

MBPJ ANNIVERSARY

- > Council parking will be free on June 20 throughout Petaling Jaya in conjunction with the city's anniversary celebration.
- > On June 21, there will be performances by students from the city's schools, artist performances and fireworks at Laman MBPJ, Jalan Yong Shook Lin.
- > From today to June 22 the PJ ICT Summit will be held at Dewan Sivik. Concurrently, a mini book expo and food festival will also take place within the carpark area.
- > Free membership to the PJ community library will be offered from tomorrow to June 22.

THE STAR

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:.....

PJ folk object to MRT3 alignment proposal

By FARID WAHAB
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A PROPOSAL to bring the MRT3 alignment into parts of Petaling Jaya, Selangor, has drawn objections from some residents over health and environmental concerns.

A town hall session was held in Section 14 by Bukit Gasing assemblyman Rajiv Rishyakaran to explain the proposal.

Rajiv said he and Petaling Jaya MP Lee Chean Chung had worked with Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) to draw up the proposed route.

According to a map displayed during the session, the proposed route cuts across Taman Jaya and Jalan Kemajuan next to Section 13 and Section 16 (refer to map).

"The proposal has been sent to the Federal Government but no decision has been made yet," said Rajiv.

"The route will service two areas namely Section 13 and PJ Sentral, which have been seeing massive increase in commercial and industrial activities."

The assemblyman said the city needed more public transportation to cope with increased traffic and residents.

"More workers from other areas are coming into Petaling Jaya. It is better that they come by train than by car," he stressed.

However, some residents were unhappy with his explanation. Section 14 Residents

Association chairman Selva Sugumaran Perumal said the proposed alignment barely entered Section 13.

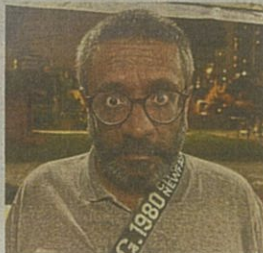
"The route should go into Section 13 proper, as well as Section 17, to serve residents in those areas."

"Also, PJ Sentral is already served by (Asia Jaya and Taman

Residents claim they have not been consulted prior to submission of suggested route



Selva says the proposed alignment barely enters Section 13.



D'Cruz is concerned about noise pollution.

Jaya) LRT stations.

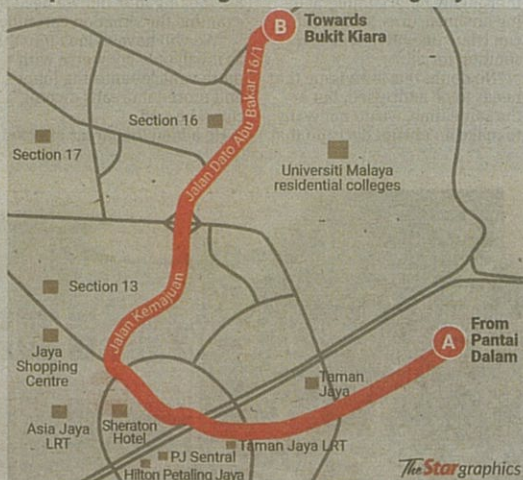
"Why does it need more public transportation?"

Selva also said that Rajiv, Chung and MBPJ should have consulted local communities before submitting the proposal to the Federal Government.

Another resident Andre D. D'Cruz, who lives near the Asia Jaya LRT station, expressed concern about noise.

"I have made complaints but

Proposed MRT3 alignment in Petaling Jaya



they have not been addressed.

"Can the authorities guarantee similar issues won't recur if MRT3 is routed through this area?" he questioned.

Other concerns raised were the loss of Petaling Jaya's green lung, while a suggestion was made to enhance feeder bus coverage and demand-responsive transit (DRT).

Rajiv replied that feeder buses and DRT could only go so far in alleviating traffic congestion in the city.

He also stressed that there was a need to balance between environmental concerns and socio-economic needs.

On questions about the locations and sizes of the MRT3 sta-

tions, Rajiv said these would be finalised by MRT Corp later.

Also known as Circle Line, the MRT3 alignment is a 51km rail loop cutting across major townships in the Klang Valley.

The current alignment has 32 planned stations and does not include the locations in Rajiv's proposal.

The project will be connected to 10 existing MRT, LRT, KTM and Monorail stations.

It is expected to start in 2027 and be fully operational by 2032.

MRT1 (Kajang Line) links Sungai Buloh and Kajang while MRT2 (Putrajaya Line) links Kwasa Damansara and Putrajaya Sentral.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025

FISHING COMPETITION
Ampang Jaya City Council
(MPAJ) is hosting Cabaran
Joran Ampang Jaya at Tasik
Pandan Perdana on June 22
from 8am. Registration starts
on June 21, 3pm-7pm at the tent
by the lake.

THE STAR

Tarikh:.....19 JUN 2025.....

Ampang Jaya pocket park to benefit six neighbourhoods

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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A NEW recreational park in Taman Cahaya, Ampang Jaya in Selangor, has received approval from its surrounding community.

The park on Jalan Cahaya 12 was constructed by Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) with a RM500,000 Housing and Local Government Ministry allocation.

A resident of the nearby Bella Vista apartments, KC Tan, said it was a good decision to have a park just next to the property.

"There aren't many open spaces where people can gather and relax in this area, so this park is a welcomed addition," said Tan who has lived in Bella Vista for over a decade.

The new park features a children's playset and jogging track.

A Taman Cahaya resident, who only wanted to be known as Sabariah, said while she welcomed the park, more seating was needed.



The new recreational park in Taman Cahaya features a children's playset and jogging track.

"There is plenty of open space and walking paths, but not enough places to sit, especially for senior citizens like me."

Sabariah, who has been visiting the park daily with her grandchildren since it opened, said benches and shaded seating would make it more comfortable and accessible to all age groups.

MPAJ Zone 8 councillor Datuk Yap Wee Seng said residents from at least six neighbourhoods

could enjoy the park facilities.

They include Taman Cahaya, Taman Dagang, Taman Cahaya Indah, Taman Cempaka, Taman Nirwana and Kampung Baru Ampang.

"There is a lack of public parks in these mature areas."

"Finding spaces where a new green space could be built was difficult," said Yap.

"This site used to be idle land as it was also near high-tension

cables," he said, recalling that residents had suggested it be turned into a park.

He said MPAJ managed to complete construction of the almost 1ha park in six months.

"Hopefully, we will be able to identify more spaces that can be turned into pocket parks," he added.

In a media statement, MPAJ said the construction of the park was part of its ongoing efforts to enhance community infrastructure and improve access to recreational and leisure facilities within its jurisdiction.

It also reaffirmed its commitment to providing comfortable, community friendly public spaces that promoted a healthy lifestyle for all.

Bukit Antarabangsa assemblyman Mohd Kamri Kamaruddin, who is also Selangor Deputy Speaker, MPAJ deputy president Hasrolnizam Shaari and Youth, Community and Landscape Department director Mohamad Yusuf Sulaiman visited the park.

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Tarikh:.....

ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS —

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is hosting a year-long series of 'Dialog Bandar Raya' events, featuring a range of activities and community programmes. The sessions will be held at various locations across the city. There's one at Perpustakaan Kuala Lumpur on June 28, followed by Pusat Komuniti Bukit Bandaraya (July 12) and Dewan Perdana Keramat Mall (July 26). For details, visit DBKL's social media pages.

THE STAR

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:.....

Govt seeks to curb medical costs with new initiative

KUALA LUMPUR: There is both room and opportunity for Malaysia to reduce its high medical inflation rate, one of the highest in Asia, through reforms under a Bank Negara health financing initiative called Reset.

Bank Negara governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said Malaysia's medical inflation rate stood at 15% compared with the regional average of 11%, based on data from Aon International Insurance Brokers.

"However, with the right reforms and collaboration, this can be addressed," he said during a panel session titled "Rising Cost, Rising Stakes: Expediting Reforms to Address Medical Inflation" at the Sasana Symposium 2025 yesterday.

Abdul Rasheed said the initiative was not merely a response to rising costs but a broader reset of the ecosystem involving multiple stakeholders, including hospitals, insurers, physicians and patients.

He emphasised that previous Bank Negara annual reports had highlighted the issue of high inflation and the need for reform.

"In December last year, we introduced new measures which provide some room for us to address this issue that has been confronted for a long time.

"With the involvement of the World Bank and various government entities, I am confident that this time the reforms will be implemented effectively," he said.

The Reset framework is anchored on five strategic thrusts and supported by 11 dedicated working groups.

Among its objectives are to redesign health insurance products to better support value-based healthcare services, improve the availability of tools for consumers to assess and select appropriate coverage, and enhance price transparency,

especially in procedures, medication and hospital fees.

The governor noted that one of the challenges faced by patients is the wide variance in treatment costs, with little transparency on actual prices.

Abdul Rasheed also underscored the importance of digital health systems in ensuring continuity of care, citing the example of diagnostic results, such as X-rays from primary care clinics being made transferable to hospitals to avoid unnecessary duplication and reduce costs.

The Reset initiative, he said, is also working toward the rollout of a base health insurance product that offers essential coverage at affordable prices.

"The design of this product is expected to come out by the second half of this year, with pilot testing targeted to run by next year," Abdul Rasheed said.— Bernama

THE STAR

Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025

Govt focused on repairing critically damaged roads first

STAR 10/6

KUALA LUMPUR: It will take RM4bil to repair all hazardous roads in the country, but due to budget constraints, the government will prioritise critically damaged roads, says Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

"We already have complete data on the dangerous roads and the financial requirements," said the Works Minister, Bernama reported.

"If we were to repair them all at

once, we would need RM4bil. Since we don't have that allocation, we have to do it in stages," he told reporters after attending the ministry's Gawai open house here yesterday.

The ministry has already identified roads that are in critical condition through its existing database, and repairs will be carried out based on urgency, he added.

"We know which roads are

severely damaged and we will prioritise those. Roads that are damaged but not critically will be attended to later."

The ministry is using the Pavement Condition Assessment (PCA) method to determine areas that need immediate attention.

The issue of road repairs is at the forefront of national conversation following the death of 15 Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

(UPSI) students in a bus crash along the Gerik-Jeli stretch of the East-West Highway on June 9.

For the Gerik-Jeli route, the PCA was conducted from March 13 to May 13, using advanced technologies, such as the Multi Laser Profiler (MLP) and Falling Weight Deflectometer (FWD).

Nanta said improvements to the highway have already been planned for this year, involving an allocation of RM55mil.

The upgrades include the installation of 385 streetlights and road line markings to improve visibility and safety at night.

He added that the ministry was open to all public feedback on how to improve the safety of the nation's roads.

"We take into account all views – from the public, netizens and relevant stakeholders. We will evaluate every suggestion carefully," he said.

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Tarikh:.....

Held over fake work passes

Civil servants nabbed in raids targeting Klang Valley syndicate

By FARIK ZOLKEPLI
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STAR
14/6

KUALA LUMPUR: Two civil servants were among three individuals detained in connection with selling fake e-temporary work permits for foreign workers (PLKS) following several raids in the Klang Valley.

Immigration director-general Datuk Zakaria Shaaban said the syndicate is believed to have charged RM11,000 per person and has been operating since late last year.

It is learnt that the syndicate's modus operandi involved offering PLKS services to undocumented foreigners residing in the Klang Valley, he said.

"Investigations found that the details on the e-PLKS did not exist in the official immigration system.

"We carried out the raid in Maluri, Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya on Monday following two weeks of surveillance and intelligence gathering," he said yesterday.

Zakaria said the department's enforcement team detained two local women and a man aged between 40 and 43 suspected to be involved in the syndicate's operations.

"Initial investigations revealed that one of the women and the man are civil servants."

A total of 101 passports from multiple countries (74 Sri Lankan passports, 13 from Myanmar, six from Vietnam, two from Indonesia, two from Ghana, and one each from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Syria) were seized during the 'special operation', he added.

"My officers also seized two mobile phones, a copy of a Companies Commission of Malaysia registration document and a luxury vehicle believed to have been used by the syndicate."

Zakaria said two other individuals have been issued notices to assist in the investigation.

In a separate operation, a Pakistani man, believed to be the



Fraud mill: Several items were seized including 13 fake immigration stickers, including for Bangladesh, India, the United States, Indonesia and Pakistan, as well as a biometric passport front label for Bangladesh. (Right) The desktop computer, laptop and printer reportedly used in the process of making fake visas.

mastermind behind a fake visa syndicate, was nabbed following raids at two locations along Jalan Ipoh on the same day.

Zakaria said during the raids, which began at 11am on June 16, officers inspected premises where a man and two women, all locals, were found conducting transactions.

"A Pakistani man, believed to be the syndicate's mastermind, was also detained at the scene."

"Initial checks revealed that the foreign suspect did not possess any valid travel documents or permit to be in the country."

Several items were seized including 13 fake immigration



stickers, including for Bangladesh, India, the United States, Indonesia and Pakistan, as well as a biometric passport front label for Bangladesh, he said.

"We also seized a desktop computer, laptop and printer used in the forgery process," he added.

Zakaria said investigations

revealed that the syndicate was producing and selling counterfeit immigration stickers to undocumented migrants residing in Malaysia.

"These fake visas were sold at prices ranging between RM100 and RM120 each, depending on the country of origin," he said.

THE STAR

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:.....

More to do as country's competitiveness rises

Ranking shows governance has room to improve

ECONOMY

By KEITH HIEW
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STB
19.16

PETALING JAYA: Experts believe Malaysia should stay focused on its own economic reality in view of its position in the World Competitiveness Ranking (WCR) 2025, with the country having made an 11-place jump to 23rd overall on the latest list released on Tuesday.

The WCR 2025 is compiled by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), and evaluated 69 countries based on 341 competitiveness criteria which are grouped into four main factors: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

Carmelo Ferlito, economist and chief executive at the Centre for Market Education think tank, expressed caution in passing absolute judgement of any country based solely on index positions alone, as he believes every index has its own limitations, coupled with the fact that the WCR 2025 covers only 69 countries.

He went on to acknowledge that Malaysia scored well on economic performance, driven by a strong showing in price dynamics, employment and international trade.

However, he pointed out that the picture becomes less rosy when looked at from the criterion of government efficiency, with Malaysia ranking only 46th in terms of business legislation, while the country's 42nd-place performance in management practices is also mediocre.

"We can say Malaysia is a well-performing economy despite the current system of business regulations, although we do see strong results being recorded in terms of taxation (11th) and institutional framework (20th)," Ferlito told *StarBiz*.

The top three spots in the rankings are occupied by Switzerland in first place, Singapore, which dropped to second, and Hong Kong, which moved two spots up from fifth last year.

IMD has campuses in both Switzerland and Singapore.

Ferlito believes that the different components of the index showed that Malaysia could improve in terms of business regulations, productivity and management practices to continue catching up, as he also called for an adjustment in mindset.

"Businesses are the driving force of the

"We can say Malaysia is a well-performing economy despite the current system of business regulations."

Carmelo Ferlito

national economy, if they thrive, everybody thrives. Policymaking therefore requires stepping into the shoes of business people and moving beyond words designed for the headlines, such as 'inclusiveness' and 'sustainability'.

"This is because businesses are the driving force for a truly sustainable and inclusive economic growth," he said.

Economist Geoffrey Williams, meanwhile, was forthright with his opinion, noting that there is a general consensus among economists that the WCR index is not too informative about real underlying competitiveness.

He suggested that the annual private survey does not carry real implications, as it varies from year to year and it has no impact in terms of business and investment.

He feels that Malaysia should instead focus on itself rather than paying considerable attention to surveys.

"For example, there is no chance of Malaysia boosting business competitiveness by investment in research and development. This type of investment takes generations to build with uncertain outcomes. Malaysia's comparative advantage and competitiveness has been and will continue to be in commodities and copying innovation from other places," he said.

Williams highlighted that Islamic finance, the halal industry and palm oil are three areas where Malaysia can innovate and gain large global markets, underlining the fact that these are not research and development-based industries.

Furthermore, he argued that the other competitiveness focused "challenges" have no relationship with the Malaysian economic reality, adding that the competitiveness indicators are affected by many short-term issues.

"The government elected at the very end of 2022 inherited a very volatile economy in 2023, which saw a pre-election boom followed by a post-election contraction. There was already built-in overspending which was difficult to manage in

the interim budgets," he said.

Williams emphasised that the government is well on the road to economic reform with new fiscal frameworks, with subsidy rationalisation already underway, adding that these targets are political issues and are for the long-term.

"Malaysia does not need to focus on competitiveness per se, it had 5.1% economic growth last year. The focus is on structural reforms to raise incomes and rationalising subsidies."

"Removal of subsidies and more liberalisation of markets will drive competitiveness on their own through private sector creativity, agility and innovation," said Williams.

Explaining what the ranking would mean to the average Malaysian, an economist with a foreign research house said Malaysia's economic improvement translates into a more stable environment with potential for job creation, particularly in export-driven industries such as semiconductors and tourism.

At the same time, controlled inflation, noted as a factor in the ranking, also helps maintain purchasing power, making daily necessities more affordable, she observed.

Malaysia's improvement in government efficiency, she said, would mean faster and more transparent public services, such as quicker approvals for business permits or access to government programmes, which can indirectly improve quality of life.

"Reduced bureaucratic red tape also attracts foreign investment, potentially leading to more job opportunities in high-value sectors," added the economist.

With Malaysia's business efficiency criterion also improving from 40th to 32nd this year, this could mean better job prospects for the average Malaysian, especially in skilled sectors, and increased opportunities for local businesses to innovate and grow.

It is worth noting that Malaysia is ahead of Britain, Thailand, South Korea and Japan in the WCR 2025, but ranks behind China, Taiwan, the United States and Australia.



Maimunah and Sibilski during World Bicycle Day in conjunction with KL Car-Free Morning in Kuala Lumpur.
— Photos: MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

Cycling for change

World Bicycle Day founder calls for inclusive, people-friendly transport city planning in KL

By CY LEE
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WHAT began as a childhood passion on the roads of Poland eventually led to the United Nations proclaiming World Bicycle Day.

For Polish-American Professor Leszek Sibilski, the bicycle has always been more than a means of getting from one place to another.

Once his sport, cycling turned into Sibilski's lifelong passion that now fuels a global campaign for mobility, sustainability and inclusion.

"All my experience in sports, academia and parenting led me to this work," Sibilski told *StarMetro* during his visit to Kuala Lumpur.

His visit was arranged by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuala Lumpur, which brought Sibilski to Malaysia in conjunction with World Bicycle Day on June 3.

The embassy also collaborated

with Kuala Lumpur City Hall during its Sunday Car-Free Morning initiative where Sibilski joined the mayor and the public for a ride through the city centre.

A former Polish national cyclist, Sibilski later built a career as a sociologist and educator, focusing on social movements and institutions.

"I just retired from teaching positions, so I'm enjoying my freedom, but I'm keeping myself busy."

That includes championing World Bicycle Day, which was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2018 following a resolution he helped spearhead.

Observed annually, the day is now marked by all 193 UN member states, symbolising global recognition of the bicycle as a tool for development, inclusion and sustainability.

Sibilski described his ride with Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif, as "an

amazing signal" to the public.

This year marks his second visit to Malaysia, after 20 years.

While he acknowledged the city's progress, he said Kuala Lumpur still had a long way to go.

"You have about 61km of cycling lanes – that's not enough," he said.

"The urban design is still very car-oriented and spread out. It's the same issue we face in America," he added.

As Malaysia builds its public transport systems, bicycles must be seen as part of the bigger picture, said Sibilski.

For that to happen, there needs to be consistent political will.

"Behind every bicycle is a voter. Don't aim too high, too fast – start from zero.

"Elect politicians who will promote cycling culture and healthy behaviour," he said.

Sibilski, who met Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh at the KL Car-Free Morning, said



Car-Free Morning cyclists on a ride through the city centre.



The mobility challenged are not left out of the Car-Free Morning event.

they had a "very productive" discussion.

"I think there will be a follow-up meeting, and I will introduce her to some of my newest inventions and legislations, which I think will be very useful for your society," he said.

He expressed hope that the mayor would issue a proclamation for Kuala Lumpur to adopt the next World Bicycle Day.

One of those initiatives is Bicycles for All, a resolution promoting the integration and promotion of the bicycle as a tool for sport and physical education in cities, schools and communities.

For Sibilski, cycling is not just about health or the environment but also a matter of social inclusion.

He pointed to the bicycle's role in empowering women, citing its significance in the North American emancipation movement, and stressed its value for

marginalised and low-income communities.

During his visit, Sibilski said he aimed to engage students, teachers and local leaders in partnerships.

"When you're advocating for something that's your passion, you don't spare anybody."

But his strategy remains one of persuasion, not confrontation.

"Advocacy must be gentle, responsible and creative," he said.

"When you fight, you lose energy and create enemies.

"We don't need that. We need alliances that support bicycle users," he added.

Sibilski's advice for Malaysia: "Don't try to replicate other countries, but find your own way. You cannot emulate everything from the Netherlands.

"Apply domestic standards. Pay attention to your culture and tradition."

THE STAR

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:.....

Workers share their view on raising retirement age

By YEE XIANG YUN

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JOHOR BARU: As a young graduate who has just entered the job market, Hanie Yunus has an observation when it comes to the idea of raising the retirement age from 60 to 65.

"Towards 60, I notice many at this age are just waiting for retirement. Often, younger staff end up covering for them. Their productivity tends to decline," said Hanie, 25, who is in the property development sector.

She is worried that other fresh graduates would be locked out of the job market if older individuals worked longer and did not free up positions for younger colleagues to move up.

"Older employees also draw higher salaries in senior roles – the same budget could be used to hire two or three young graduates who bring in fresh ideas and are more adept at using AI and new technologies," she said.

Hanie's comments come as a Cabinet minister reignited the debate over whether the retirement age for the public sector should be increased from 60 to 65,



Putting it together: Employees working the assembly line at a factory in Johor.

given that those who turned 60 could still be productive and sharp.

Stressing that it was her personal opinion, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said had said that some officials, such as judges, served until 62 years.

On May 23, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government would study the proposal as the idea deserved

attention and consideration.

Logistics operations executive Termit Singh, 32, echoed the view that the retirement age should be kept at 60.

"Adding another five years might reduce our ability to enjoy the fruits of our labour. We may not have the energy, time or health to fully benefit from it," he said.

Termit urged the government to conduct proper studies and lis-

ten to the majority before making a decision.

"The authorities have access to more data, so they must carry out the right analysis and come up with policies that truly benefit the people.

"If the retirement age is raised, there should at least be an option to opt out," he added, stressing the importance of starting financial planning from a young age in order to retire comfortably.

However, financial planner Ng Zhen Wei, 37, supported the idea of raising the retirement age, saying that people were living longer and healthier.

"I would continue working beyond 60 if possible. With the rising cost of living, it is important for the government to review outdated policies," he said.

Ng also said ageing workers need to stay relevant by upgrading their skills if the retirement age is raised.

"We must constantly improve ourselves to justify continued employment.

"Otherwise, there is no reason for employers to retain us if we do not add value to the organisation," he added.

THE STAR

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:

MALAYSIA is currently experiencing prolonged periods of extreme heat, and while much of the public concern has focused on heatstroke and energy consumption, another pressing issue is unfolding quietly: an increase in mosquito activity, particularly the *Aedes* species responsible for dengue transmission.

Rising temperatures are not just uncomfortable; they are also accelerating the life cycle and disease-spreading potential of mosquitoes in ways we can no longer afford to ignore.

As a tropical country, Malaysia has always been conducive for mosquito populations. However, heatwaves significantly worsen the situation. Elevated temperatures shorten the time it takes for mosquito eggs to hatch, allowing larvae to mature into adults at a faster rate.

With more mosquitoes emerging in less time, local populations can surge dramatically. The heat also extends the lifespan of adult mosquitoes, offering a longer window for them to bite and spread viruses such as dengue, Zika, and chikungunya.

More worryingly, studies have shown that warmer conditions enhance the rate at which viruses replicate within the mosquito's body. This means mosquitoes become infectious earlier in their life, thereby amplifying the potential for outbreaks.

In addition to enhancing vector biology, the heatwave is also influencing human behaviour in ways that may inadvertently aid mosquito survival. People are more likely to stay indoors but often forget to eliminate small collections of stagnant water around the home, such as in flowerpots, dish trays (*pic*) or clogged drains. These become ideal breeding sites, particularly when left unattended for several days.

At the same time, fewer people may tolerate fogging activities or opt to wear protective clothing in the heat, thereby reducing the effectiveness of standard preventive measures.

When temperatures rise, so do mosquito numbers – and dengue



The data is already showing signs of escalation. As of mid-June this year, over 27,000 dengue cases have been reported nationwide. This represents not just a seasonal spike but also a larger trend that correlates closely with rising ambient temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns.

According to the World Health Organisation, Malaysia confirmed 122,423 dengue cases and 117 related fatalities in 2024, a

17% increase from the number recorded in 2023.

Coincidentally, last year was the fourth hottest year on record for Malaysia, according to the Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia).

These trends underscore the complex relationship between climate change and infectious disease dynamics that is no longer theoretical but observable in real time, too.

From a public health perspec-

tive, this calls for a dual response – one that addresses mosquito control directly, and another that strengthens public awareness of the environmental drivers of disease.

Vector control must remain consistent and science-based with improvements to drainage systems, enhanced surveillance of high-risk areas, and continuous engagement with communities to reduce breeding grounds.

Meanwhile, public understanding must shift from viewing mosquitoes as an isolated nuisance to recognising them as indicators of wider ecological imbalance.

There are also individual actions that can help mitigate the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Households should regularly inspect their surroundings for stagnant water, especially after rainfall or routine water use. Applying mosquito repellents, wearing long-sleeved clothing, and installing netted barriers on windows can all reduce exposure, particularly in areas with high case numbers.

While these measures may seem basic, they remain essential tools in our efforts to control the spread of dengue.

Climate change may feel like a distant global issue, but its consequences are already here – in the form of record-breaking heat, longer mosquito seasons, and rising infection rates.

By staying vigilant and informed, both individually and collectively, we can limit the impact of this growing threat before it overwhelms our healthcare systems and communities.

DR RAFIDAH LANI
Viral immunologist and
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Universiti Malaya

THE STAR

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:.....

Kerja baik pulih jalan berisiko dilaksana berperingkat

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KUALA LUMPUR - Proses membaiki pulih jalan raya berisiko di seluruh negara akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat dengan keutamaan terhadap kerosakan kritikal, kata Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

Beliau berkata, Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) memerlukan hampir RM4 bilion bagi membaiki pulih kesemua jalan berisiko, namun kekangan kewangan menyebabkan ia perlu dilaksanakan secara bertahap.

"Kita (KKR) sudah ada data lengkap jalan-jalan berbahaya dan keperluan kewangan. Kalau nak baik pulih semuanya, kita perlukan RM4 bilion tetapi kita tidak mempunyai peruntukan sebanyak itu, jadi kita buat secara berperingkat," katanya kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Rumah Terbuka Gawai @ KKR 2025 di sini pada Rabu.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas usaha KKR mengesan dan membaiki

kerosakan jalan raya susulan kemalangan di Jalan Raya Timur Barat (JRTB) Gerik-Jeli yang mengorbankan 15 penuntut Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) pada 9 Jun lepas.

Alexander berkata, pihaknya turut merancang penambahbaikan JRTB melibatkan peruntukan RM55 juta tahun ini, termasuk pemasangan 385 lampu jalan dan penandaan garisan jalan.

Beliau berkata, kementerian juga telah mengenal pasti jalan yang berada dalam keadaan teruk melalui pangkalan data sedia ada dan kerja baik pulih dibuat mengikut keutamaan.

"Kita utamakan (jalan) yang kritikal dahulu. Yang rosak tetapi tidak terlalu teruk, kita tangguhkan sedikit," katanya.

Alexander berkata, kerja penilaian turut dibuat menggunakan kaedah Penilaian Keadaan Turapan (PCA) yang membantu menentukan lokasi memerlukan tindakan segera.



Alexander (empat dari kiri) ketika meninjau lokasi kemalangan yang melibatkan penuntut UPSI maut di KM 53, JRTB pada 9 Jun lalu.

Beliau sebelum ini memaklumkan bahawa PCA bagi laluan JRTB Gerik-Jeli bermula pada 13 Mac dan selesai 13 Mei, menggunakan teknologi *Multi Laser Profiler (MLP)* dan *Falling*

Weight Deflectometer (FWD).

Mengulas cadangan pemasangan penghadang jalan di lokasi berisiko, beliau berkata, KKR bersikap terbuka dan akan meneliti pandangan semua pihak

termasuk netizen.

"Kita ambil kira pandangan daripada semua rakyat, netizen dan pihak berkaitan. Kita akan kaji cadangan dan buat penelitan lanjut," katanya. - Bernama

SINAR HARIAN
19 JUN 2025
Tarikh:

Anak Melayu terlibat dadah lebih parah - PM

Perdana Menteri mahu penyelesaian serius penglibatan anak Melayu dalam penyalahgunaan dadah, rokok elektronik

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAI RAH** SA
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN 1916
PUTRAJAYA

Perdana Menteri menzahirkan kebimbangan terhadap penglibatan anak-anak Melayu dalam penyalahgunaan dadah dan rokok elektronik.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, isu tersebut memerlukan perhatian serius dan penyelesaian yang tuntas kerana ia melibatkan masa depan generasi muda.

"Kita lihat orang Melayu ini dadahnya berat. Tadi mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri, kita bincang masalah dadah dan rokok elektronik dalam kalangan anak-anak kita.

"Tolonglah bincang, carilah jalan, kaedah mana pun. Apakah perlu dana, kaunseling atau dakwah. Beritahulah kerana berpuluh tahun kita fikir belum selesai," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap dalam majlis Seminar Malaysia Madani: Guru Pemangkin Patriotisme Negara di sini pada Rabu.

Menurutnya, meskipun terdapat penglibatan anak-anak daripada kaum lain, masalah dalam kalangan anak Melayu jauh lebih membimbangkan.

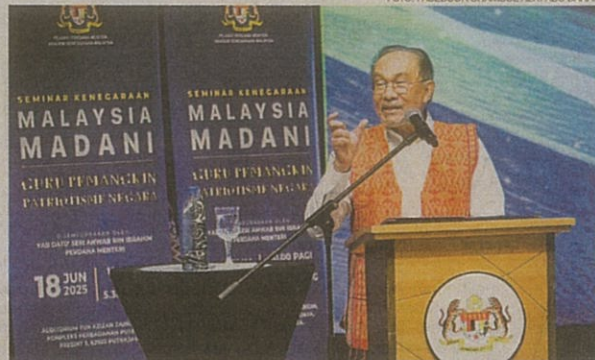


FOTO: FACEBOOK SHAMSUL AZRI ABU BAKAR

Anwar ketika berucap semasa majlis Seminar Malaysia Madani: Guru Pemangkin Patriotisme Negara di Putrajaya pada Rabu.

"Betul ada anak Cina, anak India ramai juga dalam kalangan mereka tetapi lebih parah anak Melayu. Membunuh jiwa mereka dari kecil.

"Kenalah lakukan sesuatu, perlu bincang," tegas beliau.

Terdahulu, Jurucakap Kerajaan Madani, Datuk Fahmi Fadzil berkata, platform dalam talian yang membenarkan penjualan produk terlarang termasuk dadah dicampur dalam cecair rokok elektronik akan dikenakan tindakan tegas.

Ujar beliau, tindakan sama juga akan diambil ke atas individu yang membuat demikian dan satu mesyuarat bersama Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad serta Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Amizan Mohd Ali akan diadakan dalam masa terdekat untuk membincangkan aspek penguatkuasaan.

Sementara itu, dalam ucapan sama, Anwar mengakui masih banyak perkara yang belum dapat diselesaikannya, namun pelbagai usaha sedang dilaksanakan untuk menanganinya.

"Saya tahu saya belum dapat selesaikan masalah kemiskinan rakyat, menaikkan mutu pendidikan, belum lagi berhasil untuk mengangkat martabat bahasa Melayu sebagai bahasa ilmu yang cemerlang, saya belum dapat mengembangkan dakwah Islam dan kesedaran Islam dalam kalangan pelajar.

"Sebab itu di sekolah-sekolah selain daripada pengenalan buku mengenai cara dakwah yang bijaksana, jangan terlalu keras, jangan terlalu hukum, jangan terlalu cepat menghina orang, jangan terlalu cepat mengkafirkan orang, itu yang kita mulakan," kata beliau.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:19 JUN. 2025.....

Kutipan cukai dijangka bertambah

Unjuran kutipan RM5 bilion bagi 2025 dan RM10 bilion pada 2026 itu adalah hasil semakan semula SST

PETALING JAYA

SH
n16

Jumlah kutipan Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan (SST) diunjur bertambah sebanyak RM5 bilion bagi 2025 dan RM10 bilion pada 2026 selepas pelaksanaan semakan dan peluasan skop yang bermula 1 Julai ini.

Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan Kementerian Kewangan, Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican berkata, penambahan sebanyak RM5 bilion dan RM10 bilion itu adalah hasil daripada semakan semula SST dengan tujuan meluaskan asas hasil negara.

"Kerajaan telah ambil pendekatan progresif dengan meluaskan asas cukai, dengan tanggungan cukai itu lebih kepada mereka yang mampu.

"Ia bermaksud bila ditentukan skop ataupun siapa yang dikenakan cukai perkhidmatan ataupun juga pendekatan cukai jualan, telah mengambil usaha untuk memastikan bahawa ia dilaksanakan secara ber-sasar," katanya selepas melakukan tinjauan di Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM) di sini pada Rabu.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan menjangkakan penambahbaikan SST itu bakal menjana hasil sebanyak RM51.7 bilion pada 2025. Hasil kutipan SST bagi 2024 adalah



FOTO: BERNAMA

Johan (berdiri, dua dari kanan) melawat Pusat Panggilan Kastam bagi meninjau secara dekat operasi dan pelaksanaan fungsi pusat tersebut berikutan pewartaan peluasan Skop SST 2025 pada Rabu.

sebanyak RM44.7 bilion.

Pada 9 Jun lepas, kerajaan mengumumkan semakan bersasar kadar Cukai Jualan dan peluasan skop Cukai Perkhidmatan yang akan berkuat kuasa mulai 1 Julai, 2025.

Kadar cukai jualan kekal bagi barangan keperluan, manakala kadar sama ada lima atau 10 peratus akan dikenakan ke atas barangan tidak penting atau mengikut budi bicara.

Skop cukai perkhidmatan akan diperluaskan merangkumi enam perkhidmatan baharu seperti penyewaan atau pajakan, pembinaan, kewangan, penjagaan kesihatan swasta, pendidikan dan kecantikan.

Johan berkata, bermula Julai syarikat perkhidmatan akan membuat penilaian, sama ada mereka telah mencapai nilai ambang perolehan tahunan yang melayakkan untuk dikenakan cukai perkhidmatan dan seterusnya pada akhir bulan mereka akan menyemak semula kedudukan tersebut untuk menentukan kelayakan sebenar.

"Sekiranya nilai ambang dicapai, proses pendaftaran akan dibuat pada Ogos, dan hanya selepas itu pengeluaran invoice yang dikenakan cukai perkhidmatan akan bermula pada September," katanya.

Ini katanya, bagi memberi lebih masa dan ruang kepada syarikat perkhidmatan terlibat untuk membuat persediaan.

Tambah beliau, kadar inflasi dijangka kekal terkawal dengan unjuran kenaikannya kurang daripada 0.25 peratus susulan pelaksanaan semakan dan peluasan skop SST.

Katanya, unjuran itu berdasarkan anggaran peningkatan kutipan hasil susulan peluasan skop berkenaan adalah kurang daripada 20 peratus.

Mengulas lanjut, Johan berkata, langkah kerajaan untuk tidak mengenakan cukai jualan ke atas barangan keperluan asas harian adalah bagi mengelak kesan langsung kepada kos sara hidup majoriti rakyat selain memastikan kadar inflasi kekal terkawal. - Bernama

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025.....

Kerajaan perlu RM4 bilion selenggara, naik taraf jalan raya setahun

KUALA LUMPUR - Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) telah mengenal pasti jalan raya yang mengalami kerosakan kritikal dan perlu diperbaiki segera.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi berkata, jalan raya terbabit akan diberi kewangan untuk penyelenggaraan dan naik taraf.

"Kita sudah ada maklumat jalan (di seluruh negara) dan tahu juga berapa keperluan daripada segi kewangan.

"Jalan raya yang rosak tidak berapa kritikal kita kemudian kan baiki dan buat mana kritikal dahulu," katanya di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, beliau dan Per-

dana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menghadiri Rumah Terbuka Pesta Gawai anjuran KKR di Kompleks Kerja Raya di sini yang dihadiri lebih 3,000 tetamu termasuk komuniti Dayak.

Alexander menjelaskan, KKR secara keseluruhan memerlukan hampir RM4 bilion bagi melaksanakan kerja-kerja pe-

nyelenggaraan dan naik taraf jalan raya di seluruh negara setiap tahun.

Bagaimanapun, kata beliau, peruntukan tersebut terlalu tinggi dan KKR perlu menggunakan peruntukan tahunan secara berperingkat untuk melaksanakan kerja-kerja berkenaan.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berka-

ta, KKR akan memberi kewangan kepada jalan raya yang mengalami kerosakan kritikal untuk dibaiki segera.

"Kalau hendak elokkan semua jalan memerlukan RM4 bilion. Kita tidak ada kewangan begitu, maka kita buat secara berperingkat. Kita ada data dan tahu jalan mana teruk," katanya.

KOSMO

19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:

MAIS agih RM4.68j fidyah wang saku kepada 15,613 pelajar

Shah Alam: Majlis Agama Islam Selangor (MAIS) mengagihkan fidyah wang saku kepada 15,613 pelajar kurang berkemampuan membabitkan jumlah keseluruhan RM4.68 juta tahun ini.

Agihan berkenaan dilaksanakan melalui kerjasama Rakan Strategik Agihan Fidyah MAIS (RSAFM).

Pengerusi MAIS, Datuk Salehuddin Saidin berkata, agihan berkenaan adalah

salah satu inisiatif menyalurkan wang saku kepada pelajar yang layak untuk membantu mereka dalam meneruskan kelangsungan hidup ketika belajar.

Katanya, kriteria penerima agihan fidyah wang saku pelajar adalah mereka yang tergolong dalam kalangan yang sudah ditetapkan oleh hukum syarak iaitu fakir dan miskin atau miskin sementara yang terkesan akibat musibah.

"Bagi tahun ini, MAIS memperuntukkan sebanyak RM4.68 juta iaitu RM1.83 juta diagihkan kepada institusi pengajian tinggi awam dan swasta; RM1.5 (Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Selangor); RM1.05 juta (Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor) dan RM300,000 pada Yayasan Islam Darul Ehsan (YIDE).

"Peruntukan wang fidyah ini membabitkan agihan kepada pelajar yang la-

yak iaitu dalam kalangan sekolah rendah, sekolah menengah, sekolah rendah agama (SRA) dan sekolah kelas Al-Quran & Fardhu Ain (KAFA) di seluruh Selangor yang memenuhi syarat penerima agihan fidyah wang saku pelajar," katanya pada Program Fidyah Wang Saku Pelajar di Dewan Jamuan Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, kolaborasi dan kerjasama RSAFM membantu MAIS menyalpasti dan mengagihkan kepada penerima yang layak dalam memastikan sumbangan fidyah orang ramai dapat dimanfaatkan secara optimum demi kepentingan golongan yang memerlukan.

Katanya, peruntukan agihan fidyah wang saku pelajar dengan kerjasama RSAFM iaitu Universiti Is-

lam Selangor (UIS); Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM Shah Alam); UiTM Puncak Alam; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Kolej Politeknik MARA Bangi, Universiti Selangor (UNISEL), Management and Science University (MSU), Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Selangor, JAIS dan YIDE mengikut jumlah bilangan pelajar yang layak.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025.....

Pengerusi, setiausaha direman enam hari seleweng RM50,000 ^{HM 19/6}

Melaka: Pengerusi dan setiausaha sebuah persatuan rumah ibadat di negeri ini direman enam hari di Mahkamah Majistret Ayer Keroh, semalam bagi membantu siasatan kes menyeleweng wang organisasi itu berjumlah RM50,000 tahun lalu.

Majistret Uthman Abd Ghani membenarkan suspek berusia 61 dan 75 tahun direman enam hari hingga 23 Jun selepas dipohon pegawai penyiasat Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) Melaka bagi membantu siasatan.

Menurut sumber kedua-dua suspek ditahan kira-kira jam 11.45 pagi

kelmarin ketika memberi keterangan di Pejabat SPRM Melaka.

Katanya, mereka dipercayai menyalahgunakan kuasa dan kedudukan dengan mengeluarkan wang persatuan berjumlah RM50,000.00 tanpa kelulusan atau pembentangan dalam mesyuarat ahli jawatankuasa.

"Difahamkan wang itu juga digunakan untuk tujuan peribadi pada tahun lalu," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah SPRM Melaka, Adi Supian Shafie ketika dihubungi mengesahkan tangkapan dan reman itu namun tidak mengulas lanjut kerana kes masih dalam siasatan.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 1.9.JUN.2025.....

Bukan kedai fotostat

Oleh Muhaamad
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Kuala Lumpur

Dari luar nampak seolah-olah premis mencetak dan fotostat biasa namun di sebaliknya terdapat sindiket menjalankan kegiatan mencetak pekekat dan pas lawatan kerja sementara (PLKS) palsu.

Kegiatan itu terbongkar selepas Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia (JIM) menahan seorang lelaki dan wanita yang juga penjawat awam dipercayai menjadi dalang sindiket terbabit.

Ketua Pengarah JIM Datuk Zakaria Shaaban berkata, pihak berjaya membongkar aktiviti itu menerusi serbuan pertama bermula jam 11 pagi pada Isnin lalu di dua lokasi di Jalan Ipoh di sini.

Menurutnya, berdasarkan aduan dan risikan selama dua minggu, pasukan operasi Bahagian Perisikan dan Operasi Khas, Ibu Pejabat Imigresen Putrajaya diatur gerak ke premis yang dikenal pasti dan membuat pemeriksaan terhadap satu lelaki dan dua wanita warga tempatan yang sedang berurusan di premis terbabit.

"Turut ditahan, seorang lelaki Pakistan dipercayai berperanan sebagai 'dalang utama' sindiket. Semakan awal juga mendapati lelaki



SERBUAN dijalankan di dua lokasi di Jalan Ipoh oleh pegawai pelbagai pangkat dari Bahagian Perisikan dan Operasi Khas, Ibu Pejabat Imigresen Putrajaya.

itu tidak memiliki sebarang dokumen perjalanan atau pas yang sah untuk berada di negara ini.

"Pasukan operasi menyita 13 pekekat palsu terdiri daripada enam visa Bangladesh, India (2), Amerika Syarikat (2), Indonesia (1), Pakistan (1), satu pekekat muka hadapan biometrik pasport Bangladesh, satu set komputer, komputer riba dan mesin pencetak," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Zakaria berkata, modus operandi sindiket adalah meminda dan mencetak pekekat palsu imigresen untuk dijual kepada pen-

datang asing tanpa izin (Pati) yang berada di dalam negara.

"Pekekat itu akan dijual dengan harga antara RM100 ke RM120 sekeping mengikut negara yang dicetak.

"Warga asing yang ditahan disiasat mengikut Akta Imigresen 1959/63, Akta Pasport 1966 dan Peraturan-Peraturan Imigresen 1963 dan ditahan di Depot Imigresen Putrajaya untuk tindakan lanjut.

"Lelaki dan wanita tempatan yang ditahan pula diberikan notis untuk hadir ke pejabat bagi membantu siasatan," katanya.

Sementara itu, pada jam 6.42 petang hari yang sama, katanya, JIM turut melakukan satu lagi operasi khas di dua lokasi sekitar Maluri, Kuala Lumpur dan Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

"Berdasarkan maklumat awal dan risikan selama dua minggu, pasukan operasi diatur gerak ke lokasi dan berjaya menahan dua wanita tempatan serta seorang lelaki.

"Siasatan awal mendapati wanita dan lelaki yang ditahan itu adalah penjawat awam dan mereka yang ditahan itu berusia antara 40 hingga 43 tahun," katanya.

Penjawat awam ditahan cetak pelekat palsu

BM 1916

Kuala Lumpur: Jabatan Imigresen menumpaskan sindiket cetak pelekat palsu dan pas lawatan kerja sementara (PLKS) dalam dua serbuan di Lembah Klang.

Malah dalam operasi itu, turut ditahan seorang lelaki dan wanita yang juga penjawat awam sebagai dalang sindiket ePLKS dengan bayaran RM11,000 dikenakan kepada warga asing.

Ketua Pengarah Imigresen, Datuk Zakaria Shaaban, berkata dalam operasi pertama bermula 11 pagi Isnin lalu, serbuan dijalankan di dua lokasi di Jalan Ipoh.

Menurutnya, berdasarkan aduan dan risikan selama dua minggu, pasukan operasi diatur gerak ke premis dan membuat pemeriksaan terhadap seorang lelaki dan dua wanita warga tempatan yang sedang berurusan di premis terbabit.

"Turut ditahan, seorang lelaki warganegara Pakistan yang berperanan sebagai 'dalang utama' sindiket. Semakan awal mendapati lelaki warganegara Pakistan ini tidak memiliki sebarang dokumen perjalanan atau pas yang sah untuk berada di negara ini.

"Pasukan operasi menyita 13 pelekat palsu terdiri daripada enam Visa Bangladesh, dua Visa India, dua Visa Amerika Syarikat, satu Visa Indonesia, satu Visa Pakistan, satu pelekat muka hadapan Biometrik Pasport Bangladesh, satu set komputer, komputer riba dan mesin pencetak," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Zakaria berkata, modus ope-



Dalang sindiket cetak pelekat palsu dan PLKS ditahan dalam serbuan di dua lokasi di Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur. (Foto ihsan Jabatan Imigresen)

randi sindiket adalah meminda dan mencetak pelekat palsu imigresen untuk dijual kepada pendatang asing tanpa izin (PATI) yang berada di dalam negara.

"Pelekat itu akan dijual dengan harga sekitar RM100 ke RM120 sekeping mengikut negara yang dicetak. Kesemua warganegara asing ditahan kerana disyaki melakukan kesalahan di bawah Akta Imigresen 1959/63, Akta Pasport 1966 dan Peraturan-Peraturan Imigresen 1963 ditahan di Depot Imigresen Putrajaya untuk tindakan lanjut.

"Seorang lelaki dan wanita warganegara Malaysia diberikan notis untuk hadir ke pejabat bagi membantu siasatan," katanya.

Operasi khas

Sementara itu, pada jam 6.42 petang hari yang sama, katanya, imigresen menjalankan satu lagi operasi khas di dua lokasi sekitar Maluri, Kuala Lumpur dan Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

"Dua wanita tempatan ditahan yang dipercayai sebagai 'dalang utama' serta lelaki warga tempatan.

"Siasatan awal mendapati wanita dan lelaki yang ditahan ini adalah penjawat awam.

"Kesemua yang ditahan berusia di antara 40 hingga 43 tahun. Pasukan operasi turut menyita 101 pasport pelbagai negara terdiri daripada 74 pasport Sri Lanka, 13 pasport Myanmar, enam pasport Vietnam, dua pasport Indonesia, dua pasport Ghana dan satu pasport India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Syria, dua unit telefon bimbit serta satu salinan Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia (SSM)," katanya.

Menurut Zakaria, turut disita sebuah Toyota Vellfire yang digunakan oleh sindiket ini.

"Modus operandi sindiket adalah menguruskan pas lawatan kerja sementara (PLKS) kepada warganegara asing yang berada di Lembah Klang dan tidak memiliki pas.

"Hasil semakan awal mendapati butiran pada ePLKS telah dipinda dan tidak wujud di dalam sistem imigresen. Kadar bayaran yang dikenakan sebanyak RM11,000 bagi setiap seorang dan dipercayai beroperasi sejak hujung tahun 2024," katanya.

Katanya, kesemua warganegara tempatan yang ditahan disyaki melakukan kesalahan mengikut Seksyen 12(1)(f) Akta Pasport 1966 dan dibawa ke Ibu Pejabat Imigresen Putrajaya untuk tindakan lanjut.

"Seramai dua warganegara tempatan telah diberikan notis untuk hadir ke pejabat bagi membantu siasatan," katanya.

ngan seorang penjamin bagi tempoh sama.

Peguam, A Rahman Mohd Nasir, yang mewakili remaja itu ketika ditemui selepas prosiding berkata, antara rayuan pihaknya semasa prosiding ialah anak guamnya memohon maaf dan berjanji tidak akan mengulangi kesalahan sama di masa akan datang.

"Anak guam juga menerima tawaran untuk melanjutkan pelajaran di kolej swasta dan dijangka memulakan pengajian pada Julai ini," katanya.

Sementara itu, Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Norhidayah Abdullah Sani ketika ditemui selepas prosiding berkata, pendakwa memohon hukuman berbentuk pencegahan mengambil kira faktor kepentingan awam dan mangsa yang kini mengalami trauma selepas kejadian itu.

"Mangsa hanya berusia 13 tahun lapan bulan ketika kejadian dan mohon mahkamah ambil kira ia memberikan titik hitam dalam diri mangsa yang kini trauma seumur hidup," katanya.

Mengikut pertuduhan, remaja itu didakwa melakukan tiga perbuatan amang seksual fizikal terhadap kanak-kanak lelaki berusia 13 tahun lapan bulan (ketika kejadian) dengan maksud seksual.

Perbuatan itu dilakukan di sebuah asrama pusat tahfiz di Hulu Langat pada 2.30 petang, pertengahan April tahun lalu.

Oleh itu dia didakwa mengikut Seksyen 14(a) Akta Kesalahan-Kesalahan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-Kanak 2017 yang boleh di hukum di bawah seksyen 14 akta sama yang boleh dipenjarakan maksimum 20 tahun dan sebat.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 19 JUN 2025



SOME Ke-43 yang dihoskan oleh PETRA sempena kepengurusan ASEAN 2025 oleh Malaysia membabitkan semua 10 negara anggota ASEAN.

Malaysia sedia terajui peralihan tenaga rantau ASEAN

Mesyuarat Pegawai Kanan ASEAN Ke-43 perkukuh MoU berkaitan APG, jayakan agenda tenaga bersih

Oleh Mohd Roji Kawi
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Kuching: Malaysia menyatakan keyakinannya untuk menerajui agenda peralihan tenaga di peringkat serantau, menerusi kerjasama yang lebih erat dengan negara-negara ASEAN.

Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Peralihan Tenaga dan Transformasi Air (PETRA), Datuk Mad Zaidi Mohd Karli, berkata Mesyuarat Pegawai Kanan ASEAN Ke-43 Mengenai Tenaga (SOME Ke-43) yang berlangsung tiga hari di sini, bermula 16 Jun lalu telah mencapai kesepakatan berhubung beberapa pencapaian penting khususnya dalam sektor tenaga.

Beliau berkata, mesyuarat ini membuahkan hasil apabila peringkat pegawai kanan sepakat mengenai pencapaian yang dibentangkan, terutama dari sudut tenaga.

"Antara pencapaian utama yang dibincangkan termasuklah persetujuan untuk memperkukuh memorandum persefahaman (MoU) berkaitan Grid Tenaga ASEAN (APG), yang dijangka untuk dime-



Timbalan Perdana Menteri yang juga Menteri Peralihan Tenaga dan Transformasi Air, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof bersama Premier Sarawak, Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg bersama delegasi ASEAN pada Majlis Makan Malam sempena SOME Ke-43 di Kuching.

terai pada Oktober ini," katanya pada sidang media di Hotel Sheraton, di sini, semalam.

APG adalah inisiatif strategik untuk meningkatkan integrasi tenaga antara negara-negara ASEAN melalui rangkaian bekalan elektrik rentas sempadan.

SOME Ke-43 yang dihoskan

oleh PETRA sempena kepengurusan ASEAN 2025 oleh Malaysia itu membabitkan semua 10 negara anggota ASEAN, iaitu Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Kemboja, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Filipina, Singapura, Thailand dan Vietnam, dengan Timor-Leste sebagai pemerhati.

Mereka disertai oleh rakan di-

alog China, Korea Selatan, Jepun, Russia, Amerika Syarikat dan wakil daripada Agensi Tenaga Boleh Baharu Antarabangsa, Agensi Tenaga Antarabangsa, Institut Penyelidikan Ekonomi ASEAN dan Asia Timur, Bank Pembangunan Asia dan Bank Dunia.

Buka peluang pelaburan

Mengulas lanjut, Mad Zaidi berkata, Malaysia dan negara anggota ASEAN lain juga mencapai persetujuan terhadap dokumen dasar hala tuju Pelan Tindakan Peralihan Tenaga 2026-2030.

"Kita telah menetapkan garis panduan serta beberapa sasaran dan program pelaksanaan yang akan dicapai menjelang 2030. Itu adalah fokus utama," katanya.

Mengenai kemampuan Malaysia untuk menerajui peralihan tenaga serantau dan membuka

peluang pelaburan, Mad Zaidi berkata, negara ini mempunyai keupayaan dan asas yang kukuh ke arah itu.

"Malaysia mampu membawa cabaran itu dan kita yakin kerana Malaysia mempunyai kekuatan dari segi kestabilan politik serta dasar yang jelas digariskan oleh kerajaan," katanya.

Beliau turut menekankan dasar peralihan tenaga yang bersifat ke hadapan meletakkan negara pada landasan yang kukuh untuk menarik pelaburan asing dalam sektor itu.

"Malaysia bukan sahaja mampu menggalas cabaran peralihan tenaga, malah berpotensi besar untuk menjadi destinasi utama pelaburan bagi menjayakan agenda tenaga bersih yang disasarkan menjelang 2050," katanya.



“Malaysia mampu membawa cabaran itu dan kita yakin kerana Malaysia mempunyai kekuatan dari segi kestabilan politik serta dasar yang jelas digariskan oleh kerajaan”

Mad Zaidi Mohd Karli, Ketua Setiausaha PETRA

PM mahu penyelesaian tuntas atasi isu dadah, rokok elektronik

Masalah berlarutan sekian lama meskipun pelbagai pendekatan digerakkan

Oleh Mohd Iskandar Ibrahim
bhnews@bh.com.my

Putrajaya: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mahu isu penularan dadah dan penggunaan rokok elektronik dalam kalangan generasi muda, dibincangkan secara serius serta dirangka jalan penyelesaian yang tuntas.

Perdana Menteri menegaskan, masalah yang berlarutan sejak sekian lama itu belum menemui penyelesaian berkesan, meskipun pelbagai pendekatan digerakkan sebelum ini.

"Kita lihat orang Melayu ini (masalah) dadahnya berat, tadi (dalam) mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri, kita bincang masalah dadah dan vape dalam kalangan anak-anak kita, tolonglah bincang, carilah jalan kaedah mana pun.

"Apakah perlu dana? Apakah perlu kaunseling? Perlu

dakwah? Beritahulah kerana berpuluh tahun kita fikir (masalah ini) belum selesai.

"Betul ada anak Cina, anak India ramai juga dalam kalangan mereka, tetapi lebih parah dalam kalangan anak Melayu, membunuh jiwa mereka dari kecil. Kenalah lakukan sesuatu, kena bincang," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap pada Seminar Kenegaraan Malaysia MADANI: Guru Pemangkin Patriotisme Negara di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Sham-sul Azri Abu Bakar.

Laksana pelbagai usaha

Dalam pada itu, Anwar mengakui masih banyak masalah yang belum dapat diselesaikannya, namun pelbagai usaha sedang dilaksanakan untuk menganganinya.

"Saya tahu saya belum dapat selesaikan masalah kemiskinan rakyat, belum lagi dapat naikkan mutu pendidikan, saya belum lagi berhasil untuk mengangkat martabat bahasa Melayu sebagai bahasa ilmu yang cemerlang, saya belum dapat mengembangkan dakwah Islam dan kesedaran Islam dalam kalangan pelajar.

"Sebab itu di sekolah selain daripada pengenalan buku mengenai cara dakwah yang bi-



Anwar beramah mesra dengan sebahagian pesara guru selepas Seminar Kenegaraan Malaysia MADANI: Guru Pemangkin Patriotisme Negara di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto Aizuddin Saad/BH)

jaksana, jangan terlalu keras, jangan terlalu hukum, jangan terlalu cepat menghina orang, jangan terlalu cepat mengkafirkan orang, itu yang kita mulla-

kan," katanya.

Terdahulu, Menteri Komunikasi, Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, ketika sidang media pasca mesyuarat

Kabinet, memaklumkan platform dalam talian yang membenarkan penjualan produk terlarang termasuk dadah dicampur dalam cecair vape akan dikenakan tindakan tegas.

Beliau berkata, tindakan sama juga akan diambil ke atas individu yang berbuat demikian.

Katanya, satu mesyuarat bersama Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad dan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali akan diadakan dalam masa terdekat untuk membincangkan penguatkuasaan itu.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh... 19 JUN 2025

KKR akui berdepan kekangan kewangan baik pulih jalan

BH
19/6

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) mengakui, setiap tahun pihaknya berdepan kekangan kewangan bagi tujuan membaiki pulih jalan raya yang mengalami kerosakan kritikal di seluruh negara.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi, berkata setiap tahun KKR memerlukan hampir RM4 bilion untuk membaiki pulih jalan raya di negara ini secara serentak.

Walaupun berdepan kekangan kewangan, beliau berkata, pihaknya menjalankan kerja

baik pulih jalan raya secara berperingkat berdasarkan peruntukan sedia ada.

"Sebenarnya kita ada maklumat semua jalan (rosak). Kita tahu juga beberapa keperluan dari segi kewangan. Kalau nak elokkan semua jalan, kita memerlukan RM4 bilion sebenarnya, tetapi tapi kita tidak ada (keupayaan) kewangan sebegitu.

"Kita memang sudah tahu jalan mana yang teruk kerana ada bank data (rekod jalan raya kritikal). Sebab itu kita buat (kerja baik pulih jalan) berdasarkan

peruntukan diberikan dalam setahun ke setahun.

"Yang keperluan isu kritikal kita buat dahulu. Sebab itu ada yang rosak tak berapa kritikal kita kemudiansan dahulu. Jadi kita buat mana (jalan) yang kritikal dahulu," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditemui pemberita di Majlis Rumah Terbuka Gawai anjuran KKR di sini semalam.

Majlis itu turut dihadiri Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim dan Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Mengenai kerja penyelenggaraan Jalan Raya Timur-Barat (JRTB) yang baru-baru ini meragut nyawa 15 pelajar Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Nanta Linggi berkata sebanyak RM55 juta diperuntukkan untuk tujuan itu.

Beliau berkata, kos itu termasuk pemasangan sebanyak 385 lampu di sepanjang jalan



raya berkenaan.

Difahamkan Penilaian Keadaan Turapan (PCA) menggunakan teknologi canggih sudah selesai dijalankan di lokasi kemalangan maut itu, kini laporan sedang disediakan bagi menjadi panduan penting untuk tindakan lanjut kerja pavemen.

Kerja bukan pavemen seperti pemasangan sistem penghadang dan papan tanda sedang berjalan, kini mencapai 10 peratus kemajuan dan dijangka siap

Ogos ini.

Lokasi kemalangan tragis di Seksyen 170.4 dekat JRTB berkenaan juga termasuk dalam program pemasangan lampu solar bagi menambah baik keselamatan selekoh berbahaya.

Kerja akan bermula bulan depan dan dijangka siap Oktober ini.

BH difahamkan, program pavemen bernilai RM80 juta akan dimulakan selepas laporan PCA dimuktamadkan.

“Kalau nak elokkan semua jalan, kita memerlukan RM4 bilion sebenarnya, tetapi tapi kita tidak ada (keupayaan) kewangan sebegitu.”

Alexander Nanta Linggi,
Menteri Kerja Raya



BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....19 JUN 2025.....

Tingkatkan penyertaan wanita dalam sektor pekerjaan - Bank Dunia

Oleh **FATIN NORIZATI MAT ISA**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia perlu segera membangunkan potensi serta meningkatkan penyertaan tenaga kerja wanita dan warga emas bagi menampung kesan penuaan populasi dan kekurangan tenaga kerja.

Ahli Ekonomi, Amalan Global Perlindungan Sosial dan Pekerjaan Bank Dunia, Dr. Matthew Dornan berkata, usaha itu penting kerana perubahan demografi negara menunjukkan jumlah penduduk dalam usia bekerja akan menyusut secara signifikan dalam tempoh beberapa dekad akan datang.

Katanya, golongan wanita



DR. MATTHEW DORNAN

perlu diberikan sokongan menyeluruh bagi membolehkan mereka kekal dalam pasaran

kerja tanpa perlu memilih antara kerjaya dan tanggungjawab keluarga.

"Jika tiada perubahan terhadap dasar umur persaraan, tiada insentif untuk warga emas terus bekerja dan tiada usaha menggalakkan lebih ramai wanita menyertai pasaran kerja maka kita akan benar-benar berdepan kesan negatif penuaan penduduk."

"Ramai wanita berhenti kerja kerana terpaksa menjaga anak dan ibu bapa dalam usia produktif mereka. Kita perlu lihat mereka sebagai aset ekonomi, bukan hanya penjaga keluarga," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sesi pembentangan bertajuk Tenaga Buruh dan Umur Pan-

jang: Menangani Cabaran Negara Menua pada Persidangan Kesejahteraan Sosial Antarabangsa (ISWC) 2025, di sini semalam.

Mengulas lanjut, Matthew berkata, antara cabaran utama yang perlu ditangani segera adalah jurang jantina dalam pasaran kerja.

Katanya, kadar penyertaan wanita dalam tenaga kerja Malaysia masih rendah berbanding negara lain, terutama dalam kalangan wanita berpendidikan rendah.

"Ramai wanita berhenti kerja ketika usia 30-an hingga 50-an kerana perlu menjaga anak dan ibu bapa. Mereka ini dikenali sebagai 'generasi sandwic'."

"Kebanyakan mereka bekerja dalam sektor tidak formal yang

tiada perlindungan sosial," katanya.

Beliau berkata, tanpa dasar sokongan seperti subsidi penjagaan anak, waktu kerja fleksibel dan kemudahan tempat kerja mesra wanita, golongan ini sukar untuk kembali menyumbang dalam pasaran pekerjaan secara formal.

Beliau berkata, Malaysia memerlukan pendekatan menyeluruh dan progresif untuk meningkatkan produktiviti buruh dan mengekalkan pertumbuhan ekonomi dalam jangka masa panjang.

"Antara langkah boleh dilaksanakan, termasuk menggubal dasar yang menyokong penglibatan aktif wanita dan warga emas," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025

Peluasan SST jana RM10 bilion setahun, tingkat asas cukai negara

UM
19/6

Oleh HENDRA WINARNO
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KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan sasar menjana pendapatan tambahan kira-kira RM10 bilion setahun hasil daripada peluasan skop Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan (SST), kata Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan Kementerian Kewangan, Datuk Johan Mahmood Merican.

Beliau berkata, pelaksanaan skop cukai berkenaan dalam usaha memperkukuh kedudukan fiskal negara dan memastikan perbelanjaan sosial serta pembangunan kekal mampan dalam jangka panjang.

"Langkah itu sebahagian daripada strategi kerajaan Madani untuk memperluas asas cukai negara yang kini berada pada paras rendah iaitu 12.5 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK), antara yang terendah di rantau ini.

"Permintaan terhadap perbelanjaan kerajaan meningkat setiap tahun. Daripada bantuan tunai, penjagaan kesihatan, pendidikan, hinggalah kepada penyelenggaraan infrastruktur asas. Maka, kita perlu memperkukuh hasil tanpa membbankan rakyat secara tidak wajar," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sesi Fireside Chat 3: Jaringan Keselamatan Sosial: Menjaga Masa Depan di Simposium Sasana 2025 di Sasana Kijang di sini, semalam.



JOHAN Mahmood Merican pada sesi Fireside Chat 3: Jaringan Keselamatan Sosial: Menjaga Masa Depan di Simposium Sasana 2025 di Sasana Kijang, Kuala Lumpur, semalam. - UTUSAN/M. FIRDAUS M. JOHARI

Mengulas mengenai perdebatan yang timbul membabitkan cukai ke atas barangan import seperti buah-buahan, Johan Mahmood berkata, pendekatan kerajaan tetap menimbang keperluan rakyat berdasarkan corak perbelanjaan sebenar, namun tetap perlu membuat pertimban-

gan dasar fiskal jangka panjang.

"Kita tidak boleh puaskan semua pihak dalam setiap keputusan. Tapi prinsip utama kita adalah hasil negara perlu ditambah secara progresif, dengan meminimumkan kesan kepada rakyat biasa.

"Pada masa sama, kera-

jaan mengekalkan subsidi ber-sasar, contohnya dalam penggunaan elektrik dan diesel. Sebahagian besar isi rumah masih menikmati tarif subsidi, manakala pengguna besar dan syarikat besar dikenakan kadar yang lebih hampir kepada pasaran," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, menyen-tuh cadangan pelaksanaan cukai kekayaan, beliau berkata, meskipun langkah itu dilihat dapat memperluas asas cukai negara dan menangani jurang kekayaan, ia berdepan pelbagai cabaran dari segi pentadbiran.

Katanya, isu perlindungan sosial dan percukaian bukan hanya dialami Malaysia, malah pelaksanaan cukai kekayaan jauh lebih rumit berbanding cukai pendapatan.

"Cukai pendapatan dan cukai penggunaan berpaksikan transaksi tetap yang boleh dijejak. Contohnya, syarikat membayar gaji dan ia direkodkan, jadi pelaksanaan cukai lebih mudah.

"Begitu juga cukai penggunaan yang berdasarkan transaksi ekonomi, yang boleh dikesan melalui pendaftaran perniagaan," ujarnya.

Tambahnya, cabaran pelaksanaan cukai kekayaan lebih besar kerana pengumpulan data tepat atau pengisytiharan harta tidak mudah dilakukan.

"Walaupun idea cukai kekayaan dilihat menarik, ia amat mencabar dari sudut pentadbiran.

"Malah, bagi program bantuan bersasar seperti Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR), kerajaan masih bergantung kepada penunjuk pendapatan kerana data pendapatan dan transaksi lebih mudah diperoleh berbanding data kekayaan peribadi," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:

Pembaikan semua jalan perlukan RM4 bilion

Oleh **ARIF AIMAN ASROL** dan
HANAFI ZULKEFLI
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia perlu membelanjakan hampir RM4 bilion bagi membaiki jalan-jalan di seluruh negara termasuk di lokasi yang sering berlaku kemalangan.

Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi berkata, pembaikan jalan perlu dilakukan secara berperingkat kerana kerajaan tiada peruntukan sebesar itu.

Menurut beliau, Kementerian Kerja Raya sudah mengenal pasti jalan-jalan berisiko dan sedang mengambil tindakan lanjut seperti membaiki jalan-jalan tersebut secara berperingkat.

"Sebenarnya, kami sudah ada maklumat semua jalan (yang rosak dan berisiko), kami juga tahu berapa keperluan daripada segi kewangan sekiranya kita mahu elokkan semua jalan, kita perlukan hampir RM4 bilion.

"Tetapi, kita tidak mempunyai kewangan (sebesar) itu, jadi kita buat (secara) berperingkat. Memang sudah dalam data kami, kami sudah tahu (di) mana jalan yang teruk," katanya selepas Majlis Rumah Terbuka Gawai Dayak Kementerian Kerja Raya semalam.

Alexander berkata, peruntukan yang diberikan oleh Kerajaan Persekutuan setiap tahun kepada kementerian digunakan untuk memperbaiki jalan mengikut keutamaan.

"Dalam peruntukan yang diberi (iaitu) dari tahun ke tahun, kita buat mengikut keutamaannya, (jika) keperluan (jalan) itu besar, itu yang kita buat terlebih



PERDANA Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim diiringi Timbalan Perdana Menteri **Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof** dan **Alexander Nanta Linggi** (tengah) memukul gong sebagai simbolik perasmian Rumah Terbuka Gawai Dayak @ Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR) 2025 di Dewan Tan Sri Mahfuz Khalid, Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

dahulu.

"Sebab itu ada (jalan) yang rosak tetapi tidak beberapa kritikal, kita (laksana) kemudian kerana mahu buat (jalan) yang kritikal," katanya.

Alexander berkata, pihaknya mengambil maklum pandangan semua pihak termasuk mengenai sistem penghadang jalan beroda seperti dilaksanakan oleh Korea

Selatan dan Amerika Syarikat.

"Kami ambil pandangan semua pihak, dari rakyat dan semuanya. Kita boleh lihat cadangan-cadangan itu dan boleh bincang tentang hal tersebut, buat kajian dan sebagainya," katanya.

Tambahnya, sebanyak RM55 juta boleh digunakan oleh kementerian tahun ini bagi melak-

sana kerja-kerja naik taraf dan pembaikan infrastruktur sedia ada.

"Dalam 2025, masih ada RM55 juta untuk kita buat penambahbaikan jalan. Ini termasuk membuat pemasangan 385 lampu dan garisan jalan. Tempoh pemasangan akan berlangsung dari sekarang hingga hujung tahun ini," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025

Wajibkan simpanan pekerjaan tidak formal

PETALING JAYA: Skim insurans dan simpanan sosial bagi golongan pekerja sektor tidak formal terutama dalam ekonomi gig perlu diwajibkan oleh kerajaan.

Felo Akademi Sains Malaysia, Datuk Dr. Madeline Berma berkata, langkah tersebut penting berikutan peningkatan mendadak jumlah pekerja dalam sektor berkenaan yang kini menjadi antara penyumbang utama kepada tenaga kerja negara.

Katanya, ia juga selaras dengan perubahan struktur demografi negara menjelang tahun 2030 yang menuju sebagai negara tua.

"Malaysia menjadi negara tua menjelang 2030, maka ramai golongan tua akan hilang pendapatan selepas mereka bersara, sedangkan jangka hayat semakin lama.

"Tambahan pula kos perubatan semakin meningkat dan rakyat Malaysia tidak lagi boleh mengharap perkhidmatan kesihatan adalah percuma pada masa hadapan," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* semalam.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim kelmarin berkata, Malaysia tidak boleh menangguhkan reformasi struktur demi menyelamatkan ekonomi negara.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: ...19 JUN.2025.....

Melayu paling terkesan dengan dadah, vape - PM

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH RAHIM
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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menegaskan, isu berkaitan dadah dan vape dalam kalangan anak-anak perlu diberi perhatian serius kerana melibatkan masa depan generasi muda, khususnya anak-anak Melayu yang dilihat paling terkesan.

Perdana Menteri berkata, isu berkenaan belum dapat diselesaikan sehingga kini walaupun berpuluh tahun dibincangkan untuk mencari kaedah menanganinya.

"Tadi mesyuarat Kabinet dadah dan vape dalam kalangan anak-anak kita (ada dibincang-



Ya, betul ada anak Cina, India, tetapi lebih parah anak Melayu, membunuh jiwa mereka dari kecil. Maka kena lakukan sesuatu, kena bincang."

ANWAR IBRAHIM

kan).

"Jadi, tolong lah bincang apakah perlu, kaunseling atau perlu dakwah, (kerana) berpuluh tahun kita fikir belum selesai.

"Ya, betul ada anak Cina, India, tetapi lebih parah anak Melayu, membunuh jiwa mereka dari kecil. Maka kena lakukan sesuatu, kena bincang," kata-

nya dalam ucapan perasmian Seminar Malaysia Madani Guru Pemangkin Patriotisma Negara, di sini semalam.

Terdahulu, Jurucakap Kerajaan Perpaduan, Datuk Fahmi Fadzil memaklumkan, platform dalam talian yang membenarkan penjualan produk terlarang termasuk dadah di-

campur dalam cecair vape akan dikenakan tindakan tegas.

Untuk itu, satu mesyuarat bersama Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad dan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali akan diadakan dalam masa terdekat untuk membincangkan penguatkuasaan itu.

Kelmarin Presiden Majlis Kawalan Tembakau Malaysia (MCTC), Dr. M Murallitharan menggesa kerajaan bertindak tegas termasuk menggantung lesen, denda maksimum dan pendakwaan di mahkamah terhadap peniaga vape yang melanggar Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Untuk Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852).

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 19 JUN 2025.....

MINISTRY PRIORITISES URGENT ROAD REPAIRS

Phased approach taken as RM4b needed to maintain all federal roads, says Nanta

NST
11/6

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THE Works Ministry is prioritising urgent road repairs due to financial constraints, said Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

He said about RM4 billion is needed to maintain all federal roads, including the East-West Highway Gerik-Jeli stretch.

"We have data identifying which roads require attention and the associated costs. To get every road in perfect condition, we would need around RM4 billion."

"However, due to limited funds, we are taking a phased approach."

"We prioritise roads that need immediate repair and carry out repairs based on urgency," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after the Gawai Open House hosted



Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi at the Gawai Open House hosted by the ministry in Putrajaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

by the ministry, which was attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

In July last year, it was reported that the ministry needs approximately RM4 billion annually to maintain all federal roads in the country but has only been allocated around RM1 billion for many years.

Nanta said RM55 million has been allocated for ongoing

maintenance works on the East-West Highway, including resurfacing, street light repairs, and upgrades to non-pavement facilities such as guardrails and signage, which are now 10 per cent complete and expected to finish by August.

On June 9, 15 were killed when a chartered bus carrying Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) students collided with a Perodua Alza in Jalan Jeli-Gerik near Tasik Banding, Perak.

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 1.9 JUN 2025.....

PM WANTS ACTION ON DRUG, VAPE ISSUE

'We've been deliberating this issue for decades, yet it remains unresolved'

MOHAMAD AL AS
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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for urgent and concerted action to tackle the growing problem of drug and vape abuse among youths.

Addressing the Malaysia Madani Nationalism Seminar titled "Teachers as Catalysts of National Patriotism", he said the issue was raised during a cabinet meeting yesterday.

"Please, hold discussions, find effective strategies and approaches. Do you need funding? Counselling? Religious outreach? Let me know.

"We've been deliberating this issue for decades, yet it remains unresolved."

He acknowledged the enormity of the task ahead, but stressed the importance of beginning the process of reform.

"I'm aware that poverty has yet to be fully addressed. I've not succeeded in significantly improving



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim addressing the Malaysia Madani Nationalism Seminar, titled 'Teachers as Catalysts of National Patriotism', in Putrajaya yesterday.
NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

the quality of education.

"I've not yet managed to elevate the Malay language as a respected language of knowledge.

"I've also not succeeded in strengthening Islamic outreach and awareness among students. But we must start."

At his weekly post-cabinet meeting media briefing yesterday, government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the government would take firm action against the online sale of illicit products, in-

cluding drug-laced vape liquids.

The communications minister said a meeting between his ministry, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali would be held soon to discuss enforcement mechanisms.

"The meeting will focus on the implementation of enforcement measures against the sale of prohibited products, including vape liquids believed to contain illegal

drugs, which are being sold on mobile applications, social media platforms and other online channels."

Fahmi said the outcome of the meeting would be presented to the cabinet for further deliberation, including possible action against sellers and platforms that enabled such sales.

He said the effort reflected the government's concern over the growing social threat posed by the issue.

Earlier this month, Selangor police chief Datuk Hussein Omar Khan said vape liquids could be easily spiked with illicit substances.

He said 24 cases of drug-laced vape liquids were recorded in Selangor last year and 17 were reported this year up to the end of last month.

He said the sale of such products was growing on social media and controlling the menace was difficult.

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GOVT TO ADDRESS SST CONCERNS

Finance minister II will provide clarification on Sales and Service Tax, says Fahmi

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Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan

THE government is aware of growing concerns about the expanded Sales and Service Tax (SST) and is working to address them.

Government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said that while the matter was not discussed in detail at the yesterday's cabinet meeting, Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan would provide clarification soon.

"The government takes public feedback on this matter seriously.

"As previously stated, the revenue collected through this measure will be channelled to the development of essential public infrastructure, schools and hospitals."

He said this at his weekly post-cabinet meeting media briefing.

Fahmi said that as the government stepped up efforts to curb misappropriation of public funds

and took a firmer stance against corruption, the revenue generated through the expanded scope of the SST would be used to benefit more people.

On June 9, it was announced that the revised SST rates outlined under the 2025 Budget would come into effect on July 1.

The Finance Ministry has said the measure aims to strengthen the country's fiscal position by increasing revenue and broadening the tax base.

Under the revised structure, selected non-essential and luxury goods will be taxed at rates between five and 10 per cent.

While staple items, such as sardines, *tongkol* and *kembung*, remain exempt from the SST, premium imported seafood like salmon, cod and king crab will incur a five per cent tax.

Meanwhile, domestic fruits are exempt from the sales tax, but

imported fruits would incur a five per cent.

The expanded SST, however, has raised concerns about rising business costs and inflation, as businesses might pass the cost of the tax to consumers.

On another matter, Fahmi said the government would table the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) at the Dewan Rakyat on July 28.

He said the cabinet had been presented with a draft of the 13MP by Economy Ministry secretary-general Datuk Nor Azmie Diron.

"At today's cabinet meeting, the prime minister (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) instructed all ministries to review the draft and provide feedback before it is finalised for tabling."

Last week, Anwar described the 13MP as pivotal to the nation's efforts to tackle pressing economic challenges, including regional development gaps and income inequality.

He highlighted issues that required urgent attention, such as limited fiscal space and the slow pace of structural economic reforms.

Anwar also said he had chaired a meeting with senior government officials to oversee final preparations for the 13MP, which will outline the country's development from 2026 to 2030.

He added that the plan was the result of collaborative efforts and incorporated extensive input from stakeholders.



Revenue from the expanded Sales and Service Tax will be used to fund public infrastructure, schools and hospitals. FILE PIC

NEW STRAITS TIMES
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Anti-corruption ^{SUN} campaign by MACC

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Consultation and Corruption Prevention Panel has proposed a national anti-corruption campaign aimed at embedding long-term reform through governance and education.

Its chairman Datin Yasmin Ahmad Merican said in a statement that the campaign, spearheaded by MACC, would focus on promoting integrity and moral values across all levels of society.

"MACC seeks to foster a shared national vision across all segments of society to strengthen integrity and moral values for the benefit of future generations."

The panel's second meeting of the year discussed recent findings from the Special Task Force on the Corruption Perception Index as well as matters concerning the MACC's Governance Investigation Division.

MACC deputy chief commissioner Datuk Azmi Kamaruzaman said consultations with state governments are crucial for gathering feedback. — Bernama

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19 JUN 2025

Tarikh:

Smuggling of firearms into Malaysia **raising concerns**

► Crime experts call for investigations into how weapons entering and moving within country undetected

■ BY FAIZ RUZMAN
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Sun
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PETALING JAYA: The smuggling of illegal firearms into the country is raising concerns about gaps in border security, say crime experts.

They are calling for investigations into how weapons are entering and moving within the country undetected.

The experts were commenting in the wake of two high-profile shootings that rocked Kuala Lumpur within a week.

On June 14, a man was killed and two others injured in Brickfields when an unknown gunman opened fire at a restaurant, while on June 17, two men were fatally shot at close range outside a shopping mall in Cheras.

Criminologist Datuk Seri Akhbar Satar said key checkpoints, such as those in Sungai Golok and Padang Besar, remain vulnerable due to structural limitations and inadequate inspection systems.

The border at Sungai Golok alone spans 120km, with 95km of it consisting of river. These stretches have numerous unofficial crossing points. It's difficult to monitor every access route, and that creates opportunities for

smuggling," he told *theSun*.

He added that many Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security (ICQS) facilities are ill-equipped to conduct thorough inspections due to their narrow layouts and lack of specialised scanning equipment.

"When you only have one or two lanes and hundreds of vehicles crossing daily, it's unrealistic to expect 100% checks. The facilities simply aren't built for high-risk screening."

"Even Singapore has completely overhauled its detection systems to specifically scan for firearms smuggling, while ours still lag behind."

"Without tools like firearms scanners or automated systems, officers are severely limited in what they can detect."

Akhbar said enforcement personnel should not be solely blamed as poor working conditions and limited support infrastructure also hinder effective enforcement.

He urged the government to prioritise upgrading ICQS systems with modern detection tools and resources.

Criminologist Shahul Hamid Abdul Rahim said most firearms are smuggled into Malaysia using concealed methods, including hidden cargo compartments, private vehicles or

commercial freight.

"Smugglers are resourceful. Some use trucks, others hide weapons in goods. What matters now is tracing each seized weapon back to its source, who supplied it and how it got through."

He said without targeted investigations into firearms supply chains, illegal weapons would continue to flow in.

"It's not enough to recover weapons after the fact. Authorities need to trace the suppliers and dismantle the chain."

Universiti Malaya criminologist Dr Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid said despite Malaysia's strict laws under the Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act, black market accessibility and legacy weapons still pose significant threats.

"There are already weapons in circulation. Some have been passed down, others stolen or smuggled in. Criminals who want firearms often know exactly where to find them."

"We need a dedicated task force to assess how many weapons are in circulation, which syndicates are trafficking them and how our laws and enforcement systems can be improved."

"It requires expertise in forensics, ballistics and transnational crime. This can't be handled in silos."

Investigations into both the shootings are ongoing.

Police have yet to confirm any links to organised crime or contract killings.



RESPONSE DRILL ... Fire and Rescue Department personnel rescuing a 'victim of an aircraft' during a simulated rescue operation near the Penang International Airport yesterday. — MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

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Abandoned vehicles **bane** of councils

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA
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SUN
19/6

► Apart from encouraging dumping and vandalism, obstruction also hinders movement of emergency vehicles during critical situations

PETALING JAYA: The issue of abandoned vehicles continues to affect public spaces despite enforcement policies and disposal programmes by local councils.

Experts warn that the presence of more than 2,000 abandoned cars annually is hindering the effectiveness of public housing areas, from urban planning and transport economics perspectives.

Universiti Teknologi Mara Institute of Transport (Legal Services and Quality) head Dr Siti Ayu Jalil said such vehicles represent a misuse of public land, often obstructing emergency access, school bus routes and waste collection services.

"Although local councils have regulatory frameworks under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 and national guidelines to manage abandoned vehicles, we need more proactive public involvement."

She warned that if the problem

persists, it could strain public amenities, encourage illegal dumping and vandalism, compromise community safety and degrade property values.

"Local councils are also burdened with the high cost of identifying, tagging, towing and disposing of these vehicles. Such resources could be better allocated elsewhere."

She cited the 2022 Voluntary Disposal Scheme by the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, in collaboration with the Road Transport Department (RTD), which successfully removed 50 vehicles by cancelling their registrations.

"The scheme offers buy-back or scrappage incentives to encourage owners to surrender unused vehicles. It is worth replicating nationwide."

"Community engagement tools, such as WhatsApp hotlines and online reporting systems, are also crucial for the public to flag abandoned vehicles."

Siti Ayu said such vehicles distort parking occupancy data, leading to flawed urban planning decisions and misdirected parking policies.

"This misrepresentation undermines public transport strategies and low-carbon goals, especially in cities aiming to reduce private car use and promote shared mobility."

"It also exposes enforcement gaps, weak coordination with the department and the lack of efficient deregistration processes," she said, adding that the Road Transport Act 1987 does not give councils

enough power to quickly tow or auction such vehicles.

She stressed that a proper tracking or deregistration system would ease the burden on communities, particularly in high-density areas, and simplify the process for residents.

"Many low and lower-middle income residents leave old cars idle because repairs cost more than the resale value. Without strong penalties or enforcement, financial hardship often prevents them from disposing these vehicles," she said.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Road Safety Research Centre head Assoc Prof Dr Law Teik Hua said the problem is especially serious in densely populated areas, where abandoned cars pose safety, health and environmental risks.

"These vehicles often block emergency routes, delaying fire engines, ambulances or police in critical situations," he said.

"They frequently become dumping sites, attract pests and in some cases harbour illicit activities. Some even contain flammable

materials, heightening fire risks in already cramped neighbourhoods."

He said addressing the issue demands a multi-pronged approach, blending better enforcement with community engagement.

He proposed that Malaysia adopt international best practices, such as Singapore's seven-day removal notice or Japan's strict parking verification rules.

Other measures include creating a national database of abandoned vehicles, introducing harsher penalties for repeat offenders and rolling out incentive programmes for proper disposal.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa said more than 2,500 complaints about abandoned vehicles are lodged each year in Kuala Lumpur.

She said the Federal Territories Department has been instructed to work with RTD to review legal loopholes hampering action on abandoned vehicles in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

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RM4b needed annually for road maintenance nationwide

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is prioritising repairs on the most critical roads due to budget constraints, said Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

He said an estimated RM4 billion is needed annually for full-scale road maintenance to maintain all federal roads, including the East-West Highway Gerik-Jeli stretch.

"That is why, with whatever allocation is given year by year, we prioritise road maintenance based on urgency."

"We handle the critical issues first. That is why some damaged roads that are not too critical are put on hold."

"Actually, we already have information on all the roads. We also know some of the financial requirements. To properly fix all the roads, we would need almost RM4 billion," Nanta said on the sidelines of the Hari Gawai Open House at his ministry yesterday.

He added that the ministry has a database on the roads that are in need of urgent repairs.

Also present at the event were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister II Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and Works Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan.

He added that the ministry has allocated RM55 million for repair works along the East-West Gerik-Jeli route, including the installation of 385 solar powered street lights.

He said installation is scheduled to begin in July, and is expected to be completed by October.

On June 12, a tragic bus crash along the East-West Highway Gerik-Jeli claimed the lives of 15 Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris



Anwar accompanied by (from left) Fadillah, Nanta and Ahmad at the Hari Gawai Open House yesterday.

— ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

students who were returning from Terengganu to their campus in Perak.

Following the incident, a Pavement Condition Assessment (PCA) was conducted. The report, that is being finalised, will serve as a key reference for future pavement-related initiatives.

A pavement improvement programme

valued at RM80 million will commence once the PCA findings are complete.

Meanwhile, non-pavement works, including the installation of guardrails and signage, are underway.

The works have reached 10% completion and are expected to be finished by August.

— by Ikhwan Zulkaflee

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