



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 18 SEPTEMBER 2024 (RABU)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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PJ's Astaka field footpath to reopen next month

THE period for restoration work on a footpath and tilted retaining wall at the Astaka sports complex in Section 52, Petaling Jaya, has been extended.

In a statement to *StarMetro*, Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) said the closure was to facilitate repairs to ensure public safety.

"In reference to the *StarMetro* report titled 'City council tasks contractor to fix retaining wall at PJ's Astaka field' on July 24,

the slope repairs work at the Astaka field which should have been completed on Sept 2 is extended for another two weeks.

"On Aug 14, the city council carried out a site visit to examine the repair work by the appointed contractor.

"However, there is some work that the contractor must carry out to repair defects and to resolve issues which occurred after the work was completed.

"In the interest of public safety, MBPJ has ordered that the area remain closed to the public for the duration of the restoration work.

"The area will reopen to the public in early October," said MBPJ.

Following *StarMetro*'s report, "Tilted retaining wall raises ire" published on July 18, MBPJ said in a statement that the problem had been caused by a fallen tree. — By AIDA AHMAD



There were public complaints about the crooked retaining wall at the Astaka sports complex field in Petaling Jaya. — Filepic

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024

By BAVANI M

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BRICKFIELDS community members are encouraging local business owners to take an active role in preserving iconic sculptures and installations in the Little India enclave.

As these symbols of cultural pride are showing signs of decay, residents are suggesting that the business community adopt these structures and contribute to their refurbishment.

Locals want businesses to participate in annual *gotong-royong* efforts and other initiatives aimed at restoring the area's lively atmosphere.

"Every year, we have these clean-up efforts with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and waste company Alam Flora but the businesses here rarely send any representatives to help out," said Brickfields Rukun Tetangga chairman SKK Naidu.

"Yet, they benefit the most from the area's strategic location and the foot traffic it brings.

"It would be great to see them contribute, not just by keeping their store fronts tidy, but by actively participating in preserving the cultural landmarks that make Little India unique," he said.

Naidu was referring to *StarMetro*'s report on Sept 9, "Treasures turned eyesore" about iconic landmarks in the city, especially in Little India, that had been commissioned to enhance Kuala Lumpur's aesthetic charm but had been left to decay.

In Brickfields, there are several art installations and sculptures such as the Little India Fountain (also known as Elephant Fountain), the Little India Dancers, Palava-inspired columns and the Torana Gate that were installed to celebrate the launch of the multi-million ringgit Little India project on

'Play a role to preserve Brickfields attractions'

Business community urged to adopt Little India installations



The Elephant Fountain is an important Brickfields landmark but it is no longer fully functional due to lack of maintenance. — Filepic

Oct 27, 2010.

These are experiencing various states of neglect.

Some of these locations have become the hangout and sleeping areas for vagrants and the homeless while others have been defaced with stickers and posters.

"The Little India Dancers and the Elephant Fountain, located

at the busy junction of Jalan Travers and Jalan Tun Sambanthan, which are focal points, have sadly become eyesores," said Saranya Gopal, a concerned resident.

"The Elephant Fountain isn't even functioning properly — some of the water spouts are in working order while others aren't, and the lights don't come

on at night.

"The entire fountain is in need of repair.

"With Visit Malaysia Year 2026 approaching, shouldn't these art installations and tourist spots get a proper makeover?"

A DBKL spokesperson said the developer for Little India had commissioned the art pieces for the area in 2010.



StarMetro's report on Sept 9.

"We are attempting to contact the contractor of the sculptures, because we have no file of any handover sessions; there is nothing in our records that the assets were handed over (to DBKL) and we are trying to get that sorted," the spokesperson said.

Kuala Lumpur's Little India in Brickfields underwent a RM35mil upgrade, which took a few years to complete.

The revitalised area was jointly launched by then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his Indian counterpart at the time, Dr Manmohan Singh, marking a significant moment for the community.

THE STAR

18 SEP 2024

Tarikh:.....



Lai (left) and Nookkuraju checking on the newly paved road outside Sri Ayyanareeswarar Temple in Setapak.

Setapak temple road resurfaced

Story and photo by JAROD LIM
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DEVOTEES will now have better access to the Sri Ayyanareeswarar Temple in Setapak, Kuala Lumpur, after the road in front of it has been resurfaced.

The road connects the temple to Jalan Genting Klang and also serves as an access road to Setapak Vocational College, which is next to the temple.

Temple deputy chairman Nookkuraju Subramany said this greatly benefitted temple

devotees as the road had been in a dire state.

"The pothole-riddled road had been filled with concrete stone aggregate and sand.

"It was fairly difficult for devotees to walk to the temple barefoot, as they traditionally do, after parking their cars.

"It was also an inconvenience for vehicles coming to the temple.

"But now, devotees can walk barefoot into the temple as the tarmac surface is flat," he said.

Kuala Lumpur advisory

board member Andre Lai said resurfacing works were completed in the third week of August.

"The Kuala Lumpur City Hall project took two days, and the 120m road is now fully paved.

"The road is important not only to temple devotees but also to vocational school students, as it is the only access road here.

"Whenever there is a celebration, many people flock to the temple," he said, underscoring the road's importance.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024

First mpox case this year detected

It is also the 10th recorded in Malaysia since last year, Health Ministry says

PETALING JAYA: A new mpox case has been detected, making it the first this year and the 10th such case in Malaysia since last year, says the Health Ministry.

The male patient began showing symptoms of fever, sore throat and cough on Sept 11, while rashes appeared the next day.

The ministry said the man has no history of international travel within 21 days before the onset of symptoms.

"The patient is currently in iso-

lation and stable condition," it said in a statement.

According to the ministry, the patient's contacts are being identified and their health status would be monitored in accordance with the standard operating procedure.

All 10 cases in Malaysia are from clade II infections, said the ministry (Clade II is a milder form of the virus). It also noted that 58 suspected mpox cases had been referred to the ministry.

The first case was detected on

July 26 last year with the last one, before the current case, in November.

No deaths have been reported.

On Sept 10, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said that there will be no national lockdown for mpox like what was seen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the government was taking every measure necessary to keep the disease out of the country and ruled out lockdowns such as

the movement control orders issued during the pandemic.

Mpox can spread through close contact.

Usually mild, it is fatal in rare cases. It causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions on the body.

On Aug 14, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years, following an outbreak of the viral infection in the Democratic Republic of Congo that had

spread to neighbouring countries.

The outbreak in Congo began with the spread of an endemic strain known as clade I. But a new variant, clade Ib, appears to spread more easily through routine close contact, including sexual contact.

It spread from Congo to countries such as Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, triggering the action from the WHO.

The disease has since been detected in several European and Asian countries.

THE STAR

18 SEP 2024

Tarikh:.....

We've surpassed SDG global average, says Anwar

الانوار

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has excelled in its performance beyond the global average in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), achieving 43% compared to the global average rate of 17%, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said although he is grateful for such achievements, there is still space for the country to improve its performance.

"We have achieved relative success. But we should ask ourselves whether the sustainability is just to fulfil our economic policies'

interest or is it something that is critical for the survival of mankind.

"We should do whatever is necessary (and) our best to ensure that we achieve these goals in the most spectacular manner," he said at the Malaysia SDG Goals 2024 Summit here yesterday.

The 17 SDGs, universally adopted by all 193 United Nations member states in 2015, represent a shared vision for people and the planet.

With a framework containing 169 targets and 248 indicators, the SDGs stipulate an aspirational agenda for global society to achieve by 2030.

Anwar stressed that the

Madani concept introduced by the government includes all aspects including sustainability, achieving excellence and compassion.

"In these post-normal times, we need to deal with these issues with such a speed and pace that is considered unprecedented.

"This is of course a departure from the normal manner.

"We are talking about post-normal times; we are talking about unprecedented changes and catastrophes," he added.

Anwar also noted that if the matter is viewed through purely economic considerations or imperatives, it would be hard for the country to achieve the SDG

objectives outlined.

"We have to deal with some of the issues now: massive migration, disasters caused by either the failure to address concerns on climate or issues arising from leaders or political decisions that ignore the importance of compassion and justice."

Anwar said the concept of Malaysia Madani takes on a major focus on issues like the environment as well as values of humanity, compassion and "beyond what is now the major pillars of SDGs".

"We need to always remind ourselves that there are areas where we need to improve.

"This is the focus of the

Economy Ministry."

He said that economy, development and sustainability would mean nothing if they are not aligned with compassion, humanity, justice and safety.

Anwar voiced his appreciation to all parties including the UN that had focused on the need to ensure member countries including Malaysia observe SDG principles and goals.

"Nowadays, we do not just talk about global warming; we are talking about global boiling.

"You will be surprised that there are leaders who are climate change deniers despite the level of sophistication and knowledge we have," he added.

THE STAR

18 SEP 2024

Tarikh:.....

Fenomena air pasang besar diramal cecah 5.8 meter

Sinar 18/9

SHAH ALAM - Pusat Operasi Bencana Daerah Klang (DDOC) mengeluarkan jadual air pasang surut dan taburan hujan susulan fenomena air pasang besar diramal bermula Selasa sehingga Sabtu.

Menurut Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Klang, bacaan paras air paling tinggi dijangka mencecah 5.8 meter pada jam 7.23 pagi pada Jumaat selain disusuli ribut petir.

"Pada Rabu, bacaan paras air laut berada tahap 5.5 meter

pada jam 6.08 pagi manakala sebelah petang dijangka mencapai 5.2 meter, kedua-duanya bersama amaran ribut petir.

"Keesokan hari pada Khamis pula, bacaan paras air laut adalah 5.7 meter pada jam 6.47 pagi dan disusuli hujan, sementara sebelah petang jam 6.59 dijangka mencecah 5.2 meter tanpa hujan," katanya menerusi satu hantaran di laman Facebook pada Selasa.

Katanya, ramalan pada Jumaat menunjukkan bacaan

tahap 5.2 meter pada jam 7.36 petang dan cuaca diramalkan baik berbanding pagi.

Sementara pada 21 September, bacaan paras air laut adalah 5.6 meter pada jam 7.56 pagi, manakala air laut dijangka setinggi lima meter pada jam 8.11 malam dengan cuaca diramal baik.

"Pusat Operasi Bencana Klang boleh dihubungi menerusi talian **03-3371 6700** atau menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp **010-973 1963**," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:18 SEP. 2024.....

Satu lagi kes baharu mpox dikesan

Melibatkan seorang warganegara lelaki, tiada sejarah perjalanan ke luar negara

Oleh RAIHAM MOHD SANUSI
SHAH ALAM

jalanan ke luar negara dalam tempoh 21 hari sebelum gejala timbul, kini sedang dalam isolasi dan berada dalam keadaan yang stabil.

"Semua kontak bagi pesakit ini sedang dikenal pasti dan status kesihatan mereka akan dipantau mengikut prosedur operasi standard semasa yang ketat," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Selasa.

Bagaimanapun, Muhammad Radzi berkata, hanya satu kes berkenaan sahaja yang disahkan positif mpox clade II daripada 58 kes disyaki yang telah dirujuk kepada KKM sepanjang tahun ini.

"Dengan itu juga semua 10 kes mpox di Malaysia yang disahkan sejak 26 Julai 2023 sehingga kini adalah daripada clade II sahaja.

"Bagi meningkatkan ke-

siapsiagaan dan membolehkan orang ramai memainkan peranan dengan meningkatkan kawalan kesihatan sendiri, KKM meneruskan hebahan kepada orang ramai melalui pelbagai saluran media massa dan media sosial," ujarnya.

Beliau menegaskan, individu berisiko tinggi yang bergejala mpox seperti demam, bengkak kelenjar limfa dan ruam atau lepuh pula perlu segera mendapatkan pemeriksaan dan rawatan di pusat kesihatan terdekat.

Katanya, orang ramai juga perlu elakkan diri daripada bersentuhan secara langsung dengan individu yang disyaki atau disahkan dijangkiti mpox dan mengamalkan kawalan kesihatan sendiri seperti mencuci tangan menggunakan air, sabun atau cecair pembasmi kuman.

Mpox diisytiharkan sebagai



Sebanyak 10 kes positif cacar monyet direkodkan di negara ini sejak 26 Julai 2023.

Kecemasan Kesihatan Awam yang Menjadi Kepentingan Antarabangsa (PHEIC) buat kali kedua pada 14 Ogos 2024 berikutan penularan virus clade Ib yang lebih pantas di Republik Demokratik Congo (DRC) dan negara-negara jiran di benua Afrika.

Susulan itu, KKM mengaktifkan bilik gerakan mpox di Pusat Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Cepat Krisis (CPRC) Kebangsaan pada 16 Ogos lalu dan CPRC Kebangsaan terus memantau situasi mpox serta menyelaraskan langkah kesiapsiagaan dan respons yang berkaitan.



DR MUHAMMAD RADZI

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) mengesahkan satu lagi kes baharu positif cacar monyet atau mpox varian clade II dikesan di negara ini pada Isnin. Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan berkata, kes melibatkan seorang warganegara lelaki yang mula menunjukkan gejala demam, sakit tekak dan batuk pada 11 September sebelum muncul ruam keesokannya.

"Pesakit tiada sejarah per-

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024

Inisiatif pupuk persekitaran online yang selamat, basmi buli siber

Infiniti

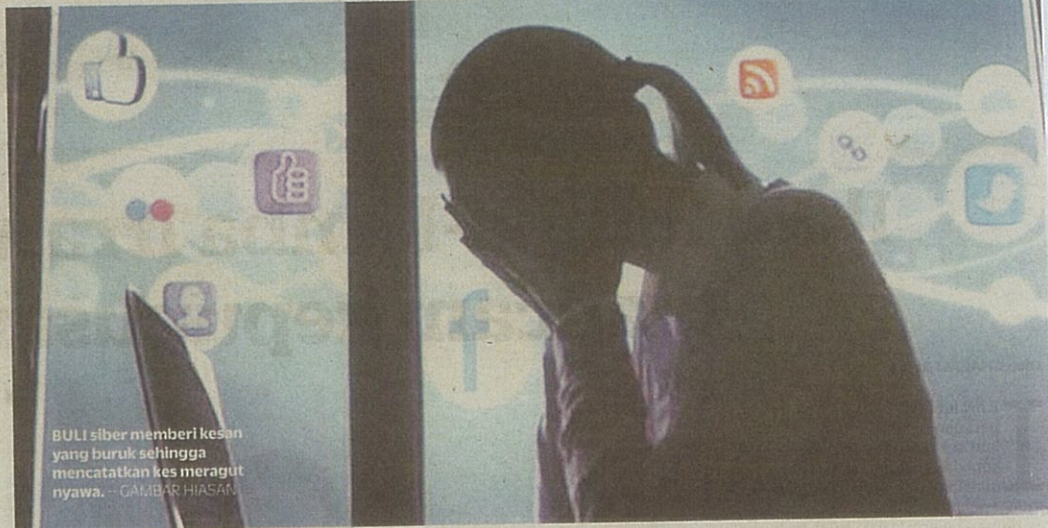
Skop sains

USAHA untuk memperkasa rakyat Malaysia agar berperanan aktif memupuk persekitaran dalam talian yang selamat dan positif kini giat dijalankan sebagai langkah bagi membendung buli siber.

Perkara ini dilihat perlu susulan beberapa insiden yang berlaku hingga meragut nyawa berpuncanya daripada penggunaan platform media sosial yang tidak bertanggungjawab.

Mengambil peluang untuk memberi kesedaran kepada pengguna siber, platform video mudah alih, TikTok dengan kerjasama Forum Kandungan Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (CMCF), All Women's Action Society (AWAM) serta Persatuan Kesedaran dan Sokongan Penyakit Mental (MIASA) melancarkan kempen #ThinkTwice.

Menurut Ketua Dasar Awam TikTok Malaysia, Anuar Fariz Fadzil, #ThinkTwice menggesa komuniti dalam talian untuk lebih prihatin terhadap perkongsian, komen dan hantaran mereka dalam dunia siber melalui kandungan, webinar dan sumber yang berasaskan maklumat dan pendidikan.



"Melalui #ThinkTwice anjuran bersama CMCF, AWAM dan MIASA, kami ingin memperkasa rakyat Malaysia agar kekal bertanggungjawab ke atas kelakuan dalam talian mereka dan menggalakkan mereka untuk sama-sama memupuk komuniti dalam

talian yang sihat dan positif," katanya menerusi satu kenyataan baru-baru ini.

Melalui tanda pagar #ThinkTwice, TikTok menggalakkan pengguna untuk memainkan peranan lebih aktif dalam memupuk komuniti online yang lebih selamat dengan mencipta dan berkongsi

kandungan positif dan bermanfaat.

TikTok juga akan menganjurkan satu siri sesi siaran langsung bersempena Hari Kesihatan Mental Sedunia pada Oktober ini yang menghimpunkan profesional kesihatan mental, pakar dan pencipta content siaran langsung.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024

Petunjuk Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan negara lebih baik

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia mencapai kedudukan yang baik dalam petunjuk Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan (SDG), mendahului pencapaian dunia, kata Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Beliau berkata, berdasarkan analisis 248 petunjuk SDG yang terkini, pencapaian Ma-

aysia berada di kedudukan yang baik iaitu sekitar 43 peratus berbanding pencapaian dunia yang berada pada paras purata 17 peratus.

Katanya, pencapaian itu agak baik, namun negara perlu terus meningkatkan lagi usaha bagi mencapai prestasi yang lebih baik.

"Kita bersyukur daripada

248 petunjuk SDG, pencapaian Malaysia ialah berada dalam kedudukan yang baik 43 peratus berbanding pencapaian dunia purata 17 peratus," katanya pada majlis perasmian Sidang Kemuncak Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan Malaysia 2024 di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama Timbalan Menteri Ekonomi, Datuk Hanifah

Hajar Taib.

Mengulas kejayaan itu, Perdana Menteri berkata, pencapaian berkenaan memberi petanda yang baik, namun Malaysia harus bergegas dengan upaya yang lebih untuk mencapai prestasi yang terbaik, yang menjadi petanda aras bagi negara.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia ha-

rus melakukan apa saja yang perlu sebaik mungkin untuk memastikan negara mencapai matlamat dengan cara yang paling cemerlang.

Katanya, pencapaian itu yang bukan saja mencakupi kepentingan ekonomi tetapi juga sesuatu yang begitu kritikal untuk kelangsungan hidup manusia dan negara.

BERITA HARIAN
18 SEP 2024
Tarikh.....

Dua kilang tayar di Teluk Gong tidak berlesen

(MBDK)

um 8/9



ANGGOTA Penguat kuasa Majlis Bandaraya Diraja Klang (MBDK) menjalankan operasi pemeriksaan di sekitar kawasan perindustrian Teluk Gong di Klang, Selangor, baru-baru ini. - IHSAN MBDK

KLANG: Dua daripada tiga premis kilang tayar di kawasan perindustrian Teluk Gong, di sini didapati beroperasi secara haram.

Pengarah Jabatan Komunikasi Korporat Majlis Bandaraya Diraja Klang (MBDK), Norfiza Mahfiz berkata, sebanyak 18 operasi pemeriksaan dijalankan sepanjang tahun ini di sekitar kawasan tersebut oleh Jabatan Pelesenan bersama Jabatan Penguat kuasa MBDK.

Katanya, sebanyak 27 kompaun telah dikeluarkan kepada pengilang sekitar Teluk Gong. Kompaun telah dikeluarkan di bawah Undang-Undang Kecil

(UUK) Tred Perindustrian Perniagaan Dan Iklan Majlis Perbandaran Klang (MPK) 2007.

"Memang wujud kilang haram di kawasan tersebut iaitu tiga premis kilang tayar yang mana hanya satu yang berlesen."

"MBDK sebagai pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) sentiasa membuat pemantauan bagi memastikan kawasan Teluk Gong bebas dari kilang tidak berlesen," katanya di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, *Mingguan Malaysia* melaporkan, Teluk Gong di Pelabuhan Klang suatu ketika dahulu merupakan sebuah

perkampungan yang permai dikelilingi hutan paya bakau, namun kini tercemar teruk seolah-olah bertukar sebagai pusat pelupusan dan pemprosesan sisa industri, plastik dan tayar terpakai berskala 'mega'.

Berlakunya keadaan itu akibat kewujudan puluhan kilang disyaki beroperasi secara haram menjalankan kerja-kerja pemprosesan sisa buangan yang tidak melalui proses atau prosedur betul.

Norfiza berkata, berdasarkan statistik, terdapat sebanyak 274 kilang berlesen di Teluk Gong yang mana 47 kilang tersebut berkaitan plastik.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024



ANWAR Ibrahim melakukan gimik perasmian Sidang Kemuncak SDG Malaysia 2024 di KLCC, semalam.
- UTUSAN/SADDAM YUSOFF

Malaysia capai 43% indikator SDG - PM

Oleh AHMAD FADHLULLAH
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia mencapai sekitar 43 peratus daripada keseluruhan 248 petunjuk Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan (SDG), setakat ini.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, kedudukan agak baik itu berbanding pencapaian dunia yang puratanya sekadar 17 peratus.

"Maknanya kita sudah mendepani, tetapi apabila ada perbincangan saya menyatakan jangan buat ukuran begitu. Itu hanya memberi sedikit petanda tetapi kita harus tanya pertamanya apakah tahap pencapaian Ekonomi Madani dan SDG

ini suatu yang perlu bagi negara dan bagi manusia.

"Sekiranya jawapan itu perlu, maka kita harus bergegas dengan upaya yang lebih untuk mencapai prestasi lebih baik.

"Itu bagi saya tanda aras kita. Walaupun kita bangga kerana pencapaian 43 peratus ketimbang 17 peratus yang dicapai secara purata itu sudah satu tahap yang sangat menggalakkan," katanya ketika berucap merasmikan Sidang Kemuncak SDG Malaysia 2024, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, Anwar berkata, kejayaan Malaysia berbanding negara lain hanyalah kejayaan relatif.

"Saya percaya jika, ia adalah soal keyakinan, maka kita harus melakukan apa sahaja yang per-

lu sebaik mungkin untuk memastikan kita mencapai matlamat ini dengan cara yang paling menakjubkan.

"Ini kerana itu adalah petanda tentang maksud Ekonomi Madani. (Ia) adalah tentang kelestarian, ihsan dan belas kasihan serta menghargai keperluan untuk terus hidup sebagai sebuah negara, sebagai manusia.

"Ini bermakna dalam masa pasca normal ini untuk memastikan kita menangani isu-isu ini, dengan kelajuan dan kepantasan yang dianggap belum pernah terjadi sebelumnya, dan yang diputuskan berdasarkan kepentingan kelangsungan hidup negara dan umat manusia," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:1..B..SEP...2024...

Azaharudin tekad perangi jenayah di Kuala Selangor

UM
18/9

KUALA SELANGOR: Pengalaman lebih 20 tahun dalam pelbagai siasatan kes menjadi bekalan Superintenden Azaharudin Tajudin untuk memerangi jenayah habis-habisan di daerah ini.

Ketua Polis Daerah yang baharu itu berkata, beliau pernah menjadi pegawai penyiasat di Ibu pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Kuala Kubu Bharu, Petaling Jaya, Klang dan pegawai turus di Ibu pejabat Polis Kontinjen

(IPK) Selangor.

Jelas bekas Ketua Pusat Pengajian Maktab Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) Kuala Kubu Bharu itu, misi utamanya memfokuskan usaha dalam memerangi kegiatan jenayah menerusi kerjasama erat masyarakat setempat.

"Berebalkan ilmu yang ada, saya akan mengkaji trend jenayah di daerah ini dan merangka perancangan strategik bagi

membanterasnya secara habis-habisan," katanya.

Azaharudin, 52, mengambil alih jawatan itu berkuat kuasa semalam menggantikan Deputy Superintenden Mohd. Ambia Nordin yang memegang jawatan itu pada 5 Julai lalu.

Majlis serah tugas berlangsung di IPD Kuala Selangor di sini disaksikan Timbalan Ketua Polis Selangor, Datuk S. Sasikala Devi.



MOHD. AMBIA Nordin (kiri) menyerahkan dokumen serah tugas kepada Azaharudin Tajudin (kanan) sambil disaksikan S. Sasikala Devi di Ibu pejabat Polis Daerah Kuala Selangor, semalam.
- UTUSAN/ISKANDAR SHAH MOHAMED

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024

Ringgit antara mata wang berprestasi terbaik di Asia

Oleh NUR NAZLINA NADZARI
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PETALING JAYA: Nilai ringgit bukan sahaja mengukuh berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS), malah turut mencatatkan prestasi positif berbanding dolar Singapura sekali gus menjadi antara mata wang berprestasi terbaik di Asia.

Mata wang tempatan mengukuh kepada RM3.30 sedolar Singapura pada tengah hari semalam, berbanding paras terdahulu RM3.57 yang dicatatkan pada 21 Februari lalu.

Berbanding dolar AS pula, ringgit dibuka pada 4.2940/3000 sebelum mengakhiri dagangan dengan kukuh pada 4.2630/2750.

Pengarah Pusat Pengurusan Penyelidikan Universiti Kewangan Islam Global (Inceif), Prof. Madya Dr. Baharom Abdul Hamid berkata, ringgit dijangka mengukuh sehingga RM4.25 berbanding dolar AS pada minggu ini, didorong oleh asas ekonomi yang kuat serta tanda-tanda Rizab Persekutuan (Fed) AS menurunkan kadar faedah pada mesyuarat minggu ini.

Ujarnya, sesetengah ramalan juga mengatakan mata wang negara mampu mencapai sehingga RM4.15 dalam masa dua bulan lagi.

Katanya, Malaysia yang me-



RINGGIT mengukuh berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat dan beberapa rakan serantau termasuk Singapura, menjadikannya antara mata wang berprestasi terbaik di Asia. - GAMBAR HIASAN

nyatakan minat untuk menyertai kumpulan ekonomi BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China dan Afrika Selatan) juga mampu menambah keyakinan pelabur luar terhadap negara ini.

"Buat masa ini, kita cuma memberitahu bahawa Malaysia berminat untuk menyertai BRICS dan mendapat sokongan negara-negara penerajunya. Tetapi secara rasminya belum

lagi menyertainya.

"Jika Malaysia diterima masuk semasa Persidangan BRICS 2024 yang akan berlangsung di Kazan (22 hingga 24 Oktober ini), kita dapat melonjakkan ekonomi dengan lebih cepat lagi," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Baharom berkata, pasaran saham tempatan pula dijangka diniaga bercampur-campur, namun akan mengekalkan momen-

tum pertumbuhan, didorong oleh keyakinan pelabur terhadap kestabilan ekonomi dan politik Malaysia.

"Suku terakhir tahun ini dipercayai akan terus cemerlang. Ringgit akan mengukuh dan Bursa Malaysia akan terus didagangkan melepasi 1,650. Jika ada aktiviti mengambil keuntungan, itu adalah perkara biasa.

"Unjuran pengumuman pe-

nurunan kadar faedah oleh Fed AS, akan membuatkan pelabur asing mencari pasaran baharu termasuk Malaysia bagi membuat pelaburan kerana lebih menarik," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Penganalisis Ekonomi UniKL Business School, Prof Madya Dr. Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid, berkata, ringgit dijangka mengukuh berikutan unjuran Fed akan memulakan pemotongan kadar faedah yang pertama dalam masa hampir dua tahun.

Menurutnya, aliran pelaburan telah pun mula mengalir keluar dari AS dan menghala ke negara-negara Asia Tenggara iaitu Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam dan Filipina, iaitu mereka membeli bon-bon terbitan kerajaan dan juga pasaran ekuiti.

"Aliran masuk tersebut telah membantu menjadikan mata wang negara Asia Tenggara sebagai prestasi terbaik dalam pasaran baru muncul suku ini. Ringgit dijangka mengukuh hingga ke aras sokongan RM4.25 kepada RM4.29 minggu ini.

"Indeks Dolar AS (DXY) yang menjadi penanda aras kepada kekuatan nilai dolar AS sudah pun menurun 0.75 peratus dalam tempoh seminggu dan masih turun kepada paras yang rendah iaitu 100.87 mata sahaja," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 18 SEP 2024

AHEAD OF WORLD AVERAGE

Malaysia hits 43pc of 248 SDG goals

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has achieved 43 per cent of the 248 current indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), compared with the global average of only 17 per cent.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said based on the analysis, the country is in a good position, although he cautioned against relying solely on these metrics.

"Even though we are ahead (than other countries), during discussions, I emphasised that we should not solely use such measures as they only provide a small indication."

"We should ask whether the goals of the Madani economy and the SDGs are essential for the country and for humanity."

"If the answer is yes, then we must accelerate our efforts to achieve better performance."

"That to me, is our benchmark," he said in a speech at the

2024 Malaysia Sustainable Development Goals Summit here, yesterday.

Also present were Deputy Health Minister Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni, Auditor General Datuk Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi and Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib.

Anwar reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving the SDGs effectively.

He said the government is dedicated to addressing issues of val-

ues, humanity and compassion extending beyond the current major pillars of the SDGs, which include economic, social and environmental imperatives.

"We should do whatever is necessary to our best to ensure that we achieve these goals in a more spectacular manner."

"Because that is a sign of what Madani is all about... it is about sustainability, it's about *ihسان* and compassion, and to appreciate the need to survive as a nation, as human beings."

"I'm appalled by the fact that we still have leaders who are still proponents of climate denial."

"With all this level of sophistication, knowledge and understanding, we still have that problem."

Anwar said economic development and sustainability are meaningless without an understanding of righteousness and humanity.

"Justice and security include the environment and climate, which we can partly determine

and accept as a statement of the laws of nature."

However, he said there were areas that need continued focus and improvement.

"The ministry concerned, which is the Economy Ministry and the Auditor General traditionally focus on auditing financial accounts."

"But we are now moving beyond that. We need to look at policies and determinants that will safeguard our community and our nation."



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (centre) launching the 2024 Malaysia Sustainable Development Goals Summit in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. With him is Deputy Economy Minister Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib (second from left).
PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

THE SUN
18 SEP 2024

Tarikh:

Malaysia to accelerate measures to achieve SDG 2030

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will accelerate the implementation of measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG 2030) within the remaining six years, Deputy Economy Minister, Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib said, while calling on all stakeholders to continue collaborating with each other.

"In reality, no government can do this alone. It can only be made possible with a strong cooperation among all stakeholders, supported by all levels of society, including individually you and me," she said in

her opening address at SDG Summit 2024 yesterday.

"There is no alternative but to confront these challenges head on, and it is up to us to act today so that current and future generations can continue the sustainability agenda for years to come."

Hanifah pointed out that the last SDG summit was organised in Malaysia in 2019, right before Covid-19 became widespread globally.

"Our narrative and journey in SDG were substantially impacted by the pandemic. We have come back with a strong economy sign now, and it is timely for us to check our current status today on the progress towards

2030," she said.

"This summit is also critical in co-creating the vision of Malaysia that we want in the next five years. We have curated six plenary and 10 parallel sessions with 30 exhibition booths that showcase our progress and actions, and I urge all of you to make full use of the event," she said.

Hanifah also called on participants to utilise this summit as a platform to contribute insights that will guide Malaysia's policies in the preparation of the 13th Malaysia Plan that will chart the course of the nation until 2030.

"This is in line with Madani holistic initiatives to realise the whole-of-

nation approach," she added.

Hanifah also emphasised that Malaysia's economic, social, and environmental related policies are not just reactions to global pressures but aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and also Madani Economy framework.

She said Malaysia's 12th Malaysia Plan and its mid-term review highlight the government's proactive steps in tackling economic, social, and environmental challenges. "Our unwavering goal is to leave no one behind," she said.

Hanifah stressed the need to drive sustainable economic growth that involves attracting foreign investments, empowering SMEs, and

tapping into emerging sectors such as the digital economy.

In parallel, she said, the government is addressing the cost of living by managing inflation, rationalising subsidies and improving the efficiency of public services. "A nation's prosperity is reflected in its people's quality of life, and we are committed to this."

Job creation is another pillar, Hanifah said. "We are focusing on education, skills training, and supporting high-growth industries to generate meaningful, high-paying jobs that prepare our workforce for the future," she said, adding that growth alone is insufficient.

THE SUN
18 SEP 2024

berikht:

EACH year the world produces around 400 million tonnes of plastic waste, much of it discarded after just a few minutes of use.

Negotiators hope to reach the world's first treaty on plastic pollution this year, but across five very different countries, AFP found single-use plastic remains hugely popular as a cheap and convenient choice, illustrating the challenges ahead.

THAILAND

On a Bangkok street lined with food vendors, customers line up for Maliwan's famed traditional sweets.

Steamed layer cakes — green with pandan leaf or blue with butterfly pea — sit in clear plastic bags alongside rows of taro pudding in plastic boxes.

Each day, the 40-year-old business uses at least 2kg of single-use plastic.

"Plastic is easy, convenient and cheap," said 44-year-old owner Watchararas Tamrongpattarakit.

Banana leaves used to be standard, but they are increasingly expensive and hard to source.

They are also onerous to use because each one must be cleaned and checked for tears.

It "isn't practical for our pace of sales", said Watchararas.

Thailand started limiting single-use plastic before the pandemic, asking major retailers to stop handing out bags for free.

But the policy has largely fallen by the wayside, with little uptake among the country's street food vendors.

Thailand produces two million tonnes of plastic waste a year, according to the country's Pollution Control Department.

The World Bank estimates 11 per cent goes uncollected, and is burned, disposed of on land or leaks into rivers and the ocean.

Watchararas tries to consolidate purchases into fewer bags and said some customers bring their own reusable containers and totes.

But Radeerut Sakulpongpaial, a Maliwan customer for 30 years, said she finds plastic "convenient".

"I also understand the environmental impact," the bank worker said.

But "it's probably easier for both the shop and the customers".

NIGERIA

In the Obalende market at the heart of Nigeria's economic capital Lagos, emptied water sachets litter the ground.

Each day, Lisebeth Ajayi watches dozens of customers use their teeth to tear open the bags of "pure water" and drink.

"They don't have the money to buy the bottle water, that's why they do the pure water," said the 58-year-old, who sells bottles and bags of water, soap and sponges.

CHEAP AND CONVENIENT

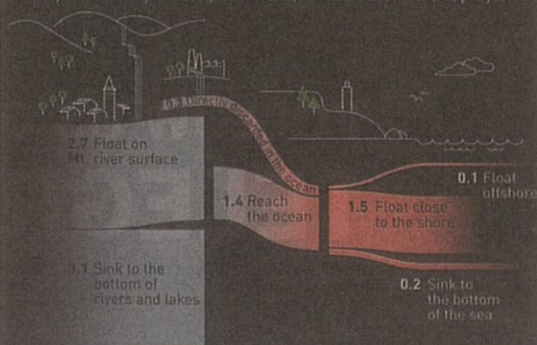
Disposable plastic widely used despite impact on environment



A man walking past plastic bottles on a street in Hanoi on Monday. AFP PIC

PLASTICS DISCHARGED INTO WATERWAYS

Quantity of mismanaged macroplastic waste, in millions of tonnes (Mt) per year



Source: OECD Global Plastics Outlook 2023 (2019 data)

AFP

Two 500ml sachets sell for between 50 and 250 naira (3 and 15 US cents), compared with 250 to 300 naira for a 750ml bottle.

Since they appeared in the 1990s, water sachets have become a major pollutant across much of Africa, but they remain popular for drinking, cooking and even washing.

Some 200 firms produce the sachets in Lagos, and several hundred more recycle plastic, but supply vastly outstrips capacity in a country with few public wastebins and little environmental education. Lagos banned single-use plastic in January, but with little impact so far.

The United Nations estimates up to 60 million water sachets are discarded across Nigeria every day.

BRAZIL

Each day, vendors walk the sands of some of Rio de Janeiro's most beautiful beaches, lugging metal containers filled with the tea-like drink mate.

The iced beverage, infused with fruit juice, is dispensed into plastic cups for eager sun worshipers dotted along the seashore.

"Drinking mate is part of Rio de Janeiro's culture," explained Arthur Jorge da Silva, 47, as he scouted for customers.

He acknowledged the environmental impacts of his towers of plastic cups, in a country ranked the fourth-biggest producer of plastic waste in 2019.

But "it's complicated" to find affordable alternatives, he said.

The tanned salesman said mate vendors on the beach had used

plastic for as long as he could remember. He pays a dollar for a tower of 20 cups and charges customers US\$1.80 for each drink.

Bins along Rio's beaches receive about 130 tonnes of waste a day, but plastic is not separated, and just three per cent of Brazil's waste is recycled annually.

Evelyn Talavera, 24, said she does her best to clean up when leaving the beach.

"We have to take care of our planet, throw the garbage away, keep the environment clean."

Plastic straws have been banned in Rio's restaurants and bars since 2018, and shops are no longer required to offer free plastic bags — though many still do.

Congress is also considering legislation that would ban all single-use plastic.

FRANCE

In France, single-use plastic has been banned since 2016, but while items like straws and plastic cutlery have disappeared, plastic bags remain common.

At Paris' Aligre market, stalls are piled with fruit, vegetables and stacks of bags ready to be handed out.

Most are stamped "reusable and 100-per cent recyclable", and some are described as compostable or produced from natural materials.

But experts have cast doubt on the environmental relevance of some of these claims.

Vendor Laurent Benacer gets through a €24 box of 2,000 bags each week.

"In Paris, everyone asks for a bag," he told AFP.

"I'd stopped, but my neigh-

bours continued, so I had to restart."

There are alternatives like paper bags, but some customers are not convinced.

"Plastic bags remain practical, so everything doesn't spill everywhere," insisted 80-year-old customer Catherine Sale.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

At the Allo Beirut restaurant in Dubai, plastic containers are piled high, waiting to be filled and delivered across the city.

"We receive more than 1,200 orders a day," said delivery manager Mohammed Chanaan.

"We use plastic boxes because they are more airtight, and better preserve the food," he said.

With few pedestrians and an often-scorching climate, many of Dubai's 3.7 million residents rely on delivery for everything from petrol to coffee.

Residents of the UAE have one of the highest volumes of waste per capita in the world.

And single-use plastic accounts for 40 per cent of all plastic used in the country.

Since June, single-use plastic bags and several similar items have been banned. Polystyrene containers will follow next year.

Allo Beirut is considering using cardboard containers, a move customer Youmna Asmar would welcome.

She admitted horror at the build-up of plastic in her bins after a weekend of family orders.

"I say to myself, if all of us are doing this, it's a lot."

AFP bureaus from around the world contributed to this article