengikut tahun perkhidmatan. Ini kerana Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mahu kenaikan gaji dinikmati secara adil berdasarkan mekanisme sesuai supaya hanya yang bekerja bertungkus lumus diberikan kenaikan terbabit.

Namun, kita mengingatkan kerajaan supaya mengadakan perbincangan dengan pemegang taruh sebelum menentukan KPI itu terutama dengan CUEPACS supaya sebarang kaedah atau mekanisme ditentukan memberikan keadilan kepada penjawat awam, sekali gus tidak dipengaruhi dengan sebarang anasir tidak patut termasuk kronisme, budaya mengampu dan pilih kasih. Malah, ia juga perlu dikaji bersama dengan Dasar Pemisah dilaksanakan sejak 2015 lagi yang membolehkan perkhidmatan penjawat awam mendapat prestasi kurang 60 peratus ditamatkan dan dibersarakan.

Hakikatnya, penambahbaikan Sistem Sarana Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) ini sangat diperlukan untuk memastikan jumlah dibelanjakan kerajaan melebihi RM10 bilion itu memberikan pulangan optimum kepada negara terutama dalam konteks penyampaian perkhidmatan kepada rakyat dan pembangunan serta pemulihan ekonomi.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....06 MAY 2024.....



Graduan perlu ubah mentaliti makan gaji

Lepasan institusi pengajian tinggi perlu cari peluang cipta pekerjaan

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Pengangguran bukan isu baharu sebaliknya ia sering menjadi topik hangat, apatah lagi membabitkan graduan yang baru tamat pengajian.

Antara faktor dikatakan sebagai punca adalah sikap graduan yang kononnya terlalu memilih kerja selain tidak ada peluang pekerjaan sehingga menyebabkan mereka menganggur.

Pengarah Pusat Pembangunan Kerjaya, Kaunseling dan Alumni Pejabat Hal Ehwal Pelajar Dan Alumni Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Dr Razman Hafifi Redzuan, berkata berdasarkan statistik Tenaga Buruh Malaysia yang diterbitkan Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM), bilangan penganggur dalam negara sehingga Januari 2024 adalah seramai 567,300 orang dengan kadar pengangguran 3.3 peratus.

Manakala, angka dari Pusat Kajian Pasaran Buruh Masa Hadapan (EU-ERA) pula, secara purata terdapat 224,000 graduan lepasan universiti setiap tahun, manakala jumlah purata bagi tempoh tiga tahun adalah seramai 672,000 orang.

"Pengangguran berlaku dalam kalangan graduan adalah disebabkan keadaan ekonomi yang naik turun, ketergantungan kepada teknologi berbanding tenaga manusia, penolakan terhadap graduan baharu selain majikan memilih individu berpengalaman.

"Selain itu, ada sesetengah majikan terpaksa mengurangkan tenaga kerja disebabkan permintaan dan pengeluaran produk syarikat mereka berkurang disebabkan kuasa beli menurun," katanya.

Katanya, penggunaan teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) juga memberi kesan kerana dianggap lebih mudah dan murah dalam menyelesaikan kerja-kerja yang kompleks setanding kemampuan manusia.

Hal ini turut disumbangkan oleh isu sesetengah jurusan yang diambil, tidak lagi menjadi permintaan selain adanya lambakan graduan di pasaran lalu menyebabkan persaingan sengit dalam mendapatkan pekerjaan.

"Apabila berlaku kegawatan ekonomi, kebanyakan industri mula mencari jalan mudah untuk mengurangkan kos.

"Jadi mereka lebih memilih untuk mengambil pekerja asing disebabkan gaji dan elaun lebih murah," katanya.

Tambah Razman Hafifi, secara umum kebanyakan institut pengajian tinggi mengambil pelbagai langkah untuk membantu menangani masalah ini.

Namun katanya, termasuk dalam perkara utama adalah keperluan untuk menukar pemikiran, iaitu tidak lagi bergantung untuk makan gaji tetapi lebih kepada berusaha menjadi graduan usahawan. Selain itu terdapat juga graduan yang memilih untuk bekerja di luar negara.

Perlu lebih proaktif

Sementara itu, bagi Iulisan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Penyiaran, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kampus Shah Alam, Siti Nuraisyah Ibrahim, 35, berkata selepas tamat pengajian pada tahun 2015, dia jenuh menghadiri temu duga kerja tetapi ditolak dengan alasan tidak ada pengalaman.

Katanya, dia akhirnya bekerja

di sebuah kafe di Kuala Lumpur selepas gagal mendapat pekerjaan yang bersesuaian dengan kelulusan dimilikinya.

"Saya kerja di situ setahun sebelum mengambil keputusan untuk pulang ke kampung halaman di Kota Bharu dan sejak itu melakukan pelbagai kerja untuk membantu meringankan beban ibu dan ayah.

"Antara kerja yang saya lakukan termasuklah pernah menjadi guru ganti di taska, pengasuh kanak-kanak, berniaga makanan dari rumah secara kecil-kecilan, membantu saudara menjual beg terpakai dan pakaian secara dalam talian selain mengambil tempahan makanan untuk majlis," katanya.

Katanya, pengalaman tidak mendapat kerja selari kelulusan selain pernah tidak dibayar gaji dilihat secara positif. Malah dia tidak mahu membebankan dirinya dengan tanggapan negatif malah mula mencari ruang mencipta kerjaya sendiri.

"Pekerjaan ditawarkan oleh pelbagai syarikat hari ini semakin kompetitif disebabkan pemohon yang ramai dalam pasaran kerja dan bukan sekadar berdepan saindeng sengit sesama sendiri, malah dengan mereka yang mempunyai pengalaman.

"Sudah pasti, syarikat berkeinginan akan mengutamakan calon-calon yang mampu menawarkan kemahiran yang diperlukan oleh mereka untuk meningkatkan keupayaan.

"Situasi ini menyebabkan saya perlu lebih proaktif dengan tidak hanya menunggu peluang pekerjaan, sebaliknya mencipta pekerjaan dengan membina kemahiran keusahawanan yang dimiliki untuk mencari sumber pendapatan dengan memanfaatkan kecanggihan teknologi.

"Saya masih berfikir untuk menjadikan perniagaan sebagai kerjaya disebabkan tidak mampu untuk

bersaing dalam bidang ini," katanya.

Anak sulung daripada 12 beradik itu berkata, dia percaya ilmu itu luas dan setiap pengalaman yang diperoleh dalam proses pengajian bermula dari diploma sehingga ijazah cukup berharga untuk dipraktikkan dalam dunia sebenar.

"Namun tidak kurangnya ada orang mengata, belajar tinggi, tetapi pekerjaan tidak setanding kelulusan dimilikinya.

"Bagaimanapun, saya tidak pernah berasa rugi atau menyesal belajar sehingga ke peringkat ijazah walaupun tidak mempunyai pekerjaan bagus kerana pendidikan bukan sekadar untuk jaminan pekerjaan sebaliknya ilmu penting dalam membentuk karakter serta modal insan seseorang," katanya.

Sambung pengajian

Sementara itu, Ku Iqmal Aqim Ku Marudzi, 28, berkata, selepas tamat pengajian diploma dalam bidang kejuruteraan dia menganggur selama dua tahun setengah.

"Kegagalan dapat pekerjaan dalam tempoh itu menyebabkan saya menyambung pengajian ke peringkat sarjana muda di Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, dan sudah pun tamat tahun lalu.

"Bagaimanapun sehingga kini, saya belum memperoleh sebarang pekerjaan yang bersesuaian meskipun sudah membuat permohonan.

"Sementara menunggu panggilan temu duga, saya melakukan kerja sambilan di sebuah hotel di Kota Bharu untuk mencari sumber pendapatan," katanya.

Tambah Ku Iqmal Aqim, besar harapannya permohonan berjaya tapi andai ditakdirkan gagal, dia merancang untuk menyambung lagi pengajian di peringkat sarjana pula.

Katanya, terdapat banyak sebab mengapa graduan menganggur antaranya berpunca daripada

"Pengangguran berlaku disebabkan keadaan ekonomi yang naik turun, ketergantungan kepada teknologi berbanding tenaga manusia"

Razman Hafifi Redzuan, Pengarah Pusat Pembangunan Kerjaya, Kaunseling dan Alumni Pejabat Hal Ehwal Pelajar Dan Alumni UMK



"Selepas tamat pengajian pada tahun 2015, saya banyak menghadiri temu duga kerja tetapi ditolak dengan alasan tiada pengalaman"



Siti Nuraisyah Ibrahim, Iulisan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Penyiaran, UiTM

"Sehingga kini, saya belum memperoleh sebarang pekerjaan bersesuaian meskipun sudah membuat permohonan"

Ku Iqmal Aqim Ku Marudzi



sikap keengganan majikan untuk memberi peluang kepada graduan baharu menimba pengalaman dan membuktikan kemampuan.

Kongsinya, untuk jangka panjang dan demi masa depan graduan, pihak yang berkaitan seharusnya tidak meniadakan pengetahuan dan kepakaran graduan muda ini.

"Saya harap kerajaan akan terus melaksanakan pelbagai inisiatif bagi menambah peluang pekerjaan kepada graduan yang baru tamat pengajian.

"Bagaimanapun, pihak berkaitan juga perlu ambil kira keperluan sesuatu jurusan yang ditawarkan supaya dapat menjamin peluang pekerjaan kepada anak muda masa kini," katanya.

Penjawat awam bermasalah tidak naik gaji automatik UM 6/5

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GEORGE TOWN: Kerajaan akan memperkenalkan kaedah yang melihat kepada prestasi kerja dan kecekapan penjawat awam bagi menentukan sama ada mereka berhak menerima kenaikan gaji secara automatik sepenuhnya.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, kenaikan gaji perlu dilaksanakan secara reformasi dari segi tahap perkhidmatan, efisien dan keupayaan meningkatkan prestasi kerja masing-masing.

"Sekarang ini ikut tahun (kenaikan gaji). Kadangkala orang itu lembab bekerja, dia tidak hadir, ada masalah disiplin tetapi terus dinaikkan gaji secara automatik juga.

"Jadi, kita ingin ingatkan bahawa mungkin (berlaku kenaikan gaji) tidak secara automatik. Mungkin 95 peratus (naik gaji) tetapi empat atau lima peratus yang lembab atau ada masalah kita akan memperkenalkan kaedah supaya dinafikan (kenaikan gaji).

"Perkara ini akan diumumkan sekali gus dengan sistem persaraan supaya pemilihan (kenaikan gaji) itu berdasarkan prestasi," katanya ketika berucap dalam Majlis Penutup Program Madani Rakyat 2024 Zon Utara, di Tapak Pesta Sungai Nibong, di sini, semalam.

Beliau sebelum ini mengu-



ANWAR Ibrahim (tengah) ketika meninjau reruai Kerajaan Negeri Pulau Pinang yang mempamerkan replika LRT Laluan Mutiara Pulau Pinang di Program Madani Rakyat 2024 Zon Utara di Tapak Pesta Sungai Nibong, Pulau Pinang, semalam. Turut kelihatan Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang, Chow Kon Yeow (kanan) dan Menteri Pengangkutan, Anthony Loke Siew Fook (kiri).

mumkan penjawat awam bakal menikmati kenaikan gaji lebih 13 peratus yang merupakan kadar tertinggi dalam sejarah perkhidmatan awam negara, mulai 1 Disember ini.

Anwar berkata, adalah tidak adil kepada penjawat awam yang bekerja bersungguh-sungguh kerana mereka yang malas serta lembab dalam melaksanakan tugas turut mendapat kenaikan gaji yang sama.

Dalam perkembangan lain, beliau meminta agensi atau kementerian berkaitan melatih golongan muda menguasai teknologi

kecerdasan buatan (AI) bagi memastikan negara tidak ketinggalan dalam bidang itu.

Beliau berkata, golongan muda yang berminat termasuk mereka yang belajar di maahad tahfiz diberi pendedahan mengenai bidang Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET).

Selain itu, kata beliau, latihan berkaitan AI dan TVET mesti memberi peluang kepada semua penduduk di setiap kawasan bagi mengelakkan perbezaan keupayaan antara kawasan bandar dan pedalaman.

"TVET harus ditingkatkan

untuk memenuhi (permintaan pelabur) seperti tiga atau empat hari lalu, kita ada Microsoft yang melabur RM10.5 bilion dan ini memerlukan puluhan ribu pekerja. Kalau pelaburan itu melibatkan semua ekosistem maka ratusan ribu pekerja harus dilatih. Apakah kita ada keupayaan itu?," soalnya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau mahu penjawat awam dan agensi kerajaan melakukan anjakan dalam semua bidang untuk meningkatkan tahap efisien bagi menarik pelabur asing ke negara ini.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 06 MAY 2024

CABINET IN 'INITIAL DISCUSSION'

NO DECISION YET ON FUEL PRICES, SAYS PM

Anwar rebukes international media over reliance on industry sources

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THERE is no firm decision by the cabinet on a price hike for petrol and diesel, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He dismissed international media reports on the issue as premature and unethical, emphasising that while discussions had been initiated in the cabinet, no conclusion had been reached yet.

Anwar said this was because the government needed to explain the method so as not to burden the people.

"There has been a series of negative reporting, particularly from neighbouring countries and the international media, recently."

"First, it was the casino issue and now, the price hike for petrol and diesel."

"I think it is only proper and ethical if they referred and checked the facts (before reporting). For example, the issue of the casino. There is no basis at all. It was never discussed on any level and it is never to my intention or knowledge."

"Second, about the price increase... the withdrawal of sub-

sidy for diesel. There is initial discussion but no firm decision by the cabinet."

"I find that lately, maybe because of our stern stand on several political issues, we have come under attack by international media in terms of negative news reporting," he said.

Responding to queries regarding the rationale behind potential fuel price adjustments, Anwar emphasised the government's stance on subsidy rationalisation, with the aim of minimising the impact on people.

He cautioned against sensationalised reporting, urging the media to uphold ethical standards and prioritise factual accuracy.

He also addressed concerns regarding the international media's reliance on industry sources, asserting the importance of consulting policy-makers for accurate information.

Anwar assured that any official announcements regarding policy changes would be made publicly and transparently.

"When the international media played up the issue, it benefited

the opposition, who used the issues to criticise the government. It is as if the opposition is foreign media-oriented. They do not think about facts."



"I find that lately, maybe because of our stern stand on several political issues, we have come under attack by international media in terms of negative news reporting."

DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister

"I see this continuing. We accept the principle of freedom, but it must be ethical and based on facts."

"In this matter, the cabinet has not made any final decision. If we want to implement it, we will not burden the people. For example, the recent hike in electricity tariff."

So, we understand if the opposition wants to use this issue. But the facts should be explained to the people," he added.

"If the government intends to announce anything, we will announce it by giving notices. There is no secret," he said.

On Friday, foreign media reports said that the country was set to cut fuel subsidies next month.

The report, quoting official and industry sources, said that diesel price would be floated to market rates after the Kuala Kubu Bharu by-election on May 11, followed by a staggered rise in prices of petrol.

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MINISTRY EYES AI FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT

Adoption of cutting-edge technology crucial in realising PM's vision, says Saifuddin

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THE Home Ministry will look into the use of cutting-edge technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), to enhance border control management.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, said adoption of the technology was based on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's vision for a sustainable and high-income nation.

"To achieve this vision and aspiration, a secure and safe en-

vironment plays a crucial role, where threats like cyberattacks, radicalism and extremism need to be handled effectively to safeguard the harmony and sustainability of the nation.

"In line with this, Malaysia is taking steps to strengthen border security by establishing the Malaysia Border and Entry Agency (MCBA), which acts as the sole agency overseeing border security matters and emphasises the use of cutting-edge technology, including AI, to enhance border control management," he said.

Saifuddin was speaking at a joint press conference with Defence Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin after a walkabout to witness the final preparations for Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (Natsec) Asia 2024.

Saifuddin said the exhibitions would be the best platform for Malaysia and other participating nations to exchange ideas, knowledge and opinions on the

best practices that could be generated and achieved in general.

On Thursday, Anwar directed MCBA to carry out its tasks with immediate effect.

He said although the bill related to the establishment of the agency would only be tabled in Parliament in July, all relevant departments, such as the Immigration and Customs, could deploy their officers and start duties immediately.

On Friday, Saifuddin said MCBA had begun carrying out its duties once the cabinet paper was presented in April.

He said the agency would function through four main scopes related to border control to facilitate movement, whether involving citizens or foreign tourists.

The minister added that MCBA would become an important enforcement agency in the country once the bill was passed.

Meanwhile, defence and security deals worth a total of RM8.1 billion are expected to be inked during the DSA and Natsec Asia 2024 exhibitions from today

to Thursday.

Khaled said of the total, the Defence Ministry has "identified contracts and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) that will be signed during the exhibition worth RM6 billion".

Saifuddin said his ministry would be signing 14 deals worth RM2.1 billion.

The 18th edition of DSA and Natsec Asia 2024 will take place at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre.

Khaled also said that this year's exhibitions have improved in terms of participation and scale, with 1,324 companies set to be featured from 60 countries showcasing their defence and security technologies.

"Significantly, 34 countries will have their own pavilions with Türkiye, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Italy and the United States being among the largest.

"It will also be the first time that Singapore, the UAE and Iran are joining the exhibitions.

"In terms of participation, we

will see 400 important delegates from more than 50 countries consisting of nations' leaders, defence ministers, home ministers and military chiefs," he said.

Saifuddin further said DSA and Natsec Asia 2024 would serve as a platform for the exchange of information on product and system developments important to law enforcement agencies and industry stakeholders at regional and global levels.

"Besides serving as a platform to address pressing issues, the organisation of this event also plays a significant role in fostering co-operation between agencies, sharing knowledge about strategies and crucial responses in managing complex security areas.

"As we face an uncertain security environment, better alignment and integration between national and international security and law enforcement agencies is among the priorities," he said, adding that he will be also host a town hall session on cybersecurity.



Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (second from left) and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin (second from right) checking out some of the weapons on display at an exhibition booth during a walkabout to witness the final preparations for Defence Services Asia (DSA) and National Security (Natsec) Asia 2024 at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: ..0..6..MAY...2024.....



For the week ended May 3, the ringgit rose to 4.7370/7400 versus the greenback from 4.7650/7710 a week earlier. FILE PIC

LOCAL CURRENCY MOVEMENT

'Cautious trade against greenback in near term'

KUALA LUMPUR: The ringgit is expected to trade cautiously against the US dollar in the near term as investors continue to closely monitor local and global economic developments, said an analyst.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said among others, US Federal Reserve (Fed) chairman Jerome Powell clearly indicated that the option for a rate rise was not in the central bank's baseline scenario, although it was still concerned over the inflation rate.

"An important event (this week) is Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee meeting on May 9, especially on its assessment on the recent policy changes.

"Other than that, a series of Purchasing Managers' Indices data, the Reserve Bank of Australia's interest rate decision and China's trade data will also be released.

"On that note, the ringgit should linger around 4.73 to 4.74 versus the US dollar."

Last week, the ringgit, along with other Asean currencies, reacted to the US Federal Open Market Committee meeting that concluded on Thursday.

A dealer said the outcome of the meeting clearly showed that the "higher for longer" narratives for the US interest rate were likely to stay in the near future, given the lack of progress in US inflation reaching the Fed's target.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit rose to 4.7370/7400 versus

the greenback from 4.7650/7710 a week earlier.

The local note also improved against the British pound to 5.9487/9525 from 5.9644/9719 and appreciated vis-a-vis the euro to 5.0890/0922 from 5.1157/1221 previously.

However, it slipped against the yen to 3.0947/0968 from 3.0408/0451 previously.

It appreciated against the baht to 12.8723/8850 from 12.8902/9120 last Friday and climbed versus the Philippine peso to 8.25/8.27 from 8.26/8.27 previously.

However, it slipped against the rupiah to 294.4/294.8 from 293.9/294.4 and eased versus the Singapore dollar to 3.5027/5054 from 3.5021/5068.

Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh:0.6...MAY...2024..

VERSUS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

RINGGIT OUTPERFORMS REGIONAL PEERS

Kenanga Research expects local note to average 4.53 against US dollar this year

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THE ringgit outperformed most regional currencies in April despite depreciating one per cent month-on-month to 4.773 versus the US dollar.

The ringgit's improved performance against the currencies of Malaysia's main trading partners was reflected in MIDF Research's trade-weighted ringgit index, which jumped 0.3 per cent month-on-month to 85.24 in April.

The local currency strengthened 0.2 per cent against the yen and 0.11 per cent against rupiah, among others.

"The yen depreciated after the Bank of Japan kept the interest rate steady in its April policy decision, as expected by the market consensus despite the yen's continued struggle against the greenback and other currencies," said MIDF Research.

"The rupiah's depreciation caused Bank Indonesia to hike its policy interest rate to support the currency from weakening further," it added.

The ringgit also registered

gains against the Philippine peso (1.6 per cent month-on-month), baht (1.3 per cent month-on-month) and Korean won (1.6 per cent). However, it fell 0.5 per cent against the euro and British pound.

"The intra-month movement saw the ringgit plunging from its strongest closing on the first day of the month at 4.731 versus the US dollar towards the intra-month low of 4.796 on April 16, as released United States data signalled continued strength in domestic demand."

Despite Malaysia's robust fundamentals supporting the ringgit outlook with domestic demand continuing to expand, the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) future policy direction has remained the main factor influencing the ringgit's exchange rate against the US dollar.

Moving forward, the research firm expects the ringgit and other regional currencies to benefit from the inflow of foreign funds into emerging markets, particularly after the Fed reduces its federal funds rate.

"We now anticipate the ringgit to average around 4.53 against the US dollar this year (2023: 4.56)."

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'Pay raise not for lazy civil servants'

GEORGE TOWN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has clarified that the recent announcement of a more than 13 per cent increase in civil servants' salaries is based on performance and is not an automatic entitlement.

He highlighted the significance of rewarding hard work while addressing inefficiencies within the civil service.

He also underscored the need for reform and efficiency improvements alongside salary adjustments.

Addressing concerns about non-performing civil servants benefitting from the pay rise, Anwar emphasised that those with disciplinary issues or performance concerns would be excluded from the salary increase.

"It may be automatic for about 95 per cent of the civil servants. But for the remaining four or five per cent problematic ones... the ones with disciplinary issues, they will be denied the salary increase."

He gave the assurance that a mechanism would be put in place to ensure fairness in this regard.

"It is unfair that people who

work hard get a salary increase while those who are lazy and slow also enjoy the same benefit. We will consider this," he said at the closing of the northern region Madani Rakyat 2024 programme here yesterday.

Present were Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek and Human Resources Minister Steven Sim.

Others were Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

On Labour Day, Anwar announced a more than 13 per cent increase in civil servants' remuneration.

The salary increase, effective Dec 1, marked one of the highest in Malaysia's history, with the last revision occurring 12 years ago.

Emphasising the importance of reform alongside higher remuneration, Anwar highlighted the government's commitment to ensuring that civil servants' minimum pay exceeded RM2,000 per month.

"We enhance salaries through civil service reforms to promote efficiency."

"This will be announced simultaneously with the SSPA (Public Service Remuneration System) so that it is based on performance."

"So, we want to remind them that this is not automatic."

Anwar said he recently announced the increment for 2025, which would reach RM10 billion, and that the following years would be more than that.

"But I dare to make that decision with my colleagues in the cabinet because I do not think the problem of our debt burden, the corruption that happened in the past and the leakages should be borne by civil servants."

"They have been waiting for 12 years and they are willing to accept changes, work faster and harder."

"As such, the national leadership should recognise their services and raise their salary accordingly," he said, adding that it was usual for the opposition to dispute it.

Anwar said, however, once they looked at the details, they would understand better.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: ...0.6...MAY...2024....

Higher pay calls for efficiency, productivity: Economist

► 'Increase for health, education sectors justified vis-a-vis rising cost of living'

■ BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: The government has been urged to stay close to the *Madani* spirit of efficiency and productivity by investing in a smaller but smarter bureaucracy that offers good value for money.

Prominent economist and Southeast Asia Lead for the Global Labour Organisation, Prof Niaz Asadullah, said "the evidence is not clear cut" that the increase in remuneration is required due to the rising cost of living as argued by Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepac) leaders.

"My research on a segment of civil servants confirms that they were less affected during the Covid-19 pandemic, compared with private sector individuals in terms of job stability, Employees' Provident Fund withdrawals and loss of financial well-being," he said.

Niaz, who is also Universiti Malaya Associate Fellow of the Social Wellbeing Research Centre, was commenting on whether the increase in civil servants' remuneration from this December as recently announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is justified. The increase will add RM10 billion annually to federal expenditure.

He said many early career civil servants view the increase as a necessity, given the

challenges caused by depressed wages. As a proportion of GDP, the total government wage bill is below the average of other countries at the same income level.

"However, the emolument-to-revenue ratio is very high in Malaysia. Civil service salaries account for more than one-third of total government revenues, and this is primarily because of an over-sized bureaucracy."

He stressed that proposals for wage increases must go hand in hand with discussions on civil service reforms, particularly when the global post-pandemic slogan is "building back better".

On whether they deserve a pay hike, he said street-level civil servants and front liners in sectors such as health and education may have legitimate concerns over low salaries vis-a-vis the rising cost of living.

"But there are also questions about poor service quality and performance efficiency. The 2024 World Bank Economic Monitor Report highlighted the problem of absenteeism among national school teachers in Malaysia to be as high as 40%."

"An earlier World Bank report also exposed Malaysia's poor global ranking in terms of the quality of public institutions, compared to our aspirational peers that include Japan, South Korea and Singapore among others, as well as the expectations of our growing middle-class."

"So, while we like to be compassionate to civil servants, we must simultaneously respond to public expectations of improved service quality. Contrary to what some commentators have claimed, better pay does not guarantee performance improvement."

Niaz said Malaysia's GDP is projected to grow at between 4.2% and 4.8% this year.

Hence, whether the country can afford

sweeteners such as this year's payouts of RM500 Aidilfitri assistance, the RM2,000 Early Incentive Payment, and now the increase in remuneration depends on the allocation and financing mode.

"If the extra wage bill is deficit-financed, it would lead to inflation, leaving real wages unchanged and the government's expenditure far above the estimated RM10 billion."

He said while the official justification for increasing the remuneration is to fulfil past promises, the higher allocation is also compatible with the *Madani* framework which calls for "lifting the social floor".

"With the latest increase, the minimum monthly public sector remuneration will rise from RM1,765 to RM2,000 from this December."

"But the *Madani* agenda also insists on efficiency and productivity relating to expenditure. The RM10 billion to finance an across-the-board increase in wages without productivity-linked measures would undermine this agenda."

Niaz said the decision on remuneration should not be narrowly scrutinised based only on economic costs and benefits, but also in terms of higher efficiency from civil servants and better service quality and delivery.

"If performance remains unchanged, the pay raise will be another form of leakage of public funds," he said adding that another danger is that union leaders and workers may use public sector wage increases as a benchmark for their wage negotiations.

"The national risk is greater if the RM10 billion is deficit-financed. And with inflation, more money in people's pockets will be meaningless as only nominal wages will increase, leaving purchasing power unchanged."

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Tarikh:

PM to launch new anti-corruption plan

■ BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will launch the 2024-2028 National Anti-Corruption Strategies (NACS) tomorrow, said Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki.

"NACS will focus on the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, enhance governance and integrity in public administration and government-linked companies (GLC)."

He said NACS, which will replace the National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019-2023 (NACP), is set to kick off after the launch, which is to be held at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

Azam said NACS is a government initiative to develop a national anti-corruption strategy, in line with Article 5 of the

UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

He said UNCAC stipulates all member states, including Malaysia, should produce a document that serves as a primary reference for anti-corruption initiatives at national level.

"The NACP, which ended in 2023, was identified as one of the indirect factors that helped improve the reputation of the country in the Corruption Perceptions Index in 2019, in which Malaysia jumped to 51st place compared with its previous 61st place in 2018.

"For this reason, NACS was developed, with an emphasis on five main strategies – Education, Public Accountability, People's Voices, Enforcement and Incentives."

The ceremony will also be attended by the two deputy prime ministers, Cabinet ministers, chief secretary to the government, ministry secretaries-general,

state government secretaries and GLC chiefs.

Azam said to ensure the effectiveness of NACS implementation, a comprehensive monitoring mechanism will be established by the MACC Governance Integrity Division.

He said monitoring and evaluation reports on NACS will be presented at the National Governance Cabinet Special Committee meetings, chaired by the prime minister, for validation before being submitted to Cabinet meetings and Parliament.

"MACC, through the division, is fully prepared to assume responsibility for coordinating various programmes under the strategies contained in NACS."

"I have high hopes that all parties would cooperate to ensure a successful implementation of NACS for the next five years, in line with the national aspiration to build a *Madani* Malaysia."

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