



**PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ**  
**TARIKH: 09 MEI 2024 (KHAMIS)**

**LAIN-LAIN PBT**

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# Change urban greenery policies, says arborist

By AIDA AHMAD  
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LOCAL authorities should review policies on preserving old shady trees to ensure the right species are planted in the right place for public safety, said arborist and landscape architect Hashim Gombri.

He said there was a risk of root shrinkage and collapse if large trees were confined in concrete in urban spaces.

"Tree stability and tree health are important factors the authorities need to consider when preserving and protecting urban trees in the city.

"They need to check and reexamine if this is the right tree at the right location," Hashim told *StarMetro* yesterday.

He also questioned Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) heritage tree management policy.

In 2020, DBKL announced it would preserve old shade trees, planted since the early formation of the city, in line with its greening and beautification efforts.

Hashim said the large rain tree (*Samanea saman*) which was uprooted along Jalan Sultan



Large trees line Jalan Sultan Ismail. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

Ismail on Tuesday during strong winds and heavy rain, looked like it had stunted roots.

"These big trees need at least four to five metres of green buffer space to survive, which is impossible in cities like Kuala Lumpur because of limited space and surrounding concrete foundation.

"The rain tree cannot receive

oxygen due to concrete surrounding the root plate.

"These big trees require a protective zone to ensure they are healthy and stable in urban areas," he said.

A total of 17 vehicles were affected when the tree fell, leaving three people pinned in their vehicles including a 47-year-old man who died. Both bus and

monorail services were disrupted after the tree toppled.

Hashim said based on pictures of the incident, the damaged roots could not withstand the strong winds and heavy rain.

"Root failure is dangerous in this situation. I estimate that the tree weighed between four and five tonnes, considering the force it inflicted on the cars on the road," he noted.

He urged authorities to reexamine if it was worth keeping this type of trees to combat the urban heat island effects.

"Trees within the compound of private and public boundaries need strict and regular inspections," said Hashim.

"The local authorities in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor should also consider small and medium sized indigenous tree species for safety and to combat urban heat.

"These trees will be able to withstand strong winds and rain, and do not require big spaces.

"Doing this will reduce the risks of trees falling over and harming people," he said.

In a press statement, Persatuan Arborist Malaysia (PArM) said there should be reg-

ular inspections and mitigation efforts to minimise risk of tree failure.

"It is imperative that authorities and relevant stakeholders prioritise comprehensive inspection and maintenance programmes to ensure the safety of trees in urban areas.

"While large trees play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of urban life by providing shade, improving air quality, reducing noise pollution and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the surroundings, heavy rain and strong winds can make trees more likely to fail."

PArM said the incident on May 7 was a stark reminder to consider the needs of tree roots in the development of surrounding areas.

"Tree roots are the primary contributors to tree stability, and any disturbance or cutting of tree roots can lead to decay, compromising the structural integrity of the tree.

"Therefore, urban development plans must integrate measures to protect and preserve tree roots to maintain the stability of trees in the long term," it said.



# Steps to end bribery and corruption

I REFER to the report "RM277bil lost to corruption" (*The Star*, May 8). It's the biggest shame in Malaysian history.

Bribery, corruption – where, by whom and when it started, are unanswerable questions. But they have spread like cancer and are emerging as a major problem affecting society today.

They have become a stumbling block to development and progress, starting from the common man to the nation.

Corruption affects every individual and its roots run deep in society. Something needs to be done immediately to eradicate it.

Earlier there was a situation where bribes had to be paid for breach of duty. But now, the situation where bribes have to be paid to fulfill the duty is the most painful thing.

Eradicating corruption cannot be done in a day. It is possible only if the initiatives begin with individuals, and the government works together.

Every government office should have a notice board about the work of that office and the number of days for each service. There is a decree that every government office should have a complaints number and address,

**"To become a corruption-free nation, public attitudes must change. We do not give bribes for any work."**

which people can contact regarding bribery.

Today, most government offices do not have notice boards. They should be properly implemented.

Similarly, in places where government works such as the construction of roads and bridges are carried out, notices should be displayed on the board. It should contain all the information, such as the type of work, the amount allocated, and the completion date. For example, if a road is being built, whether it is a tar road or a cement road, how many feet thick, and how many kilometres,

should be stated.

Online service can help eradicate corruption. You don't have to go direct to get any government service. We have to ensure that everything can be done online. Bringing all services online will lead to less bribery and corruption over time.

Strict legislation is needed. There are many strong laws but they are not enforced. In addition, new laws should also be enacted.

If an official is found to have accepted bribes, stricter laws should be introduced to permanently remove him from office.

Because the laws are not strict, even those who have already been caught taking bribes tend to do so again and again.

Even if someone is prosecuted for accepting a bribe, it takes a long time to get a verdict.

Therefore, provisions should be made for daily investigation of corruption cases. A prompt investigation and subsequent prompt action will strike fear into the hearts of the corrupt.

The anti-corruption department could not function independently if it's controlled by a minister. A system empowered to take action against a VVIP or

a minister should be implemented immediately.

Fear in the people is the strength of the corrupt. Be brave enough to report those who ask for bribes.

The government should encourage those who report bribery. For example, bribery and corruption whistleblowers could be rewarded with 20% of the fines collected from violators. Those who do not wish to receive rewards could be exempted from providing information about themselves.

The government should convince people that things will happen to them if they act in a fair way. Eighty per cent of corruption will come under control if the government takes appropriate action against the corrupt, and supports the officials who take action.

To become a corruption-free nation, public attitudes must change. That is the basis. We do not give bribes for any work.

If we act with determination we can eliminate bribery and corruption.

N.V. SUBBAROW  
Senior Education Officer  
Consumers Association of  
Penang

THE STAR  
09 MAY 2001  
Tarikh:.....



# 'Be proactive in managing trees'

Engage with experts and community to prevent another tragedy, say architects

**PETALING JAYA:** There should be a proactive approach towards tree management in the city, say architects, following the fallen tree incident in Kuala Lumpur that killed one person and injured two others.

The Malaysian Institute of Architects said one way was to conduct comprehensive tree assessments.

"Local governments should employ arborists to maintain a register of public trees.

"The health, condition and value of existing street trees should be assessed before making any decision regarding their removal, with removed trees to be placed in an appropriate location," said its president Adrianta Aziz.

She was commenting on Tuesday afternoon's incident, where a large tree fell onto 17 vehicles, killing a 47-year-old man and injuring two others along Jalan Sultan Ismail, near the Concorde Hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

The incident that occurred during a thunderstorm also disrupted KL Monorail's services at four stations as some tree branches fell on the elevated track, though the line fully reopened at 5pm yesterday after detailed inspections were completed.



Adrianta said there should be tree management policies with clear guidelines and regulations to guide the management, maintenance and protection of street trees, ensuring their long-term viability.

"Community groups and professional bodies such as the institute could be roped into decision-making processes related to street tree management.

"There should also be a tree-planting initiative by encouraging the planting of suitable species in urban areas, considering

factors such as adaptability, biodiversity and urban resilience."

She added that the frequency and intensity of extreme weather occurrences underscore the vulnerability of urban infrastructure to such events.

In SEREMBAN, Bernama reported that the Negri Sembilan

government has ordered all local authorities to identify trees that are at higher risk of falling in bad weather, especially on private land.

State local government development, housing and transport committee chairman J. Ar Kumari said this was due to previous fallen trees incidents in several areas throughout the state.

"There are indeed cases involving private land, so I have asked local authorities if there are trees that are at risk on the side of major roads and residential areas, adjoining private land, and I will send a notice to the landowners so that action can be taken.

"We will also study the possibility of legal action. I have asked the various local authorities to identify (risks) before anything happens in the future," he said during the question and answer session at the Negri Sembilan legislative assembly sitting here yesterday.

He said this in his reply to a question from Kamarul Ridzuan Mohd Zain (PN-Paroi) who wanted to know the state government's plans for trees on private land that pose a threat to public safety.

## Getting a grip of the problem:

The Malaysian Institute of Architects called for comprehensive assessments of trees conducted by arborists. — AZMAN GHANI /The Star



# When even a can can hide <sup>shw</sup> killer insects <sup>7/15</sup>

**SHAH ALAM:** A discarded soda can in a heap of rubbish may not look like much – but it could harbour a killer.

A small pocket of water in a can is more than enough for the Aedes to breed, says a mosquito control expert.

“Plastic construction barriers left lying around can also be breeding spots,” said Dr Lee Yean Wang.

He added that the Aedes mosquito is resilient.

“Even during dry weather spells, it would lay its egg that can survive for six months without water.

“When it does rain, the egg will hatch and grow into a mature mosquito in five days instead of the usual seven days,” he said.

On the abandoned plot of clubhouse land in Anjung Sari in Shah Alam, he said it could still serve as a refuge for the Aedes mosquito, making it more difficult to fully eradicate the infection from the area.

“It is true that the Aedes larvae needs shade to grow and mature, but it does not need a lot of shade like from a tree,” he said.

Residents at Anjung Sari had voiced concerns that the plot of private land – left abandoned for over 10 years after construction of a clubhouse for the housing area was halted by the developer – could become a mosquito breeding ground.

Dr Lee also said fogging alone would not be effective in stopping the outbreak.

“Aedes mosquitoes are good at hiding and avoiding the chemicals sprayed during fogging. They will usually fly into houses and avoid the outdoors when they detect the chemicals,” he said.

He also advised the public to inspect and ensure their houses are clean and do not contain any puddles of water for the Aedes mosquito to breed in.



# A deadly war against Aedes

## Community struggles in face of worst dengue surge

By M. KUMAR  
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**SHAH ALAM:** Anjung Sari is a quiet, gated community near the foothills of the Shah Alam Community Forest in the township of Setia Alam.

It looks green and tranquil, but a war is raging there with a small but lethal enemy – the Aedes mosquito – laying siege on the community.

In March and April alone, there have been 58 cases of dengue in the community of 374 homes, the highest outbreak of cases in Shah Alam.

According to residents of Anjung Sari, there have always been cases of dengue here but not like in the recent months.

Rasib Abdullah, 68, and his family were among the worst hit, with four of them spending the run-up to Hari Raya Aidilfitri in the hospital.

"I was admitted to the hospital for a week until April 4, and my wife was admitted from April 3 to 7.

"My son, aged 23, was in the hospital from April 2 to 7 and then my daughter, aged 29, a few days after that," he said.

For Rasib, it was his second time in hospital due to dengue.

"I was also infected in April 2022, and this time it took me longer to recover. I felt more lethargic and weak.

"My daughter is also still feeling the effects and has not fully recovered," he said.

Rasib said several of his neighbours were also infected with dengue.

"There have been cases all along my street. It is very worry-



**Fog of war:** A worker from a pest control company conducting fogging in Anjung Sari, Shah Alam.

ing," he said.

The dengue cases plaguing Anjung Sari in Setia Alam is symptomatic of Malaysia's nationwide struggle with the disease.

According to the Health Ministry, Selangor accounted for 67 of 80 localities detected as dengue hotspots throughout the country during Epidemiological Week 16.

Health director-general Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan said the other localities were in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (seven), Perak (two), Kedah (two), Penang (one) and Sarawak (one).

"The number of dengue cases

has been on the rise with 2,321 cases reported on Epidemiological Week 16 compared to 1,698 cases the week before.

"The number of dengue cases nationwide was at 50,650 compared to 35,202 cases over the same period last year.

"There have also been 39 fatalities this year compared to 22 deaths over the same period last year," he said in a statement.

It's not just Malaysia that is seeing a hike in dengue cases, with cases more than doubling in Singapore while Vietnam and Indonesia have seen a three-fold increase.

Another resident, S. Sandra, 67, learned she was infected on March 12 after having a mild fever for a few days.

"I usually walk my dog in the evening and there are mosquitoes everywhere.

"When the doctor told me I had dengue, I was not surprised. Luckily, I did not need to be admitted to the hospital," she said adding that she only required a week of rest before being given the all-clear.

Sandra said her son has since given her a mobile mosquito repellent device for her to bring on her daily walks.

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Tarikh:.....



# RA fights losing battle against flying foes

**SHAH ALAM:** Anjung Sari's resident association (RA) – Persatuan Penduduk Perdana – has been doing all it can to control a dengue outbreak, clearing undergrowth and fogging occasionally. But it is a losing battle.

The association chairman Lee Chee Hung said several factors have contributed to the rise in dengue cases in the area.

"There have been a number of house renovations here with foreign workers staying inside unfinished houses while they work.

"We also have residents who grow plants and trees outside their houses which were not properly kept.

"All these places became breeding spots for Aedes mosquitoes, so we have been working to clear the bushes and trees as well as ensuring renovation sites are kept clean," he said.

Association secretary Yeoh Eng Leong said the RA has also employed a pest control company

to conduct regular fogging and larviciding in the area.

"We have also been asking residents to look after their homes and make sure there are no places for the mosquitoes to breed," he said.

However, he said there was another major breeding ground right in the centre of Anjung Sari – a plot of private land that had been left abandoned for over 10 years after the construction of a planned clubhouse for the area was halted by the developer.

"It is covered in overgrowth and rubbish, and when it rains there are puddles where mosquitoes can breed.

"We have tried to get the developer to clear the area but nothing has been done. We even tried to clean up the plot ourselves but we were threatened with legal action," he said.

A Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) spokesperson, however, said the abandoned plot was not

the main cause of the dengue outbreak.

"The council and the Health Department have conducted checks in the areas and ruled that the plot of land is not the main cause of the outbreak.

"There are puddles of water but the land does not have any trees or shade, so the mosquito larva will not survive under the hot sun," the spokesperson said.

The Health Department had also inspected several houses and issued fines to residents after Aedes larvae were detected in their homes.

"We have also done fogging and told the residents to spend 10 to 15 minutes every week looking around to ensure there are no pools of water where mosquitoes can breed.

"We are also engaging with the RA to hold a gotong-royong to clear any rubbish or debris in the area," added the MBSA spokesperson.



**Stop at source:** Yeoh pointing at a potential breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes at the abandoned lot in Anjung Sari, Shah Alam.

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## More needs to be done to fight this scourge

THE revelation that billions to the tune of RM277bil was lost due to corruption is shocking! What could have benefited the rakyat has gone down the drain. ("RM277bil lost to corruption", *The Star*, May 8).

This massive loss calls for more aggressive actions by MACC

against these malpractices.

The launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) is timely. Leakages within the ministries and government departments are glaring, and much needs to be done in overhauling and strengthening the loopholes in the procurement procedures.

All said and done, we must not be overly dependent on MACC; everyone must play their part in the fight against this scourge.

Credit must be accorded to MACC under the leadership of Tan Sri Azam Baki for their hard work in weeding out and arresting those involved in corrupt

practices. Nonetheless, MACC must not let its head down but continue to fight aggressively to contain the ill-doings.

We wish MACC all the best. Act without fear or favour.

**DATUK WEE BENG GEE**  
Petaling Jaya

 **THE STAR**  
**09 MAY 2024**  
Tarikh:.....



# Lantik lebih ramai 'dokter pokok'

Sinar COBKL  
9/5

PAM syor penanaman  
pokok bersesuaian

Oleh NURATIKAH ATHILYA  
HASSAN  
SHAH ALAM

**K**erajaan disarankan mengambil jalan penyelesaian jangka panjang termasuk mereka bentuk bandar berdaya tahan iklim sebagai satu usaha menjaga keselamatan dan infrastruktur awam.

Presiden Persatuan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM), Ar Adrianta Aziz berkata, kejadian pokok tumbang di ibu negara membuktikan kelemahan pengurusan tanaman dan tiada persediaan menghadapi cuaca buruk.

"Penyelesaian jangka panjang diperlukan bagi meningkatkan kualiti infrastruktur bandar yang profesional daripada segi reka bentuk. Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa dicadangkan supaya mewujudkan garis panduan menambah baik pengurusan pokok di bandar.

"Kerajaan tempatan perlu menjalankan penilaian pokok dengan lebih komprehensif antaranya melantik lebih ramai 'dokter pokok' untuk memantau keadaan atau taraf kesihatan



Kerja pembersihan dan membaik pulih dijalankan di lokasi pokok tumbang di Jalan Sultan Ismail pada Rabu.



pokok di tempat awam.

"Ia sebagai salah satu kaedah terbaik mengenal pasti pokok yang perlu ditebang dan menggantikannya dengan tanaman baharu," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Rabu.

Sebelum ini *Sinar Harian* melaporkan, seorang maut sementara dua cedera dalam insiden pokok tumbang di Jalan Sultan Ismail pada Selasa.

Menurut Zaliha, pokok yang tumbang dikenal pasti sudah berusia lebih 50 tahun dan berada di bawah pemantauan pihak swasta.



AR ADRIANTA

Ujarnya, pemeriksaan pokok dilakukan secara kerap oleh pihak Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dengan pemantauan dibuat dua tahun sekali.

Dalam pada itu, Ar Adrianta memaklumkan dasar pengurusan tanaman perlu diwujudkan bagi membantu pengurusan, penyelenggaraan dan perlindungan pokok jalanan supaya ia kekal selamat dalam jangka masa panjang.

Katanya, kerajaan juga boleh memupuk penglibatan komuniti atau badan profesional seperti PAM dalam proses membuat keputusan berkaitan pokok jalanan.

SINAR HARIAN  
Tarikh: 09 MAY 2024



Ambil kira peningkatan kos sara hidup, pendapatan garis kemiskinan dan produktiviti

Oleh MUKHRIZ MAT HUSIN  
KUALA LUMPUR

# Kerajaan dicadang tetap gaji minimum RM2,102

**K**erajaan dicadangkan supaya menyemak semula dan menetapkan kadar gaji minimum pada RM2,102 untuk golongan pekerja di negara ini.

Pakar ekonomi, Dr Muhammed Abdul Khalid berkata, saranan itu dibuat setelah mengambil kira beberapa faktor utama melibatkan keperluan masyarakat masa kini termasuk dari segi kos sara hidup, pendapatan garis kemiskinan, gaji penengah dan produktiviti.

"Gaji minimum semasa ialah RM1,500. Jika kita menggunakan kaedah yang sama seperti yang digunakan oleh kerajaan dalam mengira gaji minimum, gaji minimum terkini sekurang-kurangnya RM2,102.

"Tahap gaji minimum baharu ini adalah lebih rendah berbanding penetapan wajar yang dicadangkan oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) iaitu sebanyak RM2,700 sebulan," katanya dalam pelancaran Laporan Dapatan Utama Ranjau Sepanjang Jalan di Unicef Malaysia, Wisma E&C, Bukit Damansara pada Rabu.

Turut hadir dalam program berkenaan

adalah Ketua Dasar Sosial Unicef Malaysia, Dr Juanita Vasquez Escallon dan Timbalan Ketua Penyelidik DM Analytics, Dr Zouhair Rosli.

Ujar Muhammed yang juga ketua perunding untuk kajian tersebut, penetapan gaji minimum itu merupakan salah satu daripada cadangan dasar yang dibentangkan menerusi laporan yang menggariskan tinjauan berulang tentang impak kos sara hidup pasca pandemik terhadap isi rumah berpendapatan rendah di Kuala Lumpur.

Menurutnya, saranan lain turut melibatkan peruntukan elaun penjagaan untuk semua kanak-kanak, elaun orang kurang upaya (OKU), memperkukuhkan bantuan sosial, meningkatkan kesedaran kesihatan seksual, reproduktif dan kesejahteraan mental serta menambah baik perlindungan sosial.

Sementara itu, ulas beliau, kajian juga mendapati lebih kurang 40 peratus daripada keseluruhan isi rumah menyatakan lebih mengutamakan kadar gaji dan upah lebih tinggi.

"Kedua, harga barang yang lebih stabil



Muhammed ketika program pelancaran Laporan Dapatan Utama Ranjau Sepanjang Jalan di Unicef Malaysia, Wisma E&C, Bukit Damansara pada Rabu.

dan Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah harus diperluaskan. Itu yang mereka perlukan.

"Apa yang tak perlu adalah pemberian subsidi termasuk subsidi petrol. Hanya tujuh peratus yang kata, bantuan subsidi itu bagus.

"Itu betul kerana hampir satu daripada empat golongan B40 tidak mempunyai kereta, jadi sama ada harga petrol subsidi RM1.20 atau RM3.20 sekalipun, bagi mereka ia kurang bermakna berbanding gaji yang lebih adil," ujarnya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, katanya, satu daripada empat isi rumah di negara ini dilaporkan berdepan dengan tekanan emosi yang memuncak akibat kenaikan kos sara hidup selepas pandemik Covid-19.

"Tiga daripada empat isi rumah menyatakan isu kos sara hidup negara sangat menjejaskan kesihatan mental mereka.

"Isi rumah yang diketuai wanita yang paling terjejas, sekali gus menunjukkan betapa semakin rentannya ekonomi mereka. Kadar kemurungan juga semakin teruk. Jumlah isi rumah yang mengalami kemurungan meningkat daripada 21 peratus pada September 2020 kepada 28 peratus pada Oktober 2023.

"Trend ini konsisten dalam isi rumah diketuai wanita, dengan kadarnya berlegar pada sekitar 28 peratus ke 29 peratus dalam tempoh ini, walaupun ada peningkatan yang ketara daripada 22 peratus pada Mac 2021," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN  
Tarikh: 10 9 MAY 2024



# Bisnes



KENAIKAN kos sara hidup menambah tekanan kepada keluarga bandar yang berpendapatan rendah pasca pandemik.

## CADANGAN GAJI MINIMUM RM2,102

Ambil kira faktor kos sara hidup, pendapatan garis kemiskinan

Oleh Mohd Zaky Zainuddin  
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Kuala Lumpur

**T**abung Kanak-Kanak Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (Unicef) mencadangkan kerajaan untuk menetapkan kadar gaji minimum pada RM2,102 sebulan, berbanding RM1,500 ketika ini.

Dalam laporan *The Living on the Edge Key Findings*, Unicef mendedahkan penetapan kadar gaji yang lebih adil itu adalah dengan mengambil kira faktor utama seperti kos sara hidup, pendapatan garis kemiskinan dan produktiviti.

"Pengiraan menunjukkan bahawa gaji minimum perlu ditetapkan pada RM2,102 sebulan, bukannya RM1,500 sebulan pada masa ini. Gaji sara hidup semasa seperti yang dicadangkan oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) ialah RM2,700," katanya.

Unicef dalam penemuan kajiannya turut mendapati cadangan dasar yang boleh dipertimbangkan kerajaan turut membabitkan elan penjagaan kanak-kanak sejagat sebanyak RM200 sebulan untuk semua ibu mengandung sehingga kanak-kanak berusia dua ta-

hun.

Katanya, penyaluran sokongan kewangan itu akan menjadi langkah pertama dalam pengembangan progresif lantai perlindungan sosial untuk kanak-kanak di Malaysia.

"Unicef juga mencadangkan elan sejagat untuk orang kurang upaya, di mana ia penting untuk menyediakan tahap keselamatan pendapatan yang mencukupi dan melengkapkan penjagaan kesihatan serta perlindungan pekerjaan sedia ada.

"Pada masa yang sama, elan perlu dilanjutkan kepada penjaga utama (yang kebanyakannya wanita) ahli keluarga kurang upaya," katanya.

Sementara itu, kerajaan juga disarankan menambah baik bantuan sosial termasuk membabitkan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM).

Ini kerana, wujud keperluan untuk JKMM menyalurkan bantuan kepada mereka yang berpendapatan di bawah garis kemiskinan, atau mereka yang berpendapatan bulanan kurang daripada RM2,589 (RM681 perkapita).

"Pada masa ini, bantuan

hanya diberikan kepada isi rumah dengan RM1,198 sebulan (RM315 perkapita)," menurut laporan itu.

Selain itu, perlindungan sosial yang lebih baik juga menjadi antara cadangan Unicef, di mana semua pekerja tanpa mengira status pekerjaan yang akan dilindungi oleh Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) dan Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (Perkeso).

**"Gaji sara hidup semasa seperti dicadangkan BNM ialah RM2,700"**  
Unicef

"Ia adalah untuk melindungi mereka daripada kecederaan, pengangguran dan pendapatan yang tidak mencukupi atau tiadapendapatan ketika usia tua," katanya.

Secara keseluruhan, laporan *The Living on the Edge Key Findings* menunjukkan kenaikan kos sara hidup telah menambah tekanan kepada keluarga bandar yang berpendapatan rendah pasca pandemik.

"Dalam kalangan keluarga berpendapatan rendah yang dikaji, isi rumah ketua wanita dan mereka yang diketuai oleh orang kurang upaya menghadapi cabaran yang lebih besar dan berada dalam situasi yang lebih

buruk," katanya.

Laporan itu memberi tumpuan kepada tinjauan pasca pandemik yang dijalankan dari 14 Oktober 2023 hingga 16 November 2023, membabitkan pengumpulan data daripada sejumlah 755 isi rumah berpendapatan rendah yang tinggal di 16 perumahan awam kos rendah di Kuala Lumpur.

Sampel terdiri daripada 501 isi rumah dengan 30 peratus mewakili responden yang pernah ditemu bual di bawah projek Keluarga di Pinggiran (FOE), dengan sampel penggalak sebanyak 254 isi rumah terdiri daripada isi rumah yang diketuai oleh wanita.

Sementara itu, penemuan utama laporan Unicef itu menunjukkan walaupun keluarga telah pulih dari segi pekerjaan dan pendapatan, kemiskinan mutlak berada pada 41 peratus daripada keseluruhan kemiskinan dan 17 peratus lagi adalah kemiskinan tegar.

"Peningkatan kos sara hidup telah memburukkan lagi kesukaran, dengan lapan daripada 10 keluarga bergelut untuk memenuhi keperluan asas, mengakibatkan mereka terpaksa membuat pilihan seperti mengurangkan pengambilan makanan," katanya.

HARIAN METRO  
Tarikh: 09 MAY 2024...



## BNM dijangka kekal kadar OPR 3 peratus

**Kuala Lumpur:** Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dijangka mengekalkan Kadar Dasar Semalaman (OPR) pada 3.0 peratus untuk menunggu maklumat terperinci mengenai rancangan rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api dalam mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Dasar Monetari (MPC) dijadualkan berlangsung hari ini (9 Mei), kata CIMB Treasury and Markets Research.

Ia juga menjangka dasar monetari kekal pada status quo dan mengekalkan unjuran OPR akhir 2024 3.00 peratus.

"Kami menjangkakan BNM akan mengesahkan pendirian bergantung kepada data esok sementara menunggu maklumat terperinci mengenai rasionalisasi subsidi dalam persekitaran inflasi yang baik akibat kenaikan tarif elektrik dan air serta kenaikan cukai perkhidmatan pada suku

pertama 2024," katanya.

CIMB Treasury and Markets Research berkata, pengeluaran daripada Akaun 3 (Akaun Fleksibel) Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) yang akan diperkenalkan tidak lama lagi dan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam akan meningkatkan penggunaan swasta.

Mengenai Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK), firma penyelidikan itu mengulangi unjuran pertumbuhan 2024 sebanyak 4.9 peratus, disokong oleh kesan daripada kenaikan gaji kakitangan awam.

Unjuran aliran keluar sebanyak RM25 bilion daripada Akaun 3 KWSP pada tahun pertama mungkin menyumbang 0.5 mata peratusan kepada pertumbuhan KDNK, manakala kenaikan gaji penjawat awam mungkin menambah 0.2 mata peratusan.

HARIAN METRO

T. 09 MAI 2024



# Keluarga boleh saman PBT

BH 9/5

Peguam jangka sukar menang, bencana alam jadi alasan

Oleh Tuty Haryanti Ahmad Rodzi dan Azhar Shahrulnizam  
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**Kuala Lumpur:** Pihak mangsa dalam kejadian pokok tumbang yang menyebabkan seorang maut dan dua lagi cedera di Jalan Sultan Ismail di sini, kelmarin, boleh menyaman pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) berkaitan, menurut pengamal undang-undang.

Peguambela dan peguamcara, Fahmi Abd Mo'in, ketika memaklumkan perkara itu bagaimanapun berkata agak sukar untuk menang dalam tuntutan berkenaan kerana pihak PBT boleh mengemukakan alasan kejadian sebagai 'act of God' (ketentuan Tuhan) atau bencana alam seperti hujan dan sebagainya.

"Selain itu, untuk membuktikan pokok terbabit tidak diselenggara dengan baik oleh PBT juga agak susah kerana semalam (kelmarin) hujan lebat, jadi boleh juga disebabkan hujan lebat sehingga pokok tumbang.

"Kebiasaannya, PBT akan menyatakan pokok terbabit bukan patah begitu saja tetapi disebabkan hujan. Justeru, memang



Kerja pembersihan dan baik pulih giat dijalankan berikutan insiden pokok tumbang di Jalan Sultan Ismail, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

## Seorang maut dihempap pokok



Keratan akhbar BH semalam.

tiada masalah jika pihak mangsa mahu mengambil tindakan (undang-undang) tetapi sama ada boleh menang, itu satu perkara yang sukar termasuk dari segi beban pembuktian," katanya kepada BH.

Fahmi memberi contoh tragedi bangunan Highland Towers runtuh pada 1993 yang mana keputusan menyebelahi PBT yang disaman, dengan mengambil kira

'act of God', selain pihak berkenaan turut mendakwa kejadian tanah runtuh itu disebabkan air hujan berlebihan.

Bagaimanapun, jika pokok tumbang di Jalan Sultan Ismail itu diinsuranskan oleh Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL), beliau berkata, pihak berkenaan perlu membayar pampasan insurans kepada mangsa.

"Namun, kebiasaannya PBT jarang mengambil insurans bagi pokok kerana jumlahnya terlalu banyak, terutama di Kuala Lumpur," katanya.

Selain itu jika mangsa ada mengambil insurans tambahan, iaitu peril khas bencana alam untuk kenderaan, beliau berkata, maka mereka boleh membuat tuntutan terbabit.

## 18 laporan kenderaan rosak

Sementara itu, polis menerima 18 laporan kenderaan mengalami kerosakan akibat kejadian berkenaan, setakat semalam.

Timbalan Ketua Polis Daerah Dang Wangi, Superintendan Nazron Abd Yusof, berkata dua mangsa pula dilaporkan cedera membabitkan seorang lelaki tempatan dan seorang wanita warga Sweden.

"Lelaki tempatan itu telah menerima rawatan bagi kecederaannya dan dibenarkan keluar wad kira-kira jam enam pagi tadi (semalam).

"Wanita warga Sweden terbabit pula masih berada di Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL), setakat ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh... 09 MAY 2024 .....



# Tiada alasan penjawat awam terbabit rasuah selepas gaji naik

BH  
9/5



Timbalan  
Pendaftar,  
Universiti Putra  
Malaysia (UPM)

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**Pengumuman** kenaikan gaji lebih 13 peratus untuk penjawat awam mulai 1 Disember ini seperti diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wajar direnungi kembali seluruh anggota penjawat awam.

Di sebalik berita gembira diberikan, sewajarnya kenaikan gaji itu menjadi pemangkin pula bagi melonjakkan prestasi penjawat awam, pada masa sama mampu mencegah amalan rasuah serta ketirisan sektor awam.

Pelarasan gaji penjawat awam akan membabitkan peruntukan mencecah lebih RM10 bilion, namun kerajaan tetap menunaikan janji dan mengutamakan kebajikan penjawat awam.

Jelas sekali kerajaan berani mengambil risiko dengan pelaburan besar seperti ini sekali gus membuktikan tahap kepercayaan tinggi kerajaan terhadap penjawat awam.

Maka ihsan dan penghargaan kerajaan ini perlu dibalas sebaiknya penjawat awam dengan cara meningkatkan sumbangan dan prestasi kerja masing-masing. Ironinya, kenaikan gaji wajar memberikan kesan domino terhadap lonjakan prestasi dan kekurangan jenayah rasuah.

Peningkatan tahap prestasi kerja diharapkan ialah dari segi sikap dan tingkah laku lebih ber-

disiplin, positif, jujur dan amanah melaksanakan tugas masing-masing. Perubahan ini perlu berlaku di setiap lapisan gred jawatan dari atas hingga ke bawah kerana setiap penjawat awam ada fungsi dan peranan masing-masing.

Sebagai tulang belakang pentadbiran kerajaan, penjawat awam memikul tanggungjawab besar merealisasikan segala agenda islah dibawa Perdana Menteri dan kerajaan bagi membangun Malaysia MADANI.

## Hapus gambaran buruk penjawat awam

Perubahan tatakelola lebih positif dan telus wajar menjadi wajah baharu penjawat awam supaya dapat memaknai kenaikan gaji ini. Hapuskan gambaran buruk penjawat awam seperti culas, tidak mahu buat kerja diarahkan, berprestasi rendah, suka ponteng dan pelbagai masalah disiplin yang membelenggu penjawat awam selama ini.

Hakikatnya kenaikan gaji ini wajar menampung keperluan kos sara hidup penjawat awam apatah lagi kenaikan gaji gred rendah dilaporkan bakal mencecah sehingga 40 peratus. Tiada alasan untuk mana-mana penjawat awam terbabit dalam rasuah dan penyelewengan.

Apa yang penting ialah bijak menguruskan sumber pendapatan supaya tidak boros dan mengelak berbelanja melebihi pendapatan sehingga terpaksa berhutang atau mula terbabit dalam gejala tidak sihat seperti rasuah.

Dalam konteks ini agensi kerajaan yang banyak

terbabit dalam urusan kutipan hasil negara perlu membantu kerajaan mengutip pendapatan dengan cekap dan efisien supaya keperluan peruntukan lebih RM10 bilion dapat ditampung negara.

Hal ini penting kerana kita tidak mahu kerajaan terpaksa mengurangkan bantuan rakyat lain semata-mata hendak menampung keperluan peruntukan bayaran gaji penjawat awam.

Setiap agensi kerajaan juga perlu fokus kepada aspek pengurusan bakat strategik dengan menambah kompetensi dan kemahiran tambahan bagi membolehkan penjawat awam melaksanakan tugas dengan lebih pantas, cekap dan efisien.

Hakikatnya zaman kepintaran buatan (AI) dan internet kebendaan (IoT) ketika ini menuntut semua pekerja menggunakan peluang yang ada bagi memperkasakan setiap organisasi meraih lebih banyak pencapaian khususnya dalam memacu ekonomi dan pembangunan negara.

Justeru, peralihan sepenuhnya kepada perkhidmatan berasaskan pendigitalan bukan sahaja dapat melonjakkan prestasi jabatan kerajaan, malah dapat menangani masalah rasuah dan penyelewengan.

Ironinya, setiap penjawat awam perlu sedar gambaran kenaikan gaji ini hadir dengan amanah dan tanggungjawab besar terhadap rakyat dan negara. Penjawat awam tidak boleh menghampakan harapan sebaliknya perlu membuktikan mereka layak dan boleh memberikan sumbangan yang lebih signifikan.

BERITA HARIAN  
Tarikh... 09 MAY 2024 .....



# Pelbagai strategi disyor banteras kegiatan rasuah BH 9/5

**Kuala Lumpur:** Strategi Pembanteraan Rasuah (NACS) 2024-2028 dilancarkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim kelmarin, mengesyorkan beberapa strategi dalam usaha membanteraan rasuah di Malaysia.

ia antara lain berkaitan prosedur pelantikan dan pemecatan ketua pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM), memperkenalkan Akta Perolehan Kerajaan, selain mempertingkatkan prosedur saringan pengambilan penjawat awam dan semakan semula Akta Kesalahan Pilihan Raya 1954.

NACS turut menggariskan li-

ma strategi baharu berteraskan Pendidikan, Kebertanggungjawaban Awam, Suara Rakyat, Penguatkuasaan dan Insentif, selain 54 substrategi yang dicadang dilaksanakan dalam tempoh lima tahun ini, membabitkan tempoh jangka pendek, sederhana dan panjang.

Strategi kedua, Kebertanggungjawaban Awam mengandungi substrategi terbanyak dengan 19 inisiatif, diterajui agensi utama kerajaan seperti SPRM, Pejabat Ketua Pegawai Keselamatan Kerajaan Malaysia (CGSO), Kementerian Kewangan (MOF) dan Kementerian Dalam Negeri (KDN).

Selain itu, Bahagian Hal Ehwal Undang-Undang (BHEUU), Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA), Jabatan Peguam Negara (AGC), Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR) dan Parlimen Malaysia.

Ia mengesyorkan MOF disokong AGC memperkenalkan Akta Perolehan Kerajaan, manakala BHEUU disokong Parlimen Ma-

laya untuk memperkenalkan semula Akta Perkhidmatan Parlimen.

SPRM menerajui substrategi bagi meneliti syarat dalam pelantikan dan pemecatan ketua pesuruhjayanya, manakala inisiatif bagi penubuhan Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan SPRM pula akan disokong oleh BHEUU dan AGC.

Malah, SPRM juga dipertanggungjawabkan menjalankan kajian kebolehlaksanaan pengubalan Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) (GSCO) Tatakelola. CGSO pula akan menjalankan inisiatif bagi meningkatkan sistem saringan dalam pengambilan penjawat awam.

Suruhanjaya Pilihan Raya (SPR) pula diberi tanggungjawab untuk menyemak peruntukan berkaitan penggunaan jentera kerajaan dalam kempen bagi calon dan parti politik pada pilihan raya untuk dimasukkan dalam Akta Kesalahan Pilihan Raya 1954 [Akta 5].

NACS turut fokus kepada strategi Pendidikan yang bermula seawal peringkat sekolah. Ia akan membabitkan 13 substrategi melalui dua tempoh pelaksanaan, iaitu jangka pendek dan jangka sederhana.

Strategi jangka pendek membabitkan pengukuhan kegiatan kokurikulum di sekolah dengan

pembabitkan individu dan entiti swasta serta memasukkan minggu tema mengenai etika, nilai murni dan antirasuah dalam kalendar akademik di sekolah.

Selain itu, memperkenalkan pelaksanaan modul atau kursus integriti dan antirasuah kepada pelatih di institusi Pendidikan dan Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET).

## Tingkat kesedaran, etika

Bagi jangka sederhana, mempertingkatkan etika, nilai murni dan antirasuah di prasekolah dengan bantuan institusi latihan perguruan serta menyemak dan menambah baik elemen etika, nilai murni dan antirasuah dalam buku teks sekolah rendah dan menengah serta kaji selidik keberkesanan inisiatif integriti dan pendidikan antirasuah di sekolah.

Salah satu pelaksanaan Strategi Pendidikan membabitkan agensi penyokong paling banyak dalam NACS, iaitu Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM), Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT), Kementerian Sumber Manusia (KESUMA), Kementerian Belia dan Sukan, Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan.

Kementerian Pertahanan, Kementerian Kerja Raya, Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Bu-

daya, Kementerian Pembangunan, Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, Kementerian Perlindungan dan Komoditi, Kementerian Dalam Negeri serta Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah.

Bagi strategi Suara Rakyat, antara inisiatif adalah kaji selidik nasional mengenai bidang yang terdedah terhadap rasuah serta penilaian tahunan di peringkat nasional untuk mengenal pasti tahap rasuah dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia.

Dalam strategi Penguatkuasaan, NACS akan meminda Akta Perlindungan Pemberi Maklumat 2010 (Akta 711) dan memperkenalkan RUU pembiayaan politik, menyemak Bahagian III (Amalan Rasuah) Akta Kesalahan Pilihan Raya 1954 (Akta 5), selain memperkenalkan Ombudsman Malaysia dan perundangan kawal selia pintu masuk bagi menjamin keselamatan sempadan negara.

Bagi strategi Insentif pula disyor substrategi rebat cukai untuk individu dan syarikat yang mengambil bahagian dalam pencegahan rasuah, semakan elak dalam kes pembicaraan rasuah, tawaran insentif kepada pemberi maklumat serta pengurangan cukai untuk galak penyertaan entiti yang menganjur-



NACS 2024-2028 menyasarkan SPRM menerajui substrategi bagi meneliti syarat dalam pelantikan dan pemecatan ketua pesuruhjayanya.

BERITA HARIAN  
Tarikh... 09 MAY 2024.....



# Akaun 3 KWSP, kenaikan gaji penjawat awam lonjak ekonomi

**Pengeluaran** daripada Akaun 3 (Akaun Fleksibel) Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) yang akan diperkenalkan tidak lama lagi dan kenaikan gaji kakitangan awam dijangka meningkatkan perbelanjaan swasta, sekali gus menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi negara.

Akaun Fleksibel dijangka dikuatkuasakan mulai 11 Mei, manakala cadangan kenaikan gaji penjawat awal melebihi 13 peratus membabitkan peruntukan RM10 bilion bermula Disember 2024.

CIMB Treasury and Markets Research dalam satu nota penyelidikan berkata, berdasarkan anggaran kecenderungan penggunaan marginal (MPC), iaitu ukuran kadar peningkatan pendapatan yang cenderung dibelanjakan pengguna sebanyak 0.35, unjuran aliran keluar ber-

jumlah RM25 bilion dari Akaun 3 pada tahun pertama mungkin menyumbang 0.5 peratus kepada pertumbuhan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK).

Katanya, kenaikan gaji penjawat awam pula akan menyumbang 0.2 peratus kepada KDNK pada tahun pertama.

"Kami menjangkakan limpahan adalah lebih rendah dan berjangka pendek, memandangkan baki Akaun 2 ahli cenderung dalam kurungan berpendapatan tinggi dengan MPC yang lebih rendah.

"Seperti sedia ada, B40 dan M40 masing-masing memegang satu peratus dan 17 peratus daripada jumlah simpanan KWSP atau pada RM11 bilion dan RM180 bilion, berbanding RM897 bilion oleh T20 (82 peratus bahagian).

"Tambahan pula, kesannya

mungkin diimbangi oleh persekitaran inflasi yang lebih tinggi pada separuh kedua daripada rasionalisasi subsidi selanjutnya," katanya.

Sebaliknya, firma penyelidikan itu berkata, limpahan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam kepada penggunaan mungkin lebih besar apabila Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim memberi keutamaan kepada kenaikan gaji kepada kadar 25 hingga 30 peratus bagi mereka yang berada dalam gred rendah/kumpulan berpendapatan rendah, yang berkemungkinan membelanjakan bahagian yang lebih tinggi daripada pendapatan tambahan yang diperolehi.

Sementara itu, CIMB Treasury and Markets Research berkata, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dijangka akan mengekal-



Pengeluaran daripada Akaun Fleksibel dijangka dikuat kuasa mulai 11 Mei.

kan OPR pada 3.0 peratus untuk menunggu maklumat terperinci mengenai rancangan rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api dalam mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Dasar Monetari (MPC) dijadualkan berlangsung hari ini.

Ia juga menjangka dasar monetari kekal pada *status quo* dan mengekalkan unjuran OPR akhir 2024 sebanyak 3.00 peratus.

"Kami menjangkakan BNM akan mengesahkan pendirian bergantung kepada data esok (hari ini) sementara menunggu maklumat terperinci mengenai rasionalisasi subsidi dalam persekitaran inflasi yang baik akibat kenaikan tarif elektrik dan air serta kenaikan cukai perkhidmatan pada suku pertama 2024," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN  
Tarikh... 09 MAY 2024



# UNICEF cadang gaji minimum RM2,102 sebulan di Malaysia



**Penetapan ambil kira faktor kos sara hidup, pendapatan garis kemiskinan dan produktiviti**

Oleh Mohd Zaky Zainuddin  
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**Tabung Kanak-Kanak Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (UNICEF)** mencadangkan kerajaan untuk menetapkan kadar gaji minimum pada RM2,102 sebulan, berbanding RM1,500 ketika ini.

Dalam laporan *The Living on the Edge Key Findings*, UNICEF mendedahkan penetapan kadar gaji yang lebih adil itu adalah dengan mengambil kira faktor utama seperti kos sara hidup, pendapatan garis kemiskinan dan produktiviti.

"Pengiraan menunjukkan bahawa gaji minimum perlu dite-

tapkan pada RM2,102 sebulan, bukannya RM1,500 sebulan pada masa ini. Gaji sara hidup semasa seperti yang dicadangkan oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) ialah RM2,700," katanya.

UNICEF dalam penemuan kajiannya turut mendapati cadangan dasar yang boleh dipertimbangkan kerajaan turut membabitkan elaun penjagaan kanak-kanak sejagat sebanyak RM200 sebulan untuk semua ibu mengandung sehingga kanak-kanak berusia dua tahun.

Katanya, penyaluran sokongan kewangan itu akan menjadi langkah pertama dalam pengembangan progresif lantai perlindungan sosial untuk kanak-kanak di Malaysia.

"UNICEF juga mencadangkan elaun sejagat untuk orang kurang upaya. di mana ia penting untuk menyediakan tahap keselamatan pendapatan yang mencukupi dan melengkapkan penjagaan kesihatan serta perlindungan pekerjaan sedia ada.

"Pada masa yang sama, elaun perlu dilanjutkan kepada penjaga

utama (yang kebanyakannya wanita) ahli keluarga kurang upaya," katanya.

Sementara itu, kerajaan juga disarankan menambah baik bantuan sosial termasuk membabitkan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM).

Ini kerana, wujud keperluan untuk JKM menyalurkan bantuan kepada mereka yang berpendapatan di bawah garis kemiskinan, atau mereka yang berpendapatan bulanan kurang daripada RM2,589 (RM681 perkapita).

"Pada masa ini, bantuan hanya diberikan kepada isi rumah dengan RM1,198 sebulan (RM315 perkapita)," menurut laporan itu.

Selain itu, perlindungan sosial yang lebih baik juga menjadi antara cadangan UNICEF, di mana semua pekerja tanpa mengira status pekerjaan yang akan dilindungi oleh Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) dan Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO).

"Ia adalah untuk melindungi mereka daripada kecederaan, pengangguran dan pendapatan yang

tidak mencukupi atau tiada pendapatan ketika usia tua," katanya.

**Tekanan kos sara hidup**  
Secara keseluruhan, laporan *The Living on the Edge Key Findings* menunjukkan kenaikan kos sara hidup telah menambah tekanan kepada keluarga bandar yang berpendapatan rendah pasca pandemik.

"Dalam kalangan keluarga berpendapatan rendah yang dikaji, isi rumah ketua wanita dan mereka yang diketuai oleh orang kurang upaya menghadapi cabaran yang lebih besar dan berada dalam situasi yang lebih buruk," katanya.

Laporan itu memberi tumpuan kepada tinjauan pasca pandemik yang dijalankan dari 14 Oktober 2023 hingga 16 November 2023, membabitkan pengumpulan data daripada sejumlah 755 isi rumah berpendapatan rendah yang tinggal di 16 perumahan awam kos rendah di Kuala Lumpur.

Sampel terdiri daripada 501 isi rumah dengan kira-kira 30 peratus mewakili responden yang pernah ditemu bual di bawah projek

Keluarga di Pinggiran (FOE), dengan sampel penggalak sebanyak 254 isi rumah terdiri daripada isi rumah yang diketuai oleh wanita.

Sementara itu, penemuan utama laporan UNICEF itu menunjukkan walaupun keluarga telah pulih dari segi pekerjaan dan pendapatan, kemiskinan mutlak berada pada 41 peratus daripada keseluruhan kemiskinan dan 17 peratus lagi adalah kemiskinan tegar.

Ia terutama dalam kalangan isi rumah yang diketuai wanita dan isi rumah yang diketuai oleh orang kurang upaya.

"Peningkatan kos sara hidup telah memburukkan lagi kesukaran, dengan lapan daripada 10 keluarga bergelut untuk memenuhi keperluan asas mengakibatkan mereka terpaksa membuat pilihan seperti mengurangkan pengambilan makanan.

"Kesan ke atas kesihatan mental adalah ketara, dengan satu daripada empat mengalami kemurungan, yang mana lebih tinggi daripada wabak semasa," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN  
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# 500 pokok besar, tua ancam pengguna jalan raya

Dari muka 1

Paling membimbangkan, terdapat pemilik persendirian tidak menyelenggara pokok tersebut, ditambah faktor cuaca ekstrem sekaligus mengundang risiko insiden pokok tumbang dan boleh meragut nyawa, selain memusnahkan harta benda.

Presiden Arborist Malaysia (Pam), Mohd. Zailani Jamil berkata, pihaknya mengenalpasti hampir 500 pokok besar dan berusia di sekitar Kuala Lumpur memerlukan perhatian dan penyelenggaraan lebih kerap, bagi mengelakkan risiko tumbang khususnya berhampiran lokasi tumpuan.

Katanya, langkah tersebut bukan sahaja perlu melibatkan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT), tetapi juga semua pihak termasuk pemilik tanah persendirian.

Orang ramai pula, kata beliau, boleh memantau pokok berisiko tumbang dan melaporkannya segera kepada pihak berkuasa.

Beliau memberitahu, aktiviti korek tanah mendorong pokok tumbang apabila gangguan akar dalam tanah berlaku, di samping kemerosotan kesihatan pokok dan faktor cuaca buruk.

"Walaupun terdapat aspek penjagaan pokok, kerosakan yang dilakukan pihak lain terutama pengorekan tanah menyebabkan gangguan akar. Jadi ia menjejaskan pokok dan memberi kesan daripada pereputan sekali gus menjejaskan kekuatan dahan.

"Lama-kelamaan daun-daun bertambah menyebabkan beban meningkat, maka saiz pokok bertambah dan sauh pokok tidak memadai dengan saiz. Apabila perkara ini berlaku berterusan, maka beban ini akan memberi kesan



**PENGUNA jalan raya terdedah kepada risiko pokok tumbang yang boleh meragut nyawa dan merosakkan harta benda. - UTUSAN/SHIDDIQIIN ZON**

dan wujud pula beberapa kesan susulan antaranya keadaan cuaca tidak menentu.

"Angin kuat dan air berlebihan menjadi beberapa faktor dahan lemah dan menyebabkan pokok tumbang akibat struktur pokok tidak stabil," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Kelmarin, negara dikejutkan kejadian pokok besar tumbang di Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur sehingga meragut nyawa seorang pemandu lelaki berusia 47 tahun, menghempap 17 kenderaan dan landasan monorel selain merosakkan kemudahan awam iaitu perhentian bas.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, DBKL akan melihat keperluan untuk mengkaji semula garis panduan penjagaan pokok-pokok tua khususnya berusia 50 sehingga 80 tahun di sekitar ibu negara.

Justeru itu, Mohd. Zailani berkata, pihaknya menekankan keperluan kekerapan penyelenggaraan dan pemeriksaan

berkala serta usaha mitigasi untuk meminimumkan risiko pokok tumbang.

Katanya, PBT dan pihak berkepentingan perlu mengutamakan pelaksanaan program pemeriksaan dan penyelenggaraan yang menyeluruh bagi memastikan keselamatan pokok di kawasan bandar.

"Oleh itu, rancangan pembangunan bandar mesti menyepadankan langkah untuk melindungi dan memelihara akar pokok bagi mengekalkan kestabilan pokok dalam jangka masa panjang," katanya.

Tambah beliau, pokok merupakan benda hidup dan melalui perubahan serta fasa di mana mengalami kemerosotan dari segi keupayaan dan kekuatan.

"Apabila kita melakukan penanaman pokok yang bukan tumbuh sendiri di kawasan padat dan berhampiran manusia, maka beberapa perkara perlu dilihat antaranya teknik penanaman. Tumbesaran berlaku dengan baik jika kita memberi keperluan terhadap pokok itu," katanya.



# NACS langkah positif kawal, banteras semua aspek rasuah

**PETALING JAYA:** Strategi Pembanterasan Rasuah Nasional (NACS) perlu diperkukuh dengan menambah baik pemantauan dan kawalan dalam semua aspek yang mempunyai ruang untuk pelakuan rasuah.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Presiden Pemerhati Rasuah Malaysia (MCW), Jais Abdul Karim berkata, menerusi pelan NACS, kerajaan perlu meningkatkan pemantauan yang berkesan bagi mengurangkan peluang untuk meminta dan menerima rasuah.

"Bagi memastikan kejadian sedemikian tidak berulang, kerajaan harus meningkatkan kawalan, ketelusan dan akauntabiliti dalam pengurusan dana awam.

"Ini boleh melibatkan penambahbaikan proses tender, penguatkuasaan undang-undang

antirasuah dan pengenalan mekanisme pelaporan yang lebih berkesan bagi mengesan serta menangani kes penyelewengan dengan lebih cekap," katanya ketika dihubungi, semalam.

Semalam, akhbar melaporkan, Malaysia kehilangan RM227 billion akibat rasuah dalam tempoh lima tahun lalu.

Jumlah yang hilang itu sepatutnya boleh dimanfaatkan kepada rakyat.

Jais berkata, pendidikan masyarakat mengenai kesan negatif rasuah dan sikap integriti dalam pentadbiran awam penting bagi mencegah budaya rasuah.

Katanya, pelaksanaan NACP antara usaha penting untuk memerangi rasuah kerana menerusi pelan tersebut menggariskan matlamat, strategi dan langkah-langkah terbaik untuk

mengurangkan dan mencegah rasuah dalam pelbagai sektor serta peringkat pentadbiran negara.

Mengulas mengenai lantikan Suruhanjaya Diraja untuk menyiasat kes rasuah, beliau berkata, ia bergantung kepada keperluan setiap kes.

"Sekiranya terdapat kes-kes rasuah yang melibatkan isu-isu sensitif atau melibatkan individu yang berpengaruh, penubuhan jawatankuasa khas atau Suruhanjaya Diraja mungkin diperlukan untuk memastikan penyiasatan dilakukan secara bebas, telus, dan menyeluruh.

"Bagaimapun, penting juga untuk memastikan bahawa mekanisme yang ada seperti Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) mempunyai keupayaan dan sumber yang mencukupi untuk menyiasat kes-kes rasuah dengan cekap," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA  
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# HIGHER WAGES PICKED OVER SUBSIDIES

Experts weigh in on intervention most favoured by low-income households

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**T**HE present challenges faced by residents of the People's Housing Programme (PPR) stem from longstanding policy shortcomings that have marginalised them from broader economic and social inclusion.

According to economists, the current government's subsidies can help ease the setbacks.

Economist Dr Geoffrey Williams highlighted that the unity government has implemented improved policies, like the Central Database Hub (Padu), which aims to identify those who need assistance and provide them with support.

"This is almost always best achieved by cash transfers and we need to see whether the targeted subsidies will be in the form of cash transfers or not," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Williams emphasised that the economic and social consequences experienced by PPR res-

idents are largely confined to their communities, where they face isolation and exclusion from broader economic and social participation due to financial constraints.

He noted that this cycle results in persistent poverty passing from one generation to the next.

Williams said this when asked to comment on a study conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) that revealed a significant portion of low-income households in the city prioritise increased wages over fuel subsidies as a means to ease rising expenses.

The study, titled *Living on the Edge*, surveyed 755 low-income households residing in 16 public housing projects in Kuala Lumpur, where only seven per cent expressed a preference for fuel subsidies.

Higher wages emerged as the most favoured intervention to address the challenges of escalating living costs, alongside initiatives such as cash aid and price regulations on essential food items.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said subsidy rationalisation is the right thing to do, as the qualified recipient of financial aid from the government prefers direct cash payments over subsidies.

However, he recommended that the government strategise its



(From left) Dr Geoffrey Williams, Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid and Dr Oh Ei Sun

communication methods of subsidy rationalisation.

"By leveraging on such findings to gain confidence and credibility, Malaysian citizens would understand the need for such a move," he added.

Afzanizam said reorganising the subsidies into cash aid would be more effective and targeted, and potentially lead to massive savings which can be used to improve the country's productivity.

"This would mean there will be more resources that can be used on education, healthcare and infrastructure. In the grand scheme of things, we should aspire towards a market-based economy, one that is fair, transparent and efficient," he emphasised.

Singapore Institute of International Affairs senior fellow Dr Oh Ei Sun noted that on a long-term basis, cash is usually preferred

due to its versatility.

"People can use cash to address their immediate and prioritised needs, bypassing potential delays or misjudgments by government authorities or agencies.

Based on my experience working with various international organisations, this principle applies universally. Those directly affected by a disaster are best equipped to determine their own needs," he said.

Meanwhile, Williams noted that while increasing the minimum wage is a useful tool in addressing poverty, it should be accompanied by additional measures as it alone may not suffice.

"For the economy as a whole, there is a wider problem of low-incomes above the minimum wage and relative poverty with half of people in private sector jobs earning less than RM2,600.

"This is holding back economic growth and social development and needs to be tackled.

"The main causes of the problems for PPR residents and hardcore poor groups is ineffective government policy over many decades," he noted.

Williams suggested the implementation of a new Universal Basic Income or Guaranteed Basic Income, ensuring that no individual falls below a designated threshold, even if they are employed.

This threshold could be determined by various indicators such as the poverty-level income calculated by the Statistics Department, the living wage defined by Bank Negara Malaysia, the spending estimates provided by the Employees' Provident Fund's Belanjawanku, or even the median wage in the private sector of RM2,600.

"Anyone below this level should receive a cash payment to top up their income to this threshold, even those working on minimum wage or low wages. This is sometimes called a reverse income tax, negative income tax or cash transfer.

"This is well-known and widely accepted in economics as the best solution. The new Padu database can be used to identify individuals below the threshold to target the assistance to them in cash directly," he added.

NEW STRAITS TIMES  
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MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

## BANK NEGARA LIKELY TO KEEP OPR AT 3pc TODAY

Central bank not under pressure amid stable growth, inflation, say economists

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**T**HE country's present level of growth and inflation may have done enough to enable Bank Negara Malaysia to hold the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) steady at three per cent at its meeting today and for the rest of the year, said economists.

The Monetary Policy Committee raised the interest rate by 25 basis

points in July 2023, but said the country's headline inflation was in line with historical average.

"The OPR is unlikely to change. There is no pressure on Bank Negara to raise the key rate. The ringgit is also strengthening."

"The overriding concern will be to keep a steady hand on the tiller and guide the economy through the rest of the year, given global headwinds that are outside of the control of policymakers."

"There is no need to carry out any

ly affect emerging markets, including Malaysia.

"But Bank Negara does not need to follow the Fed (move)," said Williams. The Fed recently kept its key interest rates unchanged at 5.25 to 5.50 per cent.

Octa analyst Kar Yong Ang said based on Bank Negara's monetary and financial developments report on April 30, the country's headline inflation was stable at 1.8 per cent in March (February: 1.8 per cent) while core inflation moderated to 1.7 per cent (February: 1.8 per cent).

Based on advance estimate, Malaysia's economy grew 3.9 per cent in the first quarter.

of a strong US dollar, this may curb the growth of the local note.

"The US dollar-ringgit may moderate in the short term to the 4.6500-4.7000 level," said Kar.

MARC Ratings Bhd said year-to-date inflation of 1.8 per cent, compared to 1.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2023, pointed to the end of the disinflationary trend.

"Going forward, inflation is expected to be between 2.5 and 3.0 per cent in 2024 (2023: 2.5 per cent) with a gradual uptick in the near future due to spillovers from new tax measures and the expected execution of targeted subsidies throughout 2024."

"In view of the present level of

might extend its rate pause, pending finer details on the government's fuel subsidy rationalisation plans.

The research firm said withdrawals from the soon-to-be introduced Employees Provident Fund Account 3 (Akaun Fleksibel) and civil servants' salary hike were poised to give private consumption a boost, although the real impact might be diluted by higher inflation in the second half keeping demand-pull inflation in check.

"The demand boost and administered price policy changes, nonetheless maintain the hawkish skew for OPR, particularly in the context of the delayed Fed pivot and renewed emerging market currency volatility."

maintain our end-2024 OPR forecast of three per cent," CIMB Research added.

HSBC Global research believes that Bank Negara had no reason to hike or cut the OPR for now.

HSBC Global research Asean economist Yun Lu said a largely benign inflationary environment and a nascent economic recovery pointed to keeping the policy on hold.

She said given the repricing of the Fed rate cuts and prolonged greenback strength, Bank Negara was unlikely to follow Bank Indonesia and Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas in hiking their key rates by 25bps.

Hong Leong Investment Bank Bhd also maintained its expectations for

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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# Time for minimum wage above RM2,000

Low-earners barely making ends meet with RM1,500

By ARFA YUNUS  
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**PETALING JAYA:** The minimum wage for Malaysians should be set at RM2,102 as the current RM1,500 is too low for workers to sustain themselves and their families with, according to the latest report by United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Malaysia.

The UN-backed study said its proposal for the new minimum wage was made in light of several current factors, including the high cost of living that is causing many Malaysians to struggle to make ends meet.

"The current level of minimum wage is too low and insufficient for workers.

"Taking into consideration key factors such as cost of living, poverty line income, median wage and productivity, our calculation shows that the minimum wage

should be set at RM2,102 per month instead of RM1,500 currently.

"This revised new minimum wage is slightly lower than the living wage of RM2,700 as proposed by the Central Bank of Malaysia," read the report that was published yesterday.

The study titled *Living on the Edge: Longitudinal Study on Post-Covid-19 Impact Assessment Among Low-Income Households in Kuala Lumpur* was conducted on 755 households living in 16 low-income flats in the city from Oct 10 to Nov 16 last year.

The households had been part of a series of earlier studies in May 2020, September 2020, December 2020 and March 2021, which tracked the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its lockdowns on low-income families.

Among the key findings revealed in the report was that although

families have recovered in terms of employment and income after the pandemic, poverty persisted with 41% experiencing absolute poverty and 17% facing hardcore poverty.

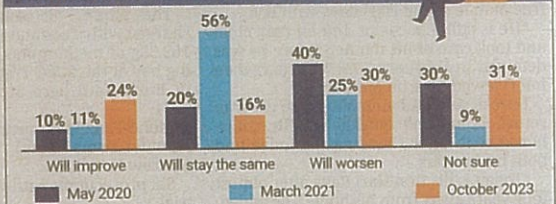
Hardcore poor refers to households with a monthly income of less than RM1,169, while those in absolute poverty have an income of less than RM2,208.

"This is especially prevalent among female-headed households and households headed by people with disabilities.

"Increasing living costs have exacerbated hardships, with eight out of 10 families struggling to meet basic needs, resulting in extreme choices such as reducing food intake."

According to the report, one in three heads of households believe that their financial situation would continue to deteriorate as compared to one in four in 2021.

## Expectation on financial situation in the future



Source: "Living on the Edge" survey by Unicef

The Star graphics

As of October 2023, 30% of the respondents said they believed their financial situation would worsen, 16% said it would stay the same, 31% were unsure and only 24% believed their situation would improve.

Out of the total households surveyed, 46% said their current financial situation was worse than last year, 38% felt it was the same as before and only 16% said things have improved for them this year.

The study, funded by Unicef and the UN Population Fund, revealed that 93% of the total households they spoke to admitted that they were currently affected by the high cost of living. Only 7% said they were not.

With that in mind, the report said it was essential for workers' social protection to be improved,

especially for those working in informal sectors and were not protected by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Social Security Organisation (Socso).

About 40% of workers, according to the report, did not have employment-based social protection.

"As for those who are self-employed, 92% are without such protection, mostly women.

"This lack of social protection exposes them to heightened vulnerability during economic shocks, making it more challenging to withstand financial hardship.

"It must be mandatory for all workers to be covered by EPF and Socso to protect them against injury, unemployment and inadequate or no income during old age."

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# Authorities, property owners responsible for roadside trees

► In cases involving injury or death, seeking compensation, legal recourse depends on establishing negligence: Lawyer

■ BY SIVANISVARRY MORHAN  
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**PETALING JAYA:** Legal responsibilities for maintaining trees along public roads are outlined in statutes such as the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 and local government by-laws from 1976.

Lawyer Kokila Vaani Vadiveloo said the regulations specify duties related to the upkeep and maintenance of streets, footways and trees, placing obligations on the relevant authorities and property owners.

She was commenting on Tuesday's incident in which a 47-year-old man died after a large tree was uprooted in Jalan Sultan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur during a thunderstorm, crushing several cars and damaging a bus stop.

"In situations where individuals are injured or killed due to falling trees, seeking compensation or legal recourse depends on establishing negligence.

"If it is proven, legal action for damages can be pursued. However, if the incident is categorised as an 'act of nature', legal avenues for compensation may be limited," she said.

At 1.50pm the same day, the Meteorological Department issued a warning and urged the public to exercise caution in anticipation of potential thunderstorms.

The warning covered several states and regions, including Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Pahang, Selangor, the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Negeri Sembilan, Malacca, Johor, Sarawak and Sabah.

During her visit to the crash site, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said inspections were carried out "once every two years".

"While the 50-year-old tree was under private supervision, the frequency of inspections needs to be increased, especially given the unpredictable weather conditions," she said.

To this, Universiti Putra Malaysia Road Safety Research Centre professor Dr Law Teik Hua said inadequate maintenance practices such as infrequent inspections or neglecting to prune branches can increase the likelihood of tree failure events.

He said it was obvious that a more frequent inspection schedule is needed, especially for trees in urban areas with high vehicular traffic.

"These trees pose a risk to public safety. Regular inspections help promptly identify issues or hazards, and reduce the likelihood of accidents caused by falling trees."

Law said construction activities near trees can also damage roots or alter the soil structure, reducing stability in the process.

"Urban environments can limit the natural

spread of tree roots, leading to weaker anchoring.

"The authorities must utilise advanced technologies such as drone surveys, Geographic Information System mapping and tree risk assessment tools to proactively identify potential hazards."

Architecture and Urban Design senior lecturer Ungku Norani Sonet Ungku Abdul Rahman recommended improving inspection techniques.

"City, municipal, and district councils should prioritise maintenance and encourage community involvement. Policies should be revised to guarantee efficient road safety measures," she said.

Considering aspects such as climate, soil quality, growth patterns and root systems, Ungku Norani emphasised the necessity of selecting appropriate tree species for planting along public roads.

"Additionally, maintaining older trees becomes vital given the unpredictable weather conditions.

"It is important to remove existing trees and avoid planting species known to have aggressive root systems or weak branches prone to failure."

To mitigate risks, Ungku Norani suggested systematic inspection protocols, selective tree planting, adherence to pruning guidelines, protection of root zones and clear emergency response procedures.

Following the incident, Monorail services between KL Sentral and Medan Tuanku station were halted as the fallen tree had blocked the tracks near the Raja Chulan monorail station.



Law said a more frequent inspection schedule is needed, especially for trees in urban areas with high traffic volume. —AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THE SUN

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