



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 18 APRIL 2024 (KHAMIS)

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Selamat Pagi



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CERITA PAGI SELANGOR PERKHIDMATAN MBSJ DITERUSKAN SEPANJANG AIDILFITRI



RTM 1 (SPM) ONLINE

TARIKH: 18 APRIL 2024



By AIDA AHMAD
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RESIDENTS in Petaling Jaya produce about 600 tonnes of rubbish every day, says mayor Mohamad Zahri Samingon.

According to him, the cost of managing solid waste that goes to landfills is expected to be as much as RM89mil for 2024.

He highlighted this at Petaling Jaya City Council's (MBPJ) Jalanan Kasih 3R PJKita programme, which is part of the local council's effort to increase awareness of recycling and reuse of resources among residents.

Under the programme, items received from residents will be repaired by staff of MBPJ's Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department.

Mohamad Zahri said the average value of refurbished furniture and home furnishings was between RM2,000 and RM3,000 each.

The mayor also touched on the city council's used cooking oil drop-off programme, which would be held twice a month at selected locations.

He said Petaling Jaya residents could deliver their used cooking oil to the PJ Eco Recycling Plaza in Sungai Way Free Trade Industrial Zone too.

The oil will be purchased at RM2.50 per kilogramme.

"I hope such programmes can show the population in Petaling Jaya that proper rubbish disposal is to protect the environment and encourage recycling with waste separation," he said during the event held at the recycling plaza.

MBPJ also simultaneously held its Hari Raya Aidilfitri

PJ folk told to recycle, reuse

City council says used furniture, items can be given to the needy



Mohamad Zahri (third from right) at the launch of Jalanan Kasih 3R PJKita programme at PJ Eco Recycling Plaza. With him are (from left) Zone 23 councillor Nurashikin Ali, Tan, deputy mayor Aznan Hassan, Rizal and Zain Azly.

celebration and launch of a recycling contest for kindergartens and schools.

The competition is organised in cooperation with Fraser & Neave Holdings Bhd (F&N) and Tetra Pak Malaysia.

Mohamad Zahri thanked F&N

for its financial support since 2018 for the recycling competition as well as in the early development of the recycling plaza.

He also thanked Tetra Pak for gallery space to promote recycling and upcycling education at the plaza, and highlighted the

company's contribution of chairs made from recycled poly-Al (polyethylene and aluminium) boards consisting of beverage cartons.

Also present were Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department director

Zain Azly Abdul Rahman, Tetra Pak Malaysia sustainability director for Asean Terrynz Tan and F&N corporate relations assistant manager Rizal Abdul Rahman.

In his speech, Zain Azly said the city council had identified eligible families as recipients of used goods.

"As many as 11 families from the poor and B40 community will receive donations of used items from the Spring Cleaning programme held during each major festival in Malaysia.

"Most of the bulk waste items received are still in good condition.

"Recipients can also choose to receive pre-loved items that are dropped-off by the public at the recycling plaza," he said, adding that the items included clothes, shoes, bags, toys and electronic devices.

Zain Azly said that in 2023, the drop-off centre at the recycling plaza received 106.6 tonnes of recycled goods and 2,677 units of used goods that could still be used.

As for the recycling competition, he said it started in 2018 but was temporarily suspended from 2020 until 2022 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2023, 23 schools and kindergartens participated in this competition and 30.9 tonnes of recyclable goods were saved from going to the landfill, he said.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

Damansara Perdana main road plunged into darkness

MBPJ
STW
18/4



This stretch along Jalan PJU8/1 in Damansara Perdana in Petaling Jaya with non-functioning streetlamps.

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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FAULTY streetlamps along Jalan PJU8/1 has left much of Damansara Perdana, Petaling Jaya in Selangor, in darkness.

There have been repeated blackouts on the main road connecting to Jalan PJU8/12B since November last year.

Perdana View condominium resident G. Glenn said he had lodged repeated complaints with Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) on the matter.

He said MBPJ would fix the issue, but the lights would become faulty again.

Residents in Perdana Exclusive, Empire Residences, Armanee Terrace and The Rafflesia area were also affected, he highlighted.

"The road is on a hilly stretch. When there are no streetlamps, it poses a danger to pedestrians as motorists cannot see them.

"Sometimes, there are packs of stray dogs on the road.

"We are worried that we will meet with an accident while driving on the road.

"It is not a case of one or two faulty streetlamps but dozens in a stretch," Glenn added.

MBPJ Engineering Department director Ismail Shafie, when con-

tacted by *StarMetro*, said the city council would be changing all streetlamps in affected areas to LED lights in June.

"The neighbourhood is installed with high-pressure sodium vapour (HPSV) lights.

"It is the wiring for these lights that is causing the blackout.

"The change to LED lamps will involve rewiring works and replacing poles too," he said.

Ismail said 92% of streetlamps in Petaling Jaya had been replaced with energy-saving LED lights.

MBPJ was targeting to have only LED lamps by year-end, he added.

THE STAR

18 APR 2024

Tarikh:.....

By VIJENTHI NAIR
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OWNERS of two low-cost flats in Batu Caves are appealing for a waiver of late payment charges and interest on unpaid maintenance fees.

Enggang and Nuri Apartments in Taman Bukit Idaman, Selayang, were built by the same developer in the 1980s.

Enggang Apartment Residents Association president K. Segaren Vellamy said waiving the late payment charges would encourage more to pay up the fees.

He said the owners had failed to set up joint management bodies (JMB), so the developer was still managing the properties.

"In the beginning, the maintenance fee was RM20. It was increased to RM45 but from January it has gone up to RM55.

"There are about 1,000 units. Most of the owners are poor and do not have the means to settle their bills," he said.

Segaren said that although he had no outstanding fees, the only consistent service provided by the management was general cleaning.

Poor maintenance, he added, was among the reasons many stopped paying the maintenance fee.

Woon Kim Lian said the accumulated maintenance sum was too high and settling it would be impossible for many residents.

"Increasing the maintenance fee will only make the situation worse," said Woon who has settled her bills.

Pushpaleela William said the building had many cracks.

"Some units have mould issues too," she said.

Nuri Apartment resident Katherine Dairiamsanthanadass

In a bind over unpaid maintenance fee at flats

Batu Caves unit owners say mounting interest too much to bear, seek council intervention



Pushpaleela says there are many cracks in Enggang Apartment (above), while residents say the overall condition of the flats, which includes Nuri Apartment (right), was poor. — Photos: KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star

said residents wanted Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) to step in.

"My father has about RM2,500 including interest in outstanding fees," she said, highlighting that the interest alone was RM700.

"The building was never maintained well, so it is not right to charge us interest," she added.

Another Nuri Apartment resi-

dent, Hamidah Bohari said residents often organised *got-ong-royong* to clean up the compound themselves.

An MPS spokesperson said the council, through its Commissioner of Buildings, had assisted residents to set up an action committee to manage the schemes in 2022.

"Unfortunately, the committee

failed to open a bank account.

"As such, the developer is continuing to manage the properties.

"The management, under the developer, held an annual general meeting last year.

"The increase in maintenance fees was agreed to during the AGM, which is permissible under Strata Management Act 2013.



"We are trying to help, but the residents have failed to help themselves," said the spokesperson.

He stressed the importance of strata property owners paying maintenance fees diligently.

"The management was trying to maintain the properties with the funds at hand.

"The residents need to form their own JMB and manage the properties," he said, adding that MPS would try to set up a meeting between the parties.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

LIFTS at PPR Sri Aman in Jinjang, Kuala Lumpur were shut down for short periods to facilitate repair works.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) in a statement said operation logs from December 2023 to April 2024 showed that Block A lifts were not operational for just five days.

"Three of the days in March were to repair the wire rope and two this month were to fix the cam bearing for the doors.

"Other than that, the lifts operated as usual according to the standard speed specifications for public housing which is 105 megapascals," according to

DBKL: PPR Sri Aman lifts were shut down 5 days for repairs

the DBKL Corporate Planning Department.

City Hall was responding to *StarMetro*'s report, "Lift woes plague PPR Sri Aman folk," published on April 13.

Residents had claimed that usually only one or two lifts would be operational at a time.

They also said the lifts moved slowly and some lift buttons were not working.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping had attributed the issue to improper use and limited lifespan of the amenity.

DBKL acknowledged the damage to the hall call button on the 10th floor of the block, and attributed this to vandalism.

"DBKL is awaiting delivery of new components for the board and fabricated plate.

"Installation work is expected to be completed by the end of April," said the statement.

DBKL stressed the need for responsible usage by residents.

"Improper actions such as riding motorcycles into lifts can damage them," the media statement said. — By **ETHEL SIAO**

Lift woes plague PPR Sri Aman folk

By **ETHEL SIAO**
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RESIDENTS of PPR (People's Housing Project) Sri Aman Block A are calling on Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to take prompt action to resolve the daily lift issue at their flats in Jinjang, Kuala Lumpur.

Peter Liming, 64, claimed that the lift breaks down almost every day.

"Usually this block having the lift, usually only one or two are operational and they move slowly, resulting in about a 15-minute wait each time we call for a lift," said Liming who has been residing in Block A for 10 months.

"There have been cases of

people getting stuck in the lift and the Fire and Rescue Department had to be called for help," he said.

"Despite regular efforts by maintenance workers to repair the lifts, Liming said they continued to break down.

A. Valliamma, who has been staying at the flats for six years, said the lift breakdowns since December last year had caused a lot of inconvenience for residents, especially the elderly and those with limited mobility.

"What is worse is that one of the lift buttons in our 10th floor is completely out of order while the other set is only limited to use lift."

"We are sometimes forced to walk to the ninth floor to use

the lifts.

"Despite multiple complaints lodged with the DBKL, lifts at our flats, it appears that there is no permanent fix to our problem," said the 62-year-old.

Resident community activist Yee Poh Ping attributed the heavy lift problem to improper use and the lifespan of the lifts.

"I was told that some residents ride their motorcycles in and out of the lifts."

"The lifts are also subjected to high usage on a daily basis."

Previously they were prone to vandalism, but this problem reduced when protective panels were installed," he said.

While there are four blocks with 1,000 units at PPR Sri Aman, he said Block A records



the most severe lift problems. He urged the other residents at the flats to check on the facilities regularly, which could help in reducing potential damage and improve cleanliness.

StarMetro's report on April 13.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:

'Buy a house now or save for later?'

M'sians have split views over possible new EPF account

By BENJAMIN LEE
and GERARD GIMINO
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PETALING JAYA: With a new possible source of disposable cash in EPF's to-be-announced Account 3, Malaysians are split between using the money to settle current financial shortcomings or saving it for the future.

A business manager who wanted to be known only as Kamarul, said he would look into the possibility of using withdrawals from Account 3 to renovate his newly

purchased house.

"Although it's not a major renovation, it still costs quite a bit of money. I have already saved more than half of the sum needed, and can use withdrawals from Account 3 to top up the remainder and begin the work earlier.

"Beyond the renovations, I will opt to leave the money there unless there are really some tough situations ahead," said the 39-year-old.

Meanwhile, sales engineer Jason Lee said he would consider withdrawing some of the Account

3 savings to settle some long-term personal debts.

"I was financially reckless when I was younger and ended up owing a few of my friends quite a lot of money which I have yet to pay back fully.

"I'll probably use some of the money from Account 3 to quickly clear these debts and maybe use some of it to treat my family to dinner.

"But once the debts are cleared, I will probably not touch the Account 3 money anymore as I'm aware I lack financial self-

control," the 33-year old, who earns roughly RM3,000 monthly, said.

Marketing executive Haikal Abdullah, 33, however, leaned towards not making withdrawals from Account 3.

"As it stands, I'm able to support myself with my salary, although there is quite a bit of budgeting to do.

"While the option of withdrawing from Account 3 is good, I will try to not touch it unless there is a severe emergency," he said.

Assistant manager Evelyn Lee, 34, said she would similarly refrain withdrawing from Account 3 no matter the circumstance.

"I don't want to develop a mindset that there is additional cash I can draw from anytime, which could cause me to develop bad spending habits.

"I'd rather keep the money inside to earn more dividends and eventually use it to buy my dream home when I'm much older," Lee, who currently earns around RM5,000 monthly, said.



In two minds:
With a possible new EPF Account 3, Malaysians are split between using the money for immediate needs or leaving it for the future.
— YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Rainy season blues to continue

Expert: Expect wet weather until next month

By YUEN MEIKENG
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PETALING JAYA: As flash floods hit several parts of the peninsula, the country is bracing for more rain with the ongoing inter-monsoon season.

"Such flooding is due to the inter-monsoon season that started this month and will last until May," said meteorological expert Prof Datuk Dr Azizan Abu Samah. He said this would normally bring about wet weather to the west coast and interior parts of the peninsula.

Prof Azizan was commenting on the flooding in Subang and Sungai Buloh in Selangor on Tuesday which forced nearly 400 people to evacuate.

Heavy rain also left areas in Melaka and Negri Sembilan partially submerged.

In Alor Gajah, Melaka, floods forced 51 people out of their homes while a temporary relief centre was opened for victims in Port Dickson, Negri Sembilan.

Prof Azizan however said flooding in this period is unlikely to be as severe as the one brought about by the annual northeast monsoon season that starts in November.

"This year, we need to be wary of the La Nina weather pattern which is likely to occur in December."

"Because it coincides with the northeast monsoon, there is a higher risk of more flooding in the later part of the year," he said.

An analysis of flood data by *The Star* showed that the Petaling district in Selangor suffered the biggest losses in the country from flood damage to homes and vehicles over the past three years.

Losses in Petaling were the highest when it came to damaged living quarters, totalling



Leaving out to dry: A couple arranging their children's books to dry on their car in Kampung Kubu Gajah, Selangor. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

RM258.62mil, based on data from 2021 to 2023.

These figures are from the Special Reports on Impact of Floods in Malaysia from 2021 to 2023, with the latest data released by the Statistics Department on March 11.

Petaling, the country's most populous district with 2.3 million residents, was also number one for the damage involving vehicles at RM330.06mil.

It also took the top spot for losses sustained by affected business premises at RM193.68mil during the three-year period.

Commenting on Petaling topping the list, Prof Azizan said the situation was due to the Klang Valley having the most assets in the country.

"More assets in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya would be lost due to the density of such urban areas, compared with rural areas," he said.

Meanwhile, Klang in Selangor suffered the most losses involving the manufacturing sector at RM578.43mil from 2021 to 2023.

From the data, the total losses

in the three-year period were mostly contributed by the 2021 floods, which were described as "extraordinary" and occurs only once in 100 years.

The amount of rainfall in the Klang Valley over several days in December 2021 was equal to the average rainfall over an entire month.

Flooding also happened in Pahang, Melaka, Negri Sembilan, Terengganu, Kelantan and Perak at that time.

As such, Malaysia's flood losses were significantly the highest in 2021, at RM6.11bil. In comparison, last year's flood losses came up to RM760mil.

For all three years – 2021 to 2023 – the sector which racked up the highest portion of losses was public infrastructure.

In 2023, losses due to damaged infrastructure took up half or RM380.74mil of the total RM760mil.

Flood losses from damaged living quarters nationwide amounted to RM168.26mil, making up 22.3% of the total losses that year.

How much did we lose to the floods from 2021 to 2023?
(RM mil)

Top 10 districts with the highest flood losses from damaged homes

Petaling, Selangor	258.62
Ulu Langat, Selangor	253.78
Klang, Selangor	253.5
Kuantan, Pahang	199.56
Kuala Langat, Selangor	121.35
Temerloh, Pahang	95.39
Batu Pahat, Johor	90.2
Selangor, Selangor	86.33
Melaka Tengah, Melaka	61.07
Bentong, Pahang	59.96

Losses involving vehicles damaged by floods

Petaling, Selangor	330.06
Klang, Selangor	276.89
Ulu Langat, Selangor	155.5
Selangor, Selangor	52.23
Temerloh, Pahang	44.76
Kuala Selangor, Selangor	27.9
Kuantan, Pahang	24.12
Batu Pahat, Johor	13.11
Kuala Langat, Selangor	12.69
Baling, Kedah	11.49

Losses involving business premises

Petaling, Selangor	193.68
Klang, Selangor	82.63
Selangor, Selangor	55.18
Segamat, Johor	32.67
Kuantan, Pahang	32.44
Pasir Mas, Kelantan	31.62
Ulu Langat, Selangor	27.05
Kuala Langat, Selangor	26.42
Temerloh, Pahang	18.69
Bentong, Pahang	14.37

Source: Special report on impact of floods in Malaysia (2021 to 2023)

The Star graphics

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Sleepless in Sungai Buloh every time it pours

By AUSTIN CAMOENS
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SUNGAI BULOH: Each time heavy rain occurs at his neighbourhood here, Zakaria Sirat starts to get anxious.

The retiree, who lives next to the Sungai Buloh river at Taman Saujana Aman, has experienced many sleepless nights worrying about floods.

"On Tuesday night at around 9pm, the waters began to rise and residents here started moving our vehicles and personal belongings.

"This time the water level was ankle-deep but in 2021 the floods were about 1.5m deep," said the 73-year-old man, who has been living in Taman Saujana Aman since 2020.

Zakaria said when waters began to rise on Tuesday, he and his wife began moving their electronic items and personal belongings

upstairs.

"We did not want to take any chances. The floods that occurred in 2021 caused us losses in the thousands of ringgit.

"I lost many electric tools and other equipment then," he said, adding that he only managed to sleep at around 5am yesterday as he was watching the water level of the river closely.

Zakaria was one of the fortunate ones who was not evacuated this time around.

Meanwhile, Shahril Anwar, 41, and his wife Anita Juwida Junaidi, 40, said they were forced to evacuate from their house at Kampung Merbau Indah Tambahan on Tuesday evening.

"I was out with a friend when my husband called me and told me about the flood.

"I thought he was just playing a prank on me to get me to come back home, but then he sent me a picture from his mobile phone

and it shocked me," she said when met at the Desa Coalfields Hall which was turned into a temporary relief centre yesterday.

Shahril said at first things seemed to be under control but around 4pm, the waters began to rise quickly.

"We had to wade through floodwaters which were at thigh level.

"It is not the first time our house has been affected by floods so we managed to move our belongings upstairs.

"We did not have enough time to move our clothes though," he said, adding that they would wait for the situation to improve before going home.

Anita Juwida said several years ago, they were evacuated from their house, and when the floods subsided they went home only to be evacuated again as the water level rose again.

"My family has lived in this house for nearly 45 years. We cannot just move," she said.

Both Zakaria and Shahril urged the authorities to look into the flooding issue seriously.

Zakaria said unplanned raising of the land around the riverbank was causing the floods to occur more frequently.

"The water has nowhere else to go which is why everyone living in low-lying areas is at risk now," he said.

Shahril and Anita also called for work to deepen the Sungai Buloh river.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department Assistant Director of Operations Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar said two temporary relief centres were opened at Sekolah Merbau Sempak and Dewan MPKS, Desa Coalfields.

"We have evacuated 88 families consisting of 372 people.

"The evacuation involved areas

such as Jalan Jati, Kampung Melayu Subang, Jalan Gajah 1, Jalan Gajah 5, Jalan Gajah 6, Jalan Gajah 16, Jalan Gajah 20, Jalan Gajah 23, Jalan Gajah 24, Kampung Sri Aman and Taman Saujana Aman," he said when contacted yesterday.

He said Bukit Jelutong, Rawang, Sungai Buloh and Bestari Jaya fire stations are currently involved in flood operations comprising 40 personnel, three boats, four utility trucks and four fire engines.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department had posted a thunderstorm warning on its official Facebook page at 6.10am on Tuesday.

It added that thunderstorms, heavy rain and strong winds were to be expected in Kedah, Penang, Perak, Pahang, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Negri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor and Sarawak.

THE STAR

Tarikh:.....1.8..APR..2024

EPF Account 3 expected to be launched soon

By RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM
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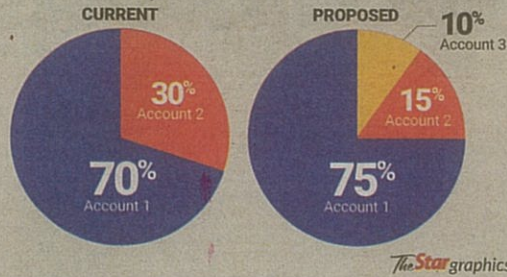
PETALING JAYA: The Employees Provident Fund's (EPF) Account 3 is expected to be announced by the end of April.

The Star has learnt that while a date has not been confirmed, the launch of Account 3 or the flexible account is expected by month's end.

Meanwhile, sources say the restructuring exercise will see the EPF Account 1 being renamed as Account Persaraan (Retirement Account), Account 2 as Account Sejahtera and the formation of the new Account 3 or the "flexible account".

The accounts of members aged below 55 will be restructured from two accounts into three

EPF contributions mechanism



starting May 11.

Currently, for members aged below 55, 70% of their contributions goes into Account 1 while 30% goes into Account 2.

Existing balances in these two accounts will remain.

But after Account 3 goes live, the new contributions will be split where 75% will be put into

Account 1, 15% into Account 2 and 10% into Account 3.

"Members may choose to transfer funds from Account Sejahtera to the flexible account via an opt-in mechanism," the source said.

"Members are given until Aug 31, 2024, to opt in for initial amount in the flexible account."

Members can opt for the initial amount from May to August which will be the accumulation phase.

As for members who choose not to opt in for an initial amount in their Account 3, their balance will start from zero until new contributions are credited.

"Savings from the flexible account can be withdrawn by members at any time, with the minimum withdrawal amount

being RM50."

For those with savings of less than RM3,000 in Account 2, RM1,000 will be transferred to the flexible account.

On the redistribution of existing funds from Account 2, it is understood that one-third of the funds could go into the Account 3 while one-sixth will go into Account 1. The remaining balance will remain in Account 2.

EPF dividends are also likely to remain in the same range despite the formation of Account 3.

The EPF said last year that Account 3 would function like a savings account, and members could withdraw their savings any time.

The proposal to introduce the account was also to meet the potential emergency cash needs.

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Tarikh:.....

Don't simply withdraw funds, experts caution

PETALING JAYA: While the new Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Account 3 or flexible account is a welcome relief to some, economists and financial planners stressed that withdrawals be made wisely.

They said withdrawals should only be made as a last resort, and be replenished through voluntary contributions when possible.

Sunway University economics professor Dr Yeah Kim Leng described Account 3 as a "reasonable compromise" between contributors wanting greater withdrawal flexibility and those concerned that the government would be forced to "bail out" retirees without adequate savings

in the near future.

He said the proposed 10% allocation for Account 3 was not excessive while contributions to Account 1, which would be raised from 70% to 75%, would address concerns of the latter group.

"While inculcating prudent spending and savings behaviour is crucial, equal emphasis is needed to accelerate income growth while concurrently implementing strategies to keep living costs low and stable," he said.

Yeah pointed out that the economic impact of Account 3 withdrawals depends on the number and quantum of withdrawals, and the application of funds.

"If spent, there would be a tem-

porary boost to private consumption akin to 'short-term gain but long-term pain' to the economy.

"With more intensive financial education and awareness, potential withdrawals from Account 3, however, could be kept to a minimum," he said.

He said the flexible account could also be a 'life saver' to those in dire financial straits.

"However, the easier access could spur dissaving and current consumption for individuals with less financial discipline," he said.

Besides imposing strict but verifiable conditionalities, he said it could be difficult to prevent withdrawals for non-critical purposes.

"To counter this possible unde-

sirable trend, efforts to raise financial literacy, promote savings habits and widen the savings culture will need to be intensified," he said, adding that contributors should only dip into this savings pool as a last resort.

"If they do, it should be treated as 'borrowing' and should be replenished if the aggregate retirement savings target is not within reach over the remaining period before retirement," he said.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid described Account 3 as a delicate balancing act.

"On one hand, there is a need to ensure EPF members have sufficient retirement funds but the

immediate need for survival is also crucial given the cost of living remains high while salaries and wages have yet to catch up," he said.

Mohd Afzanizam said those prudent in financial management may use this opportunity to pay off debts, which could improve their financial standing.

"It comes down to financial literacy and how members practise responsible financial management," he said, adding that the key priorities were usually settling of debts, and basic expenditures on house rental, utilities and children's education.

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THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

'Account 3 may help in a pinch, but consider long-term goal'

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Concurring, Malaysian Economic Association president Prof Datuk Dr Norma Mansor said Account 3 would give members "breathing room" to address their immediate financial issues.

She said this would also put them in a better position and mindset to plan out their financial future.

"It will also help to inject cash into the economy, stimulating it to develop faster," she said.

However, Norma recommend-

ed that members keep their Account 3 savings in EPF for as long as possible before considering withdrawing them.

This would provide the benefits from compounding dividends, she said.

"Members should only consider withdrawing from Account 3 if they really need to. If they do, it is highly encouraged that they replenish their EPF savings when it is feasible through voluntary contributions," she added.

Economist Dr Geoffrey Williams said the new account

will be helpful in dealing with the current rising costs of living as it provides members with easier access to emergency funds.

"This will help offset the economic impact of slow global growth and compensate for higher costs of living, especially if subsidy rationalisation causes prices to rise," he said.

However, he warned that the new account could become a double-edged sword leading to further inflation, while reducing EPF investment in local businesses and long-term savings.

"This will have the same effect on the economy as the Covid-19 withdrawals but this time it is a windfall rather than a necessity.

"This could lead to reduced savings in the long-term accounts to begin with and make it more difficult to get to the Basic Savings level.

"The best option is to opt out of the initial transfer to protect your long-term savings and opt in to the monthly contributions if you need to access savings quickly," he said.

Meanwhile, fund manager

Danny Wong said while the new account seemed to provide flexibility, it may indirectly allow long-term retirement funds to be utilised earlier than expected.

The chief executive officer of Areca Capital Sdn Bhd added that members should be aware on how withdrawals may affect their future retirement funds.

"Members need to be educated to only make withdrawals for serious needs," he said, adding that this comprised matters of life and death, serious illness or situations that affect livelihoods.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Oil price impact on subsidy rationalisation

By ELIM POON

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PETALING JAYA: Should Brent crude oil prices reach US\$100 per barrel, the government could opt to implement the planned petrol and diesel subsidy rationalisation initiative on a more staggered basis, says Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman economics professor Wong Chin Yoong.

The Iran-Israel conflict that erupted last weekend continues to pose uncertainties on the oil price front. Global focus is now on Israel's reaction to the conflict in the days and weeks ahead, as it will likely further influence market dynamics.

Brent crude oil is currently trading at around US\$90 per barrel.

Wong said it is unlikely for Brent crude oil prices to climb back to its high of US\$139 per barrel in 2022, which occurred due to the Russia-Ukraine war and low global crude oil inventories.

"If oil prices reach US\$130 per barrel or above, then there is the likelihood of deferring the subsidy rationalisation programme.

"However, right now Brent crude oil pricing is expected to remain within the range of US\$90 to US\$100 per barrel even if things were to escalate.

"In carrying out the planned reform, the government can consider implementing gradual increases in petrol prices for RON 95 through a phased approach, from RM2.05 per litre now to RM2.10, for example, and then raise it to RM2.20 three months later and so forth.

"In essence, the government could modify the pace and the way at which it rationalises the subsidies. This gradual adjustment helps mitigate the impact on the people, allowing them to adapt to the reform," he told *StarBiz*.

Moreover, Wong said other than carrying out the reform on a staggered basis, the government also needs to be transparent in the schedule of implementation so that businesses and households can plan ahead.

"Redirecting fuel subsidy savings fully into cash assistance for affected families rather than retaining them would also minimise the adverse impact of the reform, making it more viable and friendly to society," he said.

The rollout of the RON95 fuel subsidy programme is targeted to commence from the second half of 2024. It was reported that more than RM50bil is spent by the government on fuel and gas subsidies and a free float of fuel prices may save the government RM29bil.

Meanwhile, OCBC senior Asean economist Lavanya Venkateswaran said higher oil prices should motivate the authorities to push ahead with the fuel subsidy rationalisation to limit increases to the subsidy bill and risk missing the annual fiscal deficit target of 4.3% of gross domestic product.

"That said, the reduction in subsidies is unlikely to be abrupt with the authorities focused on managing inflation expectations," she said.

Centre for Market Education chief executive officer Carmelo Ferlito said it is important for the government to be both resolute

and gradual in its implementation of the subsidy rationalisation programme.

He noted it is important for the government to remain firm and send out a clear message to the public that there is no U-turn on its decision to carry out the reform, so that the economy can "fight" to adjust to the new situation after decades of reliance on blanket subsidies.

"I think that we are still very much in the dark with regards to how the government is going to implement targeted subsidies.

"Therefore, I believe that we need to test the system - which will by nature, be imperfect - and to fine-tune it along the way.

"This is why it is important to start with small-scale experiments," Ferlito said.

He opined that it would be difficult to carry out the subsidy rationalisation programme on a staggered basis. Instead, the government can consider experimenting with low-impact products, first.

"For example, the government can implement the subsidy reform on diesel first, rather than petrol. There are fewer users of diesel and having a smaller amount of customers involved will allow for a better study of the mechanism and its testing.

"Starting with something that affects the generality of the public is too risky, especially in light of the fact that it is not yet clear how the subsidy rationalisation is going to be carried out.

"The final aim should be that prices are determined solely and exclusively by the interaction of supply and demand," he said.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

JBPM pindahkan 200 mangsa banjir

MPKS
SKM
18/4



Anggota JBPM melakukan pemantauan di sekitar Kuala Selangor.

KUALA SELANGOR - Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) memindahkan kira-kira 200 mangsa banjir ke lokasi selamat selepas mendapati keadaan air mula meningkat.

Penolong Pengarah Operasi JBPM Selangor, Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar berkata, seramai 40 anggota ditugaskan mengawal keadaan dan berjaya melaksanakan tiga operasi banjir di sekitar daerah ini.

Beliau berkata, dua operasi pemantauan harian dilakukan berikutan banjir mula melanda pada Selasa malam.

"Semua mangsa banjir ditempatkan di dua pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) iaitu di Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Merbau Sempak dan Dewan Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor (MPKS).

"Selain itu, satu pos kawalan hadapan (PKH) digerakkan di SK Merbau Sempak," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Rabu.

Mengulas lanjut, Mukhlis berkata, seramai 77 keluarga melibatkan 334 mangsa ditempatkan di PPS SK Merbau Sempak termasuk 120 kanak-kanak.

Menurutnya, sebanyak 11 keluarga dan 38 mangsa banjir diletakkan di PPS Dewan MPKS dengan 13 kanak-kanak.

Ujar beliau, operasi kali ini membabitkan Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat (BBP) Bukit Jelutong, BBP Rawang, BBP Sungai Buloh dan BBP Bestari.

"Sebanyak lapan aset masing-masing empat kenderaan utiliti dan jentera serta tiga bot digerakkan bagi misi menyelamatkan di Zon Kuala Selangor," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Sultan Selangor ziarah Raja Perlis di Arau

Shah
18/4

FOTO: SELANGOR ROYAL OFFICE



Sultan Sharafuddin (kiri) berkenan berangkat menziarahi Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin di Istana Arau, Perlis pada Selasa.

SHAH ALAM - Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah berkenan berangkat menziarahi Raja Perlis, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail di Istana Arau, Perlis pada Selasa.

Keberangkatan baginda diiringi Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

Menurut hantaran menerusi Facebook Selangor Royal Office, kunjungan hormat dan ziarah baginda itu adalah bagi melihat sendiri keadaan kesihatan sebenar Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, sekali gus menyantuni keakraban dalam

kalangan Raja-Raja Melayu.

Baginda berdua yang tiba di Istana Arau kira-kira jam 11 pagi, meluangkan masa serta beramah mesra bersama Raja Perlis dan Raja Perempuan Perlis, Tuanku Tengku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid hingga lewat petang.

"Baginda berdua kemudian berkenan mengiringi Raja Perlis kembali ke Wad Diraja Hospital Tuanku Fauziah, Kangar, sebelum berangkat pulang ke Shah Alam," menurut hantaran itu.

- Bernama

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:1.8..APR..2024.....

Mohon pakai baju sukan setiap hari

Cadangan dibuat ibu bapa demi keselesaan murid berikutan cuaca panas

Oleh **NOR SYAMIRA LIANA NOR ASHAHA**
SHAH ALAM

Ibu bapa mencadangkan Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia (KPM) menambah baik garis panduan pemakaian baju seragam sekolah susulan negara kini berhadapan fenomena El Nino manakala keadaan suhu mencapai tahap melebihi 35 darjah Celsius.

Peniaga, Nurul Hidayu Mohd Hadri, 34, berkata adalah lebih baik sekiranya KPM membenarkan pelajar memakai pakaian sukan setiap hari kerana lebih praktikal dan mudah untuk bergerak.

"Saya tidak menafikan arahan KPM sebelum ini yang membenarkan murid mengenakan baju sukan dua hari seminggu, namun alangkah baiknya jika kementerian mempertimbangkan untuk membenarkan pemakaian baju sukan setiap hari.

"Baju seragam sekolah panas dan anak-anak jauh lebih selesa berpakaian sukan. Cadangan ini dibuat

bukan untuk kesenangan ibu bapa tetapi demi keselesaan dan kesejahteraan anak-anak yang terpaksa berhadapan cuaca panas ketika ini," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Rabu.

Terdahulu pada 19 Januari lalu, media melaporkan pelajar di semua institusi pendidikan di bawah KPM dibenarkan memakai seragam dua hari seminggu sepanjang sesi persekolahan 2024/2025.

Terbaharu, Menteri Pendidikan, Fadhila Sidek memaklumkan KPM ada mengeluarkan garis panduan iaitu sebarang aktiviti luar bilik darjah tidak boleh dijalankan sekiranya suhu mencapai 35 darjah Celsius selama tiga hari berturut-turut.

Menurutnya, jika pihak sekolah mengadakan aktiviti luar bilik darjah ketika fenomena El Nino dan keadaan cuaca panas, ibu bapa boleh mengemukakan aduan rasmi kepada Sistem Pengurusan Aduan Awam (SISPAA).

Mengulas mengenai garis panduan terbaharu itu, Nurul Hidayu berharap pihak sekolah patuh terhadap arahan dan mempertimbangkan cadangan melaksanakan aktiviti merentas desa, berkawad dan sebagainya.

"Saya menzahirkan rasa syukur atas keprihatinan KPM terhadap kesihatan anak-anak. Diharapkan pihak sekolah membuat pertimbangan sebelum melakukan sebarang aktiviti," ujar ibu kepada empat orang anak.



NURUL HIDAYU



NOR FATIMAH



Sebahagian murid hadir ke sekolah dengan mengenakan baju-t dan berpakaian sukan berikutan cuaca panas.

Sementara itu, Siti Nurul Jannah Mohd Rhodi, 32, turut mencadangkan KPM membenarkan murid mengenakan baju-t badan beruniform pada hari kokurikulum walaupun mereka mengikuti acara kawad kaki.

Menurut ibu kepada empat anak, pemakaian baju-t lebih memudahkan dan memberi keselesaan kepada anak-anak untuk melakukan aktiviti.

"Di sekolah anak saya, pihak sekolah meminta pelajar yang mengikuti acara kawad mengenakan baju unit beruniform lengkap.

"Saya kurang bersetuju arahan ini kerana pakaian beruniform tidak sesuai dipakai ketika cuaca panas kerana kainnya tebal dan membuatkan anak-anak cepat berpeluh.

"Kami (ibu bapa) hanya minta pihak sekolah dan KPM mempertimbangkan cadangan ini. Kami akan pastikan anak-anak berpakaian kemas walaupun mengenakan baju-t," katanya.

Suri rumah, Nor Fatimah Mohd Mohiadin, 44, pula meminta pihak sekolah menyediakan penapis air di setiap bangunan untuk kegunaan pelajar mengisi semula bekalan air.

Menurutnya, anak-anak memerlukan bekalan air minuman bersih mencukupi untuk mengawal suhu badan.

"Pihak sekolah perlu menjaga kebajikan, kesihatan dan keselamatan dengan memastikan mereka mempunyai akses untuk mengisi semula bekalan air, lebih-lebih lagi ketika cuaca panas," katanya yang memiliki tiga cahaya mata.

SINAR HARIAN
18 APR 2024

Tarikh:

Penduduk Kampung Merbau Sempak dipindahkan ke PPS

SUNGAI BULOH - Sebuah pusat penempatan sementara (PPS) dibuka di Kampung Merbau Sempak, susulan hujan lebat sejak Selasa.

Ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri Selangor, Mohd Najwan Halimi memaklumkan, kejadian menyebabkan sekitar 50 rumah di Jalan Gajah 16, Jalan Gajah 23 dan Jalan Gajah 24 terjejas, namun tiada kemalangan jiwa dilaporkan.

"Semua mangsa dipindahkan ke PPS oleh penguat kuasa Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Petaling, mana-

kala pendaftaran mangsa dijalankan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM)," katanya dalam satu hantaran di Aplikasi X pada Selasa.

Najwan yang juga Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Kota Anggerik berkata, sebarang maklumat akan dimaklumkan dari semasa ke semasa.

Terdahulu, hujan lebat lebih sejam pada Selasa menyebabkan beberapa lokasi di sekitar Kampung Melayu Subang dan Sungai Buloh dilanda banjir kilat.

Penolong Pengarah Bahagian Operasi Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Selangor, Ahmad Mukhlis Mukhtar berkata, pihaknya menerima dua panggilan kecemasan berhubung kejadian banjir di Kampung Melayu Subang dan Kampung Kubu Gajah.

Seramai lapan anggota dari Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat (BBP) Bukit Jelutong bersama dua jentera serta sebuah bot segera dikejarkan ke lokasi sebaik menerima laporan pada jam 4.47 petang.



Banjir yang melanda Kampung Kubu Gajah, Sungai Buloh pada Selasa.

SMV
18/4

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

200 premis di Selangor tiada sijil perakuan bomba

Kosmo
18/4



ANGGOTA bomba melakukan tugas penyelamatan dalam latihan kebakaran di AEON Mall, Seksyen 13, Shah Alam semalam. - AFIQ RAZALI

SHAH ALAM - Hampir 200 daripada 1,900 premis di seluruh Selangor didapati gagal untuk mematuhi piawaian sijil perakuan bomba (FC).

Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Selangor, Wan Md. Razali Wan Ismail berkata, ia termasuk melakukan pengubahsuaian bangunan tanpa memaklumkan kepada pihak bomba serta latihan kebakaran bagi pengujian alatan kecemasan bangunan.

Katanya, terdapat sembilan bangunan dimaklumkan memerlukan FC meliputi hospital dan rumah rawatan, perpustakaan, hotel, asrama, pejabat, kedai, kilang, tempat perhimpunan dan

storan am.

"Sebelum dapat FC, kita akan melakukan pemeriksaan terutama dalam sistem pencegahan kebakaran di bangunan tersebut.

"Terdapat 10 peratus daripada 1,900 tidak mematuhi FC selain ada telah kita didakwa kerana tidak menepati garis panduan atau peraturan dalam Akta Perkhidmatan Bomba 1988," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas meninjau latihan kebakaran di AEON Mall di sini semalam.

Menurutna, latihan kebakaran perlu dilakukan sekurang-kurangnya sekali setahun bagi menilai tahap keselamatan dan

kesiapsiagaan bomba dan pasukan tindakan kecemasan (BRT) sesebuah bangunan.

Wan Md. Razali menegaskan, setiap bangunan perlu memasang sistem pencegahan keselamatan bangunan berfungsi dengan baik dan tidak menjadi punca kepada kegagalan dalam operasi pemadaman dan penyelamatan.

"Kita kena pastikan tiada kesalahan berlaku dengan gerak kerja operasi berjalan dengan lancar.

"Jadi, setiap bangunan yang telah ditetapkan dalam sembilan kategori itu perlu melakukan latihan kebakaran dalam mengesan keberkesannya," ujarnya.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024



SEBUAH PPS Balai Raya Pematang Pasir dekat Linggi dibuka untuk menempatkan penduduk yang terjejas selepas kawasan itu dilanda banjir semalam. - IHSAN APM



SEBANYAK 10 kawasan terjejas dengan banjir mengejut dengan paling teruk di sekitar Kampung Kubu Gajah, Sungai Buloh semalam.

Lebih 500 mangsa pindah ke PPS di Selangor, Negeri Sembilan dan Melaka

Tiga negeri dilanda banjir mengejut

Oleh MOHD YUNUS YAKKUB, NUR HUDA MUSA, DIYANATUL ATIQAH ZAKARYA, NUR MUHAMMAD NAUFAL DUROKHMAM dan NOR AINNA HAMZAH

PETALING JAYA - Fasa peralihan monsun yang dijangka berlaku hingga Mei depan boleh mengakibatkan potensi berlakunya banjir kilat seperti di Selangor, Melaka dan Negeri Sembilan kelmarin.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia), Muhammad Helmi Abdullah berkata, semasa fasa peralihan monsun rantau negara akan menerima tiupan angin lemah dari pelbagai arah yang kondusif untuk kejadian ribut petir terutama di barat dan pedalaman Semenanjung, barat Sabah serta selatan dan tengah Sarawak.

"Lazimnya keadaan itu membawa hujan lebat berserta angin kencang dalam jangka masa yang singkat.

"Keadaan cuaca ini berpotensi menyebabkan banjir kilat, pokok tumbang serta kerosakan pada struktur yang tidak kukuh," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Katanya, dengan bermulanya fasa peralihan monsun, keadaan cuaca panas dan kering yang sedang berlaku di kebanyakan tempat di seluruh negara dijangka beransur pulih menjelang pertengahan April.

Di **Shah Alam**, setakat pukul 1 tengah hari semalam, seramai 403 mangsa daripada 88 buah keluarga ditempatkan di dua pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) sungai Buloh dan Kuala Selangor.

Penolong Pengarah Operasi Bomba Selangor, Ahmad Mukhlis Mukhtar berkata, berdasarkan jumlah berkenaan didapati sebanyak 364 mangsa berada di PPS Sekolah Merbau Sempak, manakala 39 orang di Dewan Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor, Desa Coalfields.

"Bomba turut membuka pangkalan kawalan hadapan di PPS Sekolah Merbau Sempak," katanya.

Ujarnya, sebanyak 10 kawasan terjejas banjir dengan paling tinggi di sekitar Kampung Kubu Gajah iaitu tujuh lokasi diikuti masing-masing satu di Kampung Melayu Subang, Kampung Sri Aman dan Taman Saujana Aman.

Seorang penduduk Kampung Melayu Subang, Muhammad Fazli Othman, 32, berkata, dia terkejut melihat air naik mendadak ketika sedang berehat di dalam bilik di rumahnya.

"Selepas saya pulang dari tempat kerja pada pukul 3.30 petang, air hujan ketika itu berada di paras yang tidak membimbangkan.

"Tidak sampai setengah jam kemudian jiran datang panggil maklumkan air sudah mula masuk ke dalam rumah.

"Saya bergegas bawa nenek naik ke atas dan ketika itu air baru paras buku lali, namun selepas itu bila turun semula, air

sudah berada di paras paha.

"Saya hanya sempat ambil barangan dan dokumen penting sahaja, yang lain itu saya terpaksa tinggalkan," katanya.

Di **Port Dickson**, Pusat Kawalan Operasi Bencana (PKOB), Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri, Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (APM) Negeri Sembilan berkata, sebanyak dua PPS dibuka di negeri ini setakat pukul 2 petang semalam.

Terdahulu, PPS Balai Raya Permatang Pasir, Linggi, Port Dickson dibuka pada pukul 4.08 pagi semalam.

"Seramai 10 mangsa daripada empat keluarga ditempatkan di PPS Surau Kampung Nerambai sejak dibuka pada pukul 12.30 tengah hari tadi (semalam).

"Di PPS Balai Raya Permatang Pasir pula, seramai 60 mangsa dari lima berlandung di situ. Ini sekali gus menyaksikan terdapat 70 orang mangsa berada di dua buah PPS," katanya.

Di **Melaka**, seramai 55 mangsa daripada 13 mangsa ditempatkan di PPS Balai Raya Bukit Balai, Alor Gajah setakat pukul 3 petang semalam.

Sementara itu, hujan lebat berterusan pagi tadi menyebabkan paras air di Sungai Binjai, Pekan Meru, Klang mencatatkan bacaan melebihi paras bahaya setakat pukul 11 pagi semalam.

Menerusi laman web info banjir Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) bacaan air di sungai tersebut menunjukkan trend menaik iaitu pada paras 4.66 meter.

Sungai Buloh di Sri Aman, Kuala Selangor turut melebihi paras bahaya dengan menunjukkan trend menaik dengan bacaan sebanyak 7.67 meter.

Dalam pada itu, dua sungai di Negeri Sembilan iaitu Sungai Linggi di Pekan Linggi, Port Dickson dan Sungai Rembau di Titiang, Rembau telah melepasi tahap bahaya akibat hujan berterusan pagi semalam.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Pengurangan subsidi petrol tetap dilaksanakan tahun ini

24 13/4

Pelaksanaan dibuat secara berperingkat untuk capai sasaran fiskal 4.3 peratus

Oleh Mohd Zaky Zainuddin
zaky@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan akan mengurangkan subsidi petrol tahun ini dalam usaha untuk mengecilkkan defisit fiskal negara, kata Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli.

Susulan jangkaan rasionalisasi bahan api itu, katanya, kerajaan akan melaksanakan pengurangan subsidi secara berperingkat dengan risiko inflasi meningkat sebelum rancangan itu dilaksanakan.

"Kita berada pada landasan tepat untuk memberi bantuan bersasar kepada golongan memerlukan. Kerajaan akan tetap melaksanakannya (rasionalisasi subsidi petrol).

"Untuk mencapai sasaran fiskal 4.3 peratus, garis masa yang ditetapkan perlu dipatuhi," katanya kepada *Bloomberg*.

Akhir tahun lalu, kerajaan dilaporkan akan melaksanakan program subsidi bersasar RON95 pada separuh kedua 2024.

Rafizi berkata, 2024 akan memperlihatkan usaha kerajaan kepada pelaksanaan dasar dan dengan penubuhan Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) pada Januari 2024 memberikan akses kepada data granular yang diperlukan untuk melaksanakan program bersasar seperti rasionalisasi subsidi atau reformasi kebajikan sosial.

Katanya, kerajaan mengambil masa untuk melaksanakan program subsidi bersasar bagi memastikan pelaksanaannya berjalan lancar.

"Dijangkakan akan ada ketidakpuasan dan masalah sebaik ia dilaksanakan, tetapi kerajaan tidak mampu membuat 'pusingan U' apabila ia dilaksanakan.

"Setahun lalu saya bercakap mengenai perkara ini. Saya tahu penganalisis di luar sana bertanya kenapa mengambil masa lama (melaksanakannya).

"Sebabnya ialah kita mahu melihat ia dilaksanakan di negara



Kerajaan mengambil masa untuk melaksanakan program subsidi bersasar bagi memastikan pelaksanaannya berjalan lancar. (Foto hiasan)

lain. Urutan penting dengan memastikan semua perkara sedia dan cuba rapatkan kelompongan sebaik mungkin," katanya.

Sebelum ini, firma penyelidik menjangkakan proses dan tempoh rasionalisasi subsidi jangka dilaksanakan secara berperingkat, mengambil isyarat daripada sasaran kerajaan untuk mengurangkan subsidi bahan api sebanyak RM6 bilion pada 2024 berbanding rekod tertinggi subsidi RON95 diesel berjumlah RM41.75 bilion pada 2022.



Rafizi Ramli

Inflasi naik kepada 3 peratus

Maybank Investment Bank Bhd (Maybank IB) dalam laporan tinjauan Malaysia bagi 2024 berkata, rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api dan seterusnya pelarasan harga bahan api mesti dibuat secara berperingkat bagi mengimbangi kesannya terhadap inflasi, yang dijangka kembali meningkat kepada 3.0 peratus tahun depan berbanding anggaran 2.6 peratus pada tahun ini.

Penganalisis ekonomi juga berpandangan, subsidi petrol bersasar berkemungkinan diperkenalkan dalam beberapa bulan lagi, mengambil kira kebarangkalian harga minyak dunia akan

berterusan meningkat ke paras AS\$100 setong.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) sebelum ini mendedahkan inflasi keseluruhan pada 2024 dijangka

berada antara dua peratus dan 3.5 peratus selepas mengambil kira potensi kenaikan disebabkan oleh rasionalisasi subsidi terutama petrol.

Gabenor BNM, Datuk Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour pada sidang media Laporan Tahunan 2023, Tinjauan Ekonomi dan Monetari 2023 dan Tinjauan Kestabilan Kewangan bagi Separuh Kedua

2023 berkata, walaupun rasionalisasi subsidi mungkin memberikan implikasi jangka pendek terhadap pertumbuhan dan inflasi, strategi pelaksanaan yang dirancang dan dilaksanakan dengan baik bersama-sama dengan bantuan tunai bersasar akan membantu mengurangkan kesan ini.

Rafizi berkata, walaupun nilai ringgit terus menyusut, ia tidak menjejaskan minat pelabur asing atau menghalang matlamat kerajaan melaksanakan dasar.

"Setakat ini, kami tidak melihat turun naik ringgit mula memberi kesan negatif kepada penstrukturan semula jangka panjang," katanya.

Kerajaan batal projek lebuh raya PJD Link

SH 18/4

Putrajaya: Kabinet semalam memutuskan untuk tidak meneruskan projek pembinaan lebuh raya Petaling Jaya Traffic Dispersal Elevated Highway (PJD Link).

Menteri Komunikasi, Fahmi Fadzil, berkata keputusan itu dibuat selepas pemegang konsesi-nya gagal memenuhi enam dari-pada 11 syarat yang ditetapkan.

"Jemaah Menteri membuat keputusan tidak melanjutkan perbincangan dengan pihak PJD Link yang memohon lanjutan untuk memenuhi sejumlah syarat. Kerajaan menolak permohonan itu.

"Sebelum ini syarikat sudah memohon dua kali lanjutan bagi memenuhi syarat ditetapkan. Susulan kegagalan itu, projek terbabit tidak diteruskan," katanya pada sidang media di sini, semalam.

Berdasarkan perancangan, lebuh raya terbabit akan menghubungkan bahagian utara dan selatan Petaling Jaya menerusi Petaling Jaya Utara, Bandar Utama, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Taman Da-

to' Harun, Taman Medan Baru, Taman Sri Manja, Bandar Kinrara dan Bukit Jalil Technology Park.

Penduduk setempat bantah

Bagaimanapun, pembinaan projek itu mendapat bantahan daripada penduduk setempat.

Malah, kerajaan Selangor pada tahun lalu membuat keputusan membatalkan permohonan pembinaan lebuh raya terbabit, berikutan pelan dikemukakan berkaitan laporan penilaian impak didapati tidak menepati syarat ditetapkan.

Pada 24 Februari lalu, Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, dilaporkan meminta pemaju lebuh raya terbabit merundingkan semula jajarannya dengan kerajaan Persekutuan.

Mengulas lanjut, Fahmi yang juga Jurucakap Kerajaan Perpaduan berkata, Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) akan memberi perincian penuh berhubung keputusan yang diambil Jemaah Menteri.



Lakaran artis projek pembinaan PJD Link

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....1.8..APR...2024.....

Empat PPS dibuka di tiga negeri

9H 18/4

Hujan lebat lebih dua jam punca air naik mendadak di beberapa kawasan kelmarin

Oleh Meor Ridwan Meor Ahmad
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Kuala Lumpur: Empat pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) dibuka di Selangor, Negeri Sembilan dan Melaka berikutan banjir menenggelami beberapa kawasan di tiga negeri berkenaan.

Di **Selangor**, dua PPS dibuka semalam susulan hujan lebat melanda beberapa kawasan di Sungai Buloh dan Subang, kelmarin.

Penolong Pengarah Operasi Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Selangor, Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar, berkata PPS Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Merbau Sempak dan PPS Dewan Majlis Daerah Kuala Selangor (MDKS) Desa Coalfields menempatkan 374 mangsa daripada 88 keluarga.

Beliau berkata, satu pos kawalan hadapan bomba turut dibuka di PPS SK Merbau Sempak.

"Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat (BBP) Bukit Jelutong ditugaskan dalam operasi banjir yang membabitkan kawasan Jalan Jati di Kampung Melayu Subang; BBP Rawang dan BBP Sungai Buloh di Kampung Kubu Gajah; serta BBP Bestari Jaya di Kampung Sri Aman dan Taman Saujana Aman," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Di **Negeri Sembilan**, satu PPS dibuka di Balai Raya Permatang Pasir, Port Dickson, awal pagi semalam, susulan kejadian banjir kilat.

Jawatankuasa Pengurusan

Bencana Negeri, Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (APM) Negeri Sembilan, dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan PPS itu dibuka pada jam 4.08 pagi dengan menempatkan 46 orang daripada dua keluarga.

"Beberapa stesen sungai turut merekodkan bacaan pada paras berjaga-jaga dan bahaya, setakat jam 7 pagi tadi (semalam), iaitu Sungai Linggi dan Sungai Triang di Jekebu," menurut kenyataan itu.

Di **Melaka**, 51 penduduk daripada 13 keluarga dari tiga kampung dipindahkan ke PPS Balai Raya Japerun Durian Tunggal, di sini, setakat jam 8 pagi semalam, susulan banjir kilat melanda beberapa kawasan sekitar Alor Gajah sejak malam kelmarin.

Pengarah APM Melaka, Leftenan Kolonel (PA) Kamarulsyah Muslim yang juga Sekretariat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN), berkata mangsa adalah penduduk dari Kampung Bukit Balai, Kampung Pulau dan Kampung Bukit Tambun di Durian Tunggal.

Katanya, hujan lebat selama lebih dua jam sejak jam 4 petang kelmarin menyebabkan air parit dan sungai melimpah ke kawasan penempatan yang rendah.

Justeru, bagi mengelak sebarang risiko, beliau berkata, 13 keluarga terbabit akur untuk berpindah sementara ke PPS berkenaan yang diaktifkan pada jam 9 malam kelmarin.

"Antara kawasan lain yang turut terjejas di daerah Alor Gajah ialah Kampung Tabuh Naning, Pekan Lubuk China, Kampung Sungai Jernih, Taman Masjid Tanah Ria, Kampung Brisu dan Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil Durian Tunggal," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Aran hantar bantuan awal

Sementara itu, wakil rakyat dan agensi berkaitan termasuk pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) diarah-



Keadaan banjir di Jalan Paip Pekan Meru, Klang akibat hujan lebat, kelmarin.

(Foto Asyraf Hamzah/BH)

kan supaya bersiap siaga dan segera menyalurkan bantuan awal kepada semua mangsa yang terjejas akibat banjir termasuk di sekitar daerah Alor Gajah kelmarin.

Ketua Menteri, Datuk Seri Ab Razif Yusoh, berkata beliau sudah meminta Setiausaha Politiknya, Abdul Hakim Abdul Wahid untuk turun padang menyantuni penduduk yang terjejas dan menyalurkan bantuan awal di Taman Masjid Tanah Ria, Masjid Tanah.

"Saya berdukacita dengan bencana banjir ini dan berharap semua penduduk bersabar dengan ujian yang berlaku. Pada masa sama, terima kasih atas bantuan awal makanan kepada mangsa oleh Japerun Lendu.

"APM, Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) dan pejabat daerah juga diminta bersiap siaga dan segera salurkan bantuan awal kepada mangsa banjir," katanya menerusi hantaran di laman Facebook rasminya, semalam.



Anggota APM Melaka membantu memindahkan mangsa banjir di sekitar daerah Alor Gajah, malam kelmarin.

(Foto ihsan APM Melaka)

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....18 APR 2024

Kenaikan harga minyak boleh jejas prospek ekonomi dunia

Kenaikan harga minyak baru ini yang didorong oleh peningkatan konflik di Asia Barat berpotensi menjejaskan prospek 'agak baik' Tabung Kewangan Antarabangsa (IMF) terhadap ekonomi dunia.

"Kami mengunjurkan ekonomi global yang agak berdaya tahan untuk 2024," kata Ketua Ahli Ekonomi IMF, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, dalam temu bual menjelang penerbitan laporan Tinjauan Ekonomi Dunia (WEO).

IMF menjangkakan ekonomi dunia berkembang sebanyak 3.2 peratus tahun ini dan seterusnya, manakala inflasi akan terus mereda daripada paras tertinggi selepas pandemik untuk mencecah 5.9 peratus tahun ini dan 4.5 peratus tahun depan di tengah-tengah kenaikan kadar faedah di kebanyakan negara.

"Berita ini agak baik.

"Salah satu perkara yang boleh menjejaskan laluan ke arah disinflasi (memperlahankan ka-

dar inflasi) adalah gangguan dalam harga minyak, harga tenaga atau harga komoditi.

"Setakat ini, kita telah melihat beberapa tekanan dalam harga minyak, tetapi masih terlalu awal untuk memikirkan sama ada ia akan berterusan.

"Banyak berita yang sangat baik mengenai ekonomi Amerika Syarikat (AS) sejak enam bulan lalu," kata Gourinchas, merujuk kepada pertumbuhan produktiviti AS yang mantap, didorong oleh bekalan buruh dan perbelanjaan awam.

Beliau berkata, pertambahan pekerja asing di AS meningkatkan kapasiti ekonomi untuk menangani lebih banyak pengeluaran dan ia juga menyederhanakan tekanan ke atas pasaran pekerjaan.

"Kami masih menjangkakan inflasi akan turun sepanjang 2024, dan ini menjadikan Rizab Persekutuan (Fed) berada dalam kedudukan untuk dapat mula



Kesan daripada kejutan tenaga sedikit sebanyak masih ada.

mengurangkan kadar faedah pada akhir tahun ini," katanya.

Berbeza dengan ekonomi AS yang berdaya tahan, IMF menjangkakan pertumbuhan di Eropah akan berterusan pada ka-

dar yang lebih perlahan dalam jangka pendek, dengan unjuran pertumbuhan 0.8 peratus bagi kawasan zon euro tahun ini, sebelum meningkat sedikit kepada 1.5 peratus pada 2025.

34 18/4

"Kesan daripada kejutan tenaga sedikit sebanyak masih ada, walaupun ini telah menjadi sedikit sederhana.

"Namun jangan lupa bahawa kita mempunyai dasar monetari yang ketat dan dasar monetari itu meningkatkan kos untuk meminjam bagi isi rumah dan perniagaan," kata Gourinchas.

Beliau berkata, tidak seperti AS, pengguna dan perniagaan Eropah juga berasa kurang yakin dengan tahap kesihatan ekonomi secara keseluruhan.

"Ini bermakna kurang penggunaan, kurang permintaan agregat, kurang pelaburan," katanya.

Disebabkan kadar disinflasi yang pesat di Eropah dalam beberapa bulan kebelakangan ini, IMF melihat unjuran Bank Pusat Eropah (ECB) terhadap pemotongan kadar faedah pada Jun ini sebagai 'ramalan muna-sabah', kata Gourinchas. AFP

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....1.8..APR...2024.....

Banjir kilat landa tiga negeri

UWA
9/8 18/14

Oleh MOHAMAD ATHIR ISMAIL,
NORHAFIZAN ZULKIFLI dan
NOR AINNA HAMZAH
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PETALING JAYA: Hujan lebat yang melanda sejak petang kelmarin, mengakibatkan beberapa daerah di tiga negeri dilanda banjir kilat.

Di **KLANG**, hujan lebat yang melanda sebahagian besar Klang Utara khususnya di Meru menyebabkan kawasan tersebut ditenggelami air pada paras sekurang-kurangnya 0.6 meter.

Antara lokasi yang terjejas Jalan Teratai, Jalan kenangan, Jalan Cempaka, Jalan Haji Salleh, Taman Orkid, Persiaran Hamzah Alang, Jalan Kasban dan Jalan Abdul Manan.

Semakan *Utusan Malaysia* di laman Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) mendapati terdapat dua batang sungai di daerah ini diletakkan pada paras amaran dan bahaya pada pukul 7.15 pagi semalam.

Sungai terbabit adalah Sungai Rasau yang mencatatkan paras air 3.90 meter dan Sungai Binjai yang merentasi pekan Meru menunjukkan bacaan paras air 4.66 meter.

Maklumat Jabatan Bomba



PENDUDUK di Jalan Bahagia, Meru, Klang, terpaksa duduk di luar selepas rumah mereka dilanda banjir kilat susulan hujan lebat, sejak petang kelmarin. - UTUSAN/SHIDDIQIN ZON

dan Penyelamat (JBPM) Selangor melaporkan, beberapa kawasan lain di Sungai Buloh dan Pinggiran Subang, Shah Alam serta Bestari Jaya, Kuala Selangor turut dilanda banjir.

Kawasan terjejas iaitu Kam-

pung Melayu Subang, Kampung Kubu Gajah, Kampung Sri Aman dan Taman Saujana Aman yang menyebabkan 88 keluarga yang merangkumi lebih 400 mangsa dipindahkan ke dua pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS).

"Bomba membuka Pos Kawalan Hadapan (PKH) di PPS Sekolah Merbau Sempak, Sungai Buloh. Dua PPS di buka iaitu di lokasi berkenaan dan PPS Dewan Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Selangor (MPKS), Desa Coal-

fields.

"Di Merbau Sempak, sebanyak 77 keluarga ditempatkan di sana termasuk 161 kanak-kanak, warga emas, orang kurang upaya (OKU) dan bayi. Sementara di Desa Coalfields, 11 keluarga ditempatkan di sana termasuk 14 kanak-kanak dan warga emas," katanya, semalam.

Di **ALOR GAJAH**, Sekretariat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN), Lt. Kol. (PA) Kamarulsyah Muslim berkata, setakat pukul 8 pagi semalam, seramai 51 individu daripada 13 keluarga sedang berlindung di PPS selepas kediaman mereka dinaiki air.

"PPS Balai Raya Bukit Balai dibuka pukul 9 malam semalam susulan banjir yang berlaku di kawasan penempatan penduduk. Setakat pukul 8 pagi tadi, seramai 51 mangsa berlindung di PPS ini," katanya.

Di **SEREMBAN**, seramai 10 mangsa daripada empat buah keluarga ditempatkan di PPS Surau Kampung Nerambai sejak dibuka pada pukul 12.30 tengah hari semalam.

"Di PPS Balai Raya Permatang Pasir pula, seramai 60 mangsa dari lima buah keluarga mendapatkan perlindungan di situ," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh:18 APR 2024.....

Banjir: myNap perlu dilaksanakan segera

4/11
15/4

PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan perlu melaksanakan segera Pelan Adaptasi Kebangsaan (myNap) berikutan fenomena banjir yang semakin kerap melanda negara sejak kebelakangan ini sehingga mengakibatkan kerugian harta benda bernilai berjuta ringgit.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pengarah Pejabat Pelestarian Kampus, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Prof. Dr. Mohd Fadhill Md. Din berkata, pelan itu merangkumi pengurusan risiko bencana yang disebabkan impak perubahan iklim di kawasan-kawasan penting bandar dan sub-bandar.

Kata beliau, pelan ini wajib dilaksanakan segera bagi membina daya tahan infrastruktur dan kemudahan sedia ada yang terancam disebabkan cuaca ekstrem dan kesan perubahan iklim.

"Sehingga kini, masih belum dilaksanakan secara efektif di peringkat agensi untuk mewartakan program ini secara kolektif.

"Keperluan seperti memanfaatkan penggunaan *nature-based solutions* (NBS), juga boleh membantu mewujudkan

alternatif tambahan di peringkat dasar yang mewajibkan Penilaian Strategik Alam Sekitar (SEA) untuk semua polisi alam sekitar dan kelestarian, pelan dan program sekaligus membantu menyelesaikan masalah banjir secara berfasa," katanya.

Semalam, media melaporkan beberapa kawasan seperti Meru di Klang; Alor Gajah, Melaka dan Seremban serta Rembau di Negeri Sembilan dilanda banjir kilat selepas hujan lebat petang kelmarin yang menyebabkan beberapa pusat pemindahan sementara (PPS) dibuka.

Dalam pada itu, Pakar Alam Sekitar yang juga Pengerusi Lembaga Pengarah Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Prof. Emeritus Datuk Dr. Ibrahim Komoo berkata, pihak berwajib perlu sentiasa melakukan penyelenggaraan sistem perparitan dengan lebih sempurna.

"Parit pecah, tersumbat, mengalami perlodakan serius, ditutupi tumbuhan dan sampah sarap juga menyebabkan banjir kilat mudah berlaku," jelasnya.



PENGUNA jalan raya melalui Jalan Paip yang dilnalki air berikutan Sungai Binjai di Pekan Meru, Klang (m) melebihi tahap bahaya, semalam. - UTUSAN/SADDAM YUSOFF

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh:1.8. APR 2024.....

Akaun 3 KWSP, patut keluar atau tidak? ^{UM}

18/4

SEBELUM penghujung bulan ini, Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) akan mengumumkan lebih lanjut tentang penstrukturan semula akaun simpanan pencarum kumpulan wang tersebut.

Ini susulan persetujuan kerajaan terhadap cadangan penubuhan Akaun 3 iaitu tambahan kepada dua akaun sedia ada.

Akaun baharu itu dicadangkan selepas pandemik Covid-19 melanda negara pada 2020 yang menyaksikan ramai terjejas akibat penutupan syarikat terutama ketika perintah kawalan pergerakan (PKP) dilaksanakan.

KWSP dijangka mengumumkan tentang jumlah simpanan yang akan dimasukkan ke Akaun 3 dan syarat pengeluarannya. Ia bukan tugas mudah kerana kumpulan wang itu juga dipertanggungjawabkan untuk melihat soal simpanan hari persaraan pencarum.

Pembukaan Akaun 3 itu juga mendapat bantahan daripada sesetengah pihak yang bimbang langkah tersebut akan menganiaya pencarum apabila bersara.

Ini kerana kata mereka simpanan pencarum akan susut apabila wang yang ada boleh dikeluarkan sebelum usia sepatutnya. Malah pencarum juga telah mengeluarkannya beberapa kali sebelum ini ketika tempoh pandemik.

Mereka bimbang hari tua pencarum nanti tidak mempunyai dana mencukupi untuk meneruskan kehidupan. Pelbagai masalah sosial akan berlaku jika pesara tiada wang dan akhirnya kerajaan juga yang akan menanggung bebannya.

Sampai begitu sekali kebimbangan mereka terhadap kehidupan kumpulan pekerja yang bakal bersara. Rakyat Malaysia memang peka dengan masyarakat sekelilingnya.

Sebab itu jugalah timbulnya idea penubuhan Akaun 3 iaitu membantu pencarum yang sangat memerlukan dana bagi meneruskan kehidupan.

Bagi mereka yang terjejas akibat Covid-19 terutama dibuang kerja apabila syarikat tempat bekerja ditutup dan menghadapi masalah kesihatan kesan daripada virus itu, Akaun 3 sememangnya dinanti-nantikan.

Sebahagian daripada mereka mungkin tidak ada sumber kewangan lain untuk berharap kecuali KWSP. Mahu tunggu umur 50 atau 55 tahun, mungkin lama bagi sesetengah orang.

Yang penting bagi mereka adalah kehidupan sukar ketika ini. Banyak yang perlu diurus dan diselesaikan sekarang. Mereka tidak mahu lagi meminjam kerana sedar ia akan menyukarkan keadaan.

Susah senang setiap orang tidak sama. Ada yang susah sekarang senang kemudian. Ada juga yang sebaliknya. Ada yang simpanan KWSP berjuta tetapi senang atau tenangkah kehidupan selepas bersara?

Sama ada anda mahu keluar atau tidak wang dalam Akaun 3, tepuk dada tanya selera.

Apapun ingatlah lima nasihat KWSP tentang persaraan dan apabila mahu keluarkan wang simpanan iaitu tentang tanggungjawab kewangan terhadap isteri dan anak-anak.

Keduanya soal yuran pendidikan anak-anak, bayaran pinjaman rumah dan hutang lain, membeli insurans baharu sekiranya sebelum ini bergantung pada insurans yang disediakan oleh syarikat atau sudah mencapai had umur polisi sedia ada.

Akhirnya tentang kenaikan harga barangan disebabkan inflasi. Cukupkah simpanan hari tua anda?

Faktor-faktor ini jelas KWSP, membuktikan bahawa perancangan simpanan untuk persaraan adalah aspek yang sangat penting.

Tidak kira berapa lama lagi tempoh sebelum bersara - sama ada 10, 20, atau 30 tahun, penting untuk mula berfikir tentang soal persaraan dan simpanan yang ada.

Nizam Abdul Hamid ialah Pengarang Berita Kanan Utusan Malaysia.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:18 APR 2024



WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK REPORT

IMF raises Malaysia's real GDP growth projection to 4.4pc this year

KUALA LUMPUR: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised the outlook for Malaysia's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 4.4 per cent this year from its earlier projection of 4.3 per cent.

Malaysia's economy expanded by 3.7 per cent in 2023.

In its latest World Economic Outlook entitled "Steady but slow, resilience amid divergence", the IMF predicted the GDP growth to remain at 4.4 per cent in 2025.

It projected Malaysia's current account balance at 2.4 per cent in 2024 and 2.7 per cent in 2025.

For global growth, the IMF estimated it to be at 3.2 per cent for last

year and to continue at the same pace in 2024 and 2025.

The pace of expansion is low by historical standards, owing to both near-term factors, such as still-high borrowing costs and withdrawal of fiscal support, and longer-term effects from the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, weak productivity growth and increasing geo-economic fragmentation.

The fund said risks to the global outlook are now broadly balanced.

On the downside, new price spikes stemming from geopolitical tensions, including those from the Ukraine war and the Middle East conflict could, along with persis-

tent core inflation where labour markets are still tight, raise interest rate expectations and reduce asset prices, it said.

Geo-economic fragmentation could intensify with higher barriers to the flow of goods, capital and people, implying a supply-side slowdown, it said.

On the upside, looser-than-necessary fiscal policy and assumed projections could raise economic activity in the short term while risking costly policy adjustments later on. Inflation could fall faster than expected amid further gains in labour force participation, allowing central banks to bring easing plans forward. **Bernama**

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh:1.8..APR..2024..

IMPROVING NATIONAL EDUCATION

NST
18/4

6,034 contract teachers report for duty from April 15

KUALA LUMPUR: More than 6,000 contract teachers have been placed in schools nationwide beginning Monday.

According to a statement from the Education Ministry, 1,858 contract teachers were placed in secondary schools and 4,176 were sent to primary schools.

"The placement of new contract teachers is made based on three basic requirements, which are school priority, staffing vacancies, as well as subject re-

quirements of the school.

"The appointment of the new contract teachers is a reflection of the commitment of the Madani government to improving the quality of national education.

The ministry also thanked the Education Service Commission on the appointment of the new teachers to meet the current educational needs in all schools, and affirmed that it would work closely to overcome the issue of teacher shortage in the country.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh:18 APR 2024

FLASH FLOODS

Two relief centres set up in Selangor, one in Negri

SHAH ALAM

TWO temporary flood relief centres have been opened in Selangor following heavy rain on Tuesday, causing flash floods in some parts of Sungai Buloh and Subang.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department assistant director (operations) Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar said the relief centres at SK Merbau Sempak and the Kuala Selangor District Council Hall Desa Coalfields were providing shelter to 374 victims from 88 families.

In a WhatsApp notification yesterday, he said the department had set up a control

post at the SK Merbau Sempak relief centre.

In **Negri Sembilan**, a temporary flood relief centre was set up at the Permatang Pasir Community Hall in Port Dickson early Tuesday following flash floods in the district.

A statement by the Civil Defence Force's Negri Sembilan Disaster Management Committee said the relief centre was opened at 4.08am and accommodated 46 victims from two families.

"Several rivers recorded dangerous levels as of 7am today (yesterday), including Sungai Linggi and Sungai Triang in Jelebu," it added. **Bernama**



Some of the flood victims taking shelter at the Permatang Pasir Community Hall in Port Dickson, Negri Sembilan, yesterday, following flash floods in the district early Tuesday.
PIC BY AZRUL EDHAM

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Selangor Sultan visits Raja of Perlis

Sun
18/4

SHAH ALAM: The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah paid a visit to the Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail at Istana Arau on Tuesday.

His Highness was accompanied

by the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, Bernama reported.

According to a post on the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page, the visit was for His Highness

to personally inquire about the health and well-being of Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, as well as to foster ties among Malay rulers.

The Selangor royal couple arrived at Istana Arau at about 11am and

spent time with the Raja of Perlis and the Raja Permaisuri of Perlis Tengku Fauziah until late in the evening.

They then accompanied the Raja of Perlis to the Royal Ward of Tuanku Fauziah Hospital before leaving.

THE SUN

18 APR 2024

Tarikh:

Flood relief centres opened in two states

Sun 18/4

SHAH ALAM: Two flood relief centres have been opened in Selangor to accommodate flood evacuees following heavy rain in the state on Tuesday, causing some areas in Sungai Buloh and Subang to be flooded.

Selangor Fire and Rescue Department assistant director (operations) Ahmad Mukhlis Mokhtar said the centres are at Sekolah

Kebangsaan (SK) Merbau Sempak and the Kuala Selangor District Council Hall, Desa Coalfields, providing shelter for 374 evacuees from 88 families.

The department also opened a control post at SK Merbau Sempak, he said in a notification via WhatsApp.

Meanwhile, in Seremban, a centre was

opened at the Permatang Pasir Community Hall in Port Dickson early yesterday following flash floods in the district.

According to a statement issued by the Negeri Sembilan Disaster Management Committee of the Civil Defence Force, the centre accommodated 46 evacuees from two families.

— Bernama

THE SUN

Tarikh: 18 APR 2024

Ringgit ends firmer against US dollar in technical rebound Sun 18/4

THE ringgit closed firmer against the US dollar yesterday as it staged a technical rebound after three days of losses, said an analyst.

At 6pm, the ringgit improved to 4.7910/7950 against the greenback from Tuesday's closing of 4.7945/7970.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid noted that the local currency gained some strength today, in tandem with a slight decline in the US Dollar Index (DXY) by 0.10% to 106.153 points. "Beyond the technical correction, the interest rate outlook in the US and the tension in the Middle East will be the barometer for market sentiments in the forex market," he told Bernama.

He said uncertainty surrounding the US interest rate outlook will continue to be dollar-positive.

At the close, the ringgit traded mostly lower against a basket of major currencies.

It eased against the euro to 5.0981/1024 from 5.0966/0992 at Tuesday's close, fell slightly versus the British pound to 5.9720/9770 from 5.9701/9732 but went up vis-a-vis the Japanese yen to 3.0990/1018 from 3.1020/1038 yesterday.

The local note traded mostly higher against Asean currencies.

It gained on the Thai baht to 13.0194/13.0373 compared with 13.0858/13.0983 at Tuesday's close, widened vis-a-vis the Indonesian rupiah to 295.3/295.7 from 296.3/296.6 and climbed up versus the Philippine peso to 8.37/8.39 from 8.41/8.42 previously.

However, the ringgit eased against the Singapore dollar to 3.5171/5200 from 3.5135/5156 on Tuesday.

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18 APR 2024

Tarikh: