



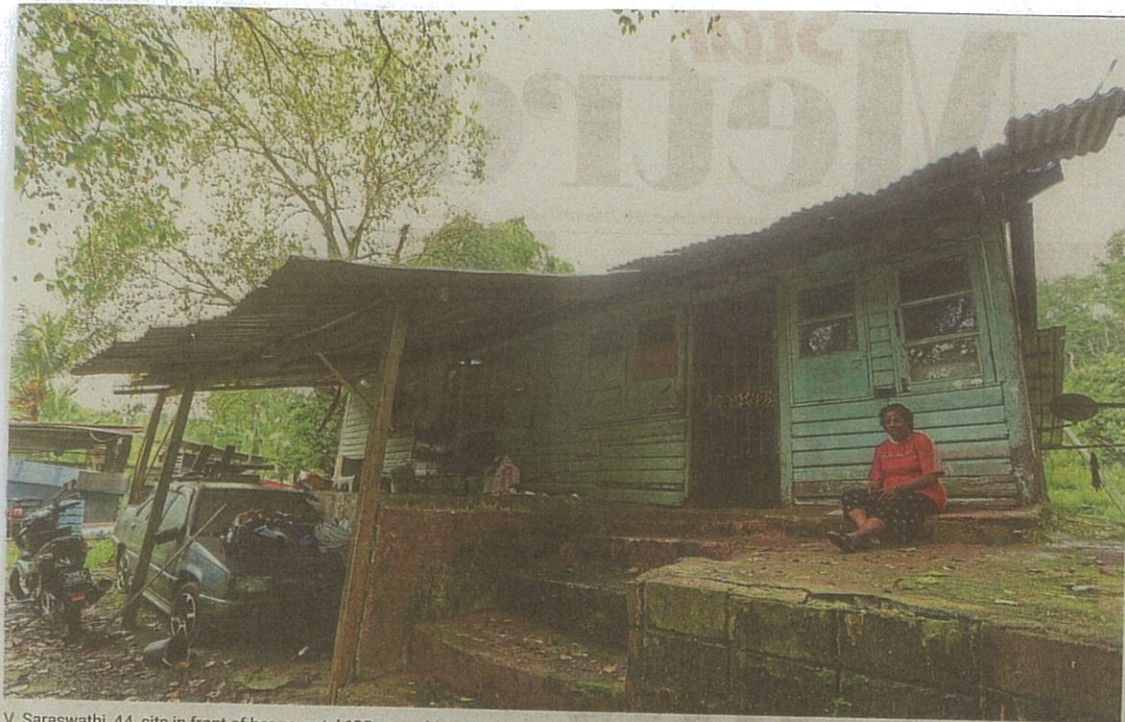
PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 15 OKTOBER 2024 (SELASA)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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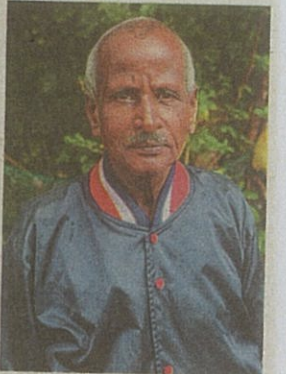
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V. Saraswathi, 44, sits in front of her parents' 100-year-old wooden house; she is determined to stay in her childhood residential area. — Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



Ponni holds up her birth certificate and IC as proof that she's one of the oldest residents of Ladang Bukit Jalil.



Paramasivam: Government must include residents in whatever plan it has for this area.

**YOUR
RIGHT
to know**

THE STAR 15/10

By BAVANI M and
SHALINI RAVINDRAN
metro@thestar.com.my

Losing the only home they've known

Former workers of KL's Ladang Bukit Jalil fear being displaced by proposed degazettement

EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD V. Ponni is one of the oldest remaining residents of Ladang Bukit Jalil, located near 6½ Mile, Jalan Puchong in Kuala Lumpur.

The former rubber estate bordering Selangor is one of two last remaining rubber estates in Kuala Lumpur. The other rubber estate is Ladang Bukit Kiara.

Ponni arrived at the estate as a child, and has spent her entire life in the area working as a rubber tapper, alongside many others who have toiled on the estate for decades.

While many families have moved out since the government acquired the estate land, Ponni and 41 other families are holding on to the hope that they would one day own permanent homes on the land where they have lived and worked for generations.

Looming threat

However, that hope is now under threat.

A government notice proposing degazettement of land where the estate is situated has raised concerns of potential redevelopment.

The lot in question also includes a Muslim cemetery and nearby Immigration depot.

For Ponni and other residents, this proposal only deepens their fear of displacement.

Community leaders from nearby Kampung Bohol in Kuala Lumpur and Kinrara in Puchong, are calling for transparency, urging residents to voice their con-



Elderly Ladang Bukit Jalil residents gather in front of their homes to discuss their situation.

cerns about the future of the land and their homes at a public hearing on Thursday.

On Oct 10, the Attorney General's Chambers published a notice in the Federal Government Gazette, announcing the proposed revocation of land encompassing the former Ladang Bukit Jalil, the Muslim cemetery and Immigration depot, under Section 64(2) of the National Land Code.

Lot 45585, measuring 10.54ha or equivalent to 14 football fields, was designated for public use in 2009 and includes both the former rubber estate and burial ground.

The notice, signed by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar, has sparked concerns among the residents and nearby stakeholders.

Colonial-era legacy

Ponni arrived at the estate at the age of eight with her father, Verai Kuppan.

Today, the widow and mother of five still lives in her late parents' derelict home that was built during British rule.

Constructed in the early 1940s, the zinc-roofed house, with a small chimney, is emblematic of the architecture of the era.

Ponni's parents, like many others at the time, were brought to the estate to work on the rubber plantation.

Her childhood friend Chelli Ramasamy, who was featured in a *StarMetro* report in 2012 asking for a low-cost house at the former estate land, died two years ago.

Ponni and Chelli were rubber tappers at the estate until it ceased operations in 1995.

At its peak, the estate housed over 250 families.

However, after the government acquired the land in 1980, and the subsequent closure of the estate in 1995, many families gradually moved out — some willingly, others reluctantly — accepting compensation and offers to rent units in nearby People's Housing Projects (PPR).

Ponni, like Chelli's daughter Shanti Rengasamy, 54, her husband P. Kathiravan, and their daughters Muhinthini, 27, and Rakchimi, 25, continued to live on the estate grounds in their parents' houses, holding on to hopes of owning homes in the area.

"I want to remain here where I've lived for five decades. Not in a PPR unit, but in the home I have lived in my whole life as a rubber tapper," said Ponni.

Shanti said, "My mother led a difficult life, rising at dawn with only an oil lamp to guide her as she tapped rubber in the plantation."

"Her entire life, all she wanted was her own home. Instead, she lived in fear of losing her home until her death."

Despite receiving repeated but unfulfilled promises from the government, the remaining families have been waiting for decades to secure permanent homes on the estate.

Residents, especially those still living on the former estate grounds, were alarmed after hearing about the government notice to degazette the Ladang Bukit Jalil land and its surroundings.

The land is only a stone's throw from the Kampung Bohol Flood Retention Pond, which was recently sold to a developer for a housing project.

Residents fear the proposed degazettement could be another move to sell off land for a housing development.

Chasing the dream

The remaining families are calling on the government to build low-cost housing on the existing 1.6ha land which also has a Hindu temple.

Ladang Bukit Jalil Estate Workers' Action Committee chairman K. Paramasivam said DBKL had in 2009 earmarked the estate houses for demolition, but this did not happen.

"If the government is degazetting the land for redevelopment, it must include us in whatever plan it has for this area."

"We have been fighting for our

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Tarikh:.....

'Procedure to adjust boundary before regazettement'

FEDERAL Territories of Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTGWP) is inviting the public to attend a public hearing on Thursday, from 9am to 4pm, at its office on the second floor of Federal House in Jalan Sultan Hishammuddin, Kuala Lumpur.

The hearing follows the issuance of a proposed revocation notice for Lot 45585, a parcel of land measuring 10.54ha designated for public use near Bukit Jalil.

A PTGWP spokesperson said the proposed degazettement would involve a resurvey of the boundary between a Muslim cemetery and the Immigration Department building next to it.

"The degazettement will be followed by a regazettement of a newly defined area for the Muslim burial ground and alienation of land to the Federal Land Commissioner for the

Immigration building purposes.

"This is primarily an administrative procedure to adjust the boundary between the Muslim burial ground and the Immigration Department structures."

Ladang Bukit Jalil is situated on this land. However, no information has been forthcoming to address the plight of the former estate workers living there.

"Anyone wishing to object to the proposed revocation is welcome to attend the hearing and present their objections," the spokesperson added.

StarMetro contacted an officer from the Federal Territory Islamic Religious Department (Jawi), which owns the Muslim cemetery land.

The officer, who requested anonymity, said: "As far as I know, part of the land is being allocated to the Immigration Department but we don't have

further details at this time. If you require more information, I recommend attending the objection hearing this week."

Ladang Bukit Jalil Estate Residents' Committee advisor S. Arutchelvan expressed concern that the government's move to degazette the land for boundary realignment and alienation indicated future development plans.

"Degazettement typically opens the door for land use changes. Even if the current stated purpose is administrative, the reclassification or transfer of land often paves the way for future developments, especially when the land is no longer designated for public use."

"The government is well aware that the Bukit Jalil ex-estate workers and their families have lived here for three to four generations.

"They should have been the first people to be consulted," he added.

Arutchelvan said the degazettement threatened to uproot the oldest community in the area, prioritising profits and land grabs by developers over the needs of the people.

"The government promised to build houses and provide landed property on this land. What has happened to that promise?"

"Ladang Bukit Jalil, where the residents still live today, is highly valuable and has become a prime target for property developers."

He said the estate, which once spanned 728ha, had now shrunk to just 10.54ha, while the residents were asking for only 1.6ha to build their homes.

"Ladang Bukit Jalil residents who have been fighting for over 40 years, remain deter-



Arutchelvan: Degazettement threatens to uproot the oldest community in the area.

mined to defend the last estate in Klang Valley.

"I hope the government fulfils their requests," added Arutchelvan. — By BAVANI M and SHALINI RAVINDRAN

Hope of getting new homes

Ex-estate workers believe in positive outcome after meeting PM

By BAVANI M

StarMetro report on July 23, 2012.

SHANTI, 48, a third-generation former estate worker from Ladang Bukit Jalil, is flanked by her husband, Thirumalai, and their son, Thirumalai, who is a former PTGWP official.



StarMetro report on July 23, 2012.



The Muslim cemetery near Ladang Bukit Jalil is also earmarked in the degazettement exercise.

rights for 40 years, and we have met prime ministers and ministers but there is still no solution."

In September 2018, the committee discussed the matter with then Federal Territories minister Khalid Abdul Samad, who had promised to look into their claims, but nothing came of it.

"We met with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's aide earlier this year and submitted all the necessary documents, and we are still waiting for a response," said committee secretary K. Balakrishnan.

"All we are asking for is what's rightfully ours — a place to call home on the land where we've lived and worked on for decades.

"We're just asking for the dignity of owning what has always been promised to us."

Save Kampung Bohol Flood Retention Pond pro-tem committee chairman Saniah Arabian, 64, worried about the land as it also involved a Muslim cemetery.

"Space constraints are a big issue in Kuala Lumpur, and as a resident living nearby, this new degazettement exercise is worrying," Saniah said.

Pro-tem committee secretary Chin Chong Men, 76, said the degazettement exercise involved a significant portion of land and expressed concern over the situation similar to what happened with the Kampung Bohol pond land.

"We will attend the Oct 17 hearing. I am curious to hear what the plans are for this area.

"I find it suspicious that Ladang Bukit Jalil residents, who

Chronology of Ladang Bukit Jalil residents' struggle

1940

> Workers of Ladang Bukit Jalil, a 728.43ha estate that includes a rubber plantation, move into the area at 6½ Mile, Jalan Puchong, Bukit Jalil.

1980

> The Federal Government, through the Federal Territories (FT) Ministry, acquires the estate using the Land Acquisition Act 1960.

1988

> In September, the FT minister promises that the estate workers and their families can continue to reside at Ladang Bukit Jalil until low-cost homes are built for them.

1995

> Ladang Bukit Jalil ceases operations as a rubber estate.

> Some of the land is used for the construction of a sports complex to host the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

2007

> The former estate workers and their families are labelled as 'squatters' and served an eviction notice by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) on July 16 under the Emergency (Essential Powers) Ordinance 1969 (Clearance of Squatters Regulations).

2007-2010

> Several eviction notices are issued to residents on Nov 2, 2007; May 12 & Dec 23, 2008; Dec 10, 2009 and May 19 & July 20, 2010.

> On Dec 20, 2010, residents receive yet another eviction notice from DBKL to vacate the area under the Emergency Ordinance.

> DBKL issues a letter on Dec 29 stating that the temple, school and cemetery will not be relocated.

2011

> In February, during a meeting with then Federal Territories and Urban Well-being minister Raja Nong Chik, deputy minister M. Saravanan and Human Resources minister Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam, those who had worked in the rubber estate for more than 15 years are offered RM23,000 each while the rest are offered RM11,000 as compensation.

> DBKL issues notice that eviction and demolition will be done on March 15. Residents are urged to accept units at PPR Muhibbah.

> Estate residents then initiate legal action to stop DBKL from evicting them. The High Court strikes out the suit brought by estate residents on the grounds that they had filed the suit against the wrong party.

2012

> In July, resident representatives meet with then prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak. During the meeting, residents submit a request for 1.6ha of land to build houses.

> In October, residents are informed by Najib's special officer that the land proposal is rejected, but offer of PPR units is maintained. A counter offer of 41 low-cost terrace houses on the original site is made by residents.

2014

> The government makes an offer of RM85,000 to former estate

workers. There will be no terrace houses. The families reject the offer.

2018

> Resident representatives meet with new FT minister Khalid Abdul Samad.

2019

> On May 6, residents receive an eviction notice from Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTGWP). A few days later, Khalid announces that the notice is rescinded.

> During a meeting with Khalid on May 14, residents are informed that Ladang Bukit Jalil land has been allocated as a burial site and Immigration depot.

2024

> Former Ladang Bukit Jalil workers committee representatives meet with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's special duties officer on the unresolved issues.

> On Oct 10, the Attorney General's Chambers publishes a notice announcing the proposed revocation of land around the former estate and other lots under Section 64(2) of the National Land Code.



The Stargraphics

will clearly be affected by the degazettement, were not informed.

"We hope they won't be displaced," said Chin.

Save Kuala Lumpur Coalition chairman Datuk M. Ali said it was deeply concerning that not many people were aware of the

proposed degazettement, especially as it involved land affecting the Muslim cemetery and the former Ladang Bukit Jalil workers.

"The former estate workers are not squatters, they are residents who have worked hard all their lives and deserve to know

about the future of their homes. "The government needs to be more transparent about this process.

"I strongly encourage residents to attend the hearing to fully understand what is happening and make their voices heard," added Ali.



Oblivious to the danger, a man crosses the rail tracks.

An elderly woman struggling to cross the tracks with her bicycle at the end of Jalan Gedung Raja Abdullah.
— Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

THE STAR 15/10

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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ERRANT pedestrians continue to risk their lives everyday by crossing the railway tracks off Jalan Gedung Raja Abdullah in Klang.

Klang Consumer Association president A. Devadass said a section of the fence installed on both sides of the railway tracks were damaged three years ago and reinstalled by Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB).

"Earlier this year, the fence was damaged again and I see people crossing the tracks, risking their lives," he said.

Devadass said some people were taking the easy way out to get to and from Jalan Gedung Raja Abdullah and Jalan Tepi Sungai.

"Fences are there to deter residents from Jalan Tepi Sungai crossing over to Jalan Gedung Raja Abdullah as a short cut to Klang's Little India," he said.

Crossing the railway track, he said, had become riskier due to

Hazardous shortcut in Klang town

Crossing railway tracks riskier due to fast-moving silent electric commuter trains

the fast-moving electric commuter trains unlike the slower and noisier cargo trains.

"This has increased the likelihood of accidents when crossing the tracks," he said.

Devadass said it was impossible for oncoming trains to stop in time to avoid a collision due to their sheer size and weight.

He urged KTMB to immediately repair the broken fence.

On Oct 10, *The Star* reported KTMB stating that there had been 282 cases of people caught crossing the railway track

between January and August this year.

KTMB had warned that those caught damaging the fence or encroaching into the tracks could face a fine of up to RM1,000.

When contacted a Railway Assets Corporation (RAC) spokesperson said workers have been deployed to inspect the situation in Klang.

Devadass wants KTMB to repair the damaged fence to stop people from crossing the train tracks.



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Tarikh:.....

Putrajaya to adopt Shanghai's smart city management

STRATEGIC twin cities cooperation between the Federal Territories, particularly Putrajaya and Shanghai, China, will allow Malaysia to learn more about smart city management, said Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) said the initiative would also help the country adopt innovation-based technological solutions and remain at the forefront of adopting modern approaches.

"I am confident this cooperation can elevate the Federal Territories' (allowing it to implement) resilient and innovative urban management," she said in a social media post during a recent official six-day visit to Shanghai.

While there Dr Zaliha met with representatives from Shanghai Municipal People's Government, reported Bernama.

The meeting was held following the Cabinet's decision regarding the twin city cooperation between Putrajaya and Shanghai.



Dr Zaliha wants Malaysian students to return home after their studies and contribute to the country's development.

— Bernama

Dr Zaliha said the meeting focused on sharing expertise in urban regeneration strategies adopted by Shanghai for 10 of its key districts involving the redevelopment of residential, commercial, and industrial areas by 2025 that was expected to impact the city's overall growth significantly.

"One aspect that caught my attention is the implementation of Sponge City, a smart flood management strategy using advanced monitoring technology, including underground sensors.

"This concept not only strengthens the city's resilience against extreme weather changes, but also has the potential to minimise the impact of natural disasters in flood-prone areas," she said.

Dr Zaliha added that the model could serve as an inspiration for the Federal Territories to integrate green technology into urban planning for a more sustainable future.

She added that Shanghai has also implemented a detailed urban grid management system, where the city is divided into smaller areas monitored using CCTV technology and a public database.

After Shanghai, Dr Zaliha visited Shenzhen and attended a dinner with Malaysian students, civil servants and representatives of Malaysian-

owned companies.

In her speech at the event, she asked them to tap into their global networks to enhance Malaysia's international competitiveness.

She also urged Malaysian students to return home after their studies and contribute to the country's development.

Dr Zaliha highlighted Malaysia's improving economic landscape that she credited to the country's current political stability.

"The political stability we are experiencing today has significantly boosted investor confidence in Malaysia," she said.

She also expressed pride in Malaysia's recent achievement, highlighting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim being recognised as the 15th most influential Muslim leader in the world.

Dr Zaliha also emphasised the crucial role played by Malaysia's three Federal Territories - Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur and Labuan, in driving national growth.

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Tarikh:.....

Elderly hoarder rescued from 'house of junk' THE STAR 15/10

GEORGE TOWN: Family members of an 86-year-old woman had to call the Civil Defence Force for help to "rescue" an elderly woman from a house full of garbage and junk.

Its northeast district officer Muhammad Aizat Abdul Ghani was reported as saying that the woman was unable to walk and had difficulty leaving the double-storey house at Jalan Mano, off Jalan Bagan Jermal here, due to the large amount of rubbish and recyclable materials that she had amassed over the years.

Following the call at around 4.40pm on Sunday, a four-man team was sent to the scene where the personnel were greeted with bundles of garbage piled around the house compound and even inside the house.

Wearing face masks, they worked to remove the woman, who is believed to be suffering from various ailments, including hypertension, diabetes, physical frailty and hearing impairment.

She was later carried out of the house on a stretcher.

It is believed that the woman needed help to move to an old folks' home nearby.



Saved in time: An elderly woman was rescued from a house full of garbage and junk by the Civil Defence Force.

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Tarikh:.....

Business sector in favour of GST revival

THE STAR 15/10

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
and HANISI TAN
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PETALING JAYA: The business fraternity is in favour of the revival of the Goods and Service Tax (GST) and asking the government not to wait until the minimum wage reaches the RM3,000 to RM4,000 threshold to reintroduce it.

Malay Economic Action Council (MTEM) senior fellow Ahmad Yazid Othman said the revenue from GST could actually be used to incentivise and supplement micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) needing to adjust to the new minimum or progressive wage.

In fact, he said MTEM accepts the fact that wages need to be increased but the government will have to explain how and when it will be implemented.

"GST should be brought in now rather than later, but it should start at a lower rate so that we can ensure that it will be implemented more efficiently, effectively, with less leakages and cost so that it will give the government more

revenue to implement development projects as well as cash transfer," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said on Sunday that GST would be brought back once the minimum wage reaches between RM3,000 and RM4,000 per month.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur and Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Nivas Ragavan said it is rather a cautious approach on the government's part to revive GST only when the minimum wage is raised to RM3,000-RM4,000 as this will balance both economic stability and social welfare.

"Raising the minimum wage to RM3,000-RM4,000 is intended to ensure lower-income households have greater disposable income before implementing a consumption tax that can disproportionately affect them."

"However, while the government's goal is noble, we must ask whether it is feasible. There are several challenges. The business community, especially MSMEs, are still recovering from post-pan-

demic shocks and other inflationary pressures.

"An immediate wage increase to RM3,000 or RM4,000 could strain employers who are grappling with rising operational costs," he added.

"In this context, businesses might pass these costs onto consumers, potentially negating the income gain for workers. A more gradual increase in the minimum wage might help mitigate this, allowing businesses to adjust without significant disruption."

He said if Putrajaya is to wait till the minimum wage reaches the said threshold to reinstate GST, it will further delay the availability of funds that can be used for public service.

SME Association of Malaysia President Chin Chee Seong said businesses are in favour of the return of GST, adding that if the broad-based tax is not revived, the government may resort to other mechanisms, including introducing new taxes or doing away with subsidies to make up for revenue shortfalls.

"I think it is not practical for us

to wait until the minimum wage reaches RM3,000 to RM4,000," he said, as the current minimum wage rate of RM1,500 is still far from that.

He said the government should help SMEs increase their competitive advantages, especially with foreign companies, instead.

"We should consider the economic situation, allocate more funds to help spur the country's economy with more government projects and help SMEs with exports," he said.

Agreeing with Chin, Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) treasurer-general Datuk Koong Lin Loong said without GST, the government will have to explore alternative ways to boost the country's revenue, including implementing new taxes and cutting back on subsidies.

"Malaysia's tax revenue base is quite narrow and we have granted numerous tax incentives. To reduce our expenditures, we may need to consider cutting back on some of the subsidies we currently offer," Koong added.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024

RM17.90 – price of a healthy diet

THE STAR 15/10

Experts: Most M'sians cannot eat healthy if prices go up and income stagnates

By DIYANA PFORDTEN
and SHYAFIQ DZULKIFLI
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: For many Malaysians struggling with the cost of living, the price of a healthy diet is getting harder to swallow as food prices continue to go up.

In conjunction with the United Nations' World Food Day tomorrow, *The Star* went grocery shopping to find out how much it costs to eat healthy in the Klang Valley, where prices are typically higher than rural locations.

We went to a popular grocery outlet to buy ingredients needed for cooking and preparing a week's worth of healthy meals for one person, based on information in the Health Ministry's Malaysia Dietary Guidelines.

The ministry's guide contains a menu of recommended meals along with ingredients, serving sizes and nutritional information.

Calculating from the total bill, we found that it would cost a person an average of RM17.90 per day to eat healthy, based on the meals listed in the guide.

Animal-source food made up 30% of our bill, followed by vegetables (18.3%), starches (16.7%), oils and fats (16.2%), fruits and legumes (12.2%), and nuts and seeds (6.7%).

Data from the World Bank, meanwhile, shows a lower estimate of how much a healthy diet costs in Malaysia.

According to figures from the international financial institution, the minimum cost of a healthy diet in Malaysia is RM5.94 per person per day.

Such an amount will buy the least expensive locally available food to meet the requirements for energy and food-based dietary guidelines for one person.

According to the World Bank, among others, fruits make up the biggest portion of the cost for a healthy diet, at 24.9% or RM1.35 a day, followed by animal source food at 23.8% (RM1.28) and vegetables at 20.8% (RM1.12).

Actual prices for food items will vary according to location and other factors, but according to

A day's healthy diet menu

Breakfast

Food item	Qty	Unit	Calorie (kcal)
Wholemeal bread	2	Slice	181
Cheese	2	Slice	124
Omelette (egg)	2	Piece	260
Low fat milk	1	Glass	110
Total			675

Lunch

Food item	Qty	Unit	Calorie (kcal)
Banana	1	Piece	63
White rice	2	Scoop	100
Fish (Cencaru) fried w/chilli	1	Piece	200
Pucuk paku			40
Sliced cucumber			15
Tofu with garlic sauce			80
Total			498

Tea Break

Food item	Qty	Unit	Calorie (kcal)
Wholemeal cracker	4	Piece	106
Total			106

Dinner

Food item	Qty	Unit	Calorie (kcal)
Aglio Olio with meat			329
Mixed vege - carrot & string beans			120
Apple	1	Piece	65
Total			514

TOTAL DAILY CALORIES 1,793

Khazanah Research Institute (KRI) research associate Dr Teoh Ai Ni, the total price of a healthy diet in Malaysia is likely much higher than the World Bank's estimate.

This is due to hidden costs such as time spent to acquire the food, food preparation, transportation cost, as well as energy and fuel costs.

"It does not fully capture the cost we incur every day.

"One reason is that the definitions used by the World Bank and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reflect the most affordable locally available food.

"The fact is that as a consumer, we don't constantly go hunting for the most affordable options for us," said Teoh, who wrote a KRI discussion paper in June about food environment and

nutrition inequalities in Malaysia.

She said when prices of certain food go up, many lower-income earners cope by adjusting their spending.

"In many cases, they opt to spend on food that is higher in starch, such as rice, bread and grains," she said.

"These types of food will give more carbohydrates and energy versus a diet with more fruits and vegetables that are full of nutrients but lower in energy."

The World Bank's data shows that an estimated 1.8% of Malaysia's population – which is about 600,000 people – could not afford a healthy diet in 2022.

The figures also show that the share of Malaysia's population who cannot afford a healthy diet has fallen over the years, from 4% in 2017 to 1.8% in 2022.

Teoh said the reduction is main-



How much does it cost for Malaysians to eat a healthy diet?

(RM per person per day)



Source: World Bank - The costs of a healthy diet were originally expressed in purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars per person per day, which were then converted into Malaysian ringgit (RM) using the PPP conversion factor obtained from data.un.org.

The Star graphics

ly due to numerous government policies, such as food subsidies, cash transfer for the poor, food assistance and food banks.

The government has also introduced several measures over the past few years to help lower-income earners.

They include electricity rebate, Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah and Sumbangan Asas Rahmah.

Despite the drop, Teoh said the current situation cannot be taken lightly.

"We cannot underestimate the numbers because 600,000 is still a lot of people for Malaysia, an upper-middle income country."

Teoh said the cost of a healthy diet would likely continue to rise due to inflation.

She said without a commensurate increase in income and wages, more people would not be able to afford a healthy diet.

"That means this problem will persist or might even turn into a bigger issue, especially when our country is also facing an issue of wage stagnation," she said.

Teoh said bigger households are spending increasingly more money eating out due to time factor. This, she said, exposes them to more unhealthy food options, compared with eating at home.

"When you are cooking at home, you are more in control,"

she said.

The cost of a healthy diet can also be affected by locality and culture or ethnic influences, said Teoh.

To support a healthier diet in Malaysia, she said it is crucial to invest in research and infrastructure to increase fruit and vegetable production, as well as reduce food wastage, lower transportation cost, and stabilise food prices.

She said improving wages and addressing broader issues like urban planning and labour policies are essential to ensure people can afford and have access to nutritious food.

World Food Day is an international day celebrated every year worldwide on Oct 16 to commemorate the date of the founding of the FAO in 1945.

This year's theme is, "Right to foods for a better life and a better future."

Read this story at thestar.com.my for more details on what we bought and the meals we prepared.

Scan the QR code to read our interactive story



THE STAR

15 OCT 2024

Tarikh:.....

Lebih 5,000 kawasan berisiko banjir

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PETALING JAYA: Sebanyak 5,647 kawasan berisiko banjir di seluruh negara dikenal pasti oleh Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM).

Ketua Pengarah JBPM, Datuk Nor Hisham Mohammad berkata, daripada jumlah itu, Sarawak merekodkan jumlah kawasan risiko banjir tertinggi iaitu 1,066 lokasi, diikuti Sabah (798); Pahang (750), Johor (745) dan Kelantan (617).

Katanya, ia diikuti dengan Perak (286), Selangor (271), Kedah (260), Terengganu (258) dan Pulau Pinang (241).

“Selain itu, sebanyak 124 lokasi risiko banjir turut dikenal pasti di Melaka, Negeri Sembilan (120), Kuala Lumpur (73), Perlis (22) dan Labuan (17).

“Kita juga mengenal pasti kawasan berpotensi terjadinya kepala air melibatkan kawasan air terjun iaitu 201 lokasi,” katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, menurut Nor Hisham, lokasi paling banyak



JABATAN Bomba dan Penyelamat telah bersedia untuk berhadapan bencana banjir yang dijangka berlaku di 5,647 kawasan seluruh negara pada hujung tahun ini. - UTUSAN/SHAHIR NOORDIN

berisiko berlakunya kepala air adalah di Sabah (52), Kedah (39), Sarawak (19) serta Kelantan dan Terengganu masing-masing 18.

Jelas beliau, sebanyak 17 lokasi titik panas kepala air di

Perak dan Negeri Sembilan diikuti Selangor (6) Perlis dan Johor masing-masing lima.

“Pahang mempunyai tiga kawasan lokasi berisiko kepala air serta Kuala Lumpur dan Melaka

masing-masing satu.

“Sebagai persediaan menghadapi banjir besar, seramai 13,393 anggota bomba dalam keadaan bersiap-siaga dibantu 8,398 bomba sukarela dan 2,147

bomba bantuan dengan jumlah keseluruhan seramai 24,671 orang.

“Kira-kira 932 aset kenderaan termasuk marin, udara dan lori akan digerakkan ke lokasi kejadian,” katanya.

Ditanya berhubung keperluan membekukan cuti anggota bomba, Nor Hisham berkata, ia akan dibuat berdasarkan lokasi dan keadaan banjir di kawasan tersebut.

Dalam pada itu, beliau menasihatkan orang ramai untuk menangguhkan percutian di kawasan-kawasan peranginan air menjelang musim Monsun Timur Laut ini.

Katanya orang ramai perlu lebih cakna dengan ramalan cuaca yang dikeluarkan agar dapat mengelak daripada terperangkap dalam sebarang bencana seperti tanah runtuh atau kepala air ketika melakukan aktiviti rekreasi di kawasan air terjun atau di lereng-lereng bukit.

“Elakkan daripada mengunjungi kawasan riadah air kerana berisiko berlakunya kepala air, perubahan paras dan kederaan air yang sukar dibaca alirannya,” ujarnya.



Jalan Masjid India selamat untuk semua aktiviti

Oleh ARIF AIMAN ASROL
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KUALA LUMPUR: Jalan Masjid India disahkan selamat untuk semua aktiviti menerusi beberapa kajian yang dilakukan selepas insiden wanita warga India terjatuh ke dalam lubang benam di kawasan tersebut pada 23 Ogos lalu.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, pengesahan itu dibuat oleh Pasukan Petugas Khas yang dipengerusikan oleh Datuk Bandar Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Dr. Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

"Ini setelah mengambil kira pandangan kepakaran secara kolektif oleh pelbagai agensi termasuk Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM), Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR), Jabatan Mineral dan Geosains Malaysia (JMG);

"Pertubuhan profesional seperti Institut Jurutera Malaysia (IEM) dan Pertubuhan Geoteknikal Malaysia (MGS)," katanya semasa sesi Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Bagi Jawab Lisan di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab soalan daripada Prabakaran Parameswaran (PH-Batu) yang memintanya menyatakan status keselamatan terkini



ZALIHA MUSTAFA

dan tindakan yang bakal diambil hasil daripada kajian yang telah dijalankan berkaitan tanah jerlus yang berlaku di Jalan Masjid India termasuk kawasan- kawasan lain yang berpotensi berlaku mendapan.

Dalam pada itu, Dr. Zaliha berkata, kerajaan melakukan beberapa tindakan langkah pendek dan panjang bagi mengelak

insiden sama berulang.

"(Antara langkah pendek adalah) Audit Integriti Aset Utiliti yang sudah dilaksanakan oleh syarikat-syarikat utiliti di kawasan Central Business District (CBD), termasuk Jalan Masjid India. (Selain itu), penggunaan teknologi untuk mengesan sebarang pergerakan tanah atau lohong bawah tanah.

"Bagi tindakan jangka panjang, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) akan melaksanakan penyasatan tanah mendalam melibatkan penggunaan teknik *deep boring* serta ujian makmal bagi memastikan struktur tanah stabil.

"(Selain itu melaksanakan) komunikasi awam di mana DBKL akan terus menggunakan platform media sosial untuk memberi makluman dan keyakinan kepada masyarakat mengenai tahap keselamatan di kawasan Jalan Masjid India," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau memaklumkan, kerajaan melalui DBKL sudah menyumbangkan RM30,000 untuk membantu waris mangsa, mendiang G. Vijaya Lakshmi dalam meringankan beban mereka akibat tragedi tersebut.

Katanya, keluarga mangsa turut menerima sumbangan daripada pihak swasta yang bersimpati sebanyak RM10,000.

"Ini merupakan tanggungjawab sosial untuk membantu keluarga mangsa yang trauma atas kehilangan yang tersayang.

"Menyentuh tentang pampasan, kerajaan tidak menghalang sekiranya keluarga mendiang mangsa hendak mengemukakan tuntutan melalui saluran perundangan terhadap agensi yang berkaitan," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ..1.5..OCT..2024.....

Kota Raja dilanda banjir kilat setiap minggu

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KLANG: Hampir setiap minggu banjir kilat melanda kawasan Parlimen Kota Raja di sini sejak 14 tahun lalu.

Malah paras air naik hampir satu meter meskipun hujan tidak sampai sejam sehingga menjejaskan penduduk.

Masalah tersebut didakwa kerap terjadi sejak 2010 dan bertambah buruk selepas banjir besar melanda negeri ini pada akhir 2021.

Penduduk Kampung Jawa, Khairul Nizam Kamarudin, 45, mendakwa masalah itu berlaku tanpa mengira musim tengkujuh atau air laut pasang dan puncanya dipercayai akibat sistem perparitan yang tidak diselenggara secara berkala serta dinaik taraf.

Menurutnya, walaupun banyak pembangunan perumahan baharu di Kota Raja, sistem perparitan masih sama sejak lebih 30 tahun dahulu.

"Kebanyakan rumah terletak di kawasan rendah dan sudah terlalu padat apabila pihak berkuasa benarkan pembangunan rumah baharu. Keadaan itu menyebabkan tiada lagi kawasan tadahan hujan dan limpahan air semakin

banyak walaupun hujan dalam tempoh singkat.

"Betul, ada pekerja selenggara longkang tetapi mereka cuma bersihkan. Tiada penyelenggaraan atau naik taraf longkang seiring dengan pembangunan," katanya ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia*.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Penduduk Bandar Putra 2, Shafri Salleh, 62, memberitahu, keadaan tersebut menyebabkan penduduk berasa tidak tenang setiap kali hujan.

"Kawasan perumahan saya, Bandar Putra 2 adalah perumahan baharu sejak enam tahun lalu. Dahulu tak pernah banjir, tiba-tiba sekarang terlalu kerap air melimpah masuk ke dalam rumah," jelasnya.

Bagi Zaleha Tembung, 62, penduduk di kawasan kejirannya mengambil inisiatif membersihkan longkang secara gotong-royong berkala bagi memastikan air dalam longkang atau parit tidak tersekat bila hujan lebat.

"Parit dekat kawasan rumah saya tak pernah dinaik taraf walaupun sudah terlalu banyak rumah baharu dinaikkan. Bila hujan, limpahan airnya tak seperti dahulu, berkali ganda banyak," ujarinya.



PARIT dekat salah satu kampung di Kota Raja, Klang, Selangor dipenuhi air sehingga melimpah ke jalan raya akibat hujan lebat, baru-baru ini.
- IHSAN PENDUDUK

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024



WAN Dzahanurin Ahmad (dua dari kanan) meninjau penduduk mengemas barangan rosak akibat banjir kilat yang melanda Kota Raja, Klang, Selangor, baru-baru ini.

Sedia peruntukan khas selesai banjir kilat secara menyeluruh

KLANG: Kerajaan negeri digesa menyediakan peruntukan khas bagi mengatasi masalah banjir kilat yang didakwa kerap melanda sembilan buah kampung di Kota Raja di sini, sejak 10 tahun lalu.

Hal demikian ini kerana masalah banjir kilat di kawasan tersebut dikatakan bukan hanya berlaku pada musim tengkujuh atau air laut pasang, sebaliknya setiap kali hujan lebat dalam tempoh satu hingga dua jam.

Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Sungai Kandis, Wan Dzahanurin Ahmad berkata, alasan Monsun Timur Laut (MTL) serta air pasang tidak lagi wajar menjadi 'penyendal' kepada isu banjir kilat di kawasan tersebut.

Menurutnya, pelbagai ad-

uan sudah pun dibuat kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) serta jabatan-jabatan berkaitan termasuk menyuarakannya di dalam Sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN), namun lebih setahun berlalu, situasi sama kerap berlaku sehingga hari ini.

"Tiada penambahbaikan langsung, malah lebih teruk. Jadi, alasan untuk kata banjir kerana monsun (MTL) tak boleh pakai. Sebab pada Februari atau tengah tahun pun, kalau hujan dalam sejam pun banjir.

"Tetapi kita tak dapat respons daripada pihak berwajib," katanya ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia*.

Malah, beliau juga menegaskan faktor kewangan atau bajet tidak boleh dijadikan ala-

san kegagalan menyelesaikan masalah banjir kilat kerana bencana itu bukan baru melanda kawasan berkenaan.

Terdahulu, akhbar ini melaporkan kewujudan longkang atau saluran air tidak 'bertuan' sepanjang 600 kilometer (km) dikenal pasti antara punca berlakunya banjir di Selangor.

Kesemua longkang itu dibina pihak tertentu sama ada melibatkan kawasan perumahan, tepi jalan, kampung atau kilang.

Malah, beliau juga dilaporkan mendedahkan terdapat sembilan Rancangan Tebatan Banjir (RTB) di Selangor dikenal pasti sebagai projek sakit yang merupakan sebahagian daripada 41 projek dengan peruntukan keseluruhan RM482 juta.

Penduduk disaman pemaju sebab buat aduan banjir

KLANG: Pemaju sebuah kawasan perumahan didakwa mengambil tindakan saman ke atas penduduk Kampung Jalan Raja Nong Cik, Kota Raja di sini apabila membuat aduan terhadap masalah banjir.

Tindakan tersebut didakwa dibuat sebagai ugutan kepada penduduk yang membuat aduan kepada pihak berkuasa apabila kawasan rumah mereka kerap dilanda banjir sejak projek berkenaan bermula pada 2017.

Penduduk yang hanya mahu dikenali sebagai Saiful mem-

beritahu, akibat projek perumahan tersebut, rumah yang terletak berhampiran jalan utama akan dinaiki air dan keadaan lebih buruk bagi mereka tinggal di bahagian dalam.

"Kita sudah buat aduan dua kali kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan, namun lepas aduan kali ketiga, penduduk yang mengadu menerima surat saman daripada pemaju perumahan yang mengatakan kami sengaja menuduh projek mereka menyebabkan banjir.

"Kami tak tuduh sembarangan, memang mereka buat ru-

mah baharu, tetapi limpahan air berlebihan dari kawasan mereka mengalir masuk ke parit. Mereka naikkan rumah baharu tetapi tak pastikan saliran air dibuat atau besarkan longkang sedia ada.

"Akibat itu penduduk jadi takut dan dalam masa sama letih dengan masalah banjir kilat kerap menenggelamkan rumah mereka. Memang cuma banjir kilat, tetapi kalau berlaku sampai empat hingga lima kali sebulan, kotornya bukan biasa, dengan lumpur lagi," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024

Bonus, BAP, pelepasan cukai permintaan staf awam, swasta

Oleh AHMAD SHAHERMAN
SHAMSURI

PETALING JAYA – Rata-rata penjawat awam mengharapkan kerajaan dapat meneruskan pemberian bantuan khas penjawat awam atau 'bonus' menjelang hujung tahun ini sebagai persiapan untuk pembukaan sekolah dan sambutan Aidilfitri.

Bagi kakitangan swasta pula, mereka berharap agar kerajaan dapat meningkatkan had pelepasan cukai dan meneruskan Bantuan Awal Persekolahan (BAP) bagi meringankan beban ibu bapa.

Menurut seorang penjawat awam yang mahu dikenali sebagai Firdaus, 45, meskipun kerajaan bakal melaksanakan Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) yang akan meningkatkan gaji kakitangan awam antara tujuh hingga 15 peratus, namun pemberian bantuan khas amat ditagih.

Ini kerana kata bapa kepada lima cahaya mata itu, bantuan khas atau lebih dikenali sebagai 'bonus' sangat dinantikan-nantikan oleh penjawat awam setiap kali pembentangan belanjawan.

"Biasanya dengan duit bantuan inilah kami akan gunakan un-



PENJAWAT awam dan swasta meminta kerajaan meneruskan pemberian Bantuan Awal Persekolahan (BAP) kepada pelajar. – GAMBAR HIASAN

tuk persiapan sekolah dan persiapan hari raya. Kebetulan pula, sesi persekolahan tahun depan akan bermula pada Februari.

"Ia kemudiannya diikuti bulan Ramadan pada awal Mac dan Hari Raya Aidilfitri pada bulan yang sama. Tempoh sebulan yang singkat ini pasti akan memberi kesulitan dan tekanan terutamanya kepada mereka yang mempunyai ramai anak seperti

saya," katanya ketika dihubungi Kosmo! semalam.

Firdaus yang berasal dari Ipoh, Perak itu berkata, sekiranya kerajaan dapat meneruskan bantuan khas kewangan seperti tahun-tahun sebelum ini, ia amat melegakan penjawat awam yang bergaji sederhana tetapi tinggal di ibu kota dan mempunyai anak ramai sepertinya.

Sementara itu, seorang kaki-

tangan swasta yang ingin dikenali sebagai Ahmad, 40, berkata, harapan sebahagian besar kakitangan swasta sepertinya adalah supaya kerajaan dapat meningkatkan had pelepasan cukai pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 pada Jumaat ini.

Jelasnya, dengan meningkatkan had pelepasan cukai tersebut, lebih daripada gaji yang diperolehi itu sedikit sebanyak dapat mengurangkan beban kos sara hidup di ibu kota serta kesan kenaikan harga barang semasa.

"Walaupun saya dikategorikan sebagai M40, namun jika dihitungkan dengan kos perbelanjaan di ibu kota ini, gaji saya umpama B40 atau kurang lagi jika dibandingkan dengan tinggal di negeri lain.

"Sebagai contoh sewa rumah di sini (Kuala Lumpur) antara RM1,000 hingga RM1,500, kos taska anak pun mahal, kalau bayi pula kos jagaan sekitar RM600 sebulan.

"Itu belum masuk barang dapur, duit sekolah anak, keperluan bayi, kos minyak, tol, dan parkir untuk ulang-alik ke tempat kerja. Gaji sahaja M40 tetapi hakikatnya kami B40," luah bapa tiga anak itu.

Selain pelepasan cukai, kata-

nya, dia juga berharap agar kerajaan dapat meneruskan pemberian BAP kepada semua pelajar untuk sesi persekolahan tahun hadapan.

Dalam pada itu, bagi seorang petani dikenali sebagai Afnan, 34, yang tinggal di sebuah kampung di Kuala Krai, Kelantan mengharapkan kerajaan dapat meningkatkan dan menstabilkan harga getah dan kelapa sawit.

Ujar Afnan, ramai penoreh dan pekebun sawit mengeluh kerana kedua-dua komoditi itu terutamanya getah skrap sentiasa berubah mengikut musim.

"Malah ada kebun di kampung saya tiada yang mahu menoreh kerana harga getah kadangkala terlalu murah sedangkan semua barang terutamanya makanan meningkat berlipat kali ganda.

"Sekiranya kerajaan dapat meningkatkan harga lantai getah mungkin RM4 sekilogram (yang sebelum ini RM3 sekilogram menerusi Insentif Pengeluaran Getah (IPG), saya yakin ramai anak muda seperti saya sanggup duduk kampung menoreh dan mengusahakan kebun kelapa sawit berbanding berhijrah ke bandar untuk mencari kerja lain," tambahnya.

Lepas patin Siam di Tasik Bandaraya Shah Alam undang risiko

15/10
SH

SHAH ALAM - Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia (DOF) kecewa dengan tindakan pihak yang melepaskan ikan asing iaitu patin Siam (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*) ke dalam Tasik Bandaraya Shah Alam, baru-baru ini.

Pengarah Jabatan Perikanan Selangor, Noraisyah Abu Bakar berkata, tindakan itu bukan sahaja mengancam ekosistem tasik, tetapi juga menimbulkan risiko kepada spesies tempatan dan keseimbangan biodiversiti.

"Pelepasan ikan asing tanpa kawalan boleh mengakibatkan persaingan sumber makanan dan habitat dengan spesies tempatan, serta membawa penyakit baharu yang boleh menjejaskan populasi ikan asal," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Isnin.

Noraisyah berkata, pihaknya menggesa orang ramai untuk tidak sewenang-wenangnya melepaskan ikan asing atau haiwan lain ke dalam tasik atau mana-mana sumber air awam.

"Pihak berkuasa juga akan meningkatkan pemantauan dan penguatkuasaan undang-undang bagi mencegah tindakan seumpama ini daripada berulang," katanya.

Beliau berkata, mana-mana pihak yang berhasrat untuk membuat pelepasan umum, dinasihatkan merujuk DOF terlebih dahulu



- Patin Siam atau patin hitam ialah spesies patin (keluarga *Pangasiidae*) yang banyak dijumpai di Sungai Chao Phraya, Thailand dan Lembangan Sungai Mekong.
- Awalnya ikan asing ini dibawa masuk untuk tujuan rekreasi memancing di kolam, ikan hiasan dan juga ternakan akuakultur.



NORAISYAH

bagi memastikan spesies ikan yang hendak dilepaskan itu adalah spesies ikan asli Malaysia di perairan tersebut.

"Kerjasama semua pihak amat diperlukan untuk memastikan kelestarian ekosistem tasik dan perlindungan spesies tempatan," katanya.

Sebelum itu, tular pelepasan ikan patin Siam bagi pertandingan memancing di Tasik Bandaraya Shah Alam.

Pelepasan ikan itu turut diuar-uarkan Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) menerusi satu posting di Facebook rasminya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024



KHAIRIL ANWAR MOHD AMIN

PREMIUM

Si Putih dan Kritis

Ramalan 15 perkara besar Belanjawan 2025

1510
sina

Jumaat, 18 Oktober 2024 menjadi detik keramat untuk penentuan pembentukan inti pati Belanjawan 2025.

Istimewanya kali ini, ia disifatkan sebagai belanjawan paling penting dan mencabar setelah kerajaan Madani pimpinan Perdana Menteri merangkap Menteri Kewangan, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim julung kali membentangkan inti pati belanjawan era Kerajaan Perpaduan tahun lalu.

Dalam kekangan dan kesuraman ekonomi dunia ditambah konflik perang serantau Asia Barat semakin memuncak, amat perlu diperhatikan sama ada kerajaan bersedia meneruskan amalan berbelanja besar untuk membantu rakyat atau memilih langkah rasionalisasi bagi mengurangkan hutang fiskal negara yang telah mencecah RM1.173 trilion.

Untuk rekod, Belanjawan 2024 bertepatan 'Reformasi Ekonomi Memperkasa Rakyat' melibatkan peruntukan RM393.8 bilion.

Belanjawan tahun lalu juga diklasifikasikan sebagai belanjawan tertinggi pernah dibentangkan negara dengan pecahan peruntukan RM303.8 bilion untuk belanja mengurus, RM90 bilion bagi belanja pembangunan dan RM2 bilion simpanan luar jangka.

Antara perkara besar diumumkan pada Belanjawan 2024 ialah kenaikan kadar Cukai Perkhidmatan daripada enam peratus kepada lapan peratus, pengenalan cukai barang bernilai tinggi, kenaikan berperingkat harga diesel, akaun fleksibel Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) dan pengenalan cukai keuntungan modal.

Bagi Belanjawan 2025, beberapa pakar ekonomi tempatan menjangkakan terdapat 15 perkara atau 'kejutan' besar yang berpotensi menjadi titik fokus utama kerajaan Madani untuk dilaksanakan pada tahun hadapan.

15 perkara besar itu merangkumi jangkaan pengumuman rasionalisasi subsidi petrol RON 95, pengenalan semula Cukai Barangan dan Perkhidmatan (GST) bagi menggantikan SST, pemansuhan sepenuhnya subsidi diesel, kenaikan mendadak duti eksais ke atas tembakau dan alkohol serta pemansuhan subsidi pendidikan kepada golongan elit mahu pun subsidi telur.

Selain itu, Belanjawan 2025 diunjurkan memperincikan sistem kenaikan gaji penjawat awam, perangkaan reformasi pentadbiran awam termasuk inisiatif rasionalisasi badan berkanun, pelaksanaan dasar gaji progresif secara berperingkat dengan kewajipan mandatori terhadap syarikat-syarikat 'mahakaya' dan perangkaan Pelan Transformasi Kesihatan Planet.

Tambahan titik fokus besar Belanjawan 2025 lain adalah pembangunan Akta Penangkapan Penggunaan dan Penyimpanan Karbon (CCUS), pemerkasaan inisiatif meningkatkan kek ekonomi bumiputera, pengenalan inisiatif Deposit Madani untuk pembeli rumah pertama, peningkatan sokongan tunai kepada kumpulan rentan menerusi Sumbangan

Tunai Rahmah (STR) dan pengenalan subsidi khas dalam menangani isu kos sara hidup dan peningkatan harga barangan keperluan asas.

Bagi Ketua Strategi dan Pengurusan Risiko, Azman Hashim International Business School, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Dr Razli Ramli, unjuran pengenalan rasionalisasi subsidi petrol RON95 berperingkat, pemansuhan sepenuhnya subsidi diesel, pengenalan semula GST, pemansuhan subsidi pendidikan kepada golongan elit, pemansuhan subsidi telur dengan kenaikan mendadak duti eksais tembakau dan alkohol adalah wajar dan sangat signifikan bagi membantu mengurangkan beban fiskal kerajaan.

Jelasnya, bagi pengumuman subsidi petrol berperingkat, kerajaan mungkin boleh memperkenalkan subsidi berdasarkan pendapatan isi rumah atau penggunaan harian rakyat.

"Langkah memperkenalkan semula GST adalah relevan kerana dapat meningkatkan pendapatan kerajaan secara lebih efisien berbanding Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan (SST). Saya kira langkah pengenalan kadar GST dengan nilai peratusan lebih rendah berbanding enam peratus sebelum ini, bersama pengecualian untuk barangan keperluan asas adalah strategi ideal.

"Bagi keperluan menaikkan kadar duti eksais untuk tembakau, rokok, alkohol dan cecair vape, hasil cukai tambahan yang diperoleh boleh disalurkan kembali kepada sektor kesihatan khususnya rawatan penyakit berkaitan penggunaan tembakau dan alkohol.

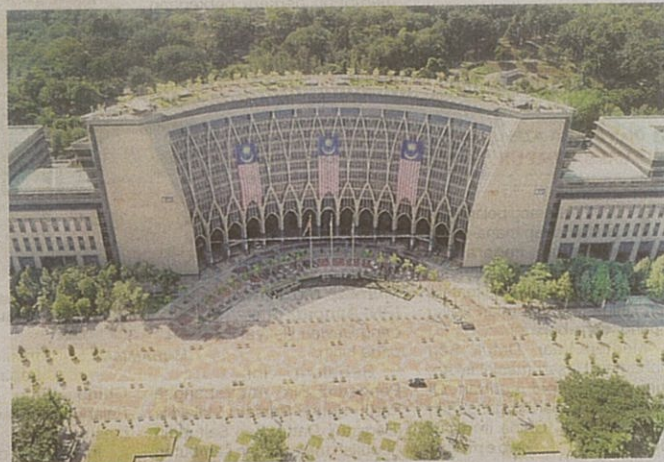
"Cuma dalam aspek pemotongan subsidi pendidikan terhadap golongan elit dan subsidi telur, pelaksanaannya perlu lebih berhati-hati kerana langkah sedemikian mungkin akhirnya membebaskan agensi kerajaan berkaitan dan meminggirkan kebajikan kelompok elit mahu pun marhaen," katanya kepada Sinar Premium.

Langkah rasional

Dalam aspek perincian sistem kenaikan gaji penjawat awam dan perangkaan reformasi pentadbiran awam, Penyelidik dan Perunding Kewangan Islam, Dr Shahrul Zaman Abdul Razak mengunjurkan keputusan itu memberi kesan positif dari aspek rangsangan perbelanjaan domestik.

Selain itu, beliau melihat langkah rasionalisasi badan berkanun yang mempunyai fungsi bertindih mampu mengoptimumkan produktiviti institusi-institusi berkenaan, mengelakkan pembaziran sumber kewangan dan manusia serta mengurangkan kerosakan birokrasi.

"Ini bukan sahaja memberi manfaat kepada penjawat awam, tetapi berupaya menyokong sektor-sektor perniagaan yang bergantung permintaan tempatan. Cuma kerajaan perlu memastikan kenaikan gaji



Kementerian Kewangan menggariskan tiga keutamaan jangka pendek di bawah Belanjawan 2025 bagi merealisasikan kerangka Ekonomi Madani.



RAZLI

ini selari dengan produktiviti sektor awam agar ekonomi negara terus berkembang berkadangkala langsung dengan pengukuhan kewangan negara.

"Dalam aspek rasionalisasi badan berkanun, antara agensi dilihat bertindih fungsi adalah Lembaga Kemajuan Tanah Persekutuan (Felda) dan Lembaga Penyatuan dan Pemuliharaan Tanah Persekutuan (Felcra) di mana kedua-duanya terlibat pembangunan tanah dan kawasan luar bandar," jelasnya.

Bagi Razli, reformasi pentadbiran awam dilaksanakan secara radikal dan drastik pula boleh menyebabkan ketidakstabilan dalam struktur pentadbiran dan mengganggu operasi perkhidmatan awam, terutama jika rasionalisasi badan berkanun tidak dilaksanakan secara berhati-hati.

Beliau turut menyatakan kebimbangan serupa terhadap sebarang inisiatif kerajaan menguatkuasakan pelaksanaan dasar gaji progresif dalam Belanjawan 2025.

"Pelaksanaan terburu-buru dasar gaji progresif mungkin menekan syarikat, terutamanya perusahaan kecil, mikro dan sederhana (PKMS), yang terdedah risiko kesukaran dalam mengekalkan keuntungan sambil mematuhi dasar tersebut.

"Tindakan ini juga boleh membawa kepada pengurangan peluang pekerjaan atau peningkatan kos barangan dan perkhidmatan. Dicadangkan agar pendekatan alternatif seperti menggalakkan latihan kemahiran dan inovasi dalam kalangan pekerja boleh diperkenalkan untuk meningkatkan pendapatan tanpa perlu menetapkan struktur gaji progresif yang ketat," ujar beliau.

Menyentuh aspek perangkaan Pelan Transformasi Kesihatan Planet dan pembangunan Akta CCUS, Razli dan Shahrul

Zaman berkongsi pandangan bahawa kedua-dua inisiatif itu amat penting demi menangani impak gangguan manusia terhadap sistem semula jadi bumi termasuk perubahan iklim, pencemaran dan degradasi ekosistem yang memberi kesan langsung terhadap kesihatan makhluk bumi.

"Kerajaan juga melihat CCUS sebagai salah satu pendorong pertumbuhan baharu ekonomi yang berpotensi menarik pelaburan nilai tinggi lebih RM100 bilion dalam tempoh 20 tahun akan datang," ujar Shahrul Zaman.

Penyelesaian bersifat sementara

Mengenai unjuran pengenalan inisiatif deposit Madani untuk pembeli rumah pertama, peningkatan jumlah sokongan tunai terhadap golongan rentan dan agihan subsidi khas menangani isu harga barang meningkat, Razli merasakan inisiatif berkenaan hanya satu bentuk penyelesaian bersifat sementara yang tidak menjadi penyelesaian jangka masa panjang.

"Pemberian deposit diunjurkan sebanyak RM30,000 mungkin tidak menyelesaikan isu asas pemilihan rumah seperti harga rumah akan terus meningkat dan kekurangan rumah mampu milik di pasaran.

"Lebih baik kerajaan fokus untuk melaksanakan lebih banyak projek perumahan mampu milik dan mengawal harga pasaran atau harga bahan binaan asas.

"Sama juga dengan pemberian peruntukan tambahan untuk bantuan STR yang dilihat kurang efektif dalam menyelesaikan isu ketidakstabilan pekerjaan dan pendidikan rendah.

"Kerajaan perlu memastikan bahawa segala pemberian insentif tunai dan subsidi tidak bertentangan dengan prinsip keadilan selain tidak membebaskan pihak tertentu dengan harga tidak adil, pengagihan tidak telus dan beretika," tegasnya.

'Capai kadar gaji RM3,000 bergantung pertumbuhan, polisi ekonomi'

SHAH ALAM - Kemampuan mencapai kadar gaji RM3,000 bergantung pada pertumbuhan dan polisi ekonomi serta peningkatan produktiviti yang menyokong kenaikan gaji.

Penganalisis ekonomi, Dr Mohamad Khair Afham Muhamad Senan berkata, bagi mencapai kadar itu mungkin memerlukan lima hingga 10 tahun sekiranya ekonomi berkembang pada kadar stabil.

Katanya, polisi sokongan daripada kerajaan seperti meningkatkan kadar upah minimum secara berkala juga memainkan peranan penting.

"Berdasarkan trend per-

tumbuhan gaji dan kadar inflasi, ia boleh dicapai dalam beberapa tahun jika kerajaan terus komited kepada reformasi ekonomi dan sokongan kepada sektor pekerjaan," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Menurut Mohamad Khair Afham, sekiranya gaji minimum dinaikkan, pekerja akan lebih bersedia menghadapi kos tambahan daripada pelaksanaan GST berkenaan.

Katanya, ia merupakan sistem cukai yang cekap namun boleh membebaskan golongan yang berpendapatan rendah.

"Kerajaan menyasarkan kenaikan gaji sebelum GST

dilaksanakan supaya mereka mampu menanggung beban tambahan daripada cukai tersebut," ujar beliau.

Pada Ahad, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, kerajaan hanya akan melaksanakan Cukai Barang dan Perkhidmatan (GST) sekiranya ambang gaji minimum meningkat kepada RM3,000 hingga RM4,000.

Beliau yang mengakui bahawa sistem cukai itu cekap dan telus berkata, GST juga akan membantu mengembangkan dana kerajaan dengan kutipan hasil yang lebih tinggi.

INFO KUTIPAN GST DAN SST

GST

Cukai barang dan perkhidmatan (GST) adalah sistem cukai yang dikenakan ke atas barangan dan perkhidmatan yang dibeli dan dijual sebanyak enam peratus.

KUTIPAN GST (2015- MEI 2018)

2015	RM37.7 billion
2016	RM55.7 billion
2017	RM60.5 billion
2018	RM30.9 billion

(hingga Mei sahaja)

Namun, GST telah dibatalkan pada tahun 2018 dan digantikan dengan cukai jualan dan perkhidmatan (SST).

SST

Cukai Jualan: Lima atau 10 peratus bergantung kepada jenis barangan.

Cukai Perkhidmatan: Enam peratus untuk kebanyakan perkhidmatan.

KUTIPAN SST

2018	RM5.4 billion
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(September - Disember)

2019	RM27.6 billion
2020	RM25.2 billion
2021	RM25.5 billion
2022	RM31.3 billion
2023	RM35.4 billion

Sumber: <https://www.sinarharian.com.my/ampArticle/674183>

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024

Gaya hidup sihat di bandar lestari

IOI Properties, MPS
jalin kerjasama
anjur *Costume Fun
Run, Fun Day@
Central Park*

Oleh AISYAH BASARUDDIN
SHAH ALAM

Syarikat pembangunan hartanah, IOI Properties Group Berhad (IOIPG) dengan kerjasama Majlis Perbandaran Sepang (MPS) menganjurkan *Costume Fun Run dan Fun Day @Central Park* sempena Karnival Komuniti Mampan@Sepang serta Hari Tanpa Kenderaan di 16 Sierra, Puchong Selatan, Sabtu lalu.

Ketua Pegawai Operasi Kumpulan IOIPG, Teh Chin Guan berkata, kolaborasi itu dibuat bagi menggalakkan peng-

libatan masyarakat dalam mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat, di samping mempamerkan bandar lestari 16 Sierra selaku lokasi pilihan.

Jelas beliau, lebih 1,500 orang awam menyertai pelbagai aktiviti menarik disediakan sepanjang karnival berlangsung seperti pertandingan mewarna, *musical fun walk*, senaman kardio, zoo anjuran IOI City Farm, peraduan *Snap and Win*, e-basikal dan banyak lagi.

"Sebagai salah satu pemaju hartanah terkemuka di negara ini, kami berusaha membawa komuniti beriadah dan berjalan-jalan di kawasan taman dinaiktaraf menerusi acara *Fun Day @Central Park*.

"Memandangkan rakyat Malaysia utamakan kesihatan, pelari memakai kostum watak kegemaran menerusi acara *Costume Fun Run*," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Isnin.

Pelepasan *Costume Fun Run* disempurnakan Yang Dipertua MPS, Datuk Abd Hamid Hussain



Peserta memakai kostum sempena acara larian *Costume Fun Run* di 16 Sierra, Puchong Selatan pada Sabtu.

dengan penyertaan lebih 1,000 pelari untuk dua kategori lima kilometer (km) dan 10km.

Sementara itu, Pengurus Besar IOIPG 16 Sierra, Calvin Sew berkata, pihaknya menaik taraf kawasan Central Park dan memperkenalkan beberapa kemudahan baharu bagi memenuhi keperluan orang awam serta penduduk.

Tambah beliau, zon mesra haiwan peliharaan, laluan basikal, kawasan bersenam untuk golongan dewasa atau kanak-kanak, dek pemerhatian, fasiliti futsal dan bola keranjang serta taman pelangi antara yang diperkenalkan untuk kegunaan orang awam.

"Selain itu, di kawasan berkenaan juga ada taman gazebo,

gelanggang badminton Amigo Clubhouse, kafe dan akan datang ruang bermain papan selaju.

"Sebagai usaha 16 Sierra yang memfokuskan kelestarian, Central Park juga dinaiktaraf dengan 29 lampu solar untuk keselamatan pengguna taman, ditambah pula 25 bangku kitar semula," ujarinya.

e-Invois tingkat ketelusan bayar cukai

15/10 2024



Pengarah
Percukaaian, PwC
Malaysia



Pengurus Kanan
Percukaaian,
PwC Malaysia

**Oleh Mohd Haizam Abdul Aziz
dan Zaim Zulkifli,**
bbbiz@bh.com.my

Pada 1 Ogos 2024, Malaysia telah mengorak langkah besar ke arah memodenkan transaksi perniagaan dengan pelaksanaan e-Invois secara berperingkat. Peralihan ini sebahagian daripada strategi negara untuk meningkatkan transformasi digital, memperkemas pematuhan cukai dan meningkatkan kecekapan transaksi kewangan.

Secara umum, e-Invois adalah proses menghantar dan menerima invois dalam format digital. Ia menggunakan teknologi untuk menghantar data invois antara perniagaan dengan Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri (LHDN) bagi memastikan ketepatan maklumat dan kadar pematuhan lebih tinggi.

Tarikh pelaksanaan e-Invois bergantung tahap hasil pendapatan perniagaan pada tahun kewangan 2022. Tarikh pelaksanaan fasa pertama ialah 1 Ogos 2024 bagi perniagaan yang mempunyai hasil tahunan melebihi RM100 juta.

Pelancaran e-Invois LHDN pada 1 Ogos 2024 menghadapi permulaan yang kompleks, lanjutan daripada aduan berhubung kesukaran mengakses sistem MyInvois LHDN akibat banyak penyerahan e-Invois, dengan lebih 500,000 penghantaran untuk pengesahan diterima.

Pengenalan *grace period* selama 6 bulan oleh LHDN pasti telah mengurangkan tahap kebimbangan perniagaan dari segi kesediaan untuk melaksanakan e-Invois. Bagaimanapun, penting untuk diingatkan pada penghujung tempoh peralihan itu, setiap perniagaan dikehendaki melaksanakan e-Invois sepenuhnya.

Ini bermaksud perniagaan perlu meneruskan usaha melaksanakan e-Invois sepenuhnya bagi mengelak kemungkinan penalti dikenakan. Tempoh peralihan 6 bulan yang diberikan hanya sedikit 'masa tambahan' untuk memberi peluang kepada perniagaan berkaitan bagi memastikan semua keperluan e-Invois adalah teratur.

Cabaran utama dihadapi peniaga

Perniagaan yang mempunyai tarikh akhir pelaksanaan lebih lewat (1 Januari 2025 dan 1 Julai 2025) perlu melaksanakan penilaian impak bagi mengenal pasti bagaimana e-Invois memberi kesan kepada mereka dan mengenal pasti perkara yang perlu dikemas kini atau diubah dari segi proses perniagaan dan perspektif teknologi.

Dengan mengambil kira apa pengalaman pelaksanaan e-Invois oleh perniagaan fasa pertama (1 Ogos 2024), cabaran atau halangan utama yang dihadapi perniagaan adalah seperti berikut:

- **Kos penubuhan awal:** Pelaksanaan sistem e-Invois mungkin memerlukan pelaburan awal yang ketara dalam aspek teknologi dan latihan pekerja.

- **Pengurusan perubahan:** Menyesuaikan diri dengan proses dan sistem baharu boleh menjadi

cabaran bagi pekerja yang sudah biasa dengan kaedah invois tradisional.

- **Privasi data:** Memastikan keselamatan maklumat kewangan sensitif adalah penting untuk mengelak pencerobohan data dan penipuan.

Walaupun pihak kerajaan telah berusaha mewujudkan kesedaran dan menyediakan garis panduan yang meluas, tahap kesediaan bagi pelaksanaan e-Invois berbeza antara perniagaan. Sejak pengenalan e-Invois, kerajaan mengadakan banyak sesi perbincangan bersama pemain industri bagi memahami isu rumit dan cabaran khusus yang dihadapi setiap industri dalam melaksanakan e-Invois.

Dengan pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 tidak lama lagi, memandangkan e-Invois akan memberi impak kepada lebih banyak perniagaan, kerajaan boleh mengambil kesempatan ini bagi menggariskan perkara yang boleh dijangkakan oleh pembayar cukai dan orang awam untuk persiapan lebih baik berikutan fasa pertama pelaksanaan e-invois.

Pelaksanaan e-Invois di Malaysia adalah satu pencapaian penting dalam perjalanan negara ke arah transformasi digital, tetapi ia bukan tanpa cabaran dan halangan kepada perniagaan. Bagaimanapun, manfaat jangka panjang untuk perniagaan dan ekonomi perlu diambil kira.

Dengan pelaksanaan e-Invois, secara umumnya, Malaysia bergerak ke arah ekosistem kewangan lebih cekap dan telus. Kerajaan memainkan peranan yang amat penting bagi memastikan pelaksanaan e-Invois yang lancar dan berjaya, selaras dengan fokus rangka kerja Ekonomi MADANI, ke arah ketelusan, kecekapan dan akauntabiliti dalam kerajaan.

Shah Alam: Jabatan Perikanan Selangor kesal dengan tindakan pihak tertentu melepaskan spesies ikan asing jenis patin siam ke Tasik Shah Alam, baru-baru ini.

Pengarahnya Noraisyah Abu Bakar berkata, perbuatan itu bukan sahaja mengancam ekosistem tasik malah menimbulkan risiko kepada spesies tempatan dan keseimbangan

LEPAS IKAN PATIN SIAM KE TASIK SHAH ALAM

Rujuklah Jabatan Perikanan dahulu!

biodiversiti.

"Pelepasan ikan asing tanpa kawalan boleh mengakibatkan persaingan sumber makanan dan habitat dengan spesies tempatan serta membawa penyakit baru yang menje-

jaskan populasi ikan asal.

"Kami menggesa orang ramai untuk tidak sewenang-wenangnya melepaskan ikan asing atau haiwan lain ke dalam tasik atau mana-mana sumber air awam," katanya ketika

dihubungi, semalam.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya juga akan meningkatkan pemantauan dan penguatkuasaan undang-undang bagi mencegah tindakan sama daripada berulang.

Sehubungan itu, kata-

nya, pihak berhasrat membuat pelepasan umum diminta merujuk Jabatan Perikanan Selangor terlebih dahulu bagi memastikan spesies ikan yang hendak dilepaskan itu adalah spesies ikan asli Malaysia di

perairan terbabit.

"Kerjasama semua pihak diperlukan untuk memastikan kelestarian ekosistem tasik dan perlindungan spesies tempatan.

"Kami akan terus menjalankan program kesedaran awam mengenai kepentingan menjaga ekosistem akuatik dan tindakan yang perlu diambil untuk memelihara biodiversiti," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024...

Of roads and potholes

The whole hole story

15/10
NST

MALAYSIA, once known for its world-class roads, is now noted for its potholes. The state of our roads is so bad that we now have road activists. One such person is Lando Zawawi, whose video footage is much about potholes and politics. He sees a link between the two and if he is right, then our politics is no different from the American one where corrupt contractors turn election campaign contributors. We leave that to our graft-busters. They may have a field day. If you tell the authorities that our roads are in a bad state, they will come after you with a newfound animus, as they did in 2022 when Zutobi, an American driver's education company, published a study that told the world that Malaysia had the 12th worst roads in the world. If that is not enough, they returned with another study ranking us better and saying our roads were world-class when they were built. But that is not the point at all. The question is, why allow our world-class roads to have kilometres of potholes?

But first, let's talk about roads in Malaysia. There are three kinds of roads: federal, state and toll expressways. The first is under the administration of the federal Public Works Department (PWD) and the second is under the administration of the state and district PWD. Toll expressways, though technically considered federal roads, are under the administration of the Malaysian Highway Authority (MHA). As a result, the responsibility for Malaysian roads is divided among three entities. But this isn't the reason why our roads are known more for their potholes. All three road networks face quality issues, varying only in degree. Call it a spot-the-pothole challenge. Of the three, the toll highways — operated by private companies

So the pothole story is about unqualified contractors, poor quality materials, weak supervision and more.

— should be free of potholes and other quality issues, but they are not. For-profit need not necessarily mean for potholes. What used to be a smooth drive north and south of the peninsula roads is now an obstacle course. We need an app to alert us of potholes ahead because there are just too many. A natural question people ask is: why isn't the MHA acting against the toll operators? Toll operators collect hefty tolls, but they don't seem to spend the money to maintain the expressways to world-class standards.

Sub-standard contractors, poor quality materials and weak supervision have been quoted as reasons before. Transport expert Rosli Khan adds corruption to the list. He puts it thus: construction of highways and roads is closely linked to corrupt practices, bribery and inflated prices. What's worse is this. Even consulting engineers, Rosli laments, are in cahoots with them all. So, the pothole story is about unqualified contractors, poor-quality materials, weak supervision and more. And the "more" leads us down Rosli's track to why unqualified contractors get engaged, poor quality materials get used and supervision doesn't happen at all. It is time to call corruption for what it is. A big "C". Why not? It is there in rice, rail, and now, roads. As this Leader was going to press, the Auditor General's Report was back with the bad news of delayed and cancelled projects. Strangely, governance seems so hard to do here. Be it rice, rail or roads.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024

ASSESSMENTS ONGOING

15/10
VST

Sinkhole investigation to be wrapped up soon

THE investigation into the incident involving Indian tourist G. Vijaya Lakshmi, who disappeared into a sinkhole in Jalan Masjid India on Aug 23 and is presumed dead, is nearing completion.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the full investigation results were under review by several agencies, including the incident commander, the Dang Wangi police chief, the Federal Territories Department and Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

"The geotechnical assessment is ongoing, utilising technologies such as ground-penetrating radar and microgravity testing to ensure soil stability in high-risk areas, including the central business district of Kuala Lumpur. This assessment is crucial for identifying locations that may still be susceptible to sinkholes.

"Both reports will be presented to the cabinet first," she said in response to P. Prabakaran (PH-Batu), who asked for an update on the sinkhole incident in Jalan Masjid India. He also inquired whether the government would release the report to the public.

Dr Zaliha gave her assurances that the government was committed to transparency in all investigations, particularly those involving public safety.

Regarding compensation for

the family of the late Vijaya Lakshmi, she said the government, through City Hall, had contributed RM30,000 and private donors had provided RM10,000.

Meanwhile, Dr Zaliha said Jalan Masjid India had been declared safe for all activities.

She said this was based on the studies conducted by the special task force chaired by Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

"This (decision) was reached after considering the collective expertise of various agencies, including the police, the Fire and Rescue Department, the Public Works Department, the Minerals and Geoscience Department, as well as professional organisations, such as the Institution of Engineers Malaysia and the Malaysian Geotechnical Society."

Dr Zaliha said several immediate short-term actions had been implemented.

"An integrity audit of utility assets has been conducted by utility companies in the central business district, including in Jalan Masjid India. Mapping and underground integrity testing have been carried out to detect weaknesses in older assets."

As for long-term actions, Dr Zaliha said City Hall would implement in-depth soil investigations using deep boring techniques and laboratory testing to ensure soil stability.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 15 OCT 2024

SAND MINING CONCESSION CASE

'TWO MORE SAFE HOUSES UNCOVERED'

15/10
Nst

RM321,000 seized,
4 suspects held in
probe into MBI
Selangor graft case,
says Azam

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THE Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has uncovered two more "safe houses" and seized RM321,000 in foreign and local currencies in its probe into a multi-million ringgit corruption scandal involving Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (MBI Selangor).

Its chief commissioner, Tan Sri Azam Baki, said they anticipated more arrests in connection with the investigation.

"We have also received information that some money has been invested in Singapore, and there may be other bank accounts," he added.

Azam said yesterday that, contrary to earlier reports, four individuals had been taken into custody — three men and a woman.

"The total number of arrests so far is four.

"Among the suspects, only one person is in remand until the 15th of the month.

"This is connected to a company director," he said after opening the Integrity, Governance and Anti-Corruption Convention at the Sabah International Convention Centre here.

Azam added that another man, a 45-year-old former MBI employee, was detained only for a night due to his prostate cancer condition.

The third person was a 43-year-old driver, and the fourth was a 46-year-old former finance officer involved in the sand-mining concession case.

Both were remanded for three days and have since been released.

Azam said a politician was linked to the investigation but he did not disclose the name.

"The politician will be summoned once investigators have gathered and verified evidence, including documents and money."

To date, 15 witnesses have been called, with more expected.

Several investigation papers have been opened under the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Act 2009 and the Anti-Money Lau-



Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki speaking at the Integrity, Governance and Anti-Corruption Convention in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, yesterday. PIC BY ADAM ARININ

ndering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001.

During a raid on Saturday, MACC discovered S\$1.529 million in a location referred to as a "safe

house".

Searches were also conducted in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

"My officers found two additional safe houses where money

was allegedly stored.

"One of them stored S\$74,000. In another office, about RM78,000 was found," said Azam.

Reports on Jalan Masjid India sinkhole study being reviewed

15/10
Sun

KUALA LUMPUR: The full results of the land subsidence incident in Jalan Masjid India and the geotechnical assessment report of the surrounding area are in the final stages of being reviewed by relevant agencies, including police and Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said both reports would be first presented to the Cabinet before any decision is made on whether to disclose them to the public.

"The government is always committed to transparency in carrying out investigations and more so when it involves public safety," she said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

"The geotechnical assessment report involves

findings from the use of technologies such as ground-penetrating radar and microgravity testing to ensure soil stability in risk areas, including the Central Business District (CBD) of Kuala Lumpur. This study helps in identifying if there are still areas that might be exposed to sinkhole issues in the future."

She said this in response to a supplementary question from P. Prabakaran (PH-Batu) who wanted to know the government's readiness to disclose to the public the full investigation results of the sinkhole incident in Jalan Masjid India.

On Aug 23, a female Indian national known as G. Vijaya Lakshmi, from Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh, India, went missing after falling into an eight-metre-deep sinkhole there.

Replying to Prabakaran's original question on the current safety status, Zaliha said based on a study conducted by a special task force chaired by Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Jalan Masjid India is now confirmed to be safe for all forms of activities.

She said it was after considering the collective expert opinions from various agencies, including the police, Fire and Rescue Department, Public Works Department, Minerals and Geoscience Department as well as professional organisations such as the Institution of Engineers Malaysia and Malaysian Geotechnical Society.

"Several short-term immediate actions were implemented such as an integrity audit of utility assets in the CBD areas, including Jalan Masjid India, where mapping and underground

integrity testing were conducted to detect any weaknesses in old assets.

On long-term plans, Zaliha said City Hall would implement in-depth soil investigations involving the use of deep boring techniques and laboratory tests to ensure soil structure stability.

With regard to compensation for the family of the victim, Zaliha said that out of concern, the government through City Hall had contributed RM30,000 to help her family alleviate their burden due to the tragedy.

"The victim's family also received a donation of RM10,000 from a sympathetic private entity.

"The government will not obstruct if the deceased victim's family wishes to file a claim through legal channels." - Bernama

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Tarikh: