



Tinjauan tambahan lot parkir di Jalan Wawasan 5/1, Taman Wawasan, Puchong pada 05 April 2024. Foto MOHD KHAIRUL HELMY MOHD DIN/SELANGORKINI

ADN BERITA UTAMA EXCO SELANGOR

Tambahan lot parkir memudahkan pendaki, atasi sesak hujung minggu

SUBANG JAYA, 5 APRIL: Penambahan 49 petak parkir di Taman Wawasan, Puchong memudahkan pendaki Bukit Wawasan meletak kenderaan dengan lebih teratur, sekali gus mengurangkan kesesakan.

Ahli Dewan Negeri (ADN) Kinrara Ng Sze Han menjelaskan projek kendalian Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) siap Disember tahun lalu membabitkan kos sekitar RM160,000.

Menurutnya, Bukit Wawasan yang terletak dalam kawasan Hutan Simpan Ayer Hitam terkenal dalam kalangan pendaki terutama pada hujung minggu, yang mencecah kira-kira 1,000 orang.



Ahli Dewan Negeri Kinrara Ng Sze Han bercakap kepada media selepas meninjau projek penambahan parkir di Jalan Wawasan 5/1, Taman Wawasan, Puchong pada 5 April 2024. Foto MOHD KHAIRUL HELMY MOHD DIN/SELANGORKINI

"Jadi kawasan sekitar terutama Persiaran Wawasan akan sesak pada hujung minggu (kerana kenderaan diletak di tepi jalan) dan menyebabkan gangguan lalu lintas. Justeru, kita panjangkan aduan.

"Terima kasih kepada MBSJ kerana menjayakan projek ini yang akan memberi keselesaan bukan saja kepada pendaki, malah penduduk sekitar," katanya selepas meninjau kawasan itu hari ini.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Sze Han yang juga EXCO mobiliti berkata perkhidmatan van transit atas permintaan (DRT) fasa dua akan dilaksana Jun atau Julai, yang menumpukan kawasan padat pelajar.

Beliau berkata projek rintis yang dilaksanakan di lapan kawasan mendapat sambutan sangat baik dengan peningkatan hampir 100 peratus daripada 500 kepada 800 pengguna dalam tempoh sebulan.

"Ini sekali gus memenuhi hasrat Kerajaan Negeri untuk membekalkan perkhidmatan 'first and last mile' (batuan awal dan akhir) kepada rakyat," katanya lagi.

24/4/24
sim



MAJLIS BANDARAYA SUBANG JAYA
PERSIARAN PERPADUAN, USJ 5,
47610 SUBANG JAYA,
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN

KENYATAAN TENDER

Tawaran adalah dipelawa daripada kontraktor-kontraktor yang mempunyai Sijil Perakuan Pendaftaran (SPP) dan Sijil Perolehan Kerja Kerajaan (SPKK) dari Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB) dalam gred, kategori dan pengkhususan berkaitan serta berdaftar dengan Unit Perancang Ekonomi Selangor (UPEN) dan masih dibenarkan membuat tawaran bagi menyertai kerja berikut :

Bil.	Tajuk	Gred, Kategori dan Pengkhususan	Butir-Butir Taklimat & Lawatan Tapak	Harga Dokumen Senaskah	Tarikh Dokumen Mulai Dijual	Tempat, Tarikh & Waktu Tender ditutup
1.	CADANGAN KERJA-KERJA PEMBAIKAN CERUN RUNTUH DI JALAN LP 6/3, LESTARI PERDANA, SERI KEMBANGAN, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN. (MBSJ.KUB.400-5/8/144) (Wajib hadir lawatan tapak)	CIDB Gred G4 Kategori CE	Tarikh : 22 April 2024 (Isnin) Jam : 10.30 pagi Tempat : Jalan LP 6/3 GPS : 3°00'28.4"N 101°40'22.4"E	RM 200.00	23 April 2024 (Selasa)	Jabatan Kontrak dan Ukur Bahan 13 Mei 2024 (Isnin) Sebelum jam 12.00 tengah hari
2.	CADANGAN KERJA-KERJA PEMBAIKAN CERUN RUNTUH DI JALAN LP 5/2, LESTARI PERDANA, SERI KEMBANGAN, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN. (MBSJ.KUB.400-5/8/140) (Wajib hadir lawatan tapak)	Pengkhususan CE 08 & CE 21	Tarikh : 22 April 2024 (Isnin) Jam : 11.30 pagi Tempat : Jalan LP 5/2 GPS : 3°00'14.7"N 101°40'13.4"E			
3.	KERJA-KERJA MEMBAIK-PULIH JALAN DAN LAIN-LAIN KERJA YANG BERKAITAN DI SEBAHAGIAN KAWASAN INDUSTRI TPP, TAMAN PERINDUSTRIAN PUCHONG, PUCHONG, SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN. (MBSJ.KUB.400-5/8/147)	CIDB Gred G4 Kategori CE Pengkhususan CE 01 & CE 21			08 April 2024 (Isnin)	Jabatan Kontrak dan Ukur Bahan 29 April 2024 (Isnin) Sebelum jam 12.00 tengah hari

Dokumen Meja Tawaran boleh dirujuk di Kaunter Informasi, Aras 1, MBSJ, Persiaran Perpaduan USJ 5, 47610 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Pihak syarikat adalah diwajibkan untuk menghadiri sesi taklimat dan lawatan tapak seperti butir-butir di atas. Sebarang pertanyaan lanjut sila hubungi nombor talian 03-8026 3212.

Dokumen Tender hanya boleh diperolehi secara dalam talian melalui laman sesawang di <http://tender.selangor.my> selepas lawatan tapak diadakan bagi Bil. 1 dan 2. Petender juga adalah diminta untuk mengemaskini maklumat-maklumat syarikat di dalam laman sesawang tersebut.

DATUK BANDAR
MAJLIS BANDARAYA SUBANG JAYA
SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN
www.mbsj.gov.my

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

Tabiat buang sampah di tepi jalan menjengkelkan

SETIAP kali musim perayaan, antara perkara yang menjadi perbualan hangat adalah kesesakan jalan raya yang sehingga kini masih belum dapat diselesaikan sepenuhnya lagi.

Jumlah kenderaan menjadi berkali ganda pada waktu puncak cuti panjang kerana ramai yang berlumba-lumba pulang ke kampung halaman untuk menyambut hari raya bersama keluarga tersayang.

Tidak hairanlah jika ada yang mengambil masa lama untuk sampai ke destinasi berbanding hari-hari biasa. Pun begitu, demi nak balik beraya, berapa jam pun sebenarnya tidak menjadi masalah. Yang penting dapat beraya bersama keluarga.

Namun, yang menjadi isu berkaitan jalan raya perlu dipandang serius walaupun nampak seperti remeh bagi sesetengah orang ialah tabiat membuang sampah di tepi jalan raya.

Bukan perkara baharu lagi, cuma tidak ada tindakan tegas yang betul-betul diambil terhadap pelaku.

Isu berkenaan turut mendapat perhatian Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming yang menyifatkan membuang sampah merata-rata itu sebagai perbuatan tidak bertamadun yang menyusahkan semua orang.

Beliau turut memuat naik gambar pekerja Alam Flora sedang membersihkan lambakan sampah di sebuah lebuh raya.

Susulan itu, pada tahun ini Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan (KPKT) mengarahkan semua penguat kuasa pihak berkuasa tempatan untuk terus mengeluarkan kompaun kepada individu yang membuang sampah di tepi jalan.

Akhbar ini berpandangan tindakan tersebut amat wajar sebagai langkah proaktif untuk mengelakkan jalan raya kita dipenuhi sampah.

Jika tidak dibanteras sejak awal perangai mereka yang tidak bertamadun ini, lambat laun Malaysia akan dikenali sebagai sebuah negara yang rakyatnya pengotor. Kerana nila setitik, rosak susu sebelanga.

Apatah lagi negara dalam kempen tahun Melawat Malaysia pada tahun 2026 dengan sasaran ketibaan 26.1 juta pelancong asing. Sangat memalukan jika tanggapan pelancong seperti itu terhadap negara kita.

Lagipun bukannya susah, sediakan plastik sampah di dalam kereta dan apabila tiba di mana-mana destinasi, buanglah sampah tersebut di tong sampah yang disediakan.

Takkan perkara ini pun masih nak diajar?

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

49 new parking spots for hikers at Wawasan Hill in Puchong



The 49 new parking lots near the Wawasan Hill Trail's at Pusat Bandar Puchong was completed Dec Last year.

PUCHONG: Exploring the scenic trails of Wawasan Hill in Pusat Bandar Puchong has become even more convenient, thanks to the recent addition of 49 new parking spots at the trail entrance.

Kinrara assemblyman Ng Sze Han (pic) said that a new parking lot with space for 49 cars was added due to a request from the hikers.

"Bukit Wawasan has become a renowned hiking destination, attracting enthusiasts not only from Puchong but also from across Selangor and beyond.



"With over 1,000 visitors flocking to the trails every weekend, the need for expanded parking facilities was undeniable," he said during a press conference at the site on Friday (April 5).

The additional parking spots are situated between Persiaran Bukit and Jalan Wawasan 5/1.



With over 1,000 visitors flocking to the trails every weekend at the Wawasan Hill in Pusat Bandar Puchong, the new parking lot is intended to deter illegal parking.

He added that the parking lot was completed by December last year, with the project receiving an allocation of RM160,000 to enhance the hiking experience and alleviate parking congestion.

"Previously, visitors would frequently double park along Persiaran Wawasan, causing inconvenience to nearby apartments.

"Occasionally, we had received complaints from residents and traders about the parking situation and I'd like to thank the Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) for the timely completion of the project," he added.

THE STAR 8/4

Don't treat heat stroke lightly, warns health expert

KOTA BARU: Malaysia is now experiencing the El Nino phenomenon and the people have been reminded not to treat the risk of heat stroke lightly as it can be fatal, says a public health expert.

Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said the people, especially Muslims, need to be alert especially during the month of Ramadan, as they are facing hot and dry conditions for a long period of time, which is more than 10 hours due

to fasting.

He said if a person suffers from heat stroke, it can cause a person to faint in the early stages.

They can also become unconscious and go into coma, especially those with comorbidities.

"Some people are still underestimating the risk of heat stroke and think that it is normal, but it can lead to death," he told Bernama.

Hospital Canselor Tuanku

Muhriz Family Medicine consultant Dr Rashidi Mohamed Pakri said that among the efforts to prevent heat stroke is limiting outdoor activities.

He said people should drink enough water to avoid dehydration, avoid wearing clothes that are too thick, shower as often as possible and also not be in vehicles for a long period of time, especially during the day.

In fact, one should not go from

a cold place straight to a place with a high temperature as it will affect the body's ability to regulate temperature and at the same time risk inviting heat cramps, heat exhaustion and even heat stroke.

"If an individual has symptoms including a body temperature above 40°C, sweating, heart palpitations, feeling nauseous and vomiting, he should immediately go to the hospital," Dr

Rashidi said.

Recently, the National Disaster Management Agency announced one new death due to heat stroke was reported last week, bringing the number of heat-related deaths to two.

The first death involved a 22-year-old individual in Pahang on Feb 2, while the second victim involved a three-year-old boy in Kelantan who died last Monday.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

MetMalaysia: 48 areas nationwide trigger heatwave alerts

By GERARD GIMINO

gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

THE STAR 8/4

PETALING JAYA: The temperature continues to surge across the country with heatwave alerts issued for 48 areas.

This was four more than the number of areas issued alerts on Saturday.

Of the 48 areas, six areas in the peninsula had Level 2 heatwave alerts while the remaining areas were issued Level 1 alerts, according to the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia).

A Level 1 heatwave status indi-

cates daily maximum temperatures of between 35°C and 37°C, and Level 2 is between 37°C and 40°C, for three consecutive days.

The areas with the Level 2 alerts yesterday were the entire state of Perlis, Padang Terap and Baling in Kedah, Hulu Perak in Perak, as well as Jerantut and Maran in Pahang.

Kedah and Pahang had the highest number of Level 1 alerts with eight each.

In Kedah, the areas issued the alerts were Kota Setar, Pendang, Kuala Muda, Kulim, Bandar Baharu, Sik, Pokok Sena and

Kubang Pasu.

In Pahang, they were Lipis, Raub, Bentong, Rompin, Bera, Pekan, Temerloh and Kuantan.

Four parts of Perak had the same alert: Kuala Kangsar, Kinta, Perak Tengah and Batang Padang.

Seberang Perai Utara and Timur Laut in Penang were issued Level 1 alerts, as were Kuala Lumpur and Hulu Selangor in Selangor; Jelebu, Jempol and Tampin in Negri Sembilan; Alor Gajah and Jasin in Melaka; and Tangkak, Muar, Kluang and Segamat in Johor.

Kelantan had six areas issued

Level 1 alerts as well: Jeli, Pasir Mas, Tanah Merah, Machang, Kuala Krai and Gua Musang.

Besut, Dungun and Kemaman in Terengganu also had Level 1 alerts.

Sabah and Sarawak were not issued any heatwave alerts.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) said 37 cases of heat-related ailments were recorded as of April 3.

Of the number, 10 involved were heatstroke, 26 were for exhaustion and one for heat-related cramps involving 27 adults,

nine teenagers and one child.

Perak and Kedah had eight cases each, while Johor had five, followed by Negri Sembilan and Sabah (four each), Selangor (three), Perlis (two), while Pahang, Penang and Kelantan had one each.

Two deaths from heatstroke have so far been recorded.

At press time, six dams across the peninsula recorded warning levels.

They are the Timah Tasoh dam in Perlis; the Muda, BS Padang Saga and Malut dams in Kedah; Air Hitam dam in Penang; and the Sembrong Barat dam in Johor.



Caution advised for any law that tackles child perpetrators

By JUNAID IBRAHIM
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

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8/4

PETALING JAYA: While experts differ on whether there is a need for stricter laws to curb online sexual crimes among children, all agree that education and prevention are paramount in handling the issue.

Be My Protector engagement and partnership director Roland Edward said any proposed law or amendment aimed at penalising child perpetrators should be studied holistically.

This is because most of the children involved in online sexual exploitation were manipulated by certain people or syndicates, he said.

He added that if the government wanted to enact a new law, it must ensure that it is up to date with current technology trends.

"Technology is changing rapidly and if there is any law to protect children, the government must ensure it will be future-proof too.

"For now, the government should mobilise aggressive campaigns to raise awareness on child online safety," he said.

Edward said most social media platforms had policies which stipulate the minimum age of users.

However, some parents were not aware of the dangers of posting photos of their children online, he added.

"The minimum age should be increased, from 13 years to at least between 15 and 17, when the child can make wiser decisions.

"Parents must be made aware that it is not always safe to post their children's photos online as predators would take advantage of them," he said, adding that a whole-of-society approach was needed to address the problem.

He was responding to the police findings that not only are children and other minors victims of online sexual exploitation but there have been cases of them being perpetrators as well.

Childline Foundation executive director Datin Wong Poai Hong suggested that the



Rising concern:

A teenager browsing social media using her electronic gadgets. Last month, Teo announced in Parliament that the government was studying the introduction of an Online Safety Act. — Photo posed by model

government amend existing legislation by adding new regulations.

"We already have the laws, introducing a new one will take too long. What we need is regulations through the existing laws.

"Some countries do have specific laws on protecting children online, which is better, but for now it will be more imperative to strengthen existing laws," she said.

Wong said there was no need for a new punitive law as educating society would be more effective.

"If we introduce a new law with heavier punishments for parents, the burden of proof would be hard. How do you prove parents are negligent (about their children's activities online)?

"There is no one way to protect all children at once; prevention and education are the key," she added.

Wong said digital literacy must start as early as the preschool level.

"There is a lot of concern about the exploitation of children online, but not much is being done. We are not educating kids to be resilient (when online), on what

they should do if they get into trouble," she added.

Consultant paediatrician Datuk Dr Amar Singh said there was no effective way for parents and communities to protect children from online abuse or involvement in online sexualised content.

To curb the problem, he called for a concerted government approach, which would include expediting the proposed Online Safety Act.

"Social media platforms, applications and sites have always prioritised their financial interests over the well-being of children and adolescents. Hence, the single most useful initiative is the introduction of a comprehensive and effective Online Safety Act (or Kids Online Safety Act).

"This will put the responsibility on the industry to shield and protect children from online abuse and age-inappropriate online content," he said.

Dr Amar said what was needed was a multipronged approach that included education, parental oversight, and stringent online safety measures.

"Parents must be made aware that it is not always safe to post their children's photos online as predators would take advantage of them."

Roland Edward

"Parents have a crucial role to support and train their children on how to use social media wisely and to develop discernment regarding online safety, as well as respect for others.

"All of society also has a role to report inappropriate online content, behaviour and sites," he added.

Last month, Deputy Communications Minister Teo Nie Ching announced in Parliament that the government was studying the introduction of an Online Safety Act.

She said the Cabinet had directed the ministry and Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department to carry out a study to enact the Act.

In the United States, the US Congress in 2023 tabled the Kids Online Safety Act, which is expected to be passed this year.

The Act is designed to protect minors when using social media.

In Asia, China issued the Provisions on Online Protection of Children's Personal Information in 2019, emphasising the requirement of parental consent before the manipulation of children's personal information.

The provision is stipulated under its Personal Information Protection Law.

Calls to fast-track anti-Ali Baba law

Act ensures fair distribution of wealth, say businessmen

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
raga@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The Anti-Rent Seeking Bill is targeted to be brought to the Dewan Rakyat by year-end but stakeholders hope that it can be expedited.

They said speeding up the proposed legislation was necessary to weed out the "Ali Baba" culture, a way of making money by renting business licences or permits to those who are not eligible, such as foreigners.

Malay Economic Action Council senior fellow Ahmad Yazid Othman said the Anti-Rent Seeking Law was long overdue.

"We would like some detailed engagement with stakeholders to ensure that having this Act will actually bring value to everyone. So we need to determine what is considered sabotage and what is considered protecting cartels and ensuring that wealth is well distributed among inter-communities and intra-communities as a result of this Act," he said.

Malaysian Federation of Hawkers and Petty Traders Association president Datuk Seri Rosli Sulaiman said the proposed law must have bite when it comes to enforcement.

It must also be comprehensive and allow those involved in the Ali Baba practice, including business licence holders, to be charged, he said.

"Ali Baba practice should also include contractors who subcontract a project to another company and middlemen practices," he added.

Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia president Tan Sri Low Kian Chuan said the law would help reduce hidden business costs and improve market efficiency.

"We welcome the government's proposal to table the law, as pervasive rent seeking reduces economic efficiency through the misallocation of resources."

"Individuals and firms are known to have spent vast amounts of money to lobby and convince bureaucrats and regulators to provide some forms of protection, monopolistic structure, or restrict free entry or competition so that some industries or people can realise economic rent."

"We believe that less involvement and intervention, as well

as bureaucratic, policy and regulatory procedures aimed at liberalisation, deregulation and transparency, can reduce the opportunities for rent-seeking," he added.

Low said this, coupled with the eventual enactment of the Government Procurement Act, would be a positive step in the right direction to curb excesses such as possible corruption and patronage when bidding for government contracts.

The Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers president Tan Sri Soh Thian Lai said expediting the law was crucial for promoting fair competition, transparency and economic development.

"The phenomenon of rent-seeking has long plagued our economy and unnecessarily increased the cost of doing business in the country, with costs being inflated and processes unduly protracted."

"Having in place an Anti-Rent Seeking Law will further strengthen a business-friendly regulatory environment, which is essential in ensuring the ease of doing business and keeping industries competitive and sustainable," he pointed out.

He said rent-seeking practices create an uneven playing field by granting unfair advantages to a few people or businesses, undermine competition, and hinder the growth of genuine businesses, especially small and medium enterprises.

"Implementing a law against rent-seeking helps ensure that businesses succeed based on merit and innovation rather than bribery or corruption," Soh added.

One key area to focus on in curbing any form of rent-seeking would be government procurement activities, which must be based on open and transparent tenders and putting a stop to any form of direct negotiations, he said.

A 56-year-old sundry shop owner, who only wished to be known as Mohd, admitted that he rented out his business to a foreigner. Seeing nothing wrong with his act, he said the government should not clamp down on such practices as they were just "money-making mechanisms".

"The person who runs the business (on my licence) is a foreigner. But if he can do it and I cannot, then why not? In the end, I view it as similar to renting out a house," he said.

Flooding in west coast could worsen

Climate change is accountable, say experts

By WANI MUTHIAH
wani@thestar.com.my

KLANG: The flood situation in the country is expected to worsen, especially in the west coast due to climate change, experts say.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies director Prof Datuk Dr Aileen Tan Shau Hwai said a higher frequency of extreme weather, such as heatwaves and storms, is expected.

She said the impact of these changes will be more drastic in the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia compared with the east coast as well as Sabah and Sarawak.

This is because the South China Sea, where the east coast as well as Sabah and Sarawak are located, is a bigger basin compared with the west coast's Strait of Malacca, she added.

"The Strait of Malacca is also exposed to more intense anthropogenic impacts (changes caused by humans) due to population density along the west coast stretch of the country," Tan said.

She said to make matters worse, the west coast has extremely higher run-offs (drainage of water) from land into the Strait of Malacca compared with the South China Sea, which introduces land-based pollution to the ocean.

Marine environmental scientist Prof Datuk Dr Zulfigar Yasin said flooding will become more severe as climate change progresses. He said this is due to factors such as frequency and intensity of adverse weather, such as storms and extreme river flows.

He said 130,000 people are expected to be affected by floods, at a cost of RM1.8bil annually, with the numbers and cost increasing with time.

Zulfigar, who is with USM and the Penang Institute, said communities living in lowland and low-lying areas near the Malaysian coastline will be adversely affected by the sea water rise.

"Much of our lowlands near the coast are susceptible. The degree of impact is dependent not only on the rate of increase in sea level



The experts: Tan (left) and Zulfigar.

but the ability of our coastlines to adapt to sea level changes," he said.

The phenomenon will also affect agriculture activities such as padi cultivation in places like coastal Kuala Selangor in northern Selangor.

"Padi is very sensitive to saline water intrusion and the salt water will make the area unsuitable for padi cultivation; this will impact our food security," Zulfigar said.

He said coastal storms, which could affect homes in the area, will become more severe as the current tidal gates and coastal measures that form barriers to the rising water may not be sufficient to stem the sea.

As such, he said it was crucial to have a sound flood mitigation system and strategy in place to reduce the impact of climate change.

In the 2022 Auditor-General's Report, which was released recently, it was revealed that five out of 10 flood mitigation projects in Klang had failed.

Meanwhile, USM River Engineering and Urban Drainage Research Centre director Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Remy Rozainy said flood mitigation projects that have failed to function effectively need to be relooked from several angles.

He explained that the design of most of the current flood mitigation projects was based on a 100-year rainfall recurrence.

However, he said this has proven to be inadequate in containing or controlling high water volumes due to the rainfall patterns over the past few years.

Mohd Remy Rozainy said the design of flood mitigation struc-

tures must be upgraded to accommodate a 200-year rainfall recurrence.

He cited Japan as an example, adding that the country's floodplains (land alongside rivers to accommodate water when rivers overflow) were vast and expansive though the country's urban residential areas

were densely populated. He said the Japanese were willing to sacrifice large areas of land to function as floodplains to accommodate rainfall volumes up to a 1,000-year recurrence.

Mohd Remy Rozainy said the Malaysian floodplains were much lacking compared with Japan.

"The drains in Malaysian cities resemble trash bins. Everything is dumped into them, inevitably resulting in floods," he said.

He added that regular maintenance to clear drains and rivers while ensuring the proper functioning of pumps and other mechanical equipment was needed.

According to him, as Malaysia receives high levels of rainfall every year, the current infrastructure must be able to handle the high volume of water.

Mohd Remy Rozainy also said if only every home in urban areas could store one cubic m3 of rainwater in its premises, it would aid in reducing the volume of water flowing into rivers.

"It is time for local authorities and consultants to come together to implement the 'sponge city' concept for water volumes to be absorbed and slowed down to reduce the flow into rivers.

"Rainwater harvesting as well as water storage systems have to be expanded. We are well aware that floodplains in Malaysian cities are very limited and narrow.

"The 'sponge city' concept is a progressive step that we need to explore and develop.

"It is also undeniable that technology and funds must go hand in hand to ensure that what is planned can be implemented," he added.

Land projected to be below annual flood level in the west coast of peninsular Malaysia in 2050



CREDIT: Prof Dato Dr Aileen Tan Shau Hwai, Director, Centre for Marine & Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia

TheStargraphics

THE STAR
8/4By VIJENTHI NAIR
vijenthi@thestar.com.my

Giving urban folk insight into padi cultivation

MPSepang to turn park into hub promoting environmental awareness

AN URBAN park with an orchard and padi field is taking root in the heart of a smart township in Selangor.

The 2.8ha piece of land in Cyberjaya was set aside by Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang) for Dusun Bandar@Cyberjaya in 2022.

Over 400 fruit tree saplings have been planted there and it is hoped that in years to come, schools, community organisations and the public can participate in workshops, guided tours and hands-on activities that promote environmental awareness and stewardship.

There are plans for the park to become a venue for visitors to learn about horticulture, ecology and sustainable living practices.

The latest addition to the park is a padi patch.

The padi planting pilot project, which began on Oct 15 last year, takes up 450sq ft.

Despite facing many challenges in its first attempt, the council's Landscape Department which heads the venture harvested about 3kg including padi husks in February.

MPSepang president Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain said 80% of the crops had been gathered successfully.

"We knew that the soil needed to be watered well but did not anticipate the threat from foraging birds," he added.

He explained that some of the crops had been lost to birds prior to the harvest.

"We had to quickly put up nets to protect the area from birds.

"If the nets had been put up earlier, the yield would have been much better," said Abd Hamid, adding that they had planted the MR287 Siraj variety and learnt to cultivate it through trial and error.

Happy with the project's success, he said the council decided to add three more plots.

"The padi field will measure about 1,600sq ft in total," said Abd Hamid.

"I hope the yield will improve, so that we have more to share and everybody involved will get a taste of the fruits of their labour."

He said MPSepang planted padi because it wanted a kampung feel at the urban farm.

"We want the current generation to experience the atmosphere at a rice field.

"Urbanisation has taken over many agricultural spaces and disconnected individuals from the origins of their food.

"Initiatives like this serve as vital bridges between communities and the land," he added.

Hamid also hopes that residents will have the opportunity to engage directly with the agricultural process, gaining insights into the complexities of rice cultivation while appreciating the efforts and resources involved in food production.

"It may also spur interest for some to try planting their own rice at home," he said.

"From schoolchildren learning about crop cycles to adults reconnecting with nature, the small padi field promises to be fertile ground for cultivating knowledge, awareness and a deeper appreciation for farmers."

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Food Security lecturer Prof Dr Mohd Rafii Yusop said the padi patch in the urban orchard was a good initiative to expose the public,



Prof Mohd Rafii (centre, back) with some of his students at the padi field in UPM campus.

especially those in urban areas, to where rice comes from.

"I first became exposed to the world of agriculture by helping my mother and father manage the rice fields in my hometown

in Perak.

"Padi planting was my family's rice bowl and a matter that is close to my heart.

"That is why I took up agricultural studies.

"At UPM, I am not only a researcher, but also an educator to young people who will help the government's efforts in eradicating poverty and increasing food security,"

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The harvested padi plant is threshed to separate the grains from the husk.

he said.

Prof Mohd Rafii said padi planting was not an easy job.

"There are many challenges too, especially with the uncertain weather.

"During the dry season, water supply is low and during the rainy season, the rice plants will be inundated with water," he said.

However, he is determined to increase the country's rice production by playing his role as a researcher for the rice plant ecosystem.

"I want to help the farmers," said Prof Mohd Rafii.

On the initiative by MP Sepang, he said it would help create awareness and ensure others, especially the younger generation, realise the labour-intensive work involved and learn to appreciate farmers.

"With the right conditions, padi can be planted anywhere in the country.

"People think padi needs to to

be submerged in water and can only be planted in muddy waters.

"It is not true - padi can also be planted in a pot. It just needs extra care.

"The reason why vast padi fields are inundated in about 10cm of water is to prevent the growth of weeds."

"Otherwise, it will be back-breaking work as well to pull out the weeds," he said.

In Selangor, padi is planted on a larger scale in the districts of Kuala Selangor and Sabak Bernam.

Solely for educational exposure, there is a padi field in Taman Botani Negara Shah Alam, which was previously known as Taman Pertanian Malaysia Bukit Cerakah.

According to the website, it was one of the first attractions that was built during the park's construction in 1986.

Known as Laman Padi, it has six patches built across 2.1ha, with padi planted twice a year.



Dusun Bandar@Cyberjaya will feature a larger paid field of 1,600sq ft.



Padi plants are usually inundated to prevent weeds from growing.



Abd Hamid trying his hand at harvesting padi.

By JAROD LIM

jarodlim@thestar.com.my

THE STAR
8/4

FAILURE to maintain the cleanliness of the Bund Shanghai building in Changkat Bukit Bintang has triggered public health and safety concerns, prompting Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to intervene.

DBKL advisory board member Carmen Leong said she saw rubbish strewn across the compound of the six-storey building.

"I was walking along the side lane next to the building and saw the dirty compound through a hole of a broken hoarding erected around the perimeter.

"We investigated and found that the compound was filled with rubbish.

"We are worried that such conditions will spread diseases.

"It is an eyesore, especially in a popular tourist attraction like Bukit Bintang," she said.

Leong added that the matter was escalated to the DBKL Health and Environment Department, Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp) as well as the DBKL Commissioner of Buildings (COB).

During a site visit by the relevant agencies, rubbish was found scattered across the compound as well as dead rats.

The refuse chamber of the 30-unit private residence was found to be locked.

Residents have been throwing rubbish from a hole on the first floor into the roll-on roll-off bins (RoRo) placed behind the build-

Building in deplorable state

Dead rats, rubbish at compound of private residence in Changkat Bukit Bintang spark health and safety concerns

ing along the road.

The water pipes were also found to be emitting a putrid stench.

During the site visit, a SWCorp representative said a cleanup would be carried out with the building's joint management body (JMB).

Leong said she would also call for a meeting to address the issue with the relevant DBKL departments.

"Everyone has the right to better living conditions," she said.

Resident Billy Ng, who has been living in the building for 20 years, said most of the tenants were foreigners.

"There are unscheduled water and electricity cuts, and the building is not properly maintained," he said.

"Drug addicts sometimes sleep in the compound and there have also been robberies here."

Bukit Bintang Residents Representative Council (MPP) Sub Zone 2 chairman Lew Kok Kiat said the building's condition was unacceptable.

Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun's aide Lee Bing Hong said many Kuala Lumpur strata properties faced similar problems.



(From left) Lai and Leong checking the premises in Changkat Bukit Bintang.

"We should relook at some policies and allow the authorities to take over the management of the building," he said.

On a separate matter, DBKL advisory board member Andre Lai said City Hall was looking into more tourism friendly options in Bukit Bintang.

"There is a proposal to promote Jalan Rembia as a tourist attraction, thanks to the murals painted on buildings there.

"We are looking to make it a car-free road or night market like Jalan Alor," he said.



Rubbish scattered across the compound of Bund Shanghai building in Kuala Lumpur.

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

THE STAR
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BILLBOARD contractors in Kuala Lumpur must take responsibility for structures which have become an eyesore and safety hazard.

Social activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (pic) said the onus was on the contractors to audit the condition of billboards from time to time.

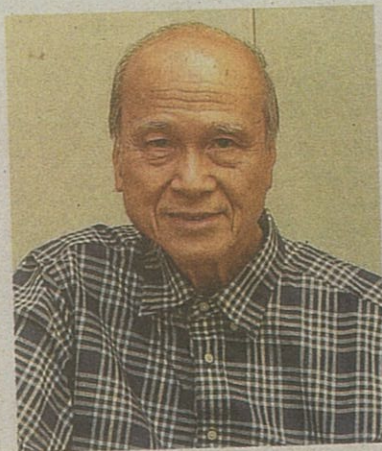
"Billboard contractors must ensure that the billboards are not only visually appealing but safe as well," he said.

Lee was commenting on *StarMetro*'s report "Fear of flying billboards during KL thunderstorms" on April 4.

"As a former DBKL advisory board member, I have regularly brought up the need for a proper audit and regulations on billboards.

"Contractors should regularly check the condition of their clients' billboards.

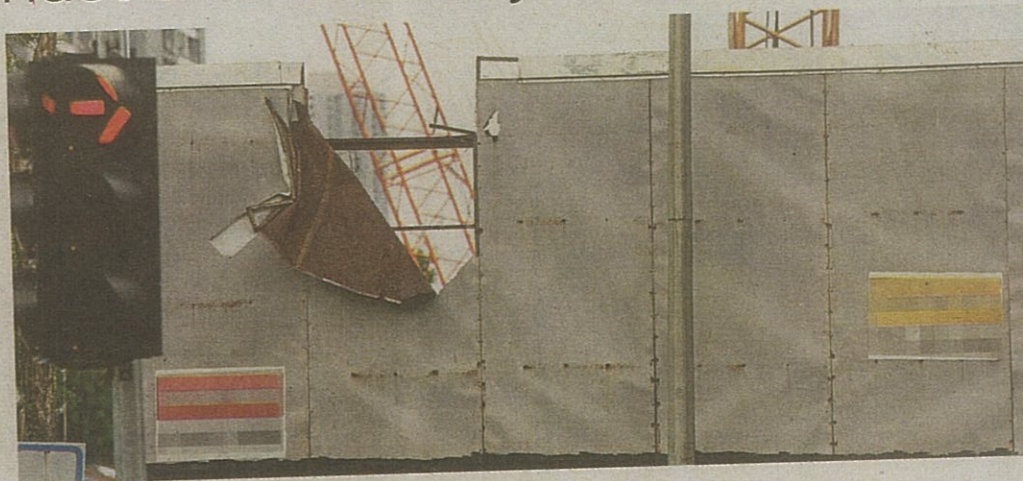
"They have a duty to ensure that they are safe as many bill-



boards are old and on the verge of toppling," he said.

Lee proposed that Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) establish a set of regulations to manage billboard placement and maintenance effectively.

He suggested that these include location restrictions and limits on



A damaged billboard on Jalan Mega Mendung off Jalan Kelang Lama.—
Filepic

the size and height of billboards.

He also said guidelines were needed to ensure billboards were well-maintained and harmonise with their surroundings.

"DBKL should also make it mandatory for billboard contractors to display their contact information on billboards, allowing

the public to report any safety concerns directly," he added.

Echoing Lee's concerns was Kampung Muhibbah People's Housing Project (PPR) Residents Association chairman Attar Bacha.

"I was driving along the KL-Seremban Highway and saw a

few that were on the verge of toppling," he added.

Attra warned of the dangers posed by strong winds, especially after the March 28 storm caused significant damage in Kampung Muhibbah PPR and a Seri Petaling condominium, ripping off rooftops and damaging 27 vehicles.

THE STAR
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By FARID WAHAB
and ETHEL SIAO
metro@thestar.com.my

THE STAR

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Extra bins to handle surge in festive rubbish

SOME 700 roll-on roll-off (RoRo) bins will be mobilised to selected locations in Selangor to cater to the increased rubbish generated during Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

KDEB Waste Management (KDEBWM) Sdn Bhd managing director Datuk Ramli Mohd Tahir said the bins would be placed in Subang Jaya, Shah Alam and Sepang.

He said the company received numerous requests from the pub-

lic for the RoRo bins to be placed in their residential areas.

"Many will be also be getting rid of bulky waste like furniture as part of their Hari Raya spring cleaning," he said at KDEBWM headquarters at Menara Plaza Rakyat in Shah Alam.

Ramli said apart from the RoRo bins, some 700 lorries would be mobilised throughout Selangor to ensure timely rubbish collection, and that the state was expected to

record a 13% increase in domestic waste during the festive season.

"In other months, Selangor usually records between 6,000 and 7,000 tonnes of domestic waste daily.

"The increase is attributable to open house events and higher number of stalls operating throughout the period," he said.

Ramli said Kajang was set to generate the highest waste of 1,000 tonnes a day due to the

municipality's dense population.

He added that KDEBWM would work closely with the operators of Jeram, Bukit Tagar and Tanjung 12 landfills to ensure timely rubbish disposal.

"We urge the public to ensure there are no obstructions in their housing areas to allow our lorries to pass," he said.

On a related matter, Ramli said a directive was issued barring rubbish collectors from soliciting

duit raya when on duty.

He said there had been complaints in past years of KDEBWM workers asking for payment before collecting rubbish.

Those found not complying with the directive would have their employment terminated, he added.

"They are paid a salary to do their job," he said, adding KDEBWM currently employs some 3,500 collectors.

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Cops plan for Aidilfitri traffic surge

JOHOR BAHRU: Police have identified 48 hotspots and 31 blackspots for traffic collisions in the run up to Hari Raya Aidilfitri, said Johor police chief CP M. Kumar.

He said 1,730 officers and traffic personnel will monitor main roads.

"Police are being stationed at the hotspots and blackspots as the number of vehicles is expected to rise," he said during a Facebook Live session in conjunction with Op Selamat 22/2024 Aidilfitri on Saturday.

Vehicles inbound to the state daily, especially from Singapore, are expected to exceed 300,000 beginning today, he said, adding that the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex in the Sultan Iskandar Building and Sultan Abu Bakar Building in Iskandar Puteri, Johor Bahru and Kota Tinggi are likely to see the highest increase.

In Perak, 79 senior traffic officers and 476 junior officers will be on duty throughout Op Selamat 22, said Perak police chief Datuk Seri Mohd Yusri Hassan Basri.

He added that police will monitor traffic conditions on main roads and highways, with personnel stationed at congestion areas to ensure smooth flow of traffic. - Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

Ringgit expected to trade in tight range against US dollar

THE ringgit is expected to trade in a tight range of RM4.72 to RM4.73 against the US dollar in the upcoming holiday-shortened week said an economist.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said Brent crude oil prices were hovering above US\$90 per barrel amid concern over geopolitical risks in the Middle East.

He said the foreign exchange market is on defensive mode with demand for safe haven currencies such as the US dollar becoming elevated. The US Dollar Index rose 0.17 per cent to 104.30 points on Friday.

"Although the Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cuts remained a highly contentious investment thesis, the heightened concern over a military conflict in the Middle East has resulted in higher crude oil prices. While this may feed into inflation, it could potentially alter the view of when the Fed would start to ease," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said the US dollar stands to benefit from risk-off trading conditions spurred by geopolitical concerns.

"However, unless there is a significant surprise in Friday's non-farm payrolls (NFP) release, it is more probable that next week's releases of the latest US Consumer Price Index and Producer Price Index reports for March will carry more weight for Fed rate cut expectations and the direction of the US dollar throughout the rest of this month," he shared prior to the NFP data publication.

Last week, on a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit weakened to 4.7460/7490 versus the greenback compared with 4.7215/7280 a week earlier.

THE SUN
Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

Do not pray on side of highways: FT mufti office

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► 'Practice poses risk to public safety and hinders use of emergency lanes by rescue vehicles'

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The Federal Territory Mufti Office has told Muslims not to park their vehicles along highways to pray, as it endangers lives.

Deputy mufti Sahibus Samahah Jamali Mohd Adnan said there will always be traffic congestion on highways during festive seasons.

"However, Muslims still have to perform their obligatory five prayers a day regardless of the circumstances, except for those with specific emergencies that prevent them from praying."

He was commenting on recent incidents of highway users performing *Subuh* prayers on the emergency lane of the Kuala Lumpur-Karak (KLK) Highway.

At least three individuals were seen praying between parked cars, while slow-moving traffic due to the "balik kampung" rush moved along the highway.

"The issue at hand pertains to the ruling (Hukum Islam) on praying on highways, particularly on the emergency lanes. A *hadith* narrated by Al Tarmizi says the Prophet SAW prohibits praying at seven specific locations, including in the middle of a road.

"Therefore, praying by the side of the road is referred to as "Harus" in Islam, which means it neither earns rewards if performed nor incurs sin if unfulfilled.

"Likewise, it is also considered "Makruh", or something that is not deemed as a sin if performed, although Allah SWT does not favour it."

Jamali said in Islam, "Musafir" (traveller) refers to a person embarking on a long journey with good intentions such as returning to their hometowns for *Hari Raya*, with a journey of more than 81km.

"Islam allows travellers to combine and shorten their prayers. However, if we are stuck in a traffic jam and are unable to move, it is permissible to pray inside our respective vehicles but only in the cases

of such emergencies."

He also said an important aspect of travelling is for people to plan their journey and anticipate potential scenarios that may occur during their trip, adding that travellers should be prepared with contingency plans to handle such situations to ensure a safe journey.

"Islam is a practical and straightforward religion. Therefore, we should not complicate matters."

Jamali said emergency lanes on highways are designated for emergency vehicles, and it can potentially hinder them when the public uses them for other purposes.

"Instead, look for designated places provided by the authorities, such as Rest and Recreation (R&R) areas where a surau is available. This is much safer and avoids inconveniencing others."

In response to such incidents, a KLK and East Coast Expressway Phase 1 concessionaire Anih Berhad spokesman said: "Stopping on emergency lanes could cause collisions, and we advise road users not to do it during their journey, except at R&R areas."

For travellers heading to the north or south using PLUS Expressways, there are 29 (R&R) areas, 50 laybys and four overhead bridge restaurants where surau are available for the public to perform their prayers.

EXTRA LANES OPENED

Smooth traffic on major highways

KUALA LUMPUR: Traffic on major highways around the Klang Valley and elsewhere in the country was under control yesterday, with no extraordinary congestion reported.

However, the East Coast Highway reported on its Facebook page that east-bound traffic from here was slow-moving from Gombak to Genting Sempah due to an increase in vehicles.

On the North-South Expressway, several extra lanes were activated, including from Km8.1 to Km6.1 from USJ to Seafield, Km367.30 to Km354.0 from Slim River to Sungkai, Km354 to Km356 from Sungkai to Slim River, Km303.2 to Km297 from Tapah to Gopeng, Km27 to Km19 from Kulai to Senai, Km19 to Km27 from Senai to Kulai, Km4.2 to Km1.8 from Setia Tropika to Pasir Gudang, and from Km1.8 to Km6 from Pasir Gudang to Kempas.

Technician Mohamad Nasruan Adil Abdul Rahim, 32, left Seremban, Negri Sembilan for Sitiawan,

Perak, yesterday to celebrate Hari Raya.

"We left Seremban at 10.30am and arrived in Lekir, Sitiawan at 2.30pm.

"This time around, the journey back for Hari Raya Aidilfitri was smooth, with only a few stretches of slow traffic.

"This may be because many had chosen to travel back on Friday or they will start their journey tomorrow to enjoy toll-free travel," said Nasruan when contacted.

The Works Ministry on March 28 said that the government had agreed to waive highway tolls for Class 1 vehicles on April 8 and 9.

Toll will be waived at all toll plazas, except at the Sultan Iskandar Building Toll Plaza and the Tanjung Kupang Toll Plaza at border with Singapore.

The ministry had projected that more than two million vehicles would be on major highways during the holidays.

Traffic is expected on peak on April 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, and 14.

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JOURNEY WILL CONTINUE

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RTD: BUS DRIVERS WHO LIVE STREAM WILL FACE ACTION

Dept will place
undercover officers
on express buses

ZULIATY ZULKIFFLI
ALOR STAR
news@nst.com.my

THE Road Transport Department (RTD) will take action against express bus drivers who livestream on TikTok while driving this Hari Raya.

RTD senior director (enforcement) Datuk Lokman Jamaan said the department would place undercover officers on express buses to ensure there was no misconduct.

He encouraged members of the public to record videos or take pictures of errant bus drivers.

"Send the evidence to us with the date and location to facilitate action.

"There have been cases of this (using mobile phones and livestreaming on TikTok), but we have not received any complaints for this year's Hari Raya operation.

"If this misconduct is detected, immediate action will be taken, but the journey can continue," Lokman said at the Shahab Perdana Bus Terminal here on Saturday.

Earlier, he inspected the tyres and signals of express buses.

He said the Aidilfitri operation caught five express bus drivers — two in Sarawak, one in Kota Baru and two in Alor Star — who were positive for methamphetamine.

He said the two drivers in Alor Star, aged 31 and 67, were asked to take a urine test at the Shahab Perdana Bus Terminal while they were en route to the east coast.

He said from Monday to Friday, the RTD had inspected 163,558 vehicles nationwide, taken action against 21,742 vehicles

and issued 39,066 notices.

"A total of 1,495 vehicles were seized, involving 1,219 motorcycles, 177 cars and 99 other vehicles."

He said summonses were issued for offences such as driving without a licence (10,405), expired road tax (7,339), technical issues (6,821), no insurance (6,094) and no vocational license (1,233).

He said 1,730 summonses were issued for other offences like speeding, running a red light, crossing double lines, using the emergency lane, cutting queues, using mobile phones, not wearing seat belts or helmets, driving heavy vehicles in fast lanes and overloading.

Lokman said the RTD would summon bus operators and suspend the errant drivers' licence after obtaining confirmation from the National Anti-Drug Agency.

He said a complete investigation report would be submitted to the Land Public Transport Agency for action.

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

SEPARATION AND RECYCLING

Marea, MPAJ launches waste management programme

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Recycling Alliance (Marea) has partnered with Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) to encourage residents to embrace better practices in solid waste separation at source and provide collection for recycling.

The launch of the Ampang Jaya High-Rise Collection Programme saw more than 9,100 households from 23 high-rise residences participating in this collective effort to raise the national recycling rate and reduce waste sent to landfills.

Through Marea's support, this will deliver a customised communication, education and public awareness programme focused on increasing the quantity and quality of recyclables

from households.

Marea chief executive officer Roberto Benetello said Malaysia is facing a critical environmental challenge with overflowing landfills and a national recycling rate of only 33 per cent in 2022.

"Recycling and separation at the source is a collective responsibility.

"Our initiative in Ampang Jaya, with the support of the municipal council, allows us to directly engage residents, educate them in carrying out proper waste separation at source and provide collection for recycling services directly at their doorstep.

"Collection initiatives such as this are critical in helping us understand recycling challenges at the grassroots. These learnings

are important in improving recycling efforts and design nationwide, to achieve the national recycling rate target of 40 per cent by 2025."

Marea will also support regular recyclables collection through dedicated vehicles and personnel, as well as sorting of recyclables.

This programme is one of the alliance's voluntary extended

producer responsibility initiatives as an industry-led coalition in collaboration with local authorities to foster shared environmental responsibility among communities.

Bumi Waste Management (M) Sdn Bhd has been appointed as the collector for this initiative. It employs a mechanism to compensate strata janitors for their efforts in sorting and aggregating

recyclables at strata level.

This mechanism improves the quality of recyclables collected and ensuring consistent and reliable post-consumer recyclables streams.

GreenSteps Malaysia has been appointed to empower community leaders in participating high-rise residences in creating positive change to recycling behaviour among grassroots.



Malaysian Recycling Alliance chief executive officer Roberto Benetello (second from right) and Ampang Jaya Municipal Council president Dr Ani Ahmad (centre) at the launch of the Ampang Jaya High-Rise Collection Programme in Kuala Lumpur.

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MAJOR CONCERN

Call for comprehensive protection in road accidents

BY HADI SOLEHIM

ROAD accidents during the festive season continue to be a major concern as the festive season approaches. Although various efforts have been made to increase safety awareness and continuous enforcement, accidents still frequently occur.

The Alliance For A Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said that the increasing number of road accidents during the festive season not only claims lives, but also deeply impacts individuals, families and society as a whole.

"Based on statistics from the police's Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Department in Bukit Aman, almost 600,000 cases of road accidents were recorded in 2023 from Jan 1 to Dec 30, with nearly 6,000 involving fatalities. These numbers prove that road accidents are a problem that need to be addressed immediately," he said.

"Road accidents do not discriminate based on age or occupation. They can claim the lives of adults, children, workers and family members.

"The impact is not only limited to the emotional strain on the families of the victims, but is also a significant financial burden. Medical



treatment costs, loss of income and other financial needs are among the challenges that victims face.

"Unlike accidents that occur while travelling to or from work, in which Social Security Organisation (Perkeso) contributors are protected, accidents outside working hours do not receive similar protection, such as those that occur during vacations.

"This means that victims and their families will have to bear the financial and emotional burdens resulting from such accidents.

"Therefore, it is time for the government to establish a more comprehensive and holistic protection mechanism for all types of accidents, including those that occur outside of working hours," he said.

Lee, who is a long-time safety and

Alliance For A Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye says road accidents during festive seasons, which are growing in number, not only claim lives but also deeply impact individuals, families, and society as a whole. PIC BY FARHAN RAZAK

health activist, said although private insurance is an option, most people cannot afford proper coverage or the coverage may not be sufficient to address all financial needs arising from accidents. The scope of protection offered by private insurance companies is limited and not comprehensive.

"As a result, the establishment of another specific social security

scheme with a broader scope of protection needs to be implemented for all groups, regardless of social status or occupation.

"This protection includes compensation for medical treatment, income replacement and financial support for the families of the victims," he said.

According to him, it is the government's responsibility to find solutions to reduce the accident rate and provide assistance to victims.

These include the development of safer road infrastructure, increasing safety awareness among road users, and providing financial assistance and emotional support to victims.

He emphasised that to ensure these goals are achieved, it is important for all parties to unite and cooperate.

"Only through collective efforts can we create a safer environment and ensure the safety of all individuals, regardless of where they are or their circumstances."

Furthermore, Lee also urged the public who will be returning to their hometowns for Hari Raya Aidilfitri to make journey preparations, such as maintaining their vehicles before returning, getting adequate rest, checking the recommended travel schedule and adhering to road regulations for everyone's safety.

Harga ayam, daging meningkat 40 sen dan RM2

Johor Bahru: Harga ayam dan daging segar di sini, masing-masing mengalami kenaikan sebanyak 40 sen dan RM2 sejak beberapa hari lalu, menjelang sambutan Aidilfitri yang dijadual pada Rabu ini.

Harga ayam segar naik 40 sen kepada RM9.80 sekilogram (kg) sejak kelmarin dan difahamkan akan meningkat lagi sebanyak 30 sen pada peringkat borong mulai hari ini, manakala harga daging segar meningkat RM2 kepada RM42kg.

Peniaga ayam segar, Daud Ismail, 42, berkata dalam masa hanya seminggu, harga runcit ayam segar berdepan tiga kali kenaikan yang didakwanya kerana pemborong menaikkan harga.

"Minggu lalu, 1kg ayam segar RM8.80 sahaja selepas dua kenaikan berjumlah 60 sen. Sejak semalam (kelmarin), penjual terpaksa naikan 40 sen lagi kepada

RM9.40kg. Pemborong sudah maklumkan harga borong akan naik lagi 30 sen mulai esok (hari ini).

"Ketika harga lebih rendah pun sudah teruk kami kena marah dengan pelanggan yang tuduh peniaga ambil kesempatan naikan harga. Kami dah tak tahu nak kata apa, takkanlah kami nak naikan lagi harga runcit ayam lebih RM10kg padahal semalam (kelmarin) baru naikan harga runcit 40 sen.

"Saya rasa kerajaan perlu ada mekanisme kawal harga untuk ayam segar menjelang Aidilfitri, kenaikan harga ayam seperti tidak terkawal Aidilfitri kali ini," katanya kepada BH.

Peniaga daging lembu, Nizam Ahmad, 42, berkata harga daging lembu segar naik sebanyak RM2 kepada RM42kg sejak beberapa hari lalu berbanding RM40kg sebelumnya, iaitu kadar purata



Sekitar tinjauan harga ayam dan daging menjelang sambutan Aidilfitri di sebuah pasar di Tampoi, Johor, semalam. (Foto Nur Aisyah Mazalan/BH)

harga jualan runcit sejak tiga tahun lalu.

"Terpaksa naikan RM2 Aidilfitri ini disebabkan kenaikan mendadak kos ternak lembu, terutama makanan dan pengang-

kutan. Semua sedia maklum harga daging lembu segar memang mahal dan pengguna selalunya akan berbelanja mengikut bajet.

"Ramai pengguna masih memilih daging lembu segar kerana

Aidilfitri setahun sekali, namun ramai juga yang hanya beli daging sejuk beku untuk hidangan pada hari raya nanti," katanya.

Penjawat awam, Zurina Pusiran, 41, mengakui terbeban dengan belanja yang terpaksa dikeluarkan bagi membeli bahan mentah untuk hidangan Aidilfitri kali ini.

"Harga bahan mentah, kebanyakannya memang naik, terutama ayam segar. Saya beli enam ayam segar tadi (semalam) kerana ada keluarga besar. Memang ayam di pasar raya besar lebih murah, tapi ia ayam sejuk beku yang rasanya tidak sedap ayam segar, apatah lagi Aidilfitri setahun sekali," katanya.

Nelayan, Abdul Syukur Osman, 61, turut terbeban dengan kenaikan harga bahan mentah, namun tiada pilihan terpaksa membeli daging segar walaupun melihat harganya agak mahal kali ini.

USM, MBPP pungut 100kg sampah dalam masa 45 minit

George Town: Hampir 100 kilogram sampah dipungut dalam tempoh hanya 45 minit menerusi Program Pembersihan Pantai dan Sembang Santai Pelajar di Teluk Bahang, di sini, baru-baru.

Botol plastik dan kaca, penyedut minuman serta bekas plastik adalah yang paling banyak dipungut di sekitar lingkungan satu kilometer kawasan pantai berkenaan.

Pengerusi program, Mohd Azri Awang Kechik, berkata aktiviti anjuran Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) itu membabitkan kerjasama Majlis Bandaraya Pulau Pinang (MBPP).

Katanya, seramai 70 peserta mengambil bahagian iaitu terdiri daripada dalam kalangan penuntut Rancangan Pengajian Jarak Jauh (RPJJ) USM, Majlis Pengurusan Komuniti Kampung (MPKK), kakitangan MBPP dan belia.

"Matlamat menerusi program ini sudah tentu bagi memberi kesedaran mengenai penjagaan alam sekitar terutama di lokasi tumpuan pengunjung iaitu di kawasan pantai.

"Selain dapat bertukar pandangan dan mengeratkan silaturahmi, ia juga dapat memperkakan budaya cintai alam sekitar dan kebersihan," katanya.



Sebahagian daripada 70 peserta yang menyertai Program Pembersihan Pantai dan Sembang Santai Pelajar RPJJ USM dan MBPP di kawasan pantai Teluk Bahang. (Foto ihsan USM)

Hotel untuk kucing kian dapat sambutan

Langkawi: Hotel khusus untuk kucing peliharaan semakin mendapat sambutan, malah permintaan bagi perkhidmatan itu makin memuncak sepanjang musim perayaan, khususnya Aidilfitri kali ini.

Tinjauan sekitar pulau perangan ini mendapati kadar tempahan bilik penginapan kucing kesayangan mencecah 100 peratus bagi cuti musim perayaan sepanjang minggu ini, menyusuli keadaan sama ketika sambutan Tahun Baru Cina pada Februari lalu.

Seorang daripada penyedia perkhidmatan itu, Nur Hamzani Hamzah, 38, mengakui perkembangan itu kerana pusat dandan dan 'hotel kucing' diusahakannya turut menerima permintaan melebihi penawaran bagi tempoh seminggu sebelum dan selepas perayaan itu.

Katanya, sebanyak 60 sangkar dirujuk sebagai 'bilik' penginapan si bulus yang dise-

diakan di ANImal Kingdom Pet Store (AKPS) diusahakannya di pekan Kuah, habis di tempah bagi tempoh 5 hingga 19 April sempena Aidilfitri.

"Aidilfitri kali ini, tempahan bilik penginapan kucing mencecah 100 peratus seperti ketika sambutan Tahun Baharu Cina lalu," katanya yang membuka AKPS empat tahun lalu dan antara terawal menjalankan perniagaan fokus kepada penjualan makanan haiwan peliharaan, hotel dan spa kucing.

Nur Hamzani yang juga bekas pengurus sebuah pusat tumpuan pelancong di pulau ini terpaksa mengambil tiga pekerja separuh masa sebagai tambahan kepada tiga pekerja sedia ada pada Aidilfitri kali ini.

"Pekerja separuh masa tambahan perlu bagi memastikan sangkar digunakan sebagai bilik penginapan kucing sentiasa bersih dan haiwan itu terhindar



Nur Hamzani di ANImal Kingdom Pet Store diusahakannya di Kuah.

(Foto Hamzah Osman/BH)

sebarang penyakit berjangkit. Menguruskan hotel kucing tidak semudah disangka kerana perlu komitmen.

"Haiwan perlu dijaga dengan baik, keselamatan harus dija-

min dan makanan perlu dipastikan mencukupi," katanya yang mengeluarkan modal RM50,000 untuk menyediakan segala keperluan ketika memulakan perniagaan itu empat tahun lalu.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 08 APR 2024

Amaran kepada pemandu bas buat rakaman TikTok

JPJ tempatkan pegawai penyamaran, ambil tindakan serta-merta

Oleh Zuliaty Zulkiffli
bhnews@bh.com.my

Alor Setar: Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan (JPJ) akan mengambil tindakan serta-merta terhadap pemandu bas ekspres yang dikesan membuat rakaman langsung melalui aplikasi TikTok ketika memandu, pada Ops Hari Raya Aidilfitri ini.

Pengarah Kanan Penguat Kuasa JPJ, Datuk Lokman Jamaan, berkata pihaknya akan menempatkan pegawai penyamaran di dalam setiap bas ekspres bagi memastikan tiada pemandu melakukan kesalahan berkenaan.

Selain itu, beliau berkata, kerjasama orang awam merakam video atau gambar jika ada pemandu yang bertindak sedemikian juga sangat dialu-alukan.

"Mereka boleh menghantar-



Lokman melakukan pemeriksaan di Terminal Bas Shahab Perdana, Alor Setar pada Ops Hari Raya Aidilfitri, malam kelmarin. (Foto Zuliaty Zulkiffli/BH)

kannya kepada kami berserta tarikh dan lokasi perjalanan bagi memudahkan pihak kami mengambil tindakan.

"Sebelum ini, memang ada kes

seperti ini (pemandu menggunakan telefon bimbit dan membuat siaran langsung melalui TikTok), tetapi untuk Ops Hari Raya Aidilfitri kali ini, belum ada aduan

diterima setakat ini.

"Namun, jika dikesan melakukan kesalahan itu, mereka boleh diambil tindakan terus. Bagaimanapun, perjalanan tetap boleh diteruskan," katanya kepada pemberita ketika menyertai Ops Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2024 di Terminal Bas Shahab Perdana, di sini, malam kelmarin.

5 positif methamphetamine

Pada operasi itu, beliau turut melakukan pemeriksaan pada bas ekspres menggunakan peralatan khusus bagi memastikan ketebalan tayar supaya tidak botak, selain lampu isyarat berada dalam keadaan baik.

Dalam pada itu, Lokman memaklumkan sepanjang Ops Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2024 hingga kini, lima pemandu bas ekspres didapati positif dadah jenis methamphetamine membabitkan dua di Sarawak; Kota Bharu, Kelantan (satu); dan Alor Setar (dua).

Beliau berkata, dua pemandu berusia 31 dan 67 tahun di Alor Setar terbabit dikesan mengambil bahan terlarang itu, ketika menjalani ujian saringan air kencing secara rawak di Terminal Bas Shahab Perdana, malam kelmarin.

KKR, PLUS 814 aktif lorong 'Smart Lane' lancarkan aliran trafik

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) bersama Plus Malaysia Bhd (PLUS) mengaktifkan lorong *Smart Lane* pada musim perayaan ini sebagai persediaan menghadapi pertambahan jumlah kenderaan di lebuh raya.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi, berkata langkah itu sebahagian usaha melancarkan aliran trafik di laluan *Smart Lane* berikutan jangkaan kesesakan lalu lintas yang akan berlaku.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berkata, laluan *Smart Lane* di Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan di 18 lokasi strategik akan ditambah baik, selain penambahan papan tanda pemberitahuan dan peringatan dari segi reka bentuk dan kuantiti.

"Papan tanda elektronik pemberitahuan pengaktifan *Smart Lane* turut ditambah dan memasang lampu hijau berkelip di atas papan tanda sebagai indikasi laluan *Smart Lane* sedang diaktifkan," katanya menerusi hantaran di Facebook.

Laluan *Smart Lane* diperkenalkan untuk menambah kapasiti lorong di laluan dikenali pasti, membantu menyuraikan kesesakan pada waktu puncak dan meningkatkan kelancaran perjalanan sepanjang lebuh raya.

Dalam pada itu, akaun rasmi X PLUS Trafik memaklumkan beberapa laluan *Smart Lane* sudah diaktifkan bagi memastikan aliran trafik terus lancar bagi perjalanan pulang ke kampung sempena Aidilfitri.

Antaranya di KM303.2 hingga KM297.0 arah Utara dari Tapah ke Gopeng, KM194.5 hingga KM184.0 arah Selatan dari Ayer Keroh ke Jasin dan KM8.1 hingga KM6.1 arah Utara dari USJ ke Seafeld.

Sementara itu, aliran trafik di beberapa lebuh raya utama semalam dilaporkan lancar meskipun terdapat peningkatan jumlah kenderaan di beberapa kawasan.

Jurucakap Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia (LLM) memaklumkan, aliran trafik di Plaza Tol Gombak (arah Pantai Timur) menunjukkan keadaan lalu lintas lancar dan terkawal selepas berlaku kesesakan sehingga jam 10 pagi.

"Di Lebuhraya Kuala Lumpur-Karak (KLK) trafik agak sesak walaupun kenderaan lebih kurang sama seperti semalam (kelmarin) iaitu membabitkan 178,977 kenderaan," katanya.

BERNAMA

Petunjuk awal aktiviti ekonomi Malaysia semakin baik

Petunjuk awal aktiviti ekonomi Malaysia bertambah baik disokong oleh kenaikan semula dalam volum eksport dalam dua bulan pertama tahun ini selepas menguncup tahun ke tahun pada suku keempat 2023, Indeks Pengurus Pembelian (PMI) mencatatkan 49.0 pada suku pertama 2024 berbanding 47.5 pada suku keempat 2023 manakala Indeks Pengeluaran Perindustrian (IPP) merekodkan pertumbuhan 4.3 peratus tahun ke tahun pada Januari 2024.

CIMB Investment Bank Bhd dalam satu laporan perbendaharaan dan penyelidikan pasaran mengekalkan unjurannya untuk pertumbuhan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) bagi

2024 pada 4.9 peratus dan mengulangi jangkaan bagi Kadar Dasar Semalaman (OPR) sebanyak 3.00 peratus sehingga akhir tahun.

"Pecutan dalam eksport Korea Selatan yang merupakan penggerak perdagangan, menyokong momentum yang lebih kukuh untuk industri berorientasikan eksport Malaysia khususnya elektrik dan elektronik," katanya.

Bagaimanapun, ia berkata kelemahan ekonomi China kekal sebagai risiko utama.

Di peringkat tempatan, bank pelaburan itu berkata, kestabilan politik lebih baik dan hala tuju dasar yang lebih jelas dengan pembentukan pelan induk

boleh memberi dorongan kepada aktiviti pelaburan, disokong oleh peningkatan 23 peratus tahun ke tahun dalam pelaburan yang diluluskan pada 2023.

"Pelaburan yang diluluskan dalam sektor pembuatan menyumbang 46 peratus daripada jumlah keseluruhan dan 30 peratus daripadanya telah dilaksanakan tahun lalu, membayangkan saluran pelaburan yang kukuh di samping projek infrastruktur sedia ada.

"Penciptaan pekerjaan terus menyokong pasaran buruh yang sihat selain langkah bantuan sosial oleh kerajaan, boleh mengimbangi sebahagian daripada tekanan kos sara hidup terhadap penggunaan swasta, terutama da-

lam kalangan isi rumah berpendapatan rendah," katanya.

Sementara itu, CIMB berkata, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) mengekalkan pendirian dasar monetarinya yang bergantung kepada data dalam persekitaran risiko inflasi daripada rancangan rasionalisasi subsidi.

Walaupun menyatakan terdapat risiko untuk inflasi keseluruhan, CIMB berkata impak tambahan adalah lebih ringan berikutan keputusan untuk mengecualikan sektor logistik daripada cukai perkhidmatan, penangguhan cukai barang bernilai tinggi dan pengurangan 3.3 peratus dalam wajaran pengangkutan dalam langkah wajaran semula Indeks Harga Pengguna

(IHP) terkini.

"Pendekatan penyusunan semula subsidi secara beransur-ansur kerajaan mencadangkan pelarasan harga RON95 mungkin berperingkat-peringkat dalam tempoh masa lebih lama yang sepatutnya mengekalkan tekanan inflasi tetapi juga meningkatkan trajektori inflasi jangka sederhana berbanding purata jangka panjangnya iaitu 2.2 peratus tahun ke tahun dari 2011 hingga 2019.

"Sementara menunggu kejelasan mengenai masa dan kuantum pembaharuan subsidi RON95, BNM dijangka akan menjadi sebaliknya dalam kitaran penurunan kadar global yang akan berlaku," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 08 APR 2024

Jangkaan ribut petir, hujan di 4 negeri pada pagi Aidilfitri

BH
8/4

Kuala Lumpur: Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (METMalaysia) menjangka ribut petir dan hujan berlaku di beberapa tempat pada pagi Aidilfitri ini.

METMalaysia dalam kenyataan berkata, pada pagi Rabu ini, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka berlaku di Johor, Kelantan dan Terengganu, selain di Kuching, Serian, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibu serta Kapit di Sarawak dan Sandakan di Sabah.

"Pada waktu petang pula, dijangka ribut petir dan hujan berlaku di kebanyakan tempat di Perak dan Selangor.

"Ribut petir dan hujan turut dijangka melanda beberapa tempat di Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Wi-

layah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Kelantan, Terengganu serta Pahang dan Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibu, Mukah, Bintulu, Kapit, Miri dan Limbang di Sarawak serta Sandakan, Pedalaman dan Tawau di Sabah," katanya.

Katanya, pada waktu malam pula, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka melanda beberapa tempat di Perak, Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan dan Pahang.

Di Sarawak, katanya, ia membabitkan Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibu, Mukah, Bintulu dan Kapit, selain Pedalaman di Sabah.

METMalaysia turut menjangka ribut petir dan hujan di be-



berapa tempat pada Khamis ini di Pahang, Johor dan Sandakan, Sabah.

"Pada waktu petang pula, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka di beberapa tempat di Perak. Selain itu, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka di beberapa tempat di Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Kelantan, Terengganu dan Pahang.

"Di Sarawak, ia membabitkan Mukah, Bintulu, Miri dan Limbang, manakala di Sabah membabitkan Sandakan, Pedalaman dan Tawau dan tempat lain di-

jangka tiada hujan," katanya.

Pada waktu malam pula, katanya, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka di beberapa tempat di Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak dan Pahang, manakala di Sarawak membabitkan Kuching, Serian, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Betong dan Kapit, serta Pedalaman di Sabah.

Orang ramai boleh merujuk laman web www.met.gov.my dan media sosial rasmi METMalaysia serta memuat turun aplikasi myCuaca bagi maklumat yang terkini dan sahih.

Rakyat kena dididik cara buang sampah

KUANTAN: Sampai masanya kerajaan bertindak serius bagi meningkatkan kesedaran sivik orang ramai yang makin terhakis apabila tanpa rasa malu membuang sampah di merata-rata tempat termasuk di tepi lebuhraya.

Populasi penduduk Malaysia kira-kira 34 juta akan bertambah dan bermakna lebih banyak sampah akan dihasilkan, jadi penting budaya dan disiplin pengurusan sampah diterapkan dalam diri setiap rakyat.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pengerusi Institut Tarbiah dan Teknologi Islam (INTERGRASI), Datuk Seri Zuhairi Ab. Kadir berkata, perkara itu perlu diubah kerana perbuatan tersebut mencemar alam sekitar.

"Dalam soal pengurusan sampah, kesedaran sivik perlu ada kerana ia merupakan pemahaman, penghayatan peranan dan tanggungjawab kita sebagai warganegara.

"Iaseharusnya ada dalam diri setiap individu dan perlu dipupuk, dibajai dan dibudayakan. Justeru, mewujudkan kesedar-

an sivik adalah usaha bersama yang memerlukan penglibatan serius semua pihak," katanya di sini semalam.

Kelmarin, Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail dilaporkan berkata, kerajaan negeri belum berhasrat mengenakan tindakan kepada pengguna jalan raya yang membuang sampah di laluan Lingkaran Tengah Utama (LTU).

Wan Rosdy berkata, pihaknya berpandangan adalah tidak adil mengenakan tindakan kepada mereka kerana kerajaan tidak menyediakan kemudahan yang sepatutnya termasuk hentian rawat dan rehat (R&R).

Bagaimanapun, Zuhairi berkata, ketiadaan kemudahan R&R bukan alasan untuk membuang sampah merata-rata kerana ia memberikan gambaran tidak baik tentang sikap segelintir pengguna jalan raya.

"Sepatutnya sampah yang ingin dibuang disimpan dalam kenderaan dan apabila tiba di destinasi yang mempunyai kemudahan tong sampah, boleh membuangnya," katanya.

Ribut petir, hujan diramal berlaku sebelah pagi Aidilfitri

14/4/24
um

PETALING JAYA: Beberapa negeri diramal alami ribut dan hujan pada hari pertama Hari Raya Aidilfitri yang dijangka disambut 10 April ini.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (METMalaysia) berkata, ribut, petir dan hujan dijangka berlaku di Johor, Kelantan dan Terengganu pada pagi Rabu.

Selain itu di ketiga-tiga negeri itu, turut mengalami cuaca hujan dan ribut ialah di Kuching, Serian, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibul dan Kapit di Sarawak manakala Sandakan

di Sabah.

"Pada waktu petang pula, dijangka ribut petir dan hujan berlaku di kebanyakan tempat di Perak dan Selangor.

"Ribut petir dan hujan turut dijangka melanda beberapa tempat di Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Kelantan, Terengganu serta Pahang dan Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibul, Mukah, Bintulu, Kapit, Miri dan Limbang di Sarawak serta Sandakan, Pedalaman dan Tawau di Sabah," katanya dalam

kenyataan semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, METMalaysia berkata, pada waktu malam dijangka berlaku ribut petir dan hujan di beberapa tempat di Perak, Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan dan Pahang.

Katanya, beberapa kawasan di Sarawak dan pedalaman Sabah turut dijangka berhadapan situasi sama.

METMalaysia juga turut menjangkakan ribut petir dan hujan di beberapa tempat pada hari Khamis iaitu di Pahang, Johor

dan Sandakan Sabah.

"Pada waktu petang pula, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka di beberapa tempat di Perak. Selain itu, ribut petir dan hujan dijangka di beberapa tempat di Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Johor, Kelantan, Terengganu dan Pahang.

"Di Sarawak, ia membabitkan Mukah, Bintulu, Miri dan Limbang, manakala di Sabah membabitkan Sandakan, Pedalaman dan Tawau dan tempat lain dijangka tiada hujan.

"Pada waktu malam, ribut

petir dan hujan dijangka di beberapa tempat di Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak dan Pahang, manakala di Sarawak membabitkan Kuching, Serian, Samarahan, Sri Aman, Betong dan Kapit, serta Pedalaman di Sabah," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, METMalaysia mengingatkan orang ramai untuk merujuk laman web www.met.gov.my dan media sosial rasmi METMalaysia serta memuat turun aplikasi myCuaca bagi maklumat yang terkini dan sahih.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 10.8 APR 2024

RM1.2 bilion bayaran sebulan melalui Angkasa

800,000 penjawat awam pinjam wang

Oleh HAFIZ SAIDINA

utusannews@mediamulloa.com.com

PETALING JAYA: Angkatan Koperasi Malaysia Berhad (Angkasa) menguruskan hampir RM1.2 bilion sebulan atau RM14.4 bilion setahun bayaran balik 800,000 penjawat awam yang membuat pinjaman de-

ngan pelbagai institusi kewangan dan koperasi.

Jumlah pinjaman keseluruhan berubah-ubah setiap masa kerana setiap hari ada pinjaman habis dibayar dan terdapat permohonan baharu diluluskan kepada peminjam.

Lima lagi agensi yang menguruskan pinjaman kakitangan

awam ialah Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), Yayasan Ihsan Rakyat (YIR), CoShare Holdings Berhad, I.Destinati (IDSB) dan MBSB Bank Berhad (MBSB Bank).

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Presiden Angkasa, Datuk Seri Abdul Fattah Abdullah berkata, kebanyakan pinjaman yang diambil penjawat awam

tanpa mengira gred adalah pembiayaan peribadi.

Katanya, pinjaman baharu penjawat awam lazimnya meningkat menjelang sesi pembukaan sekolah, kemasukan pelajar ke institusi pengajian tinggi dan menjelang musim perayaan.

Bersambung di muka 2

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 08 APR 2024

800,000 penjawat awam pinjam wang

Dari muka 1

"Contoh menjelang Hari Raya Aidilfitri baru-baru ini, jumlah kakitangan memohon pinjaman baharu meningkat 10 peratus atau tambahan 10,000 dari 30,000 kepada 40,000 orang," kata beliau, baru-baru ini.

Abdul Fattah berkata, faktor lain yang turut menyumbang permohonan kakitangan penjawat awam meningkat kerana masalah kos sara hidup yang meningkat.

Dalam pada itu, kata beliau, Angkasa adalah salah satu daripada enam agensi yang menguruskan potongan gaji penjawat awam.

"Ada enam agensi yang membuat potongan gaji seperti Angkasa. Jika pinjaman yang dibuat oleh industri lain kemungkinan mereka agensi yang berlainan menguruskan pinjaman tersebut.

"Pemberian kod potongan gaji hanya diberi oleh Akauntan Negara. Penjawat awam tidak semestinya perlu membuat potongan gaji dari Angkasa malah mungkin mereka membuat potongan gaji mengikut syarikat lain tetapi konsepnya sama.

"Jumlah keseluruhan penjawat awam yang melakukan pemotongan gaji melalui Angkasa adalah sekitar 800,000 orang dengan jumlah bulanan sekitar RM1.2 bilion atau setahun kira-kira RM14.4 bilion," katanya.

Tambahnya, Angkasa membangunkan Sistem Potongan Gaji Angkasa untuk mengawal had keberhutangan isi rumah terutama dalam kalangan penjawat awam.

"Melalui sistem ini, elemen yang membabitkan jumlah potongan lama dan jumlah



Trend pinjaman baharu penjawat awam juga lazimnya meningkat menjelang sesi pembukaan sekolah, kemasukan pelajar ke institusi pengajian tinggi dan menjelang musim perayaan."

ABDUL FATTAH ABDULLAH

potongan baharu diambil kira dalam pengiraan had keberhutangan.

"Pada 2017, Angkasa sudah menghantar cadangan kepada kerajaan supaya semua agensi yang mendapat kod potongan gaji hendaklah diletakkan di bawah sistem potongan gaji Angkasa (BPA) supaya had keberhutangan isi rumah dapat dikawal secara sistematik dan berpusat," katanya.

Sementara itu, Setiausaha Agung Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-pekerja Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (CUEPACS), Abdul Rahman Mohd. Nordin berkata, setiap penjawat awam tidak boleh membuat pinjaman melebihi 60 peratus daripada gajinya.

"Kebanyakan yang membuat pinjaman adalah untuk persiapan perkahwinan, urusan pendidikan anak-anak dan penambahbaikan rumah.

"Pihak bertanggungjawab akan menyiasat dan mengam-

bil tindakan sekiranya penjawat awam tersebut membuat pinjaman melebihi 60 peratus dari gajinya," katanya.

Abdul Rahman berkata, penjawat awam yang terlibat dalam masalah hutang yang serius akan dipanggil bagi membincangkan jalan penyelesaian.

"Kita khuatir terdapat segelintir daripada mereka yang terdesak mendapatkan wang sanggup mengambil rasuah," katanya.

Terdahulu, akhbar ini melaporkan, trend berhutang untuk menyambut Hari Raya Aidilfitri meningkat mendadak termasuk membuat pinjaman dengan along yang mengenakan kadar faedah tinggi.

Antara faktor peningkatan adalah kerana keinginan menukar kereta baharu, perabot, langsir, meja makan dan alat elektrik walaupun tidak berkemampuan.