



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 23 MEI 2024 (KHAMIS)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

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MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	• RM5mil TO RESOLVE FLOODING IN PUCHONG • CAT-NEUTERING PROGRAMME WXCEEDS TARGET IN SUBANG JAYA

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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RM5mil to resolve flooding in Puchong

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA and ETHEL SIAO



(From left) Ng, MBSJ Engineering Department director Dr Mohd Ariffuddin Kamari and Amanat Lebuhraya Rakyat group chief operating officer Mohd Noor Mohd Ali at the press conference to announce the mitigation project. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

A MITIGATION project costing over RM5mil is underway to address flooding issues in several areas in Puchong, says Selangor investment, trade, and mobility committee chairman Ng Sze Han.

The project, which covers four key locations, is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Ng said the Selangor government had brought together all stakeholders and relevant authorities to ensure the flood problem would be resolved.

"Areas undergoing upgrades include in front of IOI Mall Puchong (next to the Damansara-Puchong Highway or LDP), Bandar Puteri, Batu 14 and Town Park," he said at a press conference at Bangunan Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Shah Alam.

Also present were several stakeholders, including Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), developers, transit operator Prasarana Malaysia Bhd and Amanat Lebuhraya Rakyat Bhd, which owns several highway concessionaires including Lingkaran Trans Kota Holdings Bhd (Litrak).

"We will have a new connecting drain outlet from IOI Business Park leading to a retention pond," said Ng.

"About 50% of the work is completed, and the rest will be finished by year-end.

"Once the connecting drain is completed, Prasarana will then upgrade the drain in front of the mall to increase water-carrying capacity.

"Prasarana will build one large culvert to hold more flood water," he said.

Ng said the project faced several constraints. As the LRT line runs in front of IOI mall, works can only take place between 1am and 5am.

"We cannot block any part of the LDP as it is a busy road.

"No construction work can be done while the LRT is operating," he said.

According to Ng, the works outside IOI mall are funded by the developer, Litrak and MBSJ at a cost of about RM4.7mil.

The second location to be upgraded is at Bandar Puteri.

MBSJ and several developers plan to conduct a site visit to identify the cause of the flooding there before upgrading the monsoon drains.

At Puchong Indah, the flooding originates upstream, so the developer had agreed to deepen the Town Park lake, said Ng.

As for Batu 14, he said the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) had committed to cleaning up a retention pond next month.

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH: 23 MEI 2024

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
and ETHEL SIAO
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RM5mil to resolve flooding in Puchong

Upgrades at four key locations being carried out by stakeholders

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retention pond next month.

Following this, MBSJ will build a culvert at a cost of RM300,000 to ensure better rainwater flow in the area.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 23 MAY 2024

Cat-neutering programme exceeds target in Subang Jaya



By MEGAT SYAHAR

METRO NEWS

Wednesday, 22 May 2024

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) has exceeded target for neutering cats.

**Berita lanjut pada akhbar cetak 'Cat-neutering programme exceeds target in Subang Jaya'*

THE STAR ONLINE

TARIKH: 23 MEI 2024

Cat-neutering programme exceeds target in Subang Jaya

By MEGAT SYAHAR
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SUBANG Jaya City Council (MBSJ) has exceeded its target for neutering cats.

Its mass neutering programme that took place at the SS15 Multipurpose Hall in Subang Jaya, Selangor, was to address the critical issue of animal overpopulation.

The council had targeted neutering 200 dogs and 200 cats with the services provided for free.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) general manager Kelvin Cheah said the first day of the programme saw 113 cats spayed while the subsequent day had 99 cats, thus exceeding the target.

"Earlier, we gave 125 sponsored vaccines to visitors for their pets.

"We were also assisted by veterinary students from Universiti Putra Malaysia.

"This programme is special because the Subang Jaya and

Kota Kemuning assemblymen reached out to us. They jointly offered to sponsor this event, which is a first for us," he said.

Exhibitors selling pet-related products, pet vaccines and medication for post-surgery were also present at the recent event.

MBSJ Corporate and Strategic Management Department deputy director Azfarizal Abdul Rashid said the programme was a joint collaboration between MBSJ, SPCA and the offices of the Subang Jaya and

Kota Kemuning assemblymen.

"MBSJ's Health Department also has a booth to provide clarification on the procedures for managing pet dogs at home, including the requirement for licensing them."

Star Pets director Natasha Lee said the stray animals issue was a public issue.

"We're not just concentrating on stray animals; pets are also a priority. By accepting more pets for neutering, we are decreasing the number of animals that will

be reproducing.

"This strategy will ultimately aid in reducing the stray population over time," said Lee.

Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng and Kota Kemuning assemblyman Preakas Sampunathan each contributed RM30,000 towards the programme.

Subang Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim, and SPCA Selangor chairman Christine Chin were among those present.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 23 MAY 2024

Projek mitigasi banjir di Puchong siap hujung tahun ini

Oleh NORAFIZA JAAFAR Follow
21 Mei 2024 03:12pm Masa membaca: 4 minit



Sze Han menunjukkan pelan lokasi projek mitigasi bagi atasi banjir kilat di Puchong khususnya di hadapan pusat beli-belah IOI Mall.

SHAH ALAM - Projek mitigasi banjir di Puchong membolehkan peruntukan RM5 juta dijadual siap hujung tahun ini.

Exco Pelaburan, Perdagangan dan Mobiliti Selangor, Ng Sze Han, daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak RM4.7 juta diperuntukkan oleh Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ), Litrak dan IOI untuk projek mitigasi banjir Lebuhraya Damansara Puchong (LDP) berhadapan pusat beli-belah IOI Mall.



Sze Han.

Menurutnya, selain itu, sebanyak tiga kerja penyelenggaraan saliran di Bandar Puteri, Puchong Indah dan Batu 14 Puchong turut akan dilakukan bagi menyelesaikan isu banjir kilat di sana.

"Projek mitigasi banjir dari IOI Business Park ke tasik takungan belakang IOI Mall telah siap 50 peratus dan dijangka selesai hujung tahun ini.

"Selepas projek ini siap, ia akan disusuli penyelenggaraan saliran dan naik taraf longkang bagi melancarkan pergerakan air di sana," katanya pada sidang akhbar mengenai penyesaian masalah banjir LDP di Bangunan Kerajaan Negeri pada Selasa.

Sze Han berkata, kesemua projek tersebut dijangka menyelesaikan masalah kekerapan banjir kilat disebabkan hujan lebat di kawasan itu.

"Target kita supaya tidak berlaku lagi banjir kilat tetapi perubahan cuaca menyebabkan taburan hujan tidak menentu dan taburan hujan tinggi seperti berlaku dua minggu lepas.

"Bagaimanapun ini tidak bermakna kerajaan negeri tidak mengambil sebarang tindakan dan semua projek ini adalah inisiatif menyelesaikan isu berkenaan," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN ONLINE
TARIKH: 23 MEI 2024

Bina perumahan atas kolam tadahan malapetaka buat penduduk Taman Kinrara – Sze Han

Oleh MOHD AZLIM ZAINURY Follow
22 Mei 2024 06:02pm Masa membaca: 4 minit



Sze Han (tengah) kesal kawasan Kolam Tadahan Banjir (KTB) Bohol diambil alih pihak swasta untuk tujuan pembangunan perumahan.

SHAH ALAM - Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Kinrara, Ng Sze Han kesal dengan tindakan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dan Pejabat Tanah dan Galian Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur membenarkan kawasan Kolam Tadahan Banjir (KTB) Bohol diambil alih pihak swasta untuk tujuan pembangunan perumahan.

Sze Han yang juga Ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri Selangor berkata, langkah mengenakan syarat naik taraf KTB Bohol kepada pemaju perumahan sebagai timbal balas syarat pemajuan adalah langkah terkebelakang dan tidak wajar.

"Saya telah berkali-kali nyatakan malah menulis surat kepada pihak DBKL agar kolam ini diselenggara dan kekal berfungsi sebagai kolam tadahan banjir dan bukan diserahkan untuk tujuan pembangunan.

"Saya dimaklumkan pemaju cuma dikenakan syarat naik taraf kolam berjumlah RM40 juta sahaja dan selepas tempoh 'Defect Liability Period', ia akan diserahkan semula kepada Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) untuk penyelenggaraan.

"Apalah nilai RM40 juta yang sepatutnya pihak kerajaan boleh salurkan berbanding membina 5,000 unit perumahan padat yang akhirnya mendatangkan kesan banjir lebih teruk dan akan menjadi malapetaka kepada penduduk Taman Kinrara," katanya kepada Sinar Harian.

Mengimbas kembali keadaan banjir di Taman Kinrara pada Disember 2021 dan Mac 2022, Sze Han berkata, beliau secara peribadi turun ke kawasan banjir menyelamatkan kanak-kanak, orang tua dan orang kurang upaya keluar daripada kawasan tersebut.

"Lebih 2,000 rumah terjejas, 8,000 isi rumah. Surau An-Nur Taman Kinrara baru sahaja dapat tukar karpet. Balai raya tenggelam, Dewan Masyarakat MBSJ pula temboknya runtuh. Adakah pihak DBKL dan pejabat tanah terbabit memahami perkara ini?" ujarnya lagi.

Sejurus selepas kejadian banjir pada Mac 2022, kerajaan negeri Selangor melalui JPS Negeri Selangor telah bersetuju untuk membuat projek tebatan banjir di Sungai Kuyoh di Taman Kinrara.

SINAR HARIAN ONLINE

TARIKH: 23 MEI 2024

High-risk trees to be felled in Klang

MBDK to plant smaller shade species following National Landscape Dept's advice

Story and photo
by EDWARD RAJENDRA
edward@thestar.com.my

KLANG Royal City Council (MBDK) has identified high-risk species and dead trees that may be uprooted in a storm, and these will be felled soon.

MBDK Landscape and Recreational Department deputy director Azzura Zainal said it had identified the trees posing a safety hazard and they were scheduled to be cut down.

"We plan to replace them with smaller shade tree species, taking into account shifts in weather patterns.

"Our tree audit noted a number of dead or dying trees, dead branches on living trees and trees that are unstable.

"We have classified these as a hazard that needs immediate attention," she said.

Klang had seen incidents of "tree failure", defined as anything from broken branches to fallen trees which Azzura said were caused mainly by adverse



MBDK workers dealing with a dead tree at Jalan Mastika, off Jalan Mengkuang, in Klang.

weather conditions rather than maintenance issues.

On May 7, a large tree along Jalan Sultan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur fell onto 17 vehicles during an afternoon thunderstorm, killing a 47-year-old man and injuring two others.

The incident also disrupted the city's monorail services at four stations as some branches had

fallen onto the elevated track.

Azzura said high-risk species had high potential for its branches to break easily or topple in a thunderstorm, but did not reveal the number of trees scheduled to be felled.

"Based on a tree assessment carried out in Klang, the high-risk tree species are Angsana (*pterocarpus indicus*), African mahoga-

ny (*khaya senegalensis*) and Jambu Laut (*eugenia grandis*); all three are not local species.

"Another species that easily breaks in strong wind is the rain tree (*samanea saman*).

"We will have a tree felled if it threatens people's safety," she said.

MBDK's tree assessment involves the use of a resistograph

and visual assessments to detect tree defects such as decaying branches or roots, leaning or unbalanced tree structures as well as dead branches.

Azzura said 790 trees throughout Klang were assessed last month and their branches pruned, while some trees were felled as they were tagged as high-risk.

"Last year, 5,108 trees were pruned, with some removed."

She said the city council would follow the National Landscape Department's advice to plant species of smaller shade trees to replace those cut down.

"MBDK carries out continuous assessment on high-risk trees, keeping in mind safety issues including environmental preservation and conservation aspects."

She said the city council would continue pruning trees at the more scenic tree-lined routes in urban areas.

"This is necessary as development had affected wind directions and water flow, impacting the trees growth and resilience."

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

Council gives food court visitors free lunch

SHAH Alam City Council (MBSA) gave out 300 lunch vouchers worth RM10 each to factory workers and university students who walked into Medan Selera Prima Section 2.

It was part of the city council's initiative to help them cope with the escalating cost of living.

MBSA, along with Selangor Malay Petty Traders and Hawkers Association Kota Anggerik branch, distributed food vouchers at the food court.

Shah Alam mayor Cheremi Tarman said it was important for the city council to step in to help ordinary folks have a meal.

"We need to build a spirit of caring in our communities."

"Our council's action could spur companies to conduct similar corporate social responsibility programmes, which could make a difference in the community."

He said this was the first time that meal vouchers had been given out.

"We plan to have a similar initiative in Sungai Buloh and Jalan Kebun."

"There is a possibility the vouchers would be increased to 500 so that more people would benefit," he said.

Cheremi added that the council had given essential items to orphans and the underprivileged last month.



Cheremi (fourth from left) serving food at Medan Selera Prima Section 2 in Shah Alam, Selangor. — Photo: EDWARD RAJENDRA/The Star

THE STAR
23 MAY 2024
Tarikh:

By ETHEL SIAO
metro@thestar.com.my

4,000 throng PJ temple for Wesak Day celebration

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IN A vibrant display of devotion, thousands of Buddhist devotees converged on Fo Guang Shan (FSG) Temple in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, for Wesak Day yesterday.

To commemorate Buddha's birth, devotees came together from near and far to pray and take part in various activities.

FSG deputy abbess Ruxing Shih said this year marked the temple's 30th anniversary and the highest attendance on record.

"We had approximately 4,000 participants this year, including devotees, friends and students.

"This year, the celebration featured activities such as a charity food fair, lamp and flower offering, exhibition and charity hair-cut," she said.

Ruxing said the charity food fair, which saw more than 30 stalls, aimed to raise funds for the temple's relocation plan.

She expressed her appreciation to University Malaya Medical Centre for offering free health check-ups during the event, especially for the



Devotees bathing Buddha during Wesak Day celebrations at Fo Guang Shan temple in Petaling Jaya. — Photos: LOW LAY PHON/The Star

B40 group.

A highlight of the event was Puan Sri Chelsia Cheng's calligraphy exhibition on "The Collection of Inspiring Words", commemorating the 105th anniversary of

Venerable Master Hongyi's Ordination.

Cheng said it took around four months to complete the work and out of the 72 verses in the collection, only 40 were on display



Ruxing and Cheng (right) at the calligraphy exhibition.

play because of space limitations.

The exhibition at FSG PJ Dharma Wheel Hall is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 10am to 5pm, until June 22.

Also present were Kampung Tunku assemblyman Lim Yi Wei,

MCA central committee member Tan Gim Tuan, Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPP) councillor Ong Yew Thai, Selangor Municipal Council councillor Calvin Cheong, Datuk Dr Wong Sai Hou and his wife Datin Jennifer Wong.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

FOR THE BIRDS

Hulu Selangor Municipal Council (MPHS) is holding Wings of KKB: Selangor Birds Fair 2024 on Sunday. The 12th edition of the avian extravaganza will take place at Jalan Bukit Kerajaan in Kuala Kubu Baru from 7am-5pm. A link to the registration form can be found on MPHS's Facebook page.

PARK EXPLORACE

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) is organising a Park Explorace in conjunction with National Landscape Day on Sunday. The event, open to teams of four, will take place at Laman Budaya, Taman Tasik Shah Alam, from 9am-4pm. The fee for each participating team is RM50. For details, call 012-287 8787 or visit MBSA's Facebook page.

DANCE CONTEST

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) will be holding a creative traditional dance contest for primary schools within its jurisdiction. The event will be held at 8am, July 11, at Auditorium MPAJ, Menara MPAJ. Registration forms can be found on MPAJ's Facebook page. For details, call 017-820 4448 or 011-7302 4108.

DOG LICENCE

Ampang Jaya dog owners can apply for or renew their pet's licence at the basketball court in Jalan Youth, Kampung Baru Ampang, on Saturday, 10am-4pm. For details, call 03-4285 7007/7235.

PETS CHARITY RUN

Sepang Municipal Council will be holding a 5km Pets Charity Fun Run on June 22 at Semarak Hall, Cyberjaya, 7am-12pm. A fee of RM30 will be collected for children and RM45 for adults. Registration is open until May 31. For details, visit Pet Charity Fun Run's official website.

RM300 fee to remove obstructions a burden, say strata management bodies

By LEW GUAN XI
lewguanxi@thestar.com.my

MANAGEMENT bodies are upset with Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ)'s new RM300 fee for removal of obstructions in strata properties, saying it will increase their financial burden.

Several joint management bodies (JMBs) and management corporations (MCs) told *StarMetro* that they understood the rationale behind the new fee but they believe the amount is excessive.

When contacted, Pandan Heights Condominium JMB chairman Haresh Vikram Vijayakumar said their funds were limited.

"Our operating expenses are sourced from residents' maintenance fees.

"We could use the RM300 for projects to maintain or upgrade the condominium's facilities," he said.

Echoing the sentiment, Kojaya Condominium MC chairman Mohd Fadzrul Abdullah said the fee would add to their financial burden.

"The only service provided by MPAJ is rubbish collection.

"Other maintenance and operating expenses are borne by the MC," he said.

On May 8, *StarMetro* reported that JMBs and MCs would be required to pay RM300 for each visit by MPAJ personnel to move vehicles and other obstructions from common areas of strata properties.

In the report, "MPAJ sets fee, for moving obstacles at strata properties," its president Dr Ani Ahmad said the fee was imposed

MPAJ sets fee for moving obstacles at strata properties

RM300 per visit by council personnel to cover operations cost

By LEW GUAN XI

AMPANG JAYA

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A council member said the fee would be charged for the service.

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Flashback to *StarMetro* story on May 8.



Haresh wants MPAJ to absorb half of the RM300 fee.

to educate strata property management to be more proactive, in accordance with provisions outlined in the Strata Management Act 2013.

"JMBs and MCs should be empowered to carry out their duties, such as moving vehicles that are double-parked or blocking others, without the council's intervention.

"This is provided for under the Act and JMBs and MCs need to understand and exercise their authority in managing these

issues independently," she said when announcing the new fee.

Haresh said it was unreasonable for MPAJ to impose higher fees than private tow services.

"Based on my experience, private tow services only charge RM80 to RM150.

"It is outrageous for MPAJ to charge double.

"It would be great if MPAJ could absorb at least half of the fees.

"The JMB might face objections from residents as no one would want their maintenance fees to be wasted for such reasons," he said.

Haresh said the JMB planned to set up a reserve fund, where 1% to 2% of the maintenance fees paid by the residents would be put aside to be used for removing obstructions.

"I will bring this up in our annual general meeting.

"Guidance on the new rule will also be provided to residents through awareness campaigns and by posting notices on bulletin boards," he added.

Taman Yarl resident worries trees may fall on his house

Story and photo by LEW GUAN XI
lewguanxi@thestar.com.my

A RESIDENT has raised concerns over several large trees growing wild on a vacant land next to his house in Jalan Awan Dandan, Taman Yarl, Kuala Lumpur.

Ranajit Singh Mehroke, 43, said one of the trees fell and damaged his fence last month.

He fears another may follow suit.

"Only the fence was damaged before. But I cannot stop thinking about the risk of the other trees falling on my house," said Ranajit, who lives with his mother.

He said the trees, which were about 5m tall, had started to lean in the direction of his house, making him worried for his mother's safety, especially on rainy days.

He had lodged several complaints with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) about the issue.

"DBKL sent some of its personnel to check the land last year, but no further action has been taken," he said.

A map sighted by *StarMetro* shows that the vacant land is divided into two plots - Lot 100161 and Lot 100162.

According to Ranajit, the lots

were privately owned by different people.

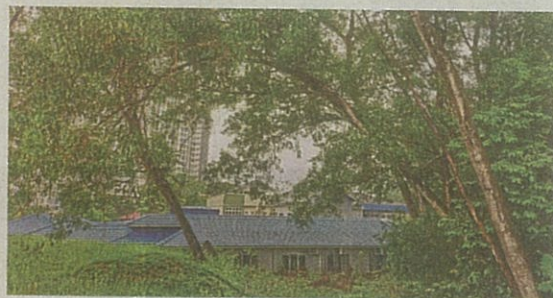
"Most of the trees are located on Lot 100162 and I am unable to identify the owner," he added.

Ranajit urged DBKL to take action as the trees were posing a danger to the neighbourhood.

"It is fine if DBKL wants to charge us for trimming or cutting down the trees on private land, as long as action is taken before something untoward happens.

"DBKL is responsible for residents' safety, whether the land is public or private," said Ranajit.

DBKL had yet to respond to queries at press time.



The trees on vacant land in Jalan Awan Dandan are starting to lean towards a house.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024



Yee at the junction of Jalan Vista Mutiara Satu and Jalan 14/33B in Kepong Baru where the hoarding is falling apart.

Vacant land posing risks to passers-by in Kepong Baru needs cleanup, DBKL told

A BOARDED up vacant plot of land in Kepong Baru, Kuala Lumpur, is overgrown and has become a dumping ground for rubbish.

The hoarding around the plot is falling apart, and the walkway is obstructed by overgrowth.

Activist Yee Poh Ping said the land at the junction of Jalan Vista Mutiara Satu and Jalan 14/33B needed to be cleared.

"The surrounding area has been developed into apartments and shoplots.

"However, this plot of land has been left idle for over five years.

"Tree branches have encroached into the walkway, and the hoarding is damaged.

"In the event of strong winds or a storm, the metal hoarding could pose a danger to passers-by," he said.

"Kuala Lumpur City Hall

(DBKL) should order the landowner to clear the land," said Yee.

He said the walkway along the vacant land connected pedestrians from an office area to nearby restaurants.

"Many workers are forced to walk on the road to reach the restaurants," he added.

On the May 7 uprooted tree incident on Jalan Sultan Ismail, which resulted in one death, Yee said DBKL must prune or cut trees deemed unsafe.

He said DBKL should also work with relevant agencies such as Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and plant suitable trees in urban areas.

"Many trees in Kuala Lumpur are old. Their safety should be reevaluated, and more suitable trees planted if necessary," he said. — By SHEILA SRI PRIYA

New drop-off point for cooking oil

Subang Jaya centre promotes recycling to prevent harm to people, environment

By ETHEL SIAO
metro@thestar.com.my

SINCE 2017, residents of SS14 in Subang Jaya, Selangor, have had a way to properly dispose of their used cooking oil.

Instead of clogging drains with the oil, they can discard it into a collection drum at a nearby park, and get rewarded for it.

In 2021, an app was launched to enable customers to schedule used cooking oil collections via their mobile phones.

The company behind these innovations is Arus Oil (My Protech Sdn Bhd), which has collected 250 metric tonnes of old cooking oil from around Klang Valley since the start of its pilot project in Subang Jaya.

"We visit homes to purchase used cooking oil, paying customers directly through the app," said Arus Oil co-founder and chief marketing officer Dr Chatichai Chong.

The used oil is purchased at RM3 per kg. Now, Arus Oil has a drop-off centre to collect used cooking oil from individuals and businesses.

Chong, 36, heralded this initiative as a major leap in environmental stewardship.

"Many households lack awareness of how to properly manage used cooking oil.

"This leads to health hazards from reusing the oil or environmental harm when it is poured down drains.

"This drop-off centre offers people a convenient and eco-friendly way to dispose of used cooking oil.

"Our new facility aims to educate and facilitate proper recycling, bridging this gap and promoting sustainable practices," he added.

Located on Jalan Industri USJ 1/4 in Taman Perindustrian USJ 1, Subang Jaya, the drop-off centre operates from 10am to 6pm, Mondays to Saturdays.

"We accept vegetable-based oil. However, it must never be mixed with



Used cooking oil drop-off centre in Subang Jaya. (Right) Ng sharing the candle-making process with a visitor at the event. — Photos: RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

any fossil fuel," said Chong.

He said the used cooking oil would undergo filtration to remove sediments, moisture and impurities.

The oil is then lab-tested before being sent for conversion into bio-diesel.

During the drop-off centre's launch, visitors were taught how to make candles from processed used cooking oil, led by Lit & Lull candle shop owner Amy Ng.

"We source processed used cooking oil from Arus Oil for candle-making.

"This transforms discarded resources into something beautiful and purposeful," the 32-year-old Ng said.

"Many households lack awareness on how to properly manage used cooking oil. This leads to health hazards from reusing the oil or environmental harm when it is poured down drains."

Dr Chatichai Chong



No change to Covid-19 SOP in M'sia

However, cross-border travellers advised to mask up due to recent wave in S'pore

By YEE XIANG YUN

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JOHOR BARU: Cross-border travel for Malaysians working in Singapore will not be affected by the recent wave of Covid-19 infections in the island republic for now, says Johor health and environment committee chairman Ling Tian Soon.

However, he advised those with comorbidities or from high-risk groups to mask up when heading out.

"Although a fresh Covid-19 wave has hit Singapore, we are keeping to the same standard operating procedure (SOP) for now."

"I advise the public, especially senior citizens, children and those with pre-existing illnesses, to wear a face mask when going to crowded or public areas," he told reporters after attending a Wesak Day celebration at the Fo Guang Shan Hsingmasi temple here yesterday.

Ling said the situation in the state was still manageable, with 154 Covid-19 cases reported in epidemiological week 20



Beware of the new wave: An average of 350,000 travellers cross the border from Malaysia to Singapore daily, mostly for work. — Filepic

(May 12-18).

This was a slight increase from 138 cases recorded in the previous week and 95 in week 18.

Asked whether a new SOP would be introduced for cross-border travellers, especially with thousands of Malaysians com-

muting to and from the city-state for work daily, Ling said he would discuss the matter with the Health Ministry.

"If need be, the ministry will issue a new SOP. For now, the existing SOP remains for all, including cross-border travellers, to mask up if you are in the high-risk groups and continue maintaining good personal hygiene."

"Those experiencing symptoms such as flu and cough should seek medical attention immediately and wear a face mask to prevent infecting others," he said.

He added that Covid-19 test kits are readily available at pharmacies and retail outlets for residents who want to perform self-tests.

Last Saturday, Singapore's Health Ministry said the estimated number of Covid-19 cases in the week of May 5 to 11 had risen to 25,900 cases, compared with 13,700 cases in the previous week.

It also said the average daily Covid-19 hospitalisations had increased to about 250, from 181 the week before.

The ministry added that the combined proportion of subvariants KP.1 and KP.2 accounted for over two-thirds of Covid-19 cases in the republic then.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

M'sians find their voice online

Pandemic has increased political engagement, especially among those in their 40s

By YUEN MEIKENG
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysians have always been passionate about politics, but most tend to keep their views to themselves or among their own circle of friends.

Over the last few years though, more people have spoken up, especially online.

There are two reasons for this, say experts. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, more people are feeling concerned about the current issues affecting them, and social media has allowed them to easily share their views.

The growing trend can also be attributed to Malaysians spending more time on such platforms, particularly during the movement control order (MCO), when most were confined to their homes.

Some 43.7% of people in the country posted online or voted on civic and political issues on blogs, social networks and websites last year.

It's a huge spike from just 12.9% in 2018 – an increase of 30.8 percentage points, according to numbers given by the "ICT Use and Access by Individuals and Households Survey" reports by the Statistics Department.

Terengganu was the "most vocal" state, with 72.3% of users there expressing their political views online last year.

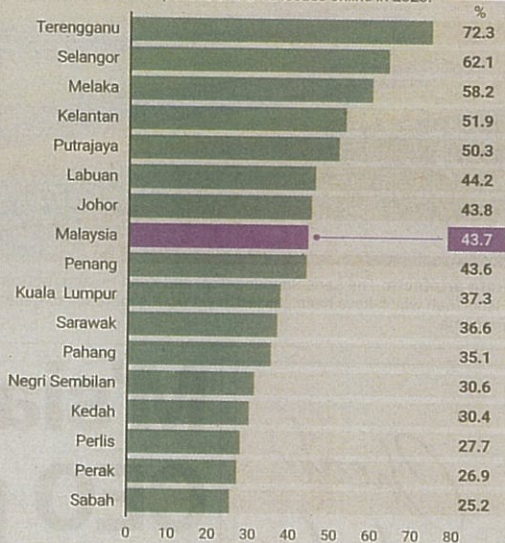
This is followed by Selangor with 62.1% and Melaka with 58.2%.

Those in their 40s were the most expressive online, with the loudest group being those aged between 45 and 49 last year.

Some 53.8% of people in this

Which state spoke up the most?

This shows the percentage of people in each state who posted their views on politics and civic issues online in 2023.



Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia

The Star Graphics

age group voiced their opinions online, scoring the highest percentage compared with others.

The numbers saw a particularly big jump in 2020, the year when the pandemic hit, leading to the MCO being imposed on March 18 that year.

"During the pandemic, people stayed home and had a lot more time to spend online," said International Islamic University

Malaysia political analyst Prof Datuk Seri Dr Syed Arabi Iddid.

In his years of conducting public opinion research, Prof Syed Arabi said more Malaysians are now willing to talk about politics and know which party is good for them.

"Privately, they can distinguish between honest and bad leaders, as well as those who are willing to work hard for the country.

"Most have formed their opinions by discussing matters with friends and family members and getting input from both traditional and social media," he said.

On why those in their 40s were the most active online, Prof Syed Arabi said people in this age group are likely to be educated, married and paying taxes.

"As such, these people are possibly the most affected by government programmes and policies.

"They have to support their families and would be concerned about their children's education while caring for their career and job security," he said.

On the spike in 2020, National Professors Council member and political analyst Prof Dr Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmod said a political crisis also happened that year, which led to a change in government.

"People then found the Internet as the best place to vent their feelings about the situation," he said.

In 2020, Malaysia saw the fall of the Pakatan Harapan government, triggered by the "Sheraton Move". A few weeks later, the rising Covid-19 cases led to the nationwide lockdown.

The overall increase in people voicing their opinions online could also be a natural progression due to technology.

From talking in the coffee shop, more have moved on to chatting online about politics, said Prof Nik Ahmad Kamal.

"Now that people can use many social media platforms to express their opinions, political posts have become so common that everyone is jumping on the bandwagon.

"Unless the comments are sedi-

tious or against any law, participation in social media discussions isn't harmful," he said.

However, there are instances when online users take their words too far, using hate speech and breaching sensitivities.

In April, it was reported that the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission received 1,454 complaints about race, religion and royalty (3R) issues in the first three months of this year alone.

To achieve a good balance between freedom of expression and preventing hate speech, Prof Nik Ahmad Kamal said there has to be more transparency from the government.

"What's lacking is information on policies and decisions made by the government, which causes people's frustration with the system. This is why there should be a law on the freedom of information to allow people to access government documents and policies," he said, adding that current laws are enough to control any extreme views.

"A freedom of information law will allow people to get more information and understand government decisions."

This would then help explain certain situations, decisions or events, except those falling under the Official Secrets Act, he added.

Prof Syed Arabi said being too restrictive in discussions about the 3R issues will not encourage a vibrant democracy.

"Perhaps, there should be restrictions on questioning 3R policies, but not about the wrongdoings committed against race, religion and royalty," he suggested.

Short-term gains, long-term risks

EARLIER this year, the Malaysian government announced a reform of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) system, introducing Account 3, which allows members to withdraw a portion of their retirement savings. This policy has attracted widespread attention, resulting in long queues at EPF offices nationwide on the launch date. While this reform might stimulate the consumer market in the short term, it poses several risks that could manifest over the next two decades.

Allowing EPF members to withdraw a portion of their retirement savings will help release financial pressures on those facing urgent needs now, such as purchasing necessities, paying for education or covering medical expenses.

This increased consumer spending will drive market demand and promote economic activity, providing a much-needed stimulus to the Malaysian economy during a period of weak consumption sentiment.

While it may not be a perfect solution for addressing rising living costs, it is nevertheless a policy with immediate effects, providing much-needed relief



Money now: Long queues at the EPF office in Seberang Jaya, Penang, after Account 3 was launched. —ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

from financial stress, especially for families living below the poverty line.

The primary purpose of the EPF is to ensure that members maintain a basic standard of living post-retirement. Media reports indicate that some members withdraw their retirement funds solely for luxury items, such as iPhones, proving that

some members lack understanding of the importance of retirement funds.

Retirement savings are intended for future living expenses, especially during the 20 years post-retirement (the average lifespan of Malaysians is 73.4 years). Studies have shown that without careful management, these funds could be depleted

within a few years. Even with EPF savings in place, meeting future living costs might be challenging amid rising global inflation.

As people age, they might face increasing medical expenses. While Malaysia's public health-care system provides quality and affordable services, there are times when private care might be necessary, such as emergency dental surgery.

Moreover, with the potential reduction of government subsidies of various items in the coming days, it is time to consider additional retirement approaches, such as private retirement schemes or making additional investments.

From the government's perspective, future action may be necessary to maintain the public's living standards, possibly through additional subsidies or living assistance programmes to address the population's declining retirement funds.

If the withdrawal is unavoidable, such as for paying off high-interest credit card loans or medical expenses, then it's worth considering and reasonable to do so. However, if the intention is for investment, please reconsider.

I support my view based on the stable returns offered by EPF, averaging 5% over the past decades. For those lacking financial knowledge, investing funds without understanding where they go might result in losses. Many high-return investments in the market come with high risks. Thus, I oppose withdrawing EPF funds for investment purposes.

For those considering withdrawals for luxury items, it should be carefully reconsidered to avoid future financial difficulties. None of us wants to spend our retirement years struggling financially.

While withdrawals from Account 3 offer various benefits, their potential long-term negative impacts should also be taken into consideration. Every EPF member should utilise retirement funds in a responsible manner by avoiding excessive spending. Remember to be cautious and plan wisely for your post-retirement life.

BOO ZHENG QIAN
Petaling Jaya

The letter writer previously served as an investment analyst at a Hong Kong venture capital firm.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2021

Growing new gen of eco-champs

By MEGAT SYAHAR
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OVER 100 volunteers, comprising mainly youths, took part in a sapling planting programme at Mangrove Point in Port Klang, Selangor.

A total of 300 mangrove saplings were planted at the launch of the Amanah Lestari Alam (Alam) Be-Leaf 2024 programme.

The programme is aimed at mobilising youth volunteerism and participation in environmental conservation.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said the government had undertaken large-scale mangrove tree planting, which had shown positive results.

"We have planted over 3,500ha of coastal areas with mangrove and other forest species."

"Almost eight million mangrove trees have been planted," he said at the launch.

Nik Nazmi said that up to May this year, 86.5 million trees, involving 1,823 species, were planted throughout the country as part of the 100 Million Tree-Planting Campaign which was launched in 2021.

"Our priority is to not harm. We want to preserve existing forest areas, and if (development is) unavoidable, we have to resort to replanting," he said.

Alam was recently appointed by Youth and Sports Ministry as the implementing partner for the Rakan Muda 2024 programme under the Rakan Bumi lifestyle.

Alam chairman Datuk Ali Abdul Kadir said the appointment was an incredible honour and an opportunity for them to

Programme launched at Mangrove Point in Port Klang to mobilise youth volunteerism in environmental conservation



Nik Nazmi (centre) talking to the participants of the programme at Mangrove Point in Port Klang. — Photos: RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

encourage more youth to participate in environmental initiatives.

"We hope that the Alam Be-Leaf programme will breed a new generation of eco-champions for a more impactful outcome," he said.

The programme saw participation from Rakan Muda, Selangor Youth Department, Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry, Selangor Forestry Department, Selangor Maritime Gateway, Yayasan Hijau Malaysia, YouthCare Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara.

Also present was Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh.

As part of Alam Be-Leaf 2024, several key locations were also been identified for upcoming activities across Malaysia.

The next event would be mangrove planting in Merbok, Kedah, in collaboration with the Kedah Forestry Department.

This will be followed by Setiu Wetlands in Terengganu, with support from the Terengganu State Parks Management Council.

The final location for the year is Tanjung Piai in Johor, in partnership with Johor National Parks.



Participants planting mangrove saplings.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

Delay in transfer from Akaun Fleksibel sparks questions

By RAHIMY RAHIM

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PETALING JAYA: For Employees Provident Fund (EPF) members who have applied for withdrawals from their new Akaun Fleksibel, a big question is playing on their mind.

When will the money be credited into their bank account?

Some had gone to social media to share tips on how to check the date on when EPF would bank in their requested amount.

"Those who applied on May 18 have yet to get their money. What is happening?" Mohd Syafiq Tarmizi, 33, asked.

He said he had received the approval notice via his i-Akaun but has yet to get any date about the bank transfer.

Starting May 11, the EPF has restructured the savings of its members aged 55 and below to Akaun Persaraan (Account 1), Akaun Sejahtera (Account 2) and Akaun Fleksibel (Account 3).

For these members, they have a

one-time option to transfer part of their savings in Akaun Sejahtera to Akaun Fleksibel between May 11 and Aug 31.

Another EPF contributor, Maisara Alias, 44, also hoped to get further details about the date for the money transaction.

"If we get an exact date, it will be good, but there is nothing on the app yet," she said.

Furthermore, she said that today is a non-working day as it is a public holiday to mark Wesak Day.

Nor Hanis Farhanah Mohd Isa, 28, wondered why it seems to take quite some time for the transfer from Akaun Fleksibel to her bank account.

A social media user @nraness said she had received the approval but has not got an exact date for the fund transfer.

"Until now, there is no update on which date I will get my money. Anyone else like me?" she asked.

However, others like Mohd Fadhlil Ishak, 40, said these appli-

cants should be patient.

"I applied on May 18 and the payment was made on May 21 evening," he said.

"I am so thankful for this," he added.

The EPF has yet to comment as at press time.

"The credit payment period for withdrawals from Akaun Fleksibel will be made to your registered bank account within seven working days upon application approval," said EPF on its website's FAQ section.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

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Keep your EPF info private

Sharing screenshots of accounts draws attention of scammers

By REMAR NORDIN
remar.nordin@thestar.com.my

JOHOR BARU: Employees Provident Fund (EPF) members should stop sharing screenshots of their accounts on social media to avoid being targeted by scammers, says the Malaysia Cyber Consumer Association (MCCA).

There had been incidents of late in which EPF contributors had "flaunted" their savings, said MCCA chairman Datuk Ahmad Noordin Ismail.

"What is the point of doing so if you end up running to the police later to report that scammers have taken money from your accounts?" he asked.

Last week, a Bahasa Malaysia daily reported that a number of EPF members had posted screenshots of the balance in their EPF accounts.

This had come about after EPF announced that starting May 11, all EPF members under the age of 55 would have their savings restructured into Account 1 (75%), Account 2 (15%) and Account 3 (10%).

According to the news report, someone showed his EPF savings of RM465,938 on platform X.

In an interview, Ahmad



Be cautious: The public are advised against sharing screenshots of their EPF accounts on social media. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

Noordin said: "Who do you want to blame when you expose your personal details?"

"It's like offering yourself to the scammers and inviting them to attack you."

He urged the public to be wary about getting calls or text messages from unknown numbers.

"Just ignore the callers even if they claim to be from the Inland Revenue Board. Or if they claim to be a government officer wanting your account details."

Social media users should also avoid reposting screenshots of

other people's accounts, he said.

Last week, EPF advised its contributors to get their information from official sources.

This came about after a scam emerged in which the fraudster would send out a message, supposedly from EPF, to "alert" the targeted victim about so-called withdrawals being made from Account 3.

Yayasan Digital Malaysia chief technology innovation officer Ahmad Faizal Zulkipli said the act of revealing one's EPF savings amount and details is "danger-

ous" and should not be done.

Such financial information is private and should not be shared, he said.

"Even if the screenshots do not show personal details, posting them on social media accounts, where other personal information is also shared, can help scammers build a profile of potential victims."

"Scammers can use various techniques. They could call you or send out messages pretending to be from the authorities or the EPF itself, and persuading you to do things like downloading a supposedly new EPF app."

"This app could be a malware that gives scammers full access to the victim's phone," he explained.

Scammers, he said, could transfer money to mule accounts and victims would end up losing money from their other personal accounts as well.

He said scammers often monitor current events, especially on social media, and adjust their strategies based on trending issues.

"Other types of crimes could also occur. Criminals could take advantage of this information. It could lead to robberies or other crimes," he added.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

'Hanya Anwar berani lakukan reformasi subsidi bersasar'

ANWAR 2/15

TELUK INTAN - Hanya Perdana Menteri ke-10, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yang berani melakukan reformasi subsidi diesel secara bersasar, kata Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming.

Beliau berkata, walaupun kerajaan sebelum ini menyedari berlakunya ketirisan dalam pengagihan subsidi itu, namun tiada pemimpin yang memperbetulkan kesilapan sehingga mengakibatkan masalah semakin serius.

"Kita tidak mahu ketirisan sedemikian. Setiap kerajaan datang silih ganti semua ca-



KOR MING

kap saja, tiada seorang pun berani buat.

"Akhirnya, individu bernama Anwar Ibrahim sahaja yang sanggup tampil ke hadapan untuk melakukan reformasi yang amat penting ini.

"Adalah sangat penting program sasaran subsidi ini dilakukan untuk memperbetulkan kesilapan pada masa silam," katanya kepada pemberita selepas menyempurnakan penyerahan bantuan RM1,000 kepada 240 murid dari 11 Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil (SJKT) dalam Parlimen Teluk Intan di sini pada Rabu.

Ketua Whip Parlimen DAP itu berkata,

perbelanjaan RM80 bilion yang dikeluarkan kerajaan setiap tahun bagi subsidi pukat bu- kan sahaja dinikmati rakyat Malaysia, malah warga asing yang tidak membayar cukai.

Ujar beliau, ditambah dengan kerugian RM2 bilion setahun yang ditanggung kerajaan apabila lebih tiga juta liter bahan bakar bersubsidi diseludup keluar oleh sindiket.

"Sebagai pemimpin yang penuh bertanggungjawab, Kerajaan Madani memilih ambil sikap untuk menjamin kelangsungan masa depan negara.

"Kita mengambil kira segala risiko dan meminimumkan impak pelaksanaannya. Oleh itu, amatlah penting reformasi ini dapat disokong seluruh rakyat," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 12.3.MAY.2024.....

'Kenaikan harga barang, perkhidmatan dijangka berlaku'



HENG GUIE

SHAH ALAM - Penyasaran subsidi diesel yang membabitkan pengguna Semenanjung dijangka akan menyebabkan kenaikan pada harga barang dan perkhidmatan.

Pengarah Eksekutif Pusat Penyelidikan Sosio-Ekonomi (SERC), Lee Heng Guie berkata, kenaikan tersebut bagaimanapun bergantung kepada perincian mekanisme pelaksanaan subsidi die-

sel yang akan diumumkan oleh kerajaan melalui Kementerian Kewangan tidak lama lagi.

"Persoalannya, adakah subsidi yang diberikan kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel itu akan dihadkan dari segi jumlah atau atau berapa kilometer yang dipakai untuk satu bulan?"

"Kalau mereka terima subsidi

sepuhnya, maka kesan inflasi dalam kalangan pengguna mungkin tidak begitu ketara.

"Tetapi, kalau mereka hanya menikmati separuh subsidi sahaja, mungkin ia menyebabkan kos perniagaan bertambah sekali gus mengakibatkan peningkatan harga barang dan perkhidmatan," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Menurut Heng Guie, terdapat

dua perkara yang perlu diperjelaskan berhubung isu berkenaan bagi memahami implikasi penyasaran subsidi diesel kepada rakyat.

"Pertama, bila subsidi itu akan dilaksanakan dan kedua adakah harga diesel diapungkan atau dinaikkan secara perlahan.

"Baru kita dapat jangka apakah kesan kepada pengguna, dari segi harga atau inflasi," ujarnya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: ..12.3..MAY..2014.....

Susulan penyasaran subsidi diesel juga dilihat dapat atasi masalah ketirisan dan pembaziran akibat penyeludupan bahan api

Inflasi dijangka naik tapi terkawal - Pakar ekonomi

SHAH ALAM

Inflasi Malaysia dijangka berlaku sedikit peningkatan, namun masih lagi di bawah kadar purata yang baik iaitu tiga peratus susulan pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel.

Penganalisis ekonomi dari Putra Business School, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Profesor Madya Dr Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff berkata, kadar inflasi negara kini ialah 1.8 peratus dan jika naik kepada dua peratus susulan langkah berkenaan, ia disifatkan masih boleh diterima.

Menurutnya, impak daripada penyaluran itu juga tidak terlalu ketara memandangkan kerajaan akan terus menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel melibatkan 10 jenis pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

"Kalau kita lihat daripada aspek keseimbangan penggunaan iaitu risau dengan kenaikan barangan dan perkhidmatan, mungkin tidak akan berlaku kerana beberapa sektor perniagaan atau kategori yang menggunakan diesel pun dikecualikan penyasaran subsidi itu.

"Oleh itu, ia memberi jaminan kepada pelbagai golongan yang risau tentang pelaksanaannya. Berdasarkan kategori yang telah diumumkan, maka tiada alasan untuk peniaga atau pengguna diesel ini untuk mengatakan kos mereka meningkat sebab memang harga kekal sama.

"Walaupun kita tak boleh jamin 100 peratus tidak akan berlaku peningkatan, satu kelebihan yang kita ada sekarang ialah kadar inflasi yang masih rendah, iaitu 1.8 peratus. Kalau berlaku peningkatan yang sedikit pun, masih lagi di bawah purata kadar inflasi yang baik," katanya

kepada Sinar Harian.

Menurut Ahmed Razman, penyasaran subsidi diesel juga dilihat sebagai sebahagian daripada cara mengatasi masalah ketirisan dan pembaziran akibat penyeludupan bahan api walaupun tidak sepenuhnya.

Justeru, beliau mencadangkan agar kerajaan mengaplikasikan teknologi *blockchain* iaitu mekanisme pangkalan data lanjutan yang membolehkan pergerakan barangan dikesan untuk menangani masalah tersebut sepenuhnya.

"Kalau kita lihat di Singapura dan Hong Kong, mereka sudah mengaplikasikan teknologi *blockchain* di pelabuhan masing-masing untuk kesan pergerakan barangan.

"Diesel merupakan satu komoditi yang boleh diaplikasikan apabila sistem perekodan pergerakannya diintegrasikan dalam sistem teknologi terkini ini. Saya lihat kita ke arah itu tetapi saya berpendapat hanya teknologi *blockchain* yang akan dapat selesaikan sepenuhnya.

"Kita sudah ada sistem PADU (Pangkalan Data Utama), adalah satu kerugian jika kita tidak integrasikan dengan sistem seperti *blockchain* ini," jelasnya.

Sementara itu, pakar ekonomi dan kewangan dari Unikl Business School, Profesor Madya Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid turut senada dan menjangkakan kadar inflasi naik kesan gandaan ekonomi apabila kos pengangkutan serta logistik dinaikkan.

Bagaimanapun katanya, kerajaan bertindak untuk meminimumkannya sebanyak mungkin kenaikan harga barang tersebut dengan mengadakan sistem kawalan SKDS.

"Dalam situasi ini, sudah pasti akan ada peniaga yang akan mengambil kesempatan untuk menaikkan harga barang masing-masing atas alasan tersebut.

"Jelas ia sukar dielakkan kerana ber-



Inflasi Malaysia dijangka berlaku sedikit peningkatan, namun masih lagi di bawah kadar purata yang baik iaitu tiga peratus susulan pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel.
- Gambar hiasan



AHMED RAZMAN



AIMI ZULHAZMI

laku sepanjang masa. Jadi, penguatkuasaan hanya boleh dilakukan ke atas barang keperluan atau harga barang kawalan," ujarnya.

Aimi Zulhazmi berkata, penstrukturan semula subsidi ini adalah untuk merasionalisasikan perbelanjaan kerajaan, di mana penjimatan seperti RM4 bilion peringkat awal ini akan disalurkan juga kepada rakyat Malaysia terutama yang betul-betul layak dan terkesan, bukan lagi untuk pelbagai golongan yang selama ini menikmati bersama tanpa had.

Bagaimanapun jelasnya, ia tidak akan mengurangkan belanja kerajaan atau hutang kerajaan berjumlah RM1.2 trilion dalam jangka masa pendek kerana penjimatan ini disalurkan semula kepada rakyat serta-merta.

"Apabila berjaya, ia dijangka akan diperluaskan ke seluruh negara dan rangkumi bahan api lain seperti RON95, diesel serta barangan keperluan yang menerima subsidi secara pukal sekarang.

"Pada peringkat inilah kerajaan akan dapat melihat penjimatan perbelanjaan, mengurangkan defisit hutang negara serta menstrukturkan semula perbelanjaan negara secara mampan," kata beliau.

REAKSI

“

Pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi untuk bahan api diesel berupaya membantu menjimatkan perbelanjaan negara, selain peruntukan tersebut dapat digunakan untuk pembangunan lebih penting. Dengan rasionalisasi diesel dan petrol ini, kerajaan dapat menyediakan pelan untuk perubahan tenaga yang lebih bersih, demi pembangunan yang lestari kepada alam sekitar, serta memastikan ekonomi dapat terus berkembang daripada peralihan tenaga yang lebih bersih ini. Persetujuan kerajaan untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi diesel yang hanya akan melibatkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia dibuat bagi mencegah ketirisan serta memastikan ia benar-benar sampai kepada kelompok sasaran."

- Setiausaha Politik Kanan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin



SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 12.3.MAY.2024.....

Penyiasaran subsidi diesel bantu rakyat, setuju atau tidak?

Sinar 23/5

DEBAT Rakyat

Oleh NOR SYAMIRA LIANA
NOR ASHAHA

PADA Selasa, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengumumkan Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri telah bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyiasaran subsidi diesel dengan permulaan di Semenanjung Malaysia tanpa melibatkan pengguna Sabah dan Sarawak. Bagi membendung kenaikan mendadak harga barang dan perkhidmatan, kerajaan akan menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang meng-

gunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel merangkumi 10 jenis pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan penghantaran barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

Ia termasuk pengusaha bas dan teksi serta kerajaan juga akan meneruskan pemberian subsidi diesel kepada kategori nelayan tertentu.

Bagaimanapun, bagi memelihara kebajikan rakyat dalam menangani kos

sara hidup, kerajaan juga menyediakan bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil.

Penyasaran subsidi itu tidak melibatkan golongan T20 serta 3.8 juta warga asing.

Melalui usaha penyiasaran subsidi tersebut, jumlah penjimatan kepada kerajaan adalah dijangka secara kasar sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

+ SOKONG

Apa sahaja untuk rakyat, ia langkah terbaik

PADA pendapat saya, apa sahaja kaedah dilakukan kerajaan bagi memberikan manfaat kepada rakyat merupakan langkah terbaik.

Lagipun hasil penjimatan ini akan dipulangkan kembali kepada rakyat melalui peningkatan jumlah bantuan dan pembangunan.

Selain itu, pelaksanaan penyiasaran subsidi ke atas bahan api boleh mengawal ketirisan subsidi yang sering berlaku.

Setiap tahun jumlah subsidi yang ditanggung kerajaan semakin meningkat dan ketirisan turut melonjak.

SKDS kini telah ditambah baik melalui pendigitalan, ini bermakna setelah diapungkan mereka yang berdaftar sahaja boleh menikmati subsidi diesel.

Apabila kerajaan melancarkan



Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) pada 2 Januari lepas ia sebenar satu langkah bijak yang sepatutnya disambut baik oleh setiap masyarakat.

Menerusi maklumat yang didaftarkan dalam sistem PADU, kerajaan dapat mengenal pasti hanya mereka yang layak sahaja berhak mendapat manfaat dan bantuan kerajaan serta subsidi.

Justeru isu ketirisan terutama yang mengalir kepada warga asing atau golongan T20 dapat diatasi.

Pada masa yang sama, hasil penjimatan dapat dialih untuk meningkatkan peruntukan bagi sektor-sektor penting negara seperti pendidikan, kesihatan, infrastruktur dan sebagainya.

- Pekerja swasta, Faez Badrul, 33

- BANGKANG

Harga barangan dijangka naik

BAGI saya, apa yang paling merisaukan adalah harga barangan yang akan naik apabila subsidi diesel ditarik.

Ini kita tidak nafikan akan berlaku tekanan inflasi tetapi kesannya akan diminimumkan dengan kenderaan perniagaan dan pengangkutan yang masih mendapat subsidi diesel.

Saya risau akan ada pihak yang akan mengambil kesempatan untuk bertindak menaikkan harga produk mahupun barangan.

Seperti sebelum ini kerajaan menghentikan subsidi minyak masak yang telah menyebabkan penjual makanan mula mengecikan saiz hidangan mereka.

Apabila kos sara hidup meningkat, negara turut berdepan peningkatan kes kecurian dan bunuh diri. Lebih



ramai orang berkemungkinan akan mengalami masalah mental disebabkan tekanan.

Kerajaan perlu merancang program subsidi bersasar dengan sebaiknya agar tidak ada golongan yang tertindas dan dipinggir.

Lagi membimbangkan, ia akan menjadi penyebab penyeludup diesel menganas dengan membeli semua bahan api itu di stesen minyak dan menyebabkan bekalan habis sebelum tarikh subsidi dilaksanakan.

Sama di Sabah dan Sarawak yang dikecualikan buat sementara waktu, penguatkuasaan perlu lebih diperketatkan kerana aktiviti penyeludupan diesel mungkin akan bertambah rancak di sana.

- Bekerja sendiri, Nurul Ihsani Abd Ghani, 30



Pastikan penjimatan digunakan untuk rakyat

SAYA bersetuju tetapi kerajaan perlu memastikan penjimatan kerajaan secara kasar sekitar RM4 bilion setahun itu betul-betul digunakan untuk kos belanjawan rakyat yang lain.

Penjimatan itu perlu disalurkan kepada mereka yang benar-benar memerlukan bantuan dan mereka yang tidak patut dapat, dikecualikan.

Cara yang paling berkesan dalam melaksanakan subsidi bersasar adalah di dalam bentuk pemberian tunai kepada golongan rentan. Cuma saya rasa, cabaran utama kerajaan untuk mengenal pasti golongan tersebut.



Namun, pada masa sama mekanisme saringan kelayakan juga perlu diperbaiki dari semasa ke semasa untuk meminimumkan ralat kemasukan dan pengecualian.

Ia diharap lebih menyeluruh bagi memastikan sampai kepada golongan sasar dan tiada yang tercicir atau berlaku ketirisan dalam agihan berkenaan.

Selain itu, kerajaan harus memberi penjelasan yang tepat dan betul bagi rakyat memahami bagaimana hendak melaksanakan subsidi bersasar.

- Penulis, Daniel Shankar, 21

T20 juga pembayar cukai patut dapat subsidi

SUBSIDI yang disediakan oleh pihak kerajaan ini wajar dimanfaatkan oleh kumpulan berpendapatan tinggi kerana mereka juga merupakan pembayar cukai.

Apabila dinafikan hak berkongsi kekayaan negara, seolah-olah mereka dihukum dua kali.

Pengelasan T20 itu sendiri juga hanya mengambil kira pendapatan bulanan dan bukannya melihat kepada jumlah tanggungan.

Golongan paling terbesar akan terjejas dan terkesan apabila kaedah itu dilaksanakan adalah mereka yang sekadar melepasi sedikit had T20.



Bagaimanapun menentuhkan isu subsidi yang dinikmati warga asing di negara ini, itu memang tidak adil buat kita.

Selain daripada subsidi, mereka juga turut menggunakan kemudahan lain yang disediakan kerajaan untuk rakyat.

Ketirisan subsidi kepada golongan itu dan beban kewangan serta sosial yang terpaksa ditanggung kerajaan merupakan satu kerugian yang besar kepada negara.

Perancangan, perencanaan dan pelaksanaan harus lebih menyeluruh dan jitu.

- Peniaga, Mariam Md Saad, 43

Kesediaan kerajaan hadapi impak penyelarasan subsidi diesel diragui

SINAR 23/5

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan Madani dilihat belum bersedia sedia sepenuhnya bagi menghadapi impak negatif termasuklah kenaikan kos sara hidup dan barangan keperluan harian susulan pengumuman penyelarasan subsidi diesel yang bakal dikuatkuasakan tidak lama lagi.

Timbalan Ketua Pemuda Perikatan Nasional (PN), Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal turut memramalkan kerajaan bakal menghadapi masalah dalam melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi diesel.

Jelasnya, ini kerana masih ramai rakyat Malaysia belum mengisi maklumat peribadi dan pendapatan isi rumah dalam sistem Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU).

Menurut Ahli Parlimen Machang itu,

kerajaan terpaksa berbuat demikian kerana mahu mencari dana tambahan bagi menampung perbelanjaan mengurus yang meningkat sebanyak RM10 bilion setahun susulan pengumuman kenaikan gaji penjawat awam mulai akhir Disember 2024.

"Saya juga melihat pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel juga akan

memberi impak besar dari segi kenaikan kos sara hidup terutama golongan kelas menengah (M40) yang terkecuali daripada menerima bantuan kerajaan termasuk Sumbang Tunai Rahmah (STR), selain dibebani pelbagai



WAN AHMAD FAYHSAL

kenaikan cukai," katanya kepada *Sinar Premium*.

Justeru, Wan Ahmad Fayhsal berjanji membangkang akan membahaskan isu berkenaan di Dewan Rakyat sebaiknya dalam memastikan inisiatif terkini dilaksanakan kerajaan adil kepada semua pihak.

"Kerajaan perlu segera memberikan penerangan kepada rakyat mengenai mekanisme atau kaedah pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi yang bakal dikuatkuasakan dalam masa terdekat.

"Tindakan ini perlu kerana majoriti rakyat Malaysia keliru dan terkejut dengan pengumuman dibuat Perdana

Menteri semalam (Selasa) mengenai penyasaran subsidi diesel yang hanya melibatkan pengguna bagi Semenanjung, dengan Sabah dan Sarawak berkecuali," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Wan Ahmad Fayhsal berkata, pengumuman itu membuktikan apa yang diperkatakan pembangkang semasa kempen Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Kuala Kubu, baru-baru ini adalah tepat dan benar biarpun ditolak pengundi di kawasan berkenaan.

Pada masa sama, beliau turut menyuarakan kebimbangan usaha Kerajaan Madani untuk melaksanakan rasionalisasi harga petrol secara berperingkat pada masa hadapan mungkin sukar sekiranya Anwar masih belum mempunyai kerangka pelaksanaannya yang tuntas.

PREMIUM
Sinar
Eksklusif dan kritis

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2021

Jenayah seksual libat golongan B40

FOTO: ASRI, ASWADI SHUKOR

Kebanyakan kes yang dilaporkan berlaku dalam kalangan miskin tegar

Oleh ROSKHOIRAH YAHYA dan
NOR SYAMIRA LIANA NOR
ASHAHA
SHAH ALAM

Kebanyakan jenayah seksual melibatkan wanita dan kanak-kanak berlaku kepada golongan yang memiliki latar belakang miskin tegar.

Exco Pembangunan Wanita dan Kebajikan Masyarakat Selangor, Anfaal Saari berkata, maklumat berkenaan diperoleh berdasarkan laporan town hall dari Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Selangor minggu lalu.

"Sebanyak 134 kes dilaporkan Bahagian Siasatan Seksual, Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak (D11) dan hampir 100 peratus berlaku melibatkan kumpulan golongan berpendapatan rendah (B40).

"Saya mengambil berat dan bertanggungjawab sepenuhnya bahawa kita perlu mengeluarkan mereka yang di kawasan



Dari kiri: Ismail, Norfidah, Anfaal dan Geshina Ayu ketika Wacana Sinar Harian Siri 441 bertajuk 'Raksasa dalam rumah' yang berlangsung di Kompleks Kumpulan Karangkraf pada Selasa.

bandar ini daripada tahap miskin bandar.

"Perkara pertama perlu kita bantu ialah mereka yang dalam kategori B40. Ini adalah tentang isu peruk nasi, ekonomi mereka dan mobiliti sosial ini yang perlu menjadi sebahagian daripada tanggungjawab kerajaan," katanya.

Bellau berkata demikian dalam Wacana Sinar Harian Siri 441 bertajuk 'Raksasa dalam rumah' yang berlangsung di Kompleks Kumpulan Karangkraf di sini pada Selasa.

Program yang dihos-

kan Ismail Adnan turut menampilkan dua panel lain iaitu Pensyarah Kanan Program Sains Forensik Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Profesor Madya Dr Geshina Ayu Mat Saat dan Pegawai Turus D11, Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah IPK Selangor, Deputy Superintenden Norfidah Muhamad Dan.

Mengulas lanjut berhubung perkara tersebut, Anfaal berkata, selain membantu mereka keluar daripada tahap miskin bandar, cara lain yang boleh dilakukan adalah dengan mempertingkatkan advokasi mengenai jenayah seksual.

"Sebagai negara selamat, ia bukan sahaja tentang kemakmuran semata-mata tetapi membentuk masyarakat penyayang dan saling peduli antara satu sama lain

serta cakna mengenai perkara yang berlaku di sekeliling," katanya.

Ujar Anfaal, membentuk masyarakat peduli itu penting kerana mereka secara tidak langsung berupaya menjadi orang pertama dalam kalangan bukan ahli keluarga menyedari perubahan pada diri individu yang menjadi mangsa jenayah seksual.

"Pentingnya first responder (orang pertama) untuk mengetahui kerana di pihak kerajaan, agensi persekutuan yang berada di negeri seperti Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) meneruskan usaha dari tahun 2023 menerusi Program Kasih iaitu advokasi perlindungan kanak-kanak melalui sekolah," ujarnya.

Laporan muka depan
Sinar Harian pada Rabu.



Pendidikan seksual perlu diberi secara berkala

SHAH ALAM - Pendidikan seksual seperti pengetahuan mengenai sentuhan selamat atau tidak perlu diberikan secara berkala kepada golongan kanak-kanak.

Pensyarah Kanan Program Sains Forensik Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Profesor Madya Dr Geshina Ayu Mat Saat berkata, pendidikan seksual sangat penting dalam memastikan golongan itu mengetahui setiap batasan sentuhan.

"Maklumat dan ilmu ini lebih baik disampaikan secara kerap dan janganlah pula beritahu hanya ketika kanak-kanak itu mahu masuk sekolah. Bukan sahaja kanak-kanak, golongan bapa juga perlu diperingatkan mengenai isu ini.

"Isu berbangkit berkaitan pendidikan paling utama adalah komunikasi termasuk tidak tahu perkataan yang perlu digunakan. Kadangkala ibu menggunakan bahasa kiasan menyebabkan kanak-kanak tidak faham.

Jadi apabila berlaku perkara tidak diingini, mereka sukar untuk cerita, tiada ayat sesuai malah malu berkongsi cerita," katanya.

Tambah Geshina Ayu, golongan kanak-kanak kadangkala tidak mengetahui perbuatan pelaku adalah satu jenayah dan hanya menganggap ia sebagai gurauan.

"Apabila berlaku perbuatan seksual mereka ingat itu cara abang, bapa atau datuk menunjukkan kasih sayang. Sebab itu saya kata penting maklumat dan bagaimana ia disampaikan kepada kanak-

-kanak.

"Sememangnya berlaku insiden sentuh bahagian sulit, ada kes perlakuan dilakukan secara terang dan tersembunyi," ujarinya.

Beliau turut berkongsi kajian dalam dan luar negara yang menunjukkan statistik di mana hanya 24 hingga 26 peratus sahaja jenayah seksual dilaporkan.



GESHINA AYU

Boleh didenda jika tak lapor polis

SHAH ALAM - Pihak polis menyarankan kepada orang ramai untuk tampil membuat laporan sekiranya terdapat kes penderaan seksual kanak-kanak yang berlaku di sekeliling mereka.

Pegawai Turus Bahagian Siasatan Seksual, Wanita dan Kanak-Kanak (D11), Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Ibu Pejabat Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Selangor, Deputi Superintenden Norfidah Muhammad Dan berkata, perkara tersebut terdapat dalam akta yang mewajibkan sesiapa sahaja perlu membuat laporan dan akan dikenakan hukuman jika gagal.

"Orang awam hendaklah melaporkan apa sahaja yang berlaku ke atas mangsa, mereka tidak boleh berdiam diri. Jika tidak ia adalah satu kesalahan dan hukumannya denda RM5,000.

"Masyarakat tidak perlu takut untuk datang ke balai polis bagi membolehkan bantuan dan tindakan dapat diambil dengan segera," ujarinya.

Beliau memberitahu, tindakan itu dapat menghalang penderaan seksual terhadap kanak-kanak daripada terus ber-



NORFIDAH

laku selain dapat menyelamatkan individu terbabit.

"Jangan anggap kita datang ke balai ini takut kena marah, diambil kenyataan, tunggu lama dan sebagainya kerana itu hanya satu prosedur yang perlu dilakukan.

"Kalau kita tidak memberitahu masyarakat mengenai apa yang berlaku, mangsa akan rasa terpinggir, trauma dan mungkin merasa-

kan diri mereka tidak disayangi oleh sesiapa," jelasnya.

Tambah beliau, polis sentiasa bersedia membantu sekiranya laporan dibuat. "Kami ada Pusat Temuduga Kanak-Kanak (CIC) yang mempunyai kaunselor untuk bantu polis kumpul bukti agar tindakan dan hukuman dapat diambil.

"Tidak dinafikan pada dasarnya seseorang itu akan berasa malu dan tertekan jika menjadi mangsa namun perkara tersebut boleh dirujuk kepada orang terdekat seperti kaunselor ibu bapa dan kawan-kawan sebagai permulaan," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

Kerajaan laksana penyasaran subsidi diesel

Sebagai permulaan hanya libat pengguna di Semenanjung, tidak libat Sabah, Sarawak

SHAH ALAM

Jemaah Menteri telah bersetuju melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi untuk bahan api diesel yang berupaya menjimatkan wang kerajaan sebanyak RM4 bilion setahun.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, sebagai permulaan, penyasaran tersebut hanya melibatkan pengguna bagi kawasan Semenanjung dan tidak melibatkan Sabah serta Sarawak.

"Bezanya, Sabah dan Sarawak hampir setiap keluarga menggunakan diesel untuk kegunaan kenderaan, jadi kita menanggungkan sebarang tindakan kerana membebaskan kebanyakan rakyat.

"Di Semenanjung, bagi membendung kenaikan mendadak harga barang, kerajaan berikan subsidi diesel kepada pengguna komersial melibatkan 10 jenis



Penyasaran subsidi diesel berupaya menjimatkan wang kerajaan sebanyak RM4 bilion setahun. - Gambar hiasan

kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

"Ini termasuk pengusaha bas dan teksi. Kerajaan juga akan terus memberi subsidi diesel kepada kategori nelayan tertentu," katanya dalam Perutusan

Negara yang disiarkan secara langsung di semua saluran media tempatan pada Selasa malam.

Ujar Anwar, melalui usaha penyasaran subsidi diesel tersebut, jumlah penjimatan kepada kerajaan secara kasar adalah dijangka sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

"Kerajaan bersetuju menyediakan

PENYASARAN SUBSIDI DIESEL

- Melibatkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia sahaja.
- Tidak membabitkan pengguna di Sabah dan Sarawak memandangkan kebanyakan keluarga di negeri berkenaan menggunakan diesel untuk kegunaan kenderaan harian mereka.
- Berupaya menjimatkan wang kerajaan sebanyak RM4 bilion setahun.
- Kerajaan akan terus menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel bagi membendung kenaikan mendadak harga barang dan perkhidmatan.
- Melibatkan 10 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).
- Ia termasuk pengusaha bas, teksi serta kategori nelayan tertentu.
- Ia tidak melibatkan golongan T20 dan 3.8 juta warga asing yang sebelum ini turut menikmati subsidi diesel.

bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil.

"Bantuan tunai ini pastinya tidak memanfaatkan golongan T20," ujarnya.

Bagaimanapun, Perdana Menteri tidak menyatakan tarikh pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi tersebut.

Difahamkan, penjelasan lanjut akan dibuat oleh Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.



Kerajaan negeri digalak manfaat peruntukan EFT secara optimum

PUTRAJAYA – Kerajaan negeri digalakkan memanfaatkan peruntukan pelaksanaan *Ecological Fiscal Transfer for Biodiversity Conservation* (EFT) secara optimum serta menggariskan beberapa pendekatan baharu bagi meningkatkan impak pelaksanaan inisiatif itu.

EFT merupakan insentif tambahan kepada kerajaan negeri yang diperkenalkan pada 2019 bagi melindungi, memulihara danewartakan kawasan perlindungan untuk perkhidmatan

ekosistem termasuk tadahan air dan perlindungan hidupan liar.

Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Kelestarian Alam (NRES) berkata, insentif itu termasuk melaksanakan projek konservasi biodiversiti dan hutan berskala besar.

Katanya, ia dilaksanakan melalui pendekatan *blended finance* iaitu mobilisasi kewangan tambahan daripada kerajaan negeri dan rakan strategik selain peruntukan EFT.

"Ia juga mengukuhkan kriteria pengagihan EFT dengan mem-

beri penekanan kepada aspek kualiti dan keberhasilan selain menyediakan insentif tambahan di bawah EFT kepada negeri yang meminda Enakmen Perhutanan masing-masing supaya selari dengan Akta Perhutanan Negara (Pindaan) 2022.

"Menteri turut menyambut baik cadangan dan pandangan kerajaan negeri ke arah menambah baik pelaksanaan EFT serta berharap kerjasama antara Kerajaan Persekutuan dan kerajaan negeri diperkukuh," katanya

dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Jelas kenyataan itu, bermula tahun 2019 sehingga kini, Kerajaan Persekutuan telah memperuntukkan sebanyak RM550 juta bagi pelaksanaan EFT termasuk RM200 juta pada tahun ini.

"Pelbagai projek berimpak tinggi telah dilaksanakan oleh kerajaan negeri melalui insentif EFT, antaranya pemuliharaan kawasan perlindungan dan penambahan kawasan perlindungan baharu.

"Ia turut melibatkan program

restorasi, penandaan, pengukuran dan penyelenggaraan sempadan selain operasi penguatkuasaan," katanya.

Pada masa sama, pelaksanaan EFT telah menunjukkan keberhasilan yang mana sejumlah kira-kira 350,000 hektar kawasan telah diwartakan sebagai kawasan perlindungan baharu.

Kawasan itu meliputi hampir 90,000 hektar perlindungan daratan dan lebih daripada 250,000 hektar kawasan perlindungan marin.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

Hanya Anwar berani laksana penyasaran subsidi diesel – Kor Ming

TELUK INTAN – Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim disifatkan sebagai satu-satunya pemimpin kerajaan yang berani melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi diesel di Semenanjung sebagaimana diumumkan kelmarin.

Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming berkata, Kerajaan Madani pimpinan Anwar perlu mengambil langkah tersebut dan enggan berpura-pura tidak nampak ketirisan yang berlaku di hadapan mata.

Justeru beliau berkata, kerajaan memilih untuk mengambil sikap penuh tanggungjawab bagi menjamin kelangsungan masa depan negara serta membela masa depan semua pihak.

"Kita tak mahu ketirisan sedemikian. Setiap kerajaan yang datang silih berganti semua cakap sahaja, ti da seorang pun berani buat.

"Akhirnya, Anwar yang sang-



KOR MING (tengah) bergambar dengan sebahagian penerima bantuan kewangan di Dewan Kuil Sri Vellai Vinayagar, Teluk Intan semalam. – AINSAFRE BIDIN

gup tampil ke depan untuk melakukan reformasi amat penting ini," katanya kepada pemberita di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, beliau menghadiri

program Penyerahan Bantuan Kepada Pelajar-Pelajar Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil (SJKT) Parlimen Teluk Intan bernilai RM240,000 di Dewan Kuil Sri

Vellai Vinayagar di sini.

Mengulas lanjut, Kor Ming berkata, penjimatan sehingga RM4 billion setahun yang bakal dicapai menerusi pelaksanaan

penyasaran subsidi diesel oleh kerajaan membolehkan lebih banyak infrastruktur dibina untuk rakyat.

"Duit itu kerajaan akan pakai untuk beri bantuan seperti yang saya serahkan ini kepada murid kaum India.

"Selain itu, duit yang kita jimat boleh bina universiti lebih baik, hospital lebih canggih dan masjid serta surau.

"Begitu juga dengan lain-lain kemudahan asas untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan hidup rakyat," katanya.

Kor Ming berkata, langkah melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi diesel itu perlu diambil memandang kerajaan membelanjakan hampir RM80 billion bagi tujuan subsidi pukal setiap tahun.

Bagaimanapun, ujarnya, ia turut dinikmati oleh 3.8 juta pekerja dan warga asing yang tidak membayar cukai.

KOSMO

Tarikh: **12.3 MAY 2024**

Tidak melibatkan pengguna di Sabah dan Sarawak

Penyasaran subsidi diesel jimat RM4 bilion

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

PETALING JAYA – Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas bahan api diesel dengan jumlah penjimatan kepada kerajaan adalah dijangka (secara kasar) sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, sebagai permulaan, penyasaran subsidi diesel itu hanya akan melibatkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia sahaja dan tidak melibatkan pengguna di Sabah dan Sarawak.

Menurutnya, hal ini kerana hampir setiap keluarga di Sabah dan Sarawak menggunakan diesel bagi kenderaan untuk kegunaan harian mereka.

"Justeru di Semenanjung, bagi membendung kenaikan mendadak harga barang dan perkhidmatan, kerajaan akan terus menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel.

"Ini melibatkan 10 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS), termasuk pengusaha bas dan teksi.

"Malah, kerajaan juga akan terus memberi subsidi diesel kepada kategori nelayan tertentu,"



ANWAR berucap pada Perutusan Negara yang disiarkan secara langsung menerusi televisyen kelmarin.

katanya berucap pada Perutusan Negara disiarkan secara langsung malam kelmarin.

Anwar berkata, kebajikan rakyat akan terus terpelihara bagi menangani kos sara hidup.

"Kerajaan bersetuju menye-

diakan bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil.

"Bantuan tunai ini pastinya tidak memanfaatkan golongan T20," katanya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

PENYASARAN SUBSIDI DIESEL DI SEMENANJUNG

Kerajaan jimat **RM4b** setahun

Oleh Hayati Ibrahim
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Kuala Lumpur

Kabinet bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi bahan api bermula dengan diesel membabitkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, dengan usaha penyasaran subsidi diesel ini, jumlah penjimatan kepada kerajaan adalah dijangka (secara kasar) sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

Katanya, sebagai permulaan, penyasaran subsidi diesel hanya akan membabitkan pengguna Sabah dan Sarawak.

"Bagi membendung kenaikan mendadak harga barang dan perkhidmatan, kerajaan akan terus menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel. Ia membabitkan 10 jenis

kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

"Ini termasuk pengusaha bas dan teksi, malah Kerajaan juga akan terus memberi subsidi diesel kepada kategori nelayan tertentu," katanya dalam pada Perutusan Negara Oleh Perdana Menteri yang disiarkan secara langsung, kelmarin.

Anwar berkata, kerajaan juga bersetuju menyediakan bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil.

"Rakyat jangan bimbang, sebarang penyasaran subsidi tidak akan bebaskan rakyat. ia hanya memberi kesan kepada golongan maha kaya dan rakyat asing"



ORANG ramai menyaksikan Perutusan Negara Oleh Perdana Menteri yang disiarkan secara langsung melalui televisyen ketika tinjauan di sebuah restoran sekitar ibu kota.

"Ini bermakna golongan B40 dan M40 yang menggunakan diesel dalam bidang pertanian, perlombongan, penternakan dan nelayan akan terus dibantu," katanya.

Anwar berkata, golongan yang tidak mendapat man-

faat daripada penyasaran subsidi ini adalah T20, iaitu golongan terkaya dan rakyat asing.

"Rakyat jangan bimbang, sebarang penyasaran subsidi tidak akan bebaskan rakyat.. ia hanya memberi kesan kepada golongan

maha kaya dan rakyat asing.

"Jika ada rakyat yang terbeban ada ruang untuk mereka rujuk kepada Kementerian Pengangkutan atau kementerian berkaitan supaya dapat dipastikan penyasaran subsidi bahan

api diesel hanya memberi kesan kepada golongan kaya dan orang asing sahaja.

"Kita perlu penyasaran subsidi ini kerana tidak mampu memberi subsidi kepada golongan maha kaya dan warga asing," katanya.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

Penjimatan dapat tambah baik bantuan kepada rakyat ^{tm 2/5}

Kuala Lumpur: Sebahagian daripada penjimatan yang diperoleh hasil pengurusan kewangan negara yang baik dapat digunakan untuk menambah baik bantuan kepada rakyat.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, antaranya menambah baik Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) dengan meningkatkan peruntukan kepada RM700 juta, iaitu lebih lima kali ganda berbanding RM130 juta tahun lalu.

"Kita juga meluaskan bilangan penerima kepada 700,000 dan menambah nilai bantuan kepada RM1,200 berbanding RM600.

"Peruntukan Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) juga kita dinaikkan sebanyak RM2 bilion atau 25 peratus iaitu daripada RM8 bilion (2023) kepada RM10 bilion tahun ini yang memanfaatkan sekitar sembilan juta penerima bersamaan 60

peratus penduduk dewasa Malaysia," katanya.

Anwar berkata, bantuan murid juga ditambah baik, apabila Bantuan Awal Persekolahan (BAP) diperluaskan kepada semua murid daripada Tahun 1 hingga Tingkatan 5 dengan peruntukan hampir RM800 juta, bermula tahun lalu.

"Hanya di bawah Kerajaan Madani, Insentif Pengeluaran Getah dinaikkan bukan sekali, tetapi dua kali iaitu daripada RM2.50 sekilogram pada 2022 kepada RM2.70 sekilogram (2023) dan RM3 sekilogram pada tahun ini.

"Kerajaan Madani juga mengambil langkah meningkatkan pendapatan pesawah.

"Kadar Skim Subsidi Harga Padi sudah ditingkatkan daripada RM360 (2022) kepada RM500 per metrik tan pada tahun lalu," katanya.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 12.3.MAY.2024

Penyasaran ^{Kim 27/5} subsidi diesel kukuh fiskal negara

Kuala Lumpur: Pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel yang dijangka membawa penjimatan kira-kira RM4 bilion setahun kepada kerajaan akan dapat mengukuhkan lagi kedudukan fiskal negara dan meningkatkan peruntukan sumber selain mengurangkan penggunaan bahan api fosil serta jejak karbon.

Profesor ekonomi daripada Universiti Sunway Prof Yeah Kim Leng berkata rasionalisasi yang melibatkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia itu dijangka memberi impak positif kepada ekonomi serta kerajaan dalam membantu usaha melaksanakan pembaharuan yang diperlukan bagi memastikan kemampanan fiskal dan mening-

katkan kecekapan ekonomi.

"Langkah kerajaan untuk merasionalisasikan subsidi bahan api bermula dengan diesel dilaksanakan secara berhati-hati dengan pelbagai kumpulan sasaran terlindung daripada kesan kenaikan harga menerusi bantuan kad pembayaran bahan api dan bayaran tunai.

"Penyasaran subsidi akan menyederhanakan kesan ke atas inflasi di samping membawa penjimatan yang besar kepada kerajaan terutamanya dalam bentuk ketirisan dan

penyeludupan rentas sempadan," katanya kepada Bernama.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menerusi perutusan beliau kelmarin mengumumkan Kabinet bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi diesel melibatkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia yang dianggarkan dapat membawa penjimatan sebanyak RM4 bilion setiap tahun kepada kerajaan.

Beliau berkata bagi membendung kenaikan drastik harga barangan dan perkhidmatan di Seme-

nanjung, kerajaan akan menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel.

Subsidi itu melibatkan 10 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

Menurut Anwar kerajaan juga bersetuju menyediakan bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil.

Yeah berpandangan bahawa kos pengangkutan tidak sepatutnya meningkat kerana kebanyakan pengendali diberikan subsidi diesel.

"Penyasaran subsidi akan menyederhanakan kesan ke atas inflasi"
Yeah

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 12.3...MAY...2024...

Dasar Gaji Progresif rapatkan hubungan majikan, pekerja

Kuala Lumpur: Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC) berharap majikan melihat Dasar Gaji Progresif sebagai peluang untuk memperbaiki hubungan dengan pekerja, meningkatkan produktiviti serta menyumbang kepada kesejahteraan sosial dan pertumbuhan ekonomi negara.

Presiden MTUC, Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani, berkata perlu ada perbincangan terperinci di antara kerajaan, wakil majikan dan kumpulan pekerja bagi memastikan pelaksanaan dasar itu berkesan.

Selain itu, katanya, penting untuk mendapatkan maklum balas dan maklumat tepat sebelum sebarang keputusan pelaksanaan dasar itu dilakukan.

"MTUC yakin Dasar Gaji Progresif akan membantu merapatkan jurang di antara pertumbuhan gaji dan peningkatan kos sara hidup dan campur tangan ke-

rajaan diperlukan kerana dasar gaji minimum semasa tidak mencukupi untuk memastikan kenaikan gaji stabil serta berterusan bagi pekerja.

"Dasar ini diharap dapat mengiktiraf pekerja berpengalaman dan mahir serta menyelaraskan gaji dengan produktiviti dan peningkatan kos sara hidup.

"Ini akan memastikan kesejahteraan rakyat dan meningkatkan daya saing ekonomi negara."

Dalam Perutusan Negara yang disiarkan secara langsung di semua saluran media tempatan kelmarin, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, kerajaan serius menggubal Dasar Gaji Progresif membabitkan sektor swasta bagi membantu meningkatkan pendapatan rakyat.

Perdana Menteri berkata, usaha itu penting kerana ramai golongan muda dan graduan sering bertanya mengenai nasib mereka

berhubung perkara berkenaan.

Menyambut baik komitmen di-zahirkan Perdana Menteri itu, Mohd Effendy berkata, langkah itu diperlukan untuk memperbaiki struktur gaji di Malaysia dan memastikan pekerja mendapat gaji setimpal dengan sumbangan terhadap ekonomi serta produktiviti.

Katanya, majikan perlu proaktif dalam mengatasi ketidakseimbangan gaji di antara pekerja berkemahiran tinggi dan rendah.

"Pada masa sama, pekerja kurang mahir juga perlu ada peningkatan dalam gaji mereka untuk mengelak ketidakseimbangan jurang yang terlalu besar dalam tenaga kerja.

"Dasar ini akan membantu menyesuaikan gaji pekerja dengan peningkatan kos sara hidup, yang menjadi masalah utama ramai pekerja di Malaysia," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh **12.3 MAY 2024**

Perutusan Negara Perdana Menteri

Rasionalisasi subsidi diesel perlu demi masa depan negara

BH
23/5

Langkah cegah ketirisan, pastikan manfaat hanya dinikmati golongan sasaran

Oleh Fahmy A Rosli
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Kuala Lumpur: Pengumuman mengenai rasionalisasi subsidi diesel di Semenanjung Malaysia oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim malam kelmarin, adalah langkah yang perlu demi masa depan negara.

Setiausaha Politik Kanan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, menjelaskan ia bagi mencegah ketirisan selain memastikan subsidi itu betul-betul sampai kepada golongan sasaran.

Menjelaskan mengenai pengecualian bagi pengguna di Sabah dan Sarawak, beliau berkata hal ini kerana kebanyakan daripada mereka masih bergantung kepada penggunaan diesel untuk tujuan pengangkutan.

Pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi untuk bahan api itu nanti, beliau berkata, berupaya menjimatkan perbelanjaan negara selain peruntukan berkenaan dapat digunakan untuk pembangunan lebih penting.

"Kerajaan Malaysia kerugian akibat subsidi tersebut tidak mencapai sasaran kepada yang benar-benar memerlukan, sebaliknya ia sampai kepada pemilik syarikat serta 3.8 juta warga asing."

"Walhasil kerajaan dapat menjimatkan wang sebanyak RM4 bilion setahun serta dapat menyalurkan subsidi kepada kelompok yang disasarkan."

"Dapatlah kerajaan untuk menyalurkan Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (SARA) yang ditambah baik dan ditingkatkan kepada RM700 juta berbanding RM130 juta," katanya di platform X semalam.

Dalam Perutusan Negara malam kelmarin, Perdana Menteri memaklumkan Kabinet bersetuju melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi diesel membabitkan pengguna di Semenanjung yang dianggap membawa penjimatan sebanyak RM4 bilion setiap tahun kepada kerajaan.



Pelaksanaan subsidi diesel secara bersasar akan memberi penjimatan RM4 bilion kepada kerajaan. (Foto hiasan)

Bagi membendung kenaikan drastik harga barangan dan perkhidmatan di Semenanjung, Anwar berkata kerajaan akan menyediakan subsidi diesel kepada peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel.

Subsidi itu membabitkan 10 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

Anwar berkata, kerajaan juga bersetuju menyediakan bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil.

Berani laksana reformasi

Sementara itu, di **Teluk Intan**, Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming berkata, hanya Anwar sanggup mengambil risiko melakukan reformasi sedemikian.

Beliau yang juga Naib Pengerusi DAP berkata, sebagai kerajaan yang bertanggungjawab, kerajaan MADANI tidak boleh membiarkan ketirisan subsidi yang dianggarkan bernilai RM4 bilion setahun terus dinikmati golongan warga asing.

"Adalah sangat penting program penyasaran subsidi ini dilakukan untuk memperbetulkan kesilapan silam. Kita tak mahu ketirisan sedemikian terus berlaku di setiap kerajaan datang silih ganti. Semua cakap saja,

tiada seorang pun berani buat.

"Akhirnya, individu bernama Anwar Ibrahim sahaja yang sanggup tampil ke depan untuk melakukan reformasi yang amat penting ini," katanya kepada media selepas menyempurnakan Program Penyerahan Bantuan kepada Pelajar Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Kebangsaan Tamil (SJKT) Parlimen Teluk Intan di Dewan Kulai Sri Vellai Vinayagar, di sini, semalam.

Pada program itu, Kor Ming menyerahkan sumbangan bernilai keseluruhan RM24,000 kepada 240 murid dari 11 SJKT.

Kor Ming berkata, setiap tahun kerajaan menanggung subsidi pukal lebih RM80 bilion untuk bahan api RON 95, diesel, gas petroleum cecair (LPG) dan elektrik, yang mana seramai 3.8 juta warga asing yang tidak membayar cukai turut menikmati pengagihan subsidi itu secara salah.

Katanya, setiap hari lebih tiga juta liter diesel bersubsidi diseludup oleh sindiket membabitkan kerugian RM2 bilion setahun.

"RM2 bilion bermaksud belanjawan Perak bagi dua tahun masuk ke dalam longkang, masuk ke dalam poket sindiket."

"Sebaik perkara ini dijelaskan, saya percaya rakyat berfikir waras akan tahu dan menerima keputusan kerajaan ini. Ini adalah antara dasar reformasi yang kita harus dapat dokong bersama," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

Laksana pendekatan baharu urus dana, perolehan kerajaan

BH
23/5



Oleh Datuk Seri Dr Irmohizam Ibrahim
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Pendedahan Ketua Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM), Tan Sri Azam Baki baru-baru ini berlaku ketirisan hasil negara sebanyak RM227 bilion pada majlis pelancaran Strategi Pembantaranan Rasuah Nasional (NACS) 2024-2028, sangat mengejutkan.

Ketirisan RM227 bilion itu cerminan terang kepada gejala rasuah yang meresap dalam pengurusan kewangan negara. Ini bukan kali pertama Azam menekankan unsur ketirisan, secara langsung dikaitkan dengan gejala rasuah. Pada Oktober lalu, beliau memberitahu menjadi tanggungjawab SPRM membantu mengurangkan ketirisan di dalam kerajaan.

Seperti disebutkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yang juga Menteri Kewangan, jumlah sebesar itu sepatutnya dapat digunakan untuk tujuan lebih bermanfaat seperti pembasmian kemiskinan, pembinaan infrastruktur seperti sekolah dan hospital, serta membantu golongan memerlukan.

Persoalan dalam kalangan rakyat kita pada hari ini, mengapa dan bagaimana ketirisan dalam jumlah besar boleh terjadi. Mengapa ia dibiarkan berlaku dan tiada pihak bertanggungjawab serta dipertanggungjawabkan.

Penggunaan dana secara tidak cekap dan penyalahgunaan kuasa adalah sebahagian punca kepada jumlah ketirisan besar ini. Projek kerajaan tidak berkesan, pembaziran dalam pembinaan infrastruktur dan pengurusan projek lemah turut menyumbang kepada ketirisan mencemaskan ini.

Kita perlu menangani punca asal rasuah. Lang-

kah ketelusan lebih besar dalam pengurusan dana awam, pemantauan teliti terhadap pelaksanaan projek dan penegakan undang-undang lebih tegas terhadap rasuah adalah antara langkah perlu diambil. Ini harus diutamakan dan ditegaskan. Kita tiada pilihan.

Selain itu, penting bagi rakyat untuk turut serta secara aktif membanteras rasuah dengan melaporkan sebarang kegiatan mencurigakan dan menuntut akauntabiliti daripada pemimpin mereka. Perkaranya ini turut ditekankan dalam NACS. Ini bukan sahaja tanggungjawab kerajaan dan agensi kerajaan seperti SPRM, tetapi juga tanggungjawab bersama bagi kebaikan bersama.

Pupuk budaya integriti di semua peringkat

Seperti digariskan dalam NACS, usaha menangani punca rasuah memerlukan pendekatan pelbagai aspek, termasuk reformasi menyeluruh untuk mengukuhkan mekanisme semak dan imbang sedia ada. Bagi tujuan ini, budaya integriti, ketelusan dan akauntabiliti perlu dipupuk di semua peringkat.

“Agensi kerajaan dan penjawat awam perlu mendapat pendidikan serta latihan mengenai kepentingan integriti dalam pentadbiran awam”

Agensi kerajaan dan penjawat awam perlu mendapat pendidikan serta latihan mengenai kepentingan integriti dalam pentadbiran awam. Mereka perlu memahami impak negatif rasuah dan penyelewengan terhadap rakyat dan negara. Tindakan undang-undang tegas perlu diambil terhadap sesiapa terbahit rasuah atau penyelewengan. Ini termasuk denda dan hukuman tegas kepada pelaku.

Sudah sampai masa untuk mengkaji menggunakan pendekatan baharu bagi pengurusan dana dan perolehan kerajaan. Saranan Laporan Ketua Audit Negara (LKAN) dan badan awam memperjuangkan usaha konstruktif memerangi rasuah, integriti dan ketirisan dana awam wajar diteliti dan dilaksanakan jika bersesuaian.

Justeru, pelancaran NACS 2024-2028 akan menjadi penggerak susulan lebih komprehensif dalam usaha memerangi rasuah di Malaysia. Kita tidak mahu lagi mendengar Indeks Persepsi Rasuah (CPI) diumumkan Transparency International (TI) Malaysia berulang lagi.

Penemuan didedahkan Azam selari dengan apa yang pernah dinyatakan bekas Ketua Audit Negara, Tan Sri Ambrin Buang bahawa sehingga 30 peratus daripada nilai projek awam negara hilang akibat salah urus dan rasuah. Kini kerajaan memperkenalkan NACS sebagai kesinambungan kepada NACP 2019-2023. Langkah ini wajar disambut baik kesemua pemegang taruh.

NACS menyediakan rangka kerja dan menunjukkan arah jelas membanteras rasuah di setiap peringkat. Pada masa sama, ia menetapkan matlamat mahu mengukuhkan integriti, ketelusan dan kebertanggungjawaban semua pihak di seluruh negara. Diharap NACS menjadi titik tolak membina menangani ketirisan, sekali gus menjadikan Malaysia negara berintegriti tinggi dan bebas rasuah.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 12 3 MAY 2024.....



Orang ramai menyaksikan Perutusan Negara oleh Anwar di Kuala Lumpur, kelmarin. (Foto BERNAMA)

Perutusan Negara Perdana Menteri

Kerajaan serius angkat martabat rakyat, negara

BH 23/5

PM beri
penjelasan,
pencerahan
komitmen yang
sudah, sedang dan
akan dilaksana

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
dan Noor Atiqah Sulaiman
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Kuala Lumpur: Selepas 18 bulan menjadi Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim malam kelmarin mengambil tanggungjawab memberi penjelasan dan pencerahan kepada rakyat apa yang sudah, sedang dan akan dilaksanakan kerajaan.

Dalam Perutusan Negara

yang disiarkan semua media utama Malaysia, Anwar mengambil masa hampir satu jam untuk menyampaikan pelbagai mesej penting bersama jaminan beliau serta kerajaan serius serta berkomitmen tinggi untuk meningkatkan martabat rakyat serta negara.

Perincian pencapaian

Antara lain, Perdana Menteri mengulas dan memperincikan pencapaian serta hala tuju ekonomi, kelemahan tata kelola dan amalan rasuah, isu kemiskinan serta komitmen kerajaan untuk meningkatkan gaji rakyat ke tahap lebih bermakna.

Beliau juga menyentuh hal berkaitan ekosistem perniagaan, merungkai kelemahan struktur fiskal Malaysia, menjelaskan rancangan strategik negara, mengulas isu berkaitan subsidi, selain mengenai isu keselamatan dan ketenteraman awam.

8 AMANAT PERUTUSAN NEGARA OLEH PERDANA MENTERI

1. PENCAPAIAN EKONOMI MEMBERANGSANGKAN

- Pencapaian suku pertama 2024:
 - Pertumbuhan ekonomi 4.2 peratus
 - Pasaran buruh berkembang 21 peratus
 - Kadar inflasi kekal rendah pada 1.7 peratus
 - Potensi pelaburan asing RM761 bilion
- Jumlah dagangan Malaysia berkembang 8.3 peratus kepada RM912.27 bilion (Januari - April 2024)
- Pelaburan langsung RM329.5 bilion tertinggi diluluskan pada 2023, 23 peratus meningkat berbanding 2022.
- Hala tuju ekonomi:
 - Peluncuran Ekonomi MADANI: Memperkasa Rakyat landasan utama perbetul masalah struktural ekonomi negara
 - Tumpu tingkat pemacuan ekonomi, galak pelaburan dan perkukuh industri tempatan
 - Dasar bermatlamat naikan lantai dan siling atau angkat darjat hidup rakyat serta struktur semula ekonomi, lonjak Malaysia jaguh rantau Asia

3. TUMPUAN PEMBASMIAN KEMISKINAN

- Inisiatif Pendapatan Rakyat (IPR) dilaksana bagi menambah pendapatan miskin tegar
- Peruntukan SARA dinaikkan RM700 juta kepada 700,000 penerima, nilai bantuan ditambah RM1,200 berbanding RM600
- Peruntukan STR dinaikkan daripada RM8 bilion (2023) kepada RM10 bilion (2024), memanfaatkan 9 juta penerima

5. TAMBAH BAIK EKOSISTEM PERNIAGAAN

- Bidang pertumbuhan dan bernilai tinggi (HGHV) diberi keutamaan dalam meraih lebih banyak pelaburan
- Ekosistem perniagaan diperluas dan ditambah baik, antaranya kluster elektrik dan elektronik (E&E) di wilayah utara dan pembangunan Zon Ekonomi Khas Johor-Singapura di Johor dan di Kerian, Perak
- Dasar peralihan tenaga merencanakan pembukaan industri tenaga boleh baharu sebagai persediaan Malaysia ke arah penggunaan tenaga bersih

6. MERUNGKAI KELEMAHAN STRUKTUR FISKAL NEGARA

- Tiga masalah fiskal perlu diselesaikan - asas hasil kecil; perbelanjaan tidak berhemat dan beban hutang
- Komitmen laksana reformasi fiskal melalui penggubalan Akta Kewangan Awam dan Tanggungjawab Fiskal (FRA) menyasarkan penurunan paras hutang untuk tidak melebihi 60 peratus KDNK dan defisit fiskal tiga peratus dalam jangka masa sederhana.
- Memperluas asas hasil melalui reformasi percukaian yang tidak membebaskan dan bersifat progresif.
- Cukai Barang Bernilai Rendah, Cukai Keuntungan Modal Bagi Saham Tidak Terserai dan penambahbaikan kepada Cukai Perkhidmatan diperkenalkan, dengan unjuran peningkatan hasil cukai negara RM4.5 bilion.

8. MENANGANI ISU KESELAMATAN DAN KETENTERAMAN AWAM

- Tindakan mengeruhkan suasana aman dan ketenteraman awam perlu kembali tenang, terkawal
- Jaminan pasukan keselamatan bertindak keras terhadap gerombolan sengaja cetus ketidakamanan dan ganggu ketenteraman negara



2. KELEMAHAN TATAKELOLA DAN RASUAH SISTEMIK

- Noktah amalan rundingan terus dalam perolehan kerajaan, beralih kepada sistem tender terbuka
- Kerajaan tak masuk campur proses kehakiman, beri ruang penuh PDRM dan SPRM banteras rasuah, ketirisan hasil negara
- Peranan Jabatan Audit Negara diperkasa supaya tatalaksana perkhidmatan awam dapat ditambah baik.



4. MENINGKATKAN GAJI RAKYAT KE TAHAP LEBIH BERMAKNA

- Tingkat kemahiran bakat tempatan supaya gaji diraih lebih munasabah
- Pelan induk perindustrian sasar pendapatan bulanan pekerja industri pembuatan meningkat minimum RM4,500 menjelang 2030
- Kerjasama dilaksana dengan gergasi industri dalam menstruktur semula pendidikan TVET. Agenda Kecerdasan Buatan (AI) diberi keutamaan melalui penubuhan fakulti AI pertama negara
- Khazanah Nasional Berhad gerakkan usaha lahir usahawan baharu sektor pertumbuhan tinggi dengan dana RM1 bilion
- Gaji dan elaun tetap penjawat awam ditambah baik setelah belasan tahun tidak disemak
- Serius menggubal Dasar Gaji Progresif

7. PENYASARAN SUBSIDI

- Penjimatan RM4 bilion hasil penyasaran subsidi mengikut penggunaan elektrik, dengan 85 peratus rakyat tidak terjejas
- Harga ayam diapungkan dan tidak lagi disubsidi, kerajaan jimat RM100 juta sebulan
- Penyasaran subsidi diesel akan dilaksanakan dengan jangkaan penjimatan RM4 bilion setahun, hanya babitkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia



Cuma 0.5% penjawat awam bermasalah dikenai tindakan

Oleh FITRI NIZAM
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PETALING JAYA: Isu tatatertib membabitkan penjawat awam hanyalah kes terpencil kerana hanya 0.5 peratus daripada keseluruhan 1.48 juta orang dikategorikan bermasalah dan dikenakan tindakan.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Setiausaha Agung Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Di Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (Cuepacs), Abdul Rahman Mohd. Nordin berkata, isu integriti dalam kalangan penjawat awam ketika ini semakin baik selepas pelaksanaan pelbagai tapisan oleh Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) sebelum diterima bekerja.

Bagaimanapun, beliau mengakui masih terdapat isu integriti membabitkan penjawat awam di seluruh negara seperti kesalahan tidak hadir kerja, salah guna kuasa, rasuah dan sebagainya.

"Kita akui memang ada kes integriti membabitkan penjawat awam namun jumlahnya hanyalah 0.5 peratus sahaja, jadi tidak boleh 'pukul rata' mengatakan keseluruhan mereka bermasalah.

"Cumanya, di pihak Cuepacs kami berharap perkara ini dapat diatasi supaya jumlah mereka yang bermasalah dapat dikurangkan lagi supaya imej penjawat awam lebih bersih dalam

Ponteng kerja kesalahan paling banyak dengan 1,839 kes

8,556 penjawat awam kena tindakan tatatertib

**CHAWANG, FACILIA
BONGOL, SULAMMAN
Siti Nur Hafizah**

POTALING, JAYALING 8,556 penjawat awam dikenakan tindakan tatatertib tahun 2022 dengan salah satu jenis kesalahan tertinggi melibatkan 21.5

peratus atau 1,839 orang daripada keseluruhan kesalahan direkodkan dalam tempoh tersebut. Sebanyak 3.19 peratus atau 273 lagi dikenakan tindakan kerana salah guna dadah diikuti 1.64 peratus atau 140 orang kerana salah guna kuasa serta rasuah.

493 pegawai kerajaan dibuang kerja berbanding 165 orang pada tahun 2020 dan 239 pada tahun 2021 menunjukkan jumlah kes-kes penjawat awam dibuang kerja dalam tempoh tiga tahun seramai 897 orang.

Tan Sri Mohd. Zaki Ali berkata, apabila Dasar Pemisahan dilaksanakan pada 2025, seramai 1,730 pegawai akan ditempatkan di pejabat pejabat baru.

**UTUSAN
Malaysia
22 Mei
2024.**

kalangan masyarakat," katanya ketika dihubungi semalam.

Kelmarin, *Utusan Malaysia* melaporkan, sejumlah 8,556 penjawat awam dikenakan tindakan tatatertib pada 2022 dengan kesalahan tertinggi adalah tidak hadir kerja melibatkan 21.5 peratus atau 1,839 orang daripada keseluruhan kesalahan direkodkan dalam tempoh tersebut.

Sebanyak 3.19 peratus atau 273 lagi dikenakan tindakan kerana salah guna dadah diikuti 1.64 peratus atau 140 orang kerana salah guna kuasa serta rasuah.

Dalam tempoh sama, seramai 493 pegawai kerajaan dibuang kerja berbanding 165 orang pada 2020 dan 239 pada 2021 menjadikan jumlah keseluruhan

penjawat awam dibuang kerja dalam tempoh tiga tahun seramai 897 orang.

Mengulas lanjut, Abdul Rahman berkata, berdasarkan laporan diterima CUEPACS, kes tidak hadir kerja sebahagian besarnya melibatkan masalah peribadi termasuk isu rumahtangga dihadapi penjawat awam.

"Pelbagai prosedur dan siasatan dilaksanakan secara dalaman oleh pihak JPA terhadap sesuatu laporan termasuk memberi kauceling kepada penjawat awam bermasalah.

"Sekiranya semua usaha tersebut masih gagal barulah tindakan tatatertib dikenakan termasuklah dibuang kerja, namun bukan sewenang-wenangnya mereka boleh dilepaskan," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 12.3. MAY. 2024.....

Penerusan subsidi bersasar bukti Anwar negarawan besar



MOHD. FOAD SAKDAN

DALAM Perutusan Negara malam kelmarin, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menegaskan mengenai komitmen kerajaan untuk menyelesaikan tiga masalah fiskal utama negara sekali gus menambah baik pengurusan wang awam bagi membolehkan kerajaan berbelanja untuk kebajikan rakyat dan meningkatkan mutu perkhidmatan awam.

Satu daripadanya ialah perbelanjaan yang tidak berhemat melalui pemberian subsidi pukal hingga menjadikan subsidi Malaysia antara tertinggi di dunia yang menguntungkan golongan kaya kerana penggunaan atau perbelanjaan mereka bagi suatu barang dan perkhidmatan lebih besar, turut dinikmati oleh 3.5 juta warga asing serta membuka ruang kepada penyeludupan.

Untuk menyelesaikan masalah ini, kerajaan mengambil pendekatan berani untuk menyasarkan semula subsidi dengan menjana penjimatan RM4 bilion setahun hasil penyasaran subsidi mengikut penggunaan elektrik selain menjana penjimatan RM100 juta sebulan ekoran pengapungan harga ayam yang turut menstabilkan bekalan dan merendahkan harga ayam.

Serentak dengannya, Anwar mengumumkan bahawa Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas bahan api yang akan mula dilaksanakan ke atas bahan api diesel. Sebagai permulaan, penyasaran subsidi diesel hanya akan melibatkan pengguna di Semenanjung Malaysia sahaja dan tidak melibatkan pengguna Sabah dan Sarawak.

Penjimatan daripada penyasaran subsidi ini pula digunakan untuk menambah baik bantuan kepada rakyat, antaranya ialah dengan meningkatkan peruntukan dan/atau meluaskan bilangan penerima Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (SARA), Sumbangan Tunai

Rahmah (STR), Bantuan Awal Persekolahan (BAP), Insentif Pengeluaran Getah (IPG) dan Skim Subsidi Harga Padi (SSHP).

Penyasaran subsidi bahan api bukanlah satu perkara baharu. Dalam 100 hari pertama pentadbiran Kerajaan Pakatan Harapan (PH), ia melalui Manifesto Pilihan Raya Umum Ke-14 (PRU14) yang dikemukakan berjanji untuk melaksanakan 10 perkara tertentu dengan perkara keduanya ialah untuk menstabilkan harga minyak dan memperkenakan semula subsidi petrol secara bersasar.

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad selaku Perdana Menteri PH menubuhkan Majlis Penasihat Kerajaan (CEP) yang diketuai oleh bekas Menteri Kewangan, Tun Daim Zainuddin dan CEP dilapor membentangkan cadangan subsidi bahan api kepada Dr. Mahathir setelah sebulan ia ditubuhkan tetapi jawapan di Parlimen pada 23 Julai 2018 ialah mekanisme terperiannya sedang dikaji.

Dr. Mahathir pada 8 Oktober 2019 menyatakan kita tak boleh bagi subsidi petrol kepada orang kaya yang mempunyai sehingga enam buah kereta, termasuk kereta mewah. Dan skim yang dikenali sebagai Program Subsidi Petrol (PSP) Bersasar ini dinyatakan dalam Belanjawan 2020 dengan ia dirancang untuk dilaksanakan secara berperingkat bermula pada bulan April 2020.

Begitupun, Kerajaan PH tumbang apabila Dr. Mahathir meletakkan jawatan pada 24 Februari 2020. Pengganti beliau, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin pula tidak berbuat apa-apa mengenainya. Sebaliknya hanya bersuara mengenai Skim Subsidi Bersasar (SSB) pada 30 Julai 2022 setelah beliau tidak lagi menjadi Perdana Menteri dan hanya menjadi Pengerusi Majlis Pemulihan Negara (MPN).

Muhyiddin berkata, kajian mendapati 50 atau 51 peratus daripada subsidi kerajaan digunakan oleh orang kaya manakala kumpulan B40 dan



Penjimatan daripada penyasaran subsidi ini pula digunakan untuk menambah baik bantuan kepada rakyat."

B60 peratusan yang menerima subsidi tidak sampai 20 peratus. Menerusi SSB, hanya golongan sasaran iaitu mereka dalam kumpulan B40 dan B60 sahaja berhak menerima subsidi dan ini akan memberi penjimatan sebanyak RM20 bilion setahun.

Walaupun begitu, sehingga ke akhir pentadbiran Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob sebagai Perdana Menteri, kenyataan rasminya di Parlimen ialah kerajaan masih di peringkat awal pengujian mekanisme pemberian subsidi petrol secara bersasar dengan pengujian ini dijangka memerlukan tempoh antara tiga hingga enam bulan sebelum bersedia untuk dilaksanakan.

TIDAK PATUT KECAM

Oleh itu, amat tidak patut sekiranya ada mana-mana pemimpin Perikatan Nasional (PN) yang mengecam rancangan Kerajaan Madani untuk membuat penyasaran subsidi bahan api yang kononnya akan menjejaskan seluruh rantaian ekonomi apabila Perdana Menteri-Perdana Menteri yang mereka dukungi

sebelum ini juga berhasrat melakukan perkara yang sama.

Apatah lagi bila Anwar menegaskan, bagi membendung kenaikan mendadak harga barang dan perkhidmatan, kerajaan akan terus memberi subsidi kepada para peniaga yang menggunakan kenderaan komersial bermotor diesel melibatkan 10 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan awam dan 23 jenis kenderaan pengangkutan barangan di bawah Sistem Kawalan Diesel Bersubsidi (SKDS).

Selain itu, kerajaan juga akan terus memberi subsidi diesel kepada kategori nelayan tertentu selain menyediakan bantuan tunai kepada pemilik individu kenderaan diesel yang layak termasuk petani kecil, pesawah dan peniaga kecil. Ini, selain jangkaan penjimatan sekitar RM4 bilion setahun, adalah bagi memastikan kebajikan rakyat akan terus terpelihara bagi menangani kos sara hidup.

Tepat sekali penegasan Anwar dalam Perutusan Negara beliau, hanya Kerajaan Madani yang berani membuat perubahan. Hanya dengan tekad yang jelas

mampu mengeluarkan kita daripada kancap perangkap pendapatan menengah dan seterusnya mencapai tujuh penanda aras Ekonomi Madani yang terkandung dalam Inisiatif Ekonomi Madani yang dilancarkan pada 27 Julai 2023.

Apa yang membezakan Anwar dengan Perdana Menteri-Perdana Menteri lain sebelum beliau ialah beliau mempunyai keazaman politik yang kuat untuk merealisasikan apa yang beliau perkatakan serta tidak takut untuk menanggung risiko menerima tindak balas politik daripada golongan kaya yang akan menerima kesan langsung daripadanya.

Inilah juga bezanya antara pemimpin yang mementingkan kepentingan jangka pendek politiknya dengan negarawan besar yang berani menstrukturkan semula ekonomi negara bagi kepentingan jangka panjang rakyat terbanyak. Anwar boleh sahaja meneruskan dasar popular subsidi pukal tetapi itu tidak dilakukan kerana rakyat tidak boleh terus dibebani dengan tambahan hutang.

PROFESOR Dr. Mohd. Foad Sakdan ialah 2 Naib Canselor Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).



BERBEZA dengan pemimpin lain, Anwar tidak meneruskan dasar popular dan tidak takut berdepan kritikan akibat tindakan yang diambilnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 12-3 MAY 2024

Subsidi bersasar langkah berani, jimatkan kos kerajaan

Oleh ZAKKINA WATI
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PETALING JAYA: Pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar diesel merupakan langkah berani yang diambil oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim sekali gus bakal menjimatkan kos kerajaan sehingga RM4 bilion setiap tahun.

Pensyarah Kanan, Fakulti Ekonomi dan Muamalat, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Dr. Mohd. Faisol Ibrahim berkata, penyesuaian subsidi ini merupakan suatu perkara yang positif dan masyarakat perlu memberi ruang dan peluang kepada kerajaan untuk menterjemahkan perancangan yang telah diuar-uarkan sebelum ini supaya agenda ini dapat dilaksanakan dengan jayanya.

Ujarnya, ini kerana pelbagai pemberian subsidi yang telah dilaksanakan sebelum ini kurang memberi impak kepada masyarakat secara dominan dan akhirnya ia tidak membawa rakyat khususnya B40 keluar daripada bebanan kos hidup.

"Sesetengah kumpulan masyarakat lain pula dapat menikmati subsidi ini dengan margin penggunaan yang tinggi sedangkan golongan ini kurang atau tidak terkesan dengan perubahan suasana ekonomi semasa negara.

"Oleh itu, pelarasan ini ada-



Pelarasan ini adalah langkah yang tepat dan berani oleh kerajaan bagi membanteras segala ketirisan dan kebocoran dalam corak agihan yang dilaksanakan sebelum ini."

MOHD. FAISOL IBRAHIM

lahi langkah yang tepat dan berani oleh kerajaan bagi membanteras segala ketirisan dan kebocoran dalam corak agihan yang dilaksanakan sebelum ini.

"Dengan harapan, apabila perkara ini dapat diatasi melalui penyesuaian subsidi, maka golongan yang bersasar dan perlu sahaja yang layak menerima subsidi," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau menjelaskan, penyesuaian subsidi yang cuba dilaksanakan oleh kerajaan pada ketika ini kerana kerajaan mahu menuju ke arah perbelanjaan yang jauh lebih berhemah supaya tidak memba-



KERAJAAN akan melaksanakan subsidi bersasar diesel di Semenanjung Malaysia tidak lama lagi. - GAMBAR HIASAN

matkan kos kerajaan," ujarnya.

Kelmarin, menerusi siaran langsung Perutusan Negara Perdana Menteri, Anwar memaklumkan kerajaan bersetuju untuk melaksanakan subsidi bersasar diesel yang dijangka mampu membawa penjimatan kira-kira RM4 bilion kepada negara setiap tahun.

Langkah tersebut akan dijalankan di Semenanjung Malaysia sahaja kerana keadaannya

berbeza untuk situasi di Sabah dan Sarawak.

Anwar menjelaskan, langkah tersebut hanya memberi kesan kepada golongan kaya serta warga asing, manakala kelompok lain termasuk B40 akan tetap mendapat manfaat melalui pelbagai inisiatif kerajaan.

Katanya, butiran lanjut mengenai langkah tersebut akan diperincikan oleh Kementerian berkaitan tidak lama lagi.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

Kutipan hasil Kerajaan Persekutuan dijangka menurun tahun ini, 15.6 peratus daripada KDNK

MM 31/5

PETALING JAYA: Kutipan hasil negara dijangka menurun pada 2024 disebabkan penurunan berterusan dalam pendapatan pelaburan berkaitan petrole-um, menurut laporan Peman-tauan Ekonomi Malaysia 2024 oleh Bank Dunia, baru-baru ini.

Menurut laporan tersebut, hasil kerajaan persekutuan di-unjur menurun kepada 15.6 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNK) pada 2024 berbanding 17.3 pe-ratus tahun lalu terutamanya

disebabkan oleh pendapatan pelaburan yang lebih rendah di bawah kutipan hasil bukan cukai.

Ujarnya, secara khusus, kerajaan menjangkakan divi-den yang lebih rendah daripada Petroliaam Nasional Bhd. (Petro-nas) walaupun andaian untuk harga minyak global lebih ting-gi sedikit tahun ini pada AS\$85 setong berbanding AS\$82.5 setong tahun lalu.

"Kerajaan menganggarkan penurunan sederhana dalam

kutipan hasil cukai 2024, beri-kutan pengenalan pelbagai langkah cukai yang digariskan dalam pengumuman belan-jawan baru-baru ini.

"Kutipan hasil cukai dijang-ka berada pada 12.3 peratus daripada KDNK pada 2024 berbanding 12.6 peratus pada 2023," menurut laporan.

Laporan itu menjelaskan, beberapa langkah berkaitan cukai telah dilaksanakan tahun ini untuk meluaskan cukai.

"Sebagai contoh, mulai 1

Mac, kerajaan telah mengena-kan cukai keuntungan modal (CGT) sebanyak 10 peratus ke atas keuntungan bersih pelu-pusan saham tidak tersenarai untuk syarikat, serta kadar cu-kai perkhidmatan yang lebih tinggi untuk perkhidmatan ter-pilih dengan skop yang lebih luas.

"Walaupun langkah-langkah ini menunjukkan tanda-tanda positif usaha kerajaan untuk meningkatkan kutipan cukai, ia masih tidak mencukupi un-

tuk menangani ketidakcuku-pan hasil yang timbul daripada jurang cukai yang semakin me-ningkat di Malaysia," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, laporan tu-rut menjangkakan perbelan-jaan subsidi akan menurun memandangkan pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar.

"Perbelanjaan subsidi dan bantuan sosial dijangka menu-run kepada 2.7 peratus daripada KDNK pada 2024, terutamanya daripada subsidi bahan api yang lebih rendah," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

KADAR diabetes di Malaysia berada pada tahap membimbangkan.

DIABETES

Malaysia kekurangan kajian jangka panjang diabetes

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NEGARA-NEGARA di rantau Asia termasuk Malaysia masih kekurangan kajian jangka panjang dan membujur berkaitan diabetes.

Kekangan tersebut menyebabkan pelaksanaan garis panduan pencegahan dan pengurusan penyakit itu dibuat berdasarkan demografi Barat, sedangkan, hasil kajiannya tidak menggambarkan diet, genetik, budaya dan gaya hidup rakyat tempatan.

Timbalan Naib Canselor Penyelidikan di Universiti Perubatan Antarabangsa Malaysia (IMU), Prof. Datuk Dr. Lokman Hakim Sulaiman berkata, diet masyarakat Barat berbeza dengan Asia yang tinggi karbohidrat menerusi pengambilan nasi, mi dan roti.

Memandangkan Malaysia mempunyai kadar diabetes tertinggi di Asia, amatlah penting untuk melihat dengan lebih mendalam lagi rangkaian genetik, budaya, gaya hidup dan pemakanan yang mempengaruhi perkembangan penyakit itu.

Katanya, Kohort Diabetes Seremban (SeDia) ialah kajian membujur pertama Malaysia mengenai diabetes yang bertujuan menghasilkan data lebih relevan kepada penduduk.

Lokman yang juga Penyasat Utama Kohort SeDia berkata, inisiatif itu boleh membantu memperbaiki garis panduan merawat dan mengurus diabetes, sekali gus

“Diet masyarakat Barat berbeza dengan Asia yang tinggi karbohidrat menerusi pengambilan nasi, mi dan roti.”

LOKMAN HAKIM
SULAIMAN

membentuk dasar kesihatan awam yang lebih tersasar.

Dalam pada itu, beliau turut menyarankan masyarakat mengubah tabiat pemakanan bagi mengurus kesan budaya makanan berkarbohidrat dengan lebih baik.

Katanya, kajian membuktikan perubahan kecil pada urutan dan masa pengambilan karbohidrat boleh membantu menguruskan tindak balas glisemik.

Hasil Tinjauan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi Kebangsaan mendapati kadar diabetes di Malaysia kini di tahap membimbangkan dan berisiko meningkat daripada 3.9 juta pada 2019 kepada 7 juta orang pada 2025.

Kira-kira 34.38 peratus rakyat mencapai paras gula darah tinggi (HbA1c) melebihi 6.5 peratus, iaitu ambang untuk mendiagnosis diabetes.

Bahkan, Laporan Pendaftaran Diabetes

MAKAN DENGAN SIHAT:

- Bersarapanlah seperti seorang raja, makan tengah hari seperti putera raja dan makan malam seperti orang miskin. Secara ringkasnya, makan sarapan pagi yang lazat dan makan malam yang rendah karbohidrat lebih awal untuk menguruskan paras gula darah dengan lebih baik sepanjang hari.

- Makan makanan berkarbohidrat kemudian. Makan sedikit sayur-sayuran dan protein sebelum karbohidrat boleh membantu mengawal tindak balas glisemik badan. Begitu juga asid amino yang terdapat dalam pati ayam. Boleh dimakan 30 minit sebelum hidangan kaya karbohidrat dan mempunyai kesan yang sama.

- Ambillah masa semasa makan. Suapan kecil memberi impak besar kepada paras gula dalam darah. Daripada memenuhi sudu anda, cuba gunakan penyepit makanan.

Kebangsaan 2013-2019 mendedahkan peningkatan komplikasi berkaitan diabetes seperti kudung, buta (retinopati diabetik), mati pucuk dan penyakit buah pinggang.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 23 MAY 2024

Hanya 1.7 peratus penduduk, 3.5 juta warga asing terkesan

WM
23/5

Harga diesel dijangka naik RM3.40

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PETALING JAYA: Harga runcit diesel dijangka naik sehingga RM3.40 seliter berbanding RM2.15 seliter ketika ini berikutan keputusan penyasaran subsidi bahan api yang akan dilaksanakan dalam waktu terdekat.

Presiden Persatuan Pengusaha Stesen Minyak Malaysia (PDAM), Datuk Khairul Annuar Abdul Aziz berkata, jangkaan harga tanpa subsidi itu adalah berdasarkan kadar subsidi semasa yang diberikan oleh kerajaan ketika ini.

"Kita jangka harga naik antara RM3.20 hingga RM3.40 seliter selepas pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel ini nanti," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Kelmarin, Jemaah Menteri bersetuju untuk melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas diesel sekali gus dapat memberi penjimatan kepada kerajaan sekitar RM4 bilion setahun.

Timbalan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Fuziah Salleh ketika diminta mengulas jangkaan kenaikan itu berkata, kenaikan itu tidak harus dijadikan isu memandangkan ia melibatkan

kumpulan T20 dan warga asing.

"Hanya 1.7 peratus rakyat Malaysia merangkumi 1.58 juta isi rumah kumpulan T20 yang memiliki pendapatan melebihi RM11,820 dan 3.5 juta warga asing yang terkesan," katanya.

Katanya, para peniaga tidak wajar sewenang-wenangnya menaikkan harga barangan kerana semua kenderaan pengangkutan masih menerima subsidi.

"Pihak kementerian akan sentiasa memantau harga barang untuk memastikan para peniaga tidak mengambil kesempatan," katanya.

Fuziah berkata, pengumu-

man lanjut mengenai perincian pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi diesel bakal diumumkan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup pada masa terdekat.

Sementara itu, Pensyarah Kanan Ekonomi Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shabir Ahmad berkata, kerajaan mengambil langkah melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi bahan api sahaja secara berperingkat bagi mengelakkan kesan kenaikan kos sara hidup rakyat.

Namun, katanya, kerajaan perlu mengutamakan kebaji-

kan rakyat secara menyeluruh termasuk menaik taraf sistem pengangkutan awam dan pemberian insentif dalam bidang pendidikan berbanding agihan bantuan tunai.

Katanya, bantuan tunai di-khuatiri akan disalah guna untuk tujuan lain dan bukannya pembelian bahan api.

"Jika kerajaan mahu meneruskan bantuan tunai, salah satu cara kaedah terbaik adalah pemberian tunai disalurkan dalam kad fleet. Ia bermakna pada setiap bulan, bantuan tunai disalurkan dalam kad ini," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 12.3.MAY...2024.....

Syor laksana projek rintis subsidi bersasar guna PADU

Oleh HAFIZ SAIDINA

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PETALING JAYA: Pakar ekonomi mencadangkan kerajaan melaksanakan terlebih dahulu projek rintis subsidi bersasar berdasarkan maklumat Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU).

Penganalisis Ekonomi Universiti Kuala Lumpur Business School, Prof. Madya Dr. Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid berkata, ia bagi mengukur kejayaan pelaksanaan dasar tersebut di peringkat awal.

Malah, beliau mengesyorkan supaya dasar subsidi bersasar dilaksanakan selepas kejayaan pelaksanaan gaji progresif, bagi memberi peluang kepada rakyat mengatur semula perbelanjaan mereka.

Katanya, kerajaan sudah boleh memulakan projek rintis tersebut di kawasan tertentu berdasarkan sistem PADU.

"Kaedah dan keputusan mestilah dimaklumkan kepada seluruh rakyat supaya pelaksanaan yang tersusun serta strategik dapat dilaksanakan dengan jaya tanpa memerlukan perbelanjaan penguatkuasaan yang banyak.

"Seterusnya, apabila projek rintis berjaya, barulah dilaksanakan di seluruh negara dan sebaiknya dilancarkan selepas kejayaan pelaksanaan gaji progresif dahulu, kerana ia memberikan peluang kepada rakyat untuk mengubah belanjawan masing-masing.

"Janganlah dilakukan pelaksanaan subsidi berdasar pada waktu golongan B40 dan M40 masih tersepit dengan gaji sekarang dan kenaikan harga barangan yang mendadak nanti," katanya kepada Utusan Ma-



MAKLUMAT Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) boleh digunakan untuk memulakan projek rintis subsidi bersasar dalam mengukur kejayaan pelaksanaannya di peringkat awal.

laysia.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Aimi Zulhazmi berpendapat, kerajaan boleh menggunakan teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) bagi membantu penguatkuasaan subsidi bersasar secara tersusun berdasarkan pendapatan bersih isi rumah.

"Penggunaan AI perlu dilakukan di peringkat kelayakan untuk menentukan jumlah subsidi yang tepat dan

bukan hanya menggunakan purata.

"Kegunaan AI juga sesuai untuk penguatkuasaan. Sebagai contoh, stesen minyak boleh mengenal pasti rakyat yang berkelayakan untuk mendapatkan subsidi setiap kali mengisi minyak," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Penganalisis Ekonomi, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff berkata, subsidi bersasar boleh dilakukan pada bila-bila masa.

"Jika PADU telah siap, subsidi bersasar boleh dilaksanakan dan seeloknya pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar dimulakan pada suku tahun ketiga iaitu bermula Jun ini.

"Ini kerana, kadar inflasi masih lagi rendah sekitar 1.8 peratus dan saya melihat majoriti penduduk akan kekal mendapat subsidi kecuali T20. Oleh itu, tidak ada isu inflasi akan meningkat secara mendadak," katanya.

SENYUM KAMBING™

Subsidi diesel akan diselaraskan.



Beri hanya pada yang layak.

MENARIK DI DALAM

GAYA HITS

Yasmin Hani
buka
mulut
pasal
'Duyung'

»22



LUAR NEGARA

Trak bantuan
diserbu rakyat
Palestin, PBB
rancang laluan
baharu »37



UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ...2.3..MAY...2024....

Pulih ekonomi, jaga kebajikan rakyat

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PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan mengenali pasti tiga masalah fiskal yang perlu ditangani bagi menambah baik pengurusan wang awam dan mengelak negara daripada terus dibelenggu bebanan paras hutang mencecah RM1.2 trilion.

Ia melibatkan asas hasil yang kecil atau kutipan cukai ren-

Kerajaan fokus tangani tiga masalah fiskal

dah, perbelanjaan tidak berhemat seperti pelaksanaan subsidi pukal dan bebanan hutang. Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri

Anwar Ibrahim ketika Perutusan Negara lebih 40 minit kelmarin berkata, kerajaan mula memperluas asas hasil melalui reformasi percukaian yang tidak membebankan rakyat dan bersifat progresif.

Katanya, ia seperti Cukai Barang Bernilai Rendah, Cukai Keuntungan Modal Bagi Saham Tidak Tersenarai dan penambahbaikan kepada Cukai Perkhidmatan dengan unjuran

peningkatan hasil cukai negara sebanyak RM4.5 bilion.

"Setakat 2023, nisbah hasil cukai kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) adalah pada paras 12.6 peratus jauh lebih rendah berbanding purata negara Asia Pasifik sebanyak 19 peratus dan negara berpendapatan tinggi yang menjangkau 30 peratus," katanya.

Bersambung di muka 2

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 23 MAY 2024

Pulih ekonomi, jaga kebajikan rakyat

Dari muka 1

Perdana Menteri berkata, perbelanjaan tidak berhemat seperti subsidi pukal juga perlu ditangani kerajaan bagi menambah baik pengurusan wang awam.

Beliau berkata, pemberian subsidi di Malaysia antara tertinggi di dunia sedangkan subsidi pukal lebih menguntungkan golongan kaya kerana penggunaan atau perbelanjaan mereka bagi suatu barang dan perkhidmatan lebih besar.

"Seramai 3.5 juta warga asing juga mendapat faedah daripada subsidi pukal," katanya.

Justeru katanya, kerajaan bersetuju melaksanakan penyasaran subsidi ke atas bahan api diesel di samping tidak membebaskan keseluruhan rakyat.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan perlu mengambil pendekatan berani untuk menyasarkan semula subsidi seperti bahan api dan elektrik bagi memberi penjimatan kepada wang rakyat yang boleh dibelanjakan untuk kepentingan lain.

Perdana Menteri berkata, kekangan hasil dan perbelanjaan tidak berhemat menyebabkan kerajaan menanggung beban hutang yang kini mencecah RM1.2 trilion atau 64.3 peratus KDNK dan mencecah RM1.5 trilion atau lebih 80 peratus KDNK jika termasuk liabiliti lain.

"Timbunan hutang hanya membazir wang rakyat kerana banyak dihabiskan untuk bayar faedah hutang. Tahun ini, setiap ringgit pungutan cukai, 16 sen hanya untuk membayar faedah hutang, belum lagi bicara soal pokok atau prinsipal hutang," katanya.

Terdahulu, beliau berkata,



ANWAR Ibrahim menyampaikan Perutusan Negara yang disiarkan secara langsung di semua saluran media tempatan di Kompleks Seri Perdana, Putrajaya. - PEJABAT PERDANA MENTERI

dua masalah struktural yang berlaku di Malaysia sejak sekian lama adalah ekonomi rakyat dan ekosistem perniagaan yang hambar serta kedudukan kewangan Kerajaan Persekutuan yang lemah.

Bagi mengatasi masalah itu, kata beliau, antara pendekatan diambil adalah memerangi rasuah, pelaksanaan penyasaran subsidi, reformasi percukaian dan penggubalan Akta Kewangan Awam dan Tanggungjawab Fiskal serta menambah baik ekosistem perniagaan.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, bagi menyelesaikan permasalahan kedudukan kewangan negara, isu pokok yang terlebih dahulu perlu ditangani segera adalah kelemahan tatakelola dan amalan rasuah yang sistemik serta bermaharajalela.

Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan berkata, kerajaan menoktahkan amalan rundingan terus dalam perolehan kerajaan yang membazirkan wang rakyat dan terdedah ke-

pada rasuah serta beralih ke sistem tender terbuka.

"Hasil ketirisan daripada amalan penyelewengan dan rasuah amat bermakna kerana sekiranya dikumpul, ia dapat dimanfaatkan untuk menambah bantuan rakyat dan meningkatkan mutu prasarana rakyat," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, Malaysia bukan sahaja telah terperangkap dalam kitaran ekonomi berbahaya, kos tinggi, gaji rendah dan keuntungan rendah malah kurang nilai daya saing.

"Maka, tugas sekarang adalah untuk menambah baik ekosistem perniagaan. Bidang pertumbuhan dan bernilai tinggi diberi keutamaan dalam meraih lebih banyak pelaburan masuk ke dalam ekonomi negara," katanya.

Kata Anwar, segala perancangan perubahan kerajaan tidak berlaku dan bermakna jika masih dibelenggu pemikiran sempit serta tidak berikhtiar untuk berubah.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: ...12.3 MAY 2024...

BASED ON ESTIMATED RM4B SAVINGS

'SUBSIDISED DIESEL VOLUME MAY DROP 35pc-45pc'

Analysts also expect limited inflationary impact on end-consumers

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THE subsidised diesel volume could decline by 3.2 billion to 3.5 billion litres, or 35 to 45 per cent, following the implementation of fuel subsidy rationalisation, according to some analysts' back-of-the-envelope calculations.

The estimates are based on diesel subsidy savings of RM4 billion and unit diesel subsidy of RM1.05-RM1.25 per litre, assuming a market price of RM3.20-RM3.40 per

litre, said CIMB Securities research analysts Michelle Chia and Lim Yee Ping.

Chia and Lim expect limited inflationary impact on end-consumers as the diesel weight in the Consumer Price Index basket is small at 0.2 per cent.

"Moreover, the first and second-order inflation pass-through is limited by continued provision of subsidies to logistical vehicles and small businesses, Sabah and Sarawak. Hence, our inflation forecast of 2.7 per cent (for 2024) remains intact," they said.

The 2.7 per cent forecast has imputed a 10 basis point contribu-

tion from diesel subsidy rationalisation, they said.

"The move is a starting point for the consolidation of the fiscal balance to -3.5 per cent of gross domestic product or better by 2025 (2024: -4.3 per cent)."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said on Tuesday the cabinet had agreed to rationalise fuel subsidies, beginning with diesel.

The shift primarily targets the higher-income T20 group and 3.5 million foreigners, leaving the B40 and M40 unaffected.

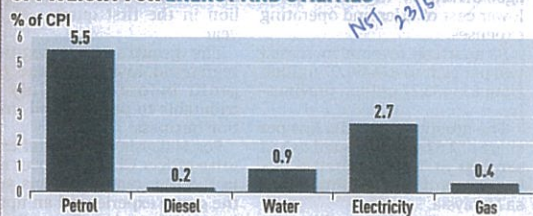
Chia and Lim said while the implementation date is not stated, they understand that registration for the diesel fleet card system could be due next month, putting June as the earliest start date.

CIMB Securities said subsidy rationalisation, alongside additional

revenue collection of RM4.5 billion from tax-enhancement measures, will mitigate higher expenditures, including civil servants' salary hike of 15 per cent (previous: more than 13 per cent).

The firm said next to watch is the RON95 petrol subsidy rationalisation details, which will have a greater implication on the inflation outlook.

CPI WEIGHT FOR ENERGY AND UTILITIES



Source: CIMB Treasury and Markets Research, DOSM

INFOGRAPHIC NST

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

ONLY IN PENINSULA

TARGETED FUEL SUBSIDY STARTS WITH DIESEL

Move is projected to save govt RM4 billion a year, says Anwar in special address

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THE cabinet has agreed to implement targeted subsidies on fuel starting with diesel, which is projected to save the country RM4 billion annually, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said a targeted subsidy on RON95 petrol would follow.

He said the targeted diesel subsidy would apply only in Peninsular Malaysia and not in Sabah and Sarawak.

"Those that will not benefit from the subsidy rationalisation are the T20 and foreigners," said Anwar in a national address broadcast live on Tuesday night.

He said to mitigate sudden increases in the prices of goods and services, the government would continue subsidising diesel for traders.

"This includes 10 types of public transport vehicles and 23 types of goods transport vehicles under the Subsidised Diesel Control System, including bus operators and taxis.

"Additionally, certain categories of fishermen will also receive diesel subsidies," he said.

Anwar said the government was committed to preserving the people's welfare amid rising living costs.

"The government has agreed to provide cash assistance to individuals owning eligible diesel vehicles, including small farmers, rice farmers, and small traders. This cash assistance will not benefit the T20 group."

Anwar said the targeted subsidy would save the government about RM4 billion annually.

"It's important to note that the targeted fuel subsidy is not a complete withdrawal, as suggested by some.

"Rather, it is necessary to restructure public finances. Similar to targeted water and electricity subsidies, the majority of the population will not be affected by this adjustment and will continue

benefiting from government subsidies."

On national security, Anwar promised firm action to tackle extremist groups and provocateurs compromising national security.

He said police and other security agencies had held a meeting to discuss the matter.

"For the past few weeks, the country has been shocked by several incidents of violence that have claimed the lives of security personnel and the actions of extremist groups inciting unrest.

"I want to assure you that I have held meetings with the security forces and that we will act firmly against these groups.

"God willing, the situation will become calmer and more controlled."

Two policemen were killed and another wounded in a predawn attack by a masked intruder on the Ulu Tiram police station in Johor last Friday.

Later that day, two men were arrested when they tried to trespass into Istana Negara. A parang was found in their vehicle.

Anwar said the government was serious about getting the private sector to implement the progressive wage policy, in line with the improved salaries and allowances of the civil service.

Anwar had announced on May 1 that civil service remuneration would be increased by 13 per cent and would take effect in December.

He said the review of the Public Service Remuneration System sent a clear message to the private sector not to prioritise high profits at the expense of employees.

"This is because young people and graduates are asking about their future in the private sector. Hence, the progressive wage policy is introduced."

He said efforts were being taken to support the economy and enhance the skills of local talent so that wages would be more reasonable.

He said this included improving the business ecosystem to

8 KEY POINTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS



1 TARGETED SUBSIDIES:

- Targeted fuel subsidies to start with diesel in Peninsular

Malaysia.

- The government estimates to save RM4 billion annually from the targeted diesel subsidy.
- Cash assistance to eligible diesel vehicle owners.



2 NATIONAL SECURITY:

- Strict action will be taken against perpetrators of attacks, extremism and acts of violence.
- Security forces give assurance calm will return after attacks.



3 GOOD GOVERNANCE:

- The government will not interfere in the judicial process, and police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) will have space to combat corruption and prevent

- revenue leakage.
- Corruption is identified as the 'main cancer' afflicting the people and country.



4 PROGRESSIVE WAGE POLICY:

- The government is serious about drafting a Progressive Wage Policy involving the private sector.
- Review of the Public Service Remuneration System sends a clear message to the private sector not to prioritise high profits at the expense of employees.



5 ECONOMY:

- Malaysia's economy recorded an unexpected growth of 4.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.



6 INVESTMENT:

- As of March 2024, the country attracted RM76.1 billion in potential

foreign investments, including from the United States and China, as well as from Australia (RM24.5 billion), and Germany and France (RM46 billion).



7 POVERTY ERADICATION:

- The Madani Economic Aspirations aim to raise the people's standard of living and restructure the economy to position Malaysia as a leader in Asia.



8 BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM IMPROVEMENT:

- Khazanah Nasional Bhd's RM1 billion fund to nurture new entrepreneurs in high-growth sectors.
- The business ecosystem is being expanded and improved, including the electrical and electronics cluster in the northern region and the development of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 12.3 MAY 2024

ADDRESSING LEAKAGES

Anwar the only leader willing to reform fuel subsidy system, says Nga

TELUK INTAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is the only leader willing to go out on a limb to reform the fuel subsidy system, said Nga Kor Ming.

The housing and local government minister said the Madani administration could not allow the "leakage" of subsidies to foreigners, estimated at RM4 billion annually, to continue.

"It is important that this subsidy targeting programme is implemented to correct past mistakes.

"We do not want these leakages. Every government comes and goes. Everyone talks, but no

one dares to act.

"In the end, only Anwar is willing to undertake this crucial reform."

Nga said this after officiating at an assistance programme for Tamil school students in the Teluk Intan parliamentary constituency at the Sri Vellai Vinayagar Temple Hall here yesterday.

He handed over RM240,000 to 240 students from 11 schools.

The government's annual subsidy bill for RON95 petrol, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas and electricity was more than RM80 billion, he said.

However, 3.8 million foreigners, who do not pay taxes, also benefit from these subsidies, he added.

This issue is compounded by the smuggling of diesel, which costs the country about RM2 billion a year, he said.

"RM2 billion is the equivalent

of Perak's budget for two years going into the pockets of syndicates.

"Once this matter is clarified, I believe rational citizens will understand and accept the government's decision," the prime minister said.

On Tuesday, Anwar announced

that the government would adjust the provision of diesel subsidies, with the implementation not involving Sabah and Sarawak.

He said the exemption was given because most families in Sabah and Sarawak used diesel for their vehicles.

PRAYER TIMES						
	SUBUH (Am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (Pm)	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	5:48	7:01	1:10	4:34	7:17	8:30
Penang	5:51	7:02	1:18	4:41	7:28	8:43
K. Lumpur	5:49	7:01	1:13	4:36	7:21	8:35
Johor Baru	5:43	6:56	1:04	4:28	7:09	8:23
Kuantan	5:44	6:57	1:07	4:31	7:14	8:28
Ipoh	5:50	7:00	1:15	4:39	7:25	8:39



Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming (back row, third from right) officiating at an assistance programme for Tamil schoolchildren in Teluk Intan yesterday. With him is Pasir Bedamar assemblyman Woo Kah Leong (back row, second from right). BERNAMA PIC

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024

Vital to overcome weaknesses in governance, graft: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Weaknesses in governance and widespread systemic corruption are critical issues that must be addressed immediately before tackling the structural problems that undermine the country's economic strength, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

In a live address to the nation on Tuesday night, Anwar said he emphasised the corruption issue because it is the primary cancer that weakens the country's economy, eroding morals and diminishing people's confidence.

He said corruption occurs at every level, top to bottom, burdening the people with the whims of certain groups seeking commissions before giving any approvals.

"In the first year itself, I stressed on the need to stop the practice of direct negotiation in government procurement, referred to as negotiated tender, and to transition to an open tender system."

Earlier, Anwar said the stagnant economy of the people, the lacklustre business ecosystem and the weak financial position of the federal government are the structural problems that are

► 'Corruption the primary cancer that weakens nation's economy, erodes morals and diminishes confidence of the people'

decreasing Malaysia's economic strength.

On the issue of punishment for the corrupt raised by the people, Anwar said investigations are ongoing and that legal avenues and court processes must be followed.

He said the government fully empowers enforcement agencies such as the police, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Audit Department to act firmly and ensure a more orderly civil service free from corruption, sluggishness and laziness.

"Most importantly, this practice (corruption) must be stopped. The process takes time and is sometimes exhausting. Like many others, I am also impatient. Why have no actions been taken to address past practices of amassing wealth unlawfully?"

On the actions of certain parties which belittle the effort to fight

corruption, saying it is only a political slogan, Anwar said it is common in politics, and he believes the corruption issue can be resolved if it is addressed consistently and steadfastly.

Citing the flood mitigation projects implemented through open tender, Anwar said the government saved RM2 billion in public funds.

He said the government had also busted civil servants involved in smuggling syndicates at the country's entry points, whose action had cost the country up to RM2 billion since 2017.

Anwar added that there have been attempts to disrupt peace in the nation and its thriving economy.

"In recent weeks, our nation has been shocked by several violent incidents that have claimed the lives of security personnel as well as actions by extremist groups and instigators.

"I assure you that, after my meeting with security forces, we will take firm action against these groups, and *Insha-Allah*, the situation will become calmer and more controlled."

On May 17, two police officers at the Ulu Tiram police station in Johor Bahru, Constable Ahmad Azza Fahmi Azhar, 22, and Constable Muhamad Syafiq Ahmad Said, 24, were killed after being attacked by a masked man armed with a machete while another policeman, Corporal Mohd Hafiz Roslan, was injured after being shot.

On the same day, in a separate incident in Kuala Lumpur, two local men were arrested by police officers after attempting to trespass into Istana Negara. A machete was later found in the suspects' vehicle, Bernama reported.

On Saturday, the police confirmed receiving a report from Seputeh MP Teresa Kok over a death threat through a letter sent to her house along with two bullets.

On Sunday, a 35-year-old local man was arrested after being suspected of trespassing at the Dato' Keramat police station in Penang and attempting to seize a police officer's submachine gun.

THE SUN
Tarikh: 23 MAY 2024

Acute shortage of psychiatrists to deal with one million cases

Statistics doubled since 2019, with 50% patients exhibiting self-harming behaviour, suicidal tendencies

BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: One million Malaysians over 15 years old are experiencing depression, according to the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2023, but there is a grossly inadequate number of psychiatrists to deal with the problem.

Raja Perempuan Zainab II Hospital psychiatry and mental health department head Dr Fariza Yahya said the figure has doubled from 2019, with about 50% of cases exhibiting self-harming behaviour and suicidal tendencies.

International Islamic University Malaysia psychiatrist Dr Rozanizam Zakaria said in January 2022, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that more than 264 million people of all ages globally were affected by depression.

He said the organisation suggests a minimum threshold of at least one psychiatrist per 100,000 population as a basic indicator of mental health service availability.

"Currently, Malaysia has about 500 psychiatrists resulting in a ratio of approximately 0.52 psychiatrists per 100,000 patients, which falls very short of what WHO recommends."

Fariza said the hospital's Psychiatric Specialist Clinic receives 50 new mental health cases for treatment each month, with 25 of them involving patients suffering from depression.

"The prevalence of depression is about 5% worldwide. Cases are more prevalent in major cities where there are more stressors, especially for those with financial issues, low income and poor social support."

"The most affected age group are those between 20 and 40. Even though we cannot prevent depression we can stop it from worsening by treating it as soon as possible."

Fariza said those who seek psychiatric treatment usually have moderate to severe symptoms that have deteriorated their social functions and caused them to have suicidal thoughts, or exhibit such behaviour.

She said it is crucial to raise awareness on the severity and dangers of mental illness, as it is among the leading causes of death due to suicide.

"The stigma of having mental illness causes people to avoid seeking treatment. Malays, in

particular, attribute the illness to supernatural causes or being possessed by spirits."

She said some patients sought treatment from traditional medicine practitioners in villages, while others attempted self-treatment with illegal drugs such as *pil kuda* (methamphetamine).

Fariza said methamphetamine is a stimulant that may make patients feel happy for the moment, but it does not treat depression as they will return to their original state once the euphoric effect subsides.

"Males with mental illness also usually suffer from substance abuse or addiction to narcotics."

"More serious mental illness in younger age groups are usually triggered by depression, unstable family environments, traumatic events, history of abuse, relationship problems and academic pressures."

Fariza said common factors leading to depression among middle-aged and elderly individuals are their chronic or terminal illnesses which are further compounded by marital or financial problems.

"Work-related stress is also a significant factor within the age group, while housewives often face depression due to abusive husbands or those who are drug addicts."

Rozanizam said apart from psychiatrists, the country desperately needs a multidisciplinary team of clinical psychologists, counsellors, occupational therapists and mental health nurses.

He said such a team is critical for managing and treating mental health conditions.

However, the government also needs to implement supportive policies and provide training for various stakeholders to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

Rozanizam said there must be moves to promote acceptance and inclusion for all individuals facing mental health challenges, and stressed the importance of enhancing accessibility to mental health services in disadvantaged and rural areas.

He said this could be achieved through increased financial support and additional resources, with a focus on improving community mental health services and preventive programmes.

"We should encourage greater involvement of non-governmental organisations to strengthen mental health support and include resilience-building skills into the education curriculum beginning at the primary school level."



Rozanizam said the government needs to implement supportive policies and provide training for various stakeholders to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Security raised at govt buildings, public spaces

KUALA LUMPUR: Bukit Aman management director Datuk Seri Azmi Abu Kasim said security measures for government buildings, public spaces and critical facilities have been heightened following recent breaches.

He said police are taking the breaches seriously as they have raised concern, adding that national public safety remains at an optimal level.

He also said IGP Tan Sri Razarudin Husain has instructed police leadership and field personnel to initiate comprehensive measures while on duty and strictly adhere to established guidelines and standard operating procedures.

"The public is encouraged to continue cooperating by reporting any information related to national security issues to authorities. Police will not tolerate any attempts to threaten safety or disrupt national peace."

Azmi emphasised that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in such attempts, regardless of status or background.

— Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 2.3 MAY 2024

Unjustified assessment rate hikes spark outcry in Selayang

THE Selayang Municipal Council (SMC) recently sent a letter dated April 1, 2024, regarding the increase in assessment rates for the following year.

However, the Department of Valuation and Building Services did not dispatch the notice until May 10, the final day for residents to lodge protests.

Strangely, despite some residents receiving the email, on May 11 (a Saturday), a postman was tasked with delivering notices to every household. Is this arrangement with Pos Malaysia special, and if so, who is covering the costs of this last-minute delivery?

Although the deadline has been extended until the end of the month, many individuals are encountering challenges in submitting their protests against the increased assessment rates. This situation may resonate with the experiences of residents in other councils.

The feedback forms are crafted in a way that complicates residents' responses, despite the council merely needing to ascertain whether everyone agrees or disagrees with the rate hikes.

With a quantum increase of over

50%, this is simply unreasonable. While SMC may argue that the rate has remained unchanged for many years, the current circumstances are not conducive to raising assessment rates.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we continued to pay the same rate despite minimal work being carried out.

Furthermore, SMC's performance has been lacking over the years. I have resided in an area under its jurisdiction since 1997, during the tenure of its first president, Kasjoo Kadis.

Until today, SMC has shown little improvement. Despite Selangor being under Pakatan Harapan since 2008, there has been minimal or no reform in the operations of local governments.

Under DAP's two-state exco, Ng Sze Han, and its current exco, Ng Suee Lim, SMC and numerous other councils have yet to undergo any significant overhaul.

Despite having a minister in charge of Housing and Local Government, Nga Kor Meng, little to no mention has been made about reforming the Local Government Act.

Unless Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Anwar Ibrahim takes decisive action, politicians are unlikely to implement unpopular measures, even if they are what the people desire.

We want to see improvement in the delivery of services by the third tier of government. If not, their directors should face a 20% salary reduction, similar to the ministers' salary cuts. This is particularly crucial during these challenging times.

Imagine campaigning for several years just to get the council to address steep humps that damage cars with lower decks, only to find that several other issues remain unresolved. Politicians claim these steep humps are at the request of residents, showing disregard for the damage they cause to vehicles.

If Penang can effectively clean up its illegal dumps and Kuching can rank as the 15th cleanest city in the world, why does Selangor remain one of the dirtiest states in the country?

Should we replace the individuals in leadership positions or consider changing the governing party in the upcoming general election?

Stephen Ng
Selayang

THE SUN
Tarikh: 12 3 MAY 2024