



## **Tajuk Artikel : Committees attempt to give residents a voice**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

THE Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) is pioneering a Residents Representation Committee (RRC) in an effort to ensure the public is heard.

Mayor Mohamad Roslan Sakiman, when launching the seminar on the topic, said the RRC could help channel residents issues and suggestions directly to councillors.

"Many residents groups now come directly to me, but I may not be around all the time to solve their problems," said Mohamad Roslan.

The RRC is divided into seven zones and is scheduled to meet once a month.

A councillor will chair each zone.

The chairman of each group will select a secretary and treasurer from among the residents while committee members will comprise members deemed suitable and each committee is limited to a maximum of 35 persons.

The duty of the committee is to channel related problems within the community to the proper departments.

Mohamad Roslan said the programme was a directive from the state government and is presently being implemented to ensure that residents were consulted and informed of the council's plans as well as to receive feedback and suggestions.

Despite the initiative, some residents at the seminar questioned the effectiveness of the programme.

Kelana Jaya Rukun Tetangga chairman Sanggat Singh raised the issue of inclusiveness, which specifically listed mosques and surau as those eligible to participate, but neglected to list other worship organisations.

Section 5 Residents' Association president Edward Lee said the purpose of the meeting was to celebrate the first anniversary of MBPJ and also to introduce the RCC.

"With the exception of a three-page write up, nothing noteworthy was mentioned or discussed about the proposal," said Lee.

Lee instead proposed that the chairmen for each zone be ordinary residents instead of councillors that are already sitting in the city decision-making body.

"The residents should be encouraged and empowered to work directly with the local government, as we know what is best for ourselves," he said.

## **ZONE CHAIRMEN**

### **Bukit Lanjan**

Megat Firdouz Tan Sri Megat Junid

### **Damansara Utama**

Datuk Lim Choon Kin

### **Kota Damansara**

Halimatun Saadiah Bohan

### **Bukit Gasing**

Juan Sei Chang

### **Taman Medan**

Capt (R) Datuk Zahar Hashim

### **Kampung Tunku**

Datuk Wong Sai Hou

### **Seri Setia**

Datuk Yahaya Bujang

## **Tajuk Artikel : Residents group seeks registration**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

By K.W. MAK

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THE All Petaling Jaya Pro-Action Committee (Appac) submitted its registration form to the Registrar of Societies yesterday.

Appac is a coalition of residents' associations and is not affiliated to any political party. The group has successfully tackled several local governance issues in Petaling Jaya.

The residents group was formed in April 2006 after residents from the PJ Utara and PJ Selatan constituencies joined forces to demand the then Petaling Jaya Municipal Council justify an increase in assessment charges by allowing the public to view the council's detailed accounts.



**Briefing:** On March 18, Appac committee members (from left) Liew Wei Beng, Lee, Tengku Nazaruddin and Khong Chee Seng briefed residents over the water issue.

The assessment issue is still pending, but Appac had highlighted many other improprieties including an attempt to privatise billboard advertising without compensation to the council and the council's practise of getting billboard advertising companies to donate money towards the council's football team.

With public perception of the council's integrity waning, the council did not carry out the privatisation exercise and scrapped the football team.

Shortly after the formation of Appac's pro-tem committee, the group also formed the Condominium, Apartment and High-rise Committee (CAHC) to tackle issues affecting stratified property owners.

Under the CAHC banner, the group got the Selangor state government to come up with a policy that allowed the reading of water meters in apartments to be transferred from the management corporation to the state water supplier and stopped the Sea Park Apartments Management Corporation from selling car parks to owners who were against the move.

Both Appac and CAHC received endorsement from 46 residents associations in Petaling Jaya and 39 Condominium-based residents associations.

Once formed, Appac plans to offer full membership to individual citizens of Petaling Jaya, institutions including residents associations, neighbourhood committees, community centres, companies and organisations in Petaling Jaya and associate membership to any other interested parties residing in Petaling Jaya and other areas in Malaysia.



**United front:** On Jan 21, 2006, Petaling Jaya residents gathered for the first time to voice their disapproval at increased assessment rates.

The office bearers for the group are: Edward Lee - president, Tengku Nazaruddin Zainuddin - vice-president, Liew Wei Beng - secretary, Khong Chee Seng - assistant secretary and Thiruvalluvar Subramaniam - treasurer.

Committee member for the group are Mohamad Umar Peer Mohamad.

"We are registering Appac because the community is asking for long term representation to help them tackle local problems apolitically and effectively," said Lee.

Lee said Appac had, up till now, been gathering opinions from the public to try and resolve outstanding issues.

Lee spelt out the two options open to Appac as:

- Whether to institute action to prosecute the wrong-doers in the billboards/sports and football club issue and demand for the recovery of the ill gotten gains and the total waiver of the increase in assessment OR
- Accept the waiver of the penalties for late payment for 2006 announced earlier in an MBPJ full board meeting and allow MBPJ to sort out the problems themselves.

"Notwithstanding these options, Appac holds the council fully accountable to recover the losses and to make known to the public the steps taken by the council to ensure anomalies and mismanagement do not recur," said Lee.

Residents who would like to know more about Appac or provide feedback can email [appac.cahc@gmail.com](mailto:appac.cahc@gmail.com) or call Tengku Nazaruddin at 012-284 9146, Mohd Umar Peer Mohd at 016-298 6710 or Khong Chee Seng at 017-878 2881. themselves will decide on and carry out activities that can help foster goodwill among the people and also create better ties between the people and the government," he said.



**Hard at work:** The children colouring their drawings during the event.

"As participation in the units is voluntary, it shows that there is a conscious effort to promote racial harmony within the neighbourhood," he said during the launch of the 12th Subang Jaya Children's Art Competition in The Summit Subang USJ.

Ch'ng commended the USJ 2 & 6 RT for creating an avenue where the multiracial residents of USJ could get together and interact with each other.

"They only get a small allocation from the JPNIN so it is good to see corporate companies coming forward to sponsor events organised by the Rukun Tetangga units," he said.

"The main objective of a Rukun Tetangga is to foster unity. We organise events such as the art competition to encourage people from different races to mingle together," said USJ 2 & 6 RT chairman Hj Abdul Rahim Sharif.

"While the children of different races work on their drawings, their parents have a chance to socialise," he said.

About 400 children took part in this year's competition with the theme *Visit Malaysia Year 2007*.

The competition is organised in collaboration with the Selangor (JPNIN).

While waiting for the results, the children and parents were treated to a silat performance by Kelab Silat Rajawali Putih, a choir performance by SMK Seafeld Choir Club and a song by children from Compassion Home.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Malaysia's ties with Italy set to expand**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

ROME: Ties between Malaysia and Italy are set to expand following the signing of a joint declaration on economic cooperation yesterday and another one on agriculture today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he and his Italian counterpart Romano Prodi had discussed at length the declarations and bilateral ties.

The economic declaration was signed by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar while Italian International Trade Minister Emma Bonino signed for the host country.

"I expect our relations, which are already mature and strong, to expand further," Abdullah said at a joint press conference at Prodi's official guesthouse Villa Mardama here.



Official visit: Abdullah, accompanied by Prodi, walking past a guard-of-honour upon his arrival at the Villa Mardama in Rome on Monday. Later, they held talks on bilateral and international issues. — Bernama

Abdullah is on the last leg of his visit to three European countries. He was in Russia and Bosnia Herzegovina earlier.

"My visit to Italy is a reflection of the importance that Malaysia attaches to its relations with Italy." Prodi in his remarks said the two leaders also discussed Middle East issues as well as world peace in general. "The two countries share the same views on these matters ranging from Darfur to Gaza, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I also expressed our gratitude to the Malaysian Prime Minister on Malaysia's willingness to contribute 350 troops for the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Lebanon," he added.

## **Tajuk Artikel : PM: Overall solution vital for refugees in Darfur**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

ROME: A comprehensive solution, ranging from providing food aid, security and education for the refugees in Darfur, is needed if the problem there is to be resolved, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah, who is the OIC chairman, said that from his recent visit to Darfur, he found the problems there were serious and multi-fold.

"The people who run to Darfur are doing so not only because they are poor or in search of food but also because they need protection.

"I have spoken to the tribal leaders there as well as other world leaders, including the United Nation secretary-general, and informed them

of the need for a multi-facet solution," he told Malaysian journalists at the end of the second day of

his visit here.

Abdullah said he also discussed the matter with his Italian counterpart Romano Prodi about the Darfur issue and they both agreed that the situation there was urgent.

Asked if Malaysia was willing to contribute troops as peacekeepers, Abdullah said there had been no such request at the moment as the international thinking was to allow African states to make up the majority of the peacekeeping force.

"If there is a request, Malaysia will send its troops," he added.

Abdullah said he had also spoken to Petronas about playing its role to resolve the problems in Darfur.

"As a corporation operating in Sudan, they should contribute by setting up schools and provide food aid," he said.

## **Tajuk Artikel : China a land of opportunity, says Najib**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians should not be frightened of China as a force that might destabilise the region, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said. Instead, he said, China should be looked upon as a land of opportunity for Malaysians to increase bilateral and trade ties with.

"We never thought of China as a threat but as our true friend," he said at a dinner to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association.

The event organised by the association, was also to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations and Malaysia's 50th anniversary of Independence.

Najib also said that the good ties allowed bilateral trade to grow and said last year the figure was at around US\$22bil (RM74.8bil).

## **Tajuk Artikel : End hypocrisy on environs issues, developed nations told**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

SINGAPORE: Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop hit out at what he called "hypocrisy" on the part of developed nations in debates over who should be responsible in tackling global warming and other environmental issues.

Speaking on the second day of the World Economic Forum on East Asia here yesterday, he said: "Let's take hypocrisy out of this formula where countries without trees keep telling countries with trees to stop chopping them down and to slow down growth. We can't slow down growth because we have got plenty of poverty."

He said the growth momentum must be kept up as countries like Malaysia had to bring its people out of poverty.

Alluding to a recent study that showed China had overtaken the United States as the world's largest polluter, he said there was no point in singling out China. He pointed out that companies that were contributing to the pollution were owned by American and European multinationals which benefited from the cheap labour and resources in China. – Bernama

## **Tajuk Artikel : SMART can divert 45% of KL's floodwaters**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

PETALING JAYA: The flood channel component of the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) can divert up to 45% of the total volume of floodwaters in Kuala Lumpur.

Drainage and Irrigation Department public relations officer Amiruddin Alaldin said the 45% figure incorporated floodwaters coming from Sungai Batu, Sungai Gombak and Sungai Klang.

"The 90% floodwater figure that director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah refers to is only for Sungai Klang," he said.

It was reported yesterday that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the flood problem had to be handled comprehensively as the SMART component was only capable of diverting 45% of floodwaters from the city.

He said retention ponds and flood diversions would solve the problem of the other rivers since the SMART project was only designed to divert excess water from Sungai Klang.

On Saturday, Keizrul said the RM2.1bil tunnel could help divert 90% of Sungai Klang waters from flood-prone areas.

## **Tajuk Artikel : How far can we apply the Golden Rule?**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**IKIM VIEWS**

**By DR MOHD ZAIDI ISMAIL**

**Senior Fellow/Director,**

**Centre for Science and Technology, IKIM**

**A lot of harm has been done historically in the name of helping other people, so one should take care that one is really helping people, and not harming them.**

DO UNTO others as you would wish them do onto you. Such reads a version of what many people term The Golden Rule (GR) or The Ethic of Reciprocity. Some even regard it as the ethic of transference of perspective.

In many inter-faith and inter-civilisational dialogues, as in many talks and writings promoting common ethical grounds for co-existence, it is commonplace to find GR being invoked.

It is clear that GR is regarded by its proponents as being well suited to be a standard to which different religions and cultures could appeal in resolving conflicts. In their view, the need for such a common standard is becoming more urgent as the world becomes more and more a single interacting global community.

It is expected that once people accept GR, they will also stand in good stead the idea that every person shares certain inherent human rights simply because of their membership in the human race. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is often regarded as one good manifestation of this growing worldwide consensus.

Some of the GR proponents even argue that the greatest failure of organised religions is their historical inability to convince their followers that GR applies to all humans, not merely to fellow believers.

As such, they urge that religions stress that their membership use GR when dealing with others – persons of other religions, the other gender, other races, other sexual orientations, etc.

Some observers have pointed out that GR is meaningless without identifying the recipient and the situation. Otherwise, a depressed person who wishes to be killed would be morally obligated to kill others. Or a person who likes peanut butter should feed it to someone who is allergic to it.

Moreover, whereas some policies that are beneficial to the majority may well be harmful to some minority, precepts such as GR somehow assume that there is some absolute and universal standard to what is beneficial and what is harmful.

As such, if one is to avoid all harm, one would be prevented from doing much good. George Bernard Shaw might be right when he remarked: "Do not do unto others as you would that they should do unto you. Their tastes may not be the same."

Such being the case, there have been attempts to reformulate GR in a way that is expected to minimise any paradox or absurdity that may have appeared if the rule is left in its original literal version.

One such attempt is the interpretation that is formulated by Harry J. Gensler, a scholar who has conducted philosophical analyses on GR, in the form: "Treat others only in ways that you are willing to be treated in the same exact situation."

In Gensler's observation, GR is best seen as a consistency principle. It does not replace regular moral norms. It is not an infallible guide on which actions are right or wrong nor does it tell one specifically what to do.

It only prescribes consistency – that one not have one's actions toward another be out of harmony with one's desires toward a reversed situation action. If one violates GR, then one is violating the spirit of fairness and concern that lies at the heart of morality.

In order to make GR work, its proponents must be able to convince as many people as possible of its viability. And this includes their proving that it is not merely a good rhetoric but is also both intellectually firmly grounded and widely applicable.

To do this, they need to account for situations in which a strict application of GR is contraindicated because it can lead to harming others.

As a lot of harm has been done historically in the name of helping other people, before one can apply GR, one should take care that one is really helping people, and not harming them. This often requires more wisdom than is readily available.

Eventually, it will also lead one to the question whether it is moral to harm a few individuals in order to prevent a larger harm to the rest of society?

Furthermore, if the GR proponents are also adherents of any particular religion, they need to also account for teachings within their holy books which may contradict their own Ethic of Reciprocity. Usually this happens when non-believers in the dominant religion are discussed.

Instead of sloganeering, the proponents also need to supply detailed comprehensive explanation of GR. This includes their clarifying what it is not. An attempt at this, for instance, has sought to show that GR is not (1) tit-for-tat, or retributive justice; (2) non-aggression, or harm, principle; (3) a "rule" in specifics; or (4) majoritarianism.

In this respect, a critique made by Bernard Gert, a professor of Moral Philosophy at Dartmouth College, in his article *Morality versus Slogans* is something for them to consider: "I am not denying that the Golden Rule, in some cases, tells us to do the moral thing.

"What I am saying is that in those cases, you already knew what was immoral before you applied the Golden Rule. If you are wondering whether to kill somebody, you don't need that Golden Rule to tell you, 'I wouldn't want to be killed, therefore I shouldn't kill him.'

"You knew it was wrong to kill him before you applied the Golden Rule. The Golden Rule is of no help at all because it gives you the wrong answers as often as it give you the right ones. Using procedures that are not very reliable, that sometimes give you the right answer but just as often give you the wrong answer, is not very useful."

**Tajuk Artikel : Let's work more, holiday less**

## **Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

I REFER to the front-page report 'Reduce holidays' (*The Star*, June 23). I agree fully with this as Malaysia already has a large number of public holidays, probably one of the highest in the world.

Various groups still want to request the government to declare more holidays.

If the government agrees to the demands of each and every group's request, there will come a time when work is something you do in between holidays, rather than the other way around!

A quick calculation will show you what I mean.

Take a person who works in Selangor. Out of the 365 days in a year, 104 days are weekends. That leaves 261 weekdays. There are 16 national holidays and three state holidays. That leaves 242 workdays.

If a person takes three weeks' annual leave, there will only be 221 workdays. So on average a person will only work for about four and a quarter days a week.

As everyone is aware, on the eve of long public holidays, not much office work gets done as everyone is in a holiday mood. Groups asking for more public holidays are just too unrealistic.

I understand that various minority ethnic and religious groups are requesting for their own public holidays. These are valid and legitimate demands but I do not think that the government will be able to agree to these demands.

An alternative solution would be to allow all minority groups to take one extra day of paid leave for their respective ethnic or religious celebrations. In that way work continues as usual for the rest of the people and members of minority groups have their concerns addressed.

School children from minority groups should also be allowed to take a day off for their celebrations if they produce a letter from their parents.

The large number of public holidays is very disruptive to work. I can only quote from my personal experience as a doctor.

It is sometimes very difficult to plan for patients' admission for treatment when there are too many public holidays.

Certain treatment and investigations for example CT scans and ultrasound examinations can only be done during weekdays. Some of these tests are considered non-emergency and will not be done on weekends.

With the great demand for imaging services in government hospitals, the patient's tests will be invariably delayed.

We as doctors and other healthcare providers try our best to expedite our patient's treatment and investigations but it is sometimes inevitable that patients' treatment will be delayed. We have to constantly juggle patient appointments to clinics and admission dates to work around the public holidays.

With fewer public holidays, I believe productivity will increase and work will be smoother.

**A GOVERNMENT SERVANT,  
Penang.**

**Tajuk Artikel : Malaysia, Italy working to boost relations**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

[By : Kamrul Idris reporting from Sarajevo](#)

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his Italian counterpart Romano Prodi discussed how to boost relations between Malaysia and Italy yesterday, and witnessed the signing of a joint declaration on economic co-operation and a deal by Malaysia Airlines for the purchase of ATR aircraft that could cost US\$360 million (RM1.2 billion).

At a press conference after the meeting, Abdullah said Malaysia desired to do more for bilateral relations, particularly in trade and investment, as demonstrated by the national carrier's first-ever use of the Italian-made aircraft intended for its domestic subsidiary Firefly. Annual trade between the two countries rose to US\$2.13 billion last year from US\$1.9 billion a year earlier, but has consistently performed below potential. A joint declaration on agricultural co-operation will be signed today.

Prodi said bilateral relations were on a "sound and strong" footing and that the grounds had been laid "for rekindling trade relations in the future". Italian exports to Malaysia had been declining in recent years.

The Italian prime minister also thanked Malaysia for its contribution of troops to the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon and appreciated the work the two countries had done together for peace. ATR said the MAS contract was a result of the two governments collaboration in developing programmes for common industries aimed at the emerging markets of Southeast Asia.

MAS has agreed to buy 10 of the 72-seat turboprop ATR 72-500 with an option for 10 more in a package that could total US\$360 million.

**Tajuk Artikel : Malaysia, China target RM170b trade**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**



Datuk Seri Najib Razak (centre) cutting a cake to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, the 33 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries and Malaysia's 50th independence.

Flanking him are (from left) the association vice-president Datuk Yong Ah Pwi, president Datuk Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan, Chinese ambassador to Malaysia Cheng Yonghua and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries vice-president Feng Zuoku.

KUALA LUMPUR: The close and warm ties between Malaysia and China will form the basis for the two countries to achieve the US\$50 billion (RM170 billion) bilateral trade target in 2010.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said bilateral trade between Malaysia and China had already reached some US\$22 billion last year. He said the two countries' relationship could only grow from strength to strength.

"If you understand each other, learn each other's language and culture, and embrace each other, you could become a nation which is confident of moving bilateral relations faster and further," he said at a dinner last night to mark the 15th anniversary of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, the 33rd anniversary of Malaysia-China diplomatic relations and Malaysia's 50th year of independence.

Najib said Malaysia and China had always supported each other through good and bad times. Citing as an example the Tiananmen Square incident when the PRC was condemned by the Western world, he said Malaysia had stood by China.

"And in turn when we faced the financial crisis in 1997, China helped us regain our financial stability. That's why Malaysia has never viewed China as a threat as implied by the Western world."

Najib said China offered many opportunities and called on Malaysian companies to increase two-way trade with the country.

"Not only the Malaysian Chinese but Malays as well. China is becoming a world economic superpower. We are not frightened of China but view them as an opportunity."

Najib also said he supported the suggestion by former deputy prime minister Tun Musa Hitam that more Malays should learn Mandarin.

Malaysia-China Friendship Association president Datuk Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan said the association, which has 2,000 members, was committed to assisting the government in strengthening ties with China.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Ministry to send protest note to EC Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

PUTRAJAYA: Thierry Rommel, who caused a storm when he criticised the country's New Economic Policy (NEP), was summoned to Wisma Putra yesterday to explain his remarks.

The ambassador and head of the European Commission delegation to Malaysia met Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general (1) Datuk Osman Hashim at 2.30pm.

A source said the meeting lasted about 40 minutes. Osman could not be reached for comment.

The source said the ministry would send a protest note to the EC headquarters in Brussels. Rommel was quoted by the media as saying that the NEP, seen as favouring the Malays and Bumiputera, did not provide a level playing field for foreign companies.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar had said Rommel's comments were tantamount to meddling in Kuala Lumpur's internal affairs and policies. He had also said that Malaysian ambassador to Brussels, Datuk Kamal Yan Yahya, would meet EU officials to convey Malaysia's stance with regard to Rommel's remarks.

Rommel alleged that the government was using the NEP as an excuse to practise "significant protectionism of its own market", including the automotive sector, steel, consumer goods, agricultural products, services and government contracts.

Rommel was quoted by the Associated Press last Thursday as saying that the NEP was discriminatory and could lead to problems in free trade negotiations between EU and Asean. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak ticked off Rommel on Saturday, saying he had overstepped his boundaries.

Meanwhile, former Malaysian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Datuk Kamarudin Abu, said Rommel should apologise privately to Wisma Putra, if not publicly.

The Centre for Public Policy Studies agreed that Rommel had not followed diplomatic protocol.

Its chairman, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, said those protesting Rommel's allegations should substantiate it with valid data and statistics. He added that it was "imperative that the government review its socio-economic policies to ensure they are effective in promoting real sustained socio-economic development for all Malaysians in the long run".

Contacted by Bernama, Rommel said he had no intention to meddle in Malaysia's internal affairs. He said the issue had been blown out of proportion, adding that he explained to Osman the rationale for his remarks and highlighted that there was no misunderstanding on the inappropriateness of a diplomatic envoy interfering in internal affairs of the country.

"I also took note of the ministry's discontent and objections to my remarks," he said.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Costly water due to 'service charge'**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: If you think paying 50 sen for a glass of water is expensive, think again. Some restaurants here are charging between 80 sen and RM1 for refillable glasses of "sky juice".

Random checks at the 1 Utama Shopping Centre, showed that several restaurants such as Zuup, Sri Melaka and Dragon-i charged between 80 sen and RM1 for a glass of water.

These prices sharply contrast Federation of Malaysia Consumers' Associations president Datuk N. Marimuthu's recent proposal that a glass of water should cost no more than 20 sen in urban regions and less in rural areas.

Gavin Yew, co-owner of Zuup, said it was necessary to charge 80 sen for a glass of water to alleviate the cost of

utilities. However, the 36-year-old said he was not sure what fraction of the beverage bill was from serving water to patrons.

Yew added that the charge for water was justified because in boiling water, adding a slice of lemon and bringing it to the customer, the restaurant was performing a service.

"It is a service we provide and if we didn't charge for plain water, everyone would take advantage of it and the cost would be too much for us to handle."

Yew said Zuup would be willing to comply with a set price of water.

"We have to think of revenue. If we did not follow the standard price for water, customers will not buy drinks or eat here.

"But 20 sen is a bit too low. It would be another cost we would have to bear," Yew said.

Both Yew and Sri Melaka supervisor Mahizarisham Mohd Mahiyuddin, 27, said they had not received any complaints for charging 80 sen for a glass of water.

In Kuantan, state domestic trade and consumer affairs enforcement director Abu Samah Shabudin said only certain restaurants and coffee shops in the town were allowed to sell a glass of water at 50 sen.

These premises were those which use water treatment machines to purify the water served to their customers.

"The operators of certain kopitiam premises for instance insisted that the water, purified using the machine, is much safer to drink, thus the more expensive price," he said in response to several complaints on the matter.

"That is the reason why they are willing to spend thousands of ringgit to install these water treatment machines at their premises."

Abu Samah said it was fair for the operators to charge 50 sen for a glass of the purified water since it was the only way to cover the expenses for setting up the machines.

These premises would be inspected on a regular basis to ensure the water treatment machines were operational and in good condition.

Abu Samah also stressed that the price for a glass of water should be displayed clearly to ensure customers would not feel cheated.

**Tajuk Artikel : Tuduhan saya terbabit rasuah fitnah: Musa**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

Oleh Hardi Effendi Yaacob

KUALA LUMPUR: Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Musa Hassan semalam menganggap dakwaan kononnya beliau terbabit dengan rasuah, salah guna kuasa dan mempunyai hubungan dengan ketua sindiket jenayah terancang, sengaja dibuat pihak tidak bertanggung jawab untuk mencemar nama baiknya dan imej polis.

Sambil menafikan tuduhan disebarkan menerusi laman web itu, Musa percaya pihak yang tidak berpuas hati dengan komitmennya membanteras jenayah dan kenaikan pangkat beberapa pegawai kanan Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) sebelum ini turut terbabit.

"Ini semua tohmahan yang sengaja disebarkan untuk menjejaskan nama baik saya dan pasukan. Biarlah mereka mahu kata apa pun, saya tidak rasa tergugat langsung malah akan tetap menjalankan tugas seperti biasa.

"Yang penting, saya mahu membetulkan pasukan sekali gus memastikan semua pegawai dan anggota bertugas dengan baik dalam menjaga keselamatan negara dan rakyat. Kita mahu orang rasa selamat bila berada di negara ini. Apa pun orang mahu tulis, biar sajalah," katanya selepas menyaksikan majlis serah tugas Ketua Polis Selangor, Datuk Ismail Omar yang dinaikkan pangkat sebagai Pengarah Pengurusan PDRM, berkuat kuasa 1 Julai ini, di Mes Pegawai Kanan Bukit Aman, di sini, semalam.

Musa diminta mengulas laporan sebuah laman web sejak awal bulan ini yang mendakwa beliau terbabit dengan rasuah, salah guna kuasa serta mempunyai hubungan baik seorang ketua sindiket jenayah terancang yang mendalangi kegiatan pelacuran, kongsi gelap dan ceti haram.

Laporan itu turut mendakwa Musa dipengaruhi ketua sindiket terbabit dalam menentukan kenaikan pangkat beberapa pegawai kanan polis sejak menerajui PDRM, termasuk Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Bukit Aman, yang kini disandang Datuk Christopher Wan Soo Kee.

Ditanya sama ada pihaknya akan mengambil tindakan terhadap pengendali laman web itu, Musa berkata, biarlah masyarakat menilai sendiri tohmahan berkenaan. "Sekarang zaman moden, zaman globalisasi. Ada banyak sangat laman web sampai kerajaan pun susah nak kawal.

Siapa pun boleh tulis macam-macam cerita dan terpulanglah pada masyarakat sendiri untuk menilaikannya.

"Niat suci saya hanya untuk membetulkan pasukan, banteras rasuah dan masalah lain dalam PDRM. Biarlah orang mahu cakap apa pun mengenai diri saya, yang penting, saya hanya menjalankan tugas seperti yang diamanahkan," katanya.

Mengambil iktibar dari fitnah yang dilemparkan terhadapnya, Musa turut mengingatkan setiap pegawai dan anggota PDRM supaya jujur dalam melaksanakan tugas masing-masing serta mengelak daripada dipengaruhi kepentingan tertentu. "Apa saja bidang pekerjaan, kita mesti ikhlas melakukannya. Bila bertugas, jangan fikirkan kepentingan diri sehingga kita leka dan sanggup melakukan perkara yang salah. Ini boleh merosakkan diri kita nanti," katanya.

Musa turut menafikan wujud unsur kronisme dalam menentukan kenaikan pangkat anggota dan pegawai polis,

terutama di peringkat ibu pejabat (Bukit Aman), sebaliknya menegaskan proses itu dilaksanakan mengikut prestasi kerja.

"Saya tidak percaya pada kronisme sebab ia membawa lebih banyak keburukan daripada kebaikan. Malah, saya percaya sesebuah organisasi boleh musnah disebabkan kronisme. Dalam PDRM, kenaikan pangkat adalah berpandukan kepada prestasi kerja anggota atau pegawai.

"Tidak semestinya pegawai yang dinaikkan pangkat mempunyai hubungan baik dengan saya. Ada pegawai yang dinaikkan pangkat, saya tidak kenal pun. Hanya selepas dinaikkan pangkat barulah kami saling mengenali. Jadi, tidak timbul soal kronisme," katanya. Beliau berkata, PDRM membuka peluang kenaikan pangkat sama rata kepada semua anggota mahupun pegawai kanannya mengikut kriteria tertentu, termasuk kecemerlangan tugas.

"Saya hanya memilih mereka yang boleh bertugas dengan baik. Mana-mana anggota atau pegawai berprestasi baik, tentunya mereka itu yang saya suka dan sudah pasti peluang mereka untuk dinaikkan pangkat terbuka luas," katanya.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Kastam lapor tipu lelong kereta**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

Oleh Shamshul Azree Samshir

**KDRM tidak lantik individu pungut deposit**



**KAEDAH BARU: Abdul Rahman (kanan) dan Timbalan Ketua Pengarah, Datuk Mohamed Khalid Yusof menguji alat pengesan dakwat pada majlis bulanan Perhimpunan Setia dan Mesra KDRM di Putrajaya, semalam.**

PUTRAJAYA: Kastam Diraja Malaysia (KDRM) membuat dua laporan kepada Badan Pencegah Rasuah (BPR) bulan lalu berhubung seorang lelaki di Selangor yang memperdaya pembida tender kenderaan lelong kononnya boleh diperolehnya menerusi 'pintu belakang'.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid, berkata lelaki itu mendakwa kepada pembida, dia mendapat kebenaran KDRM untuk memungut deposit untuk tujuan berkenaan.

"Banyak laporan kita dapat (mengenai kegiatan lelaki terbabit)... Ada mangsa yang sudah kena baru hendak lapor, malah ada yang bayar RM10,000 kepadanya," katanya kepada pemberita selepas majlis bulanan Perhimpunan Setia dan Mesra KDRM serta pelancaran alat pengesan dakwat keselamatan di sini, semalam.

Abdul Rahman menjelaskan KDRM tidak pernah melantik mana-mana individu atau pihak sebagai wakil atau orang tengah dalam proses lelongan atau tender terbuka kenderaannya.

"Proses tender dilakukan menerusi tiga peringkat dan membabitkan panel yang bukan saja dianggotai pegawai KDRM tetapi kementerian dan agensi lain, termasuk Perbendaharaan, dan semua kereta yang ditender mempunyai nombor lot serta kod.

"Jangan percaya pada mereka. Jika ada orang jual borang tender, laporkan kepada polis atau KDRM. Ia termasuk jika ada pegawai kastam yang mendakwa mereka boleh membantu," katanya.

"Saya komited dan saya akan lakukan (tindakan terhadap pegawai yang terbabit dalam kes salah laku)... Ada yang (dikenakan tindakan) dalam tempoh tiga hari malah ada satu unit semuanya saya pindahkan...sekarang ini pun ada dalam proses tapi saya tidak boleh cakap kerana ini di bawah Lembaga Disiplin," katanya.

Mengenai operasi Delta Tax, Abdul Rahman berkata, operasi membabitkan 21 kenderaan pintar itu dimulakan minggu lalu untuk mengesan kira-kira 15,000 syarikat yang gagal menjelaskan cukai yang dianggarkan mencecah RM1 bilion.

Katanya, penggunaan kenderaan pintar itu membolehkan KDRM menjalankan operasi dengan lebih mudah kerana ia umpama pejabat bergerak yang dilengkapi pelbagai kemudahan untuk mencapai data agensi berkaitan.

## **Tajuk Artikel : CTOS tak pernah diberi lesen**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan tidak pernah memberi kebenaran kepada Credit Tip Off Service Sdn Bhd (CTOS) menyalurkan maklumat kewangan individu kepada institusi kewangan dan individu untuk dijadikan bahan rujukan.

Timbalan Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Datuk M Kayveas, berkata kerajaan juga tidak pernah mengeluarkan lesen kepada syarikat berkenaan untuk menjadi ejen carian dan menyimpan maklumat peribadi orang ramai. Justeru, beliau berkata, kerajaan akan menyiasat secara terperinci syarikat itu bagi menjaga kepentingan orang ramai.

"Apa hak mereka menyimpan maklumat peribadi orang ramai...siapa yang bagi kebenaran kepada mereka. Kerajaan memandang serius kegiatan bank dan institusi kewangan atau badan lain di negara ini menggunakan khidmat syarikat itu sebagai carian mendapatkan maklumat peribadi pelanggan serta orang ramai," katanya di lobi Parlimen, di sini semalam.

Kayveas berkata, kerajaan juga tidak pernah mengeluarkan lesen kepada syarikat terbabit untuk menjadi sebagai

badan carian dan menyimpan maklumat peribadi orang ramai.

Beliau sebelum ini memaklumkan kerajaan akan menyiasat CTOS berikutan peningkatan dakwaan agensi terbabit gagal mengemas kini status kewangan individu dalam pangkalan datanya termasuk mendedahkan terlalu banyak butiran peribadi seseorang.

Malah, katanya, ada nama dikatakan masih disenaraikan dalam sistem CTOS walaupun melangsaikan tunggakan pinjaman, selain agensi itu memaparkan maklumat kewangan yang remeh sehingga menjejaskan kewibawaan seseorang.

"Kini ada majikan menggunakan CTOS bagi memeriksa maklumat latar belakang bakal pekerja. Kalau agensi ini tidak memastikan maklumat yang diberi adalah terkini, ia akan menjejaskan peluang individu berkenaan. "Perbuatan ini tidak bertanggungjawab kerana pelanggan dikenakan bayaran bagi merujuk pangkalan data CTOS," katanya.

Selain itu, beliau mendakwa ada sebuah pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) di negara ini juga dikesan cuba mengugut pelanggannya yang tidak menjelaskan sewa, kompaun dan akan dikenakan tindakan disenarai hitam syarikat itu. Katanya, tindakan PBT terbabit tidak sepatutnya berlaku kerana menggunakan CTOS untuk mengugut orang ramai supaya membuat bayaran.

## **Tajuk Artikel : UDA kerjasama bantu 60 koperasi maju hartanah**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

Oleh Abdul Halim Yusoff



**CARA BARU: Khaled pada majlis pelancaran konsep pemasaran daging bermotor 'tut-tut' di Seri Kembangan, semalam.**

SERI KEMBANGAN: Kerajaan mengenal pasti 60 koperasi yang mempunyai tanah di kawasan bandar utama termasuk Kuala Lumpur untuk dipadankan dengan syarikat swasta terutama UDA Holdings Sdn Bhd (UDA) bagi dibangunkan dengan projek hartanah.

Menteri Pembangunan Usahawan dan Koperasi, Datuk Seri Mohamad Khaled Nordin, berkata menerusi konsep itu yang dirangka kementerian dan agensi di bawahnya iaitu UDA, koperasi yang kekurangan dana dan kepakaran akan dibantu membangunkan tanahnya dengan projek bernilai tinggi dan menguntungkan ahli.

"Kerjasama ini juga akan mengelakkan koperasi mengambil jalan mudah menjual tanah mereka ketika menghadapi tekanan terutama apabila tanah mereka dihipit pembangunan rancak di kawasan sekeliling," katanya tanpa menyebut saiz tanah terbabit.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas merasmikan pelancaran konsep pemasaran daging bermotor 'tut-tut' anjuran Pemkop Livestocks Sdn Bhd (Pempok) dan penyerahan dividen pusingan kedua projek perintis rantaian nilai ternakan lembu fidlot di sini, semalam.

Mohamad Khaled berkata, projek rantaian nilai dan padanan perniagaan bertujuan mewujudkan kerjasama antara koperasi dan swasta serta menyediakan laluan untuk berkembang menjadi instrumen ekonomi lebih meluas, bukan sekadar perniagaan konvensional.

Setakat ini, katanya, projek rantaian nilai yang sudah berkembang ialah dalam sektor penternakan lembu untuk daging yang diusahakan Pempok. Syarikat itu adalah usaha sama antara 10 koperasi dan Syarikat Pembinaan Waja Ke Arah 2020 Sdn Bhd.

"Dalam projek itu, koperasi bukan saja terbabit dalam penternakan lembu, malah terbabit dalam keseluruhan rantaian nilai termasuk penyembelihan, pengedaran dan pemasaran daging menggunakan motosikal tut-tut," katanya.

Selain itu, Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad (Bank Rakyat) juga sedang mengkaji keseluruhan rantaian nilai sektor perikanan bagi padanan niaga yang boleh dirangka antara nelayan, koperasi serta syarikat swasta tertentu.

Katanya, bidang lain yang turut diteroka ialah pembekalan alat ganti kepada bengkel motosikal dan perladangan kontrak.

"Projek keusahawanan koperasi sebegini lebih menguntungkan dan dapat mengelakkan ahli daripada hanya tertumpu untuk mendapatkan lesen Kelas F dan permit teksi," katanya sambil menambah konsep ini popular di Eropah.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Pempok, Ishak Maarof, berkata konsep jualan daging secara bermotor tut-tut akan diperkenalkan di seluruh negara tidak lama lagi dan pihaknya menjangka lebih 3,000 tut-tut akan berada di pasaran menjelang tahun depan.

Katanya, sebuah tut-tut yang lengkap dengan peti dingin beku berharga RM12,000 seunit dan ahli koperasi yang berminat boleh membelinya secara ansuran.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Malaysia hab antarabangsa**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

KERAJAAN Malaysia amat komited menyokong usaha menjadikan Malaysia hab antarabangsa bagi pengeluaran dan pengedaran produk halal, kata Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna, Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal. Sehubungan itu, katanya, dalam Belanjawan 2007 kerajaan menyediakan pelbagai insentif perniagaan tambahan termasuk pengurangan 2 peratus cukai daripada 28 kepada 26 peratus untuk tempoh dua tahun lagi.

Kerajaan Malaysia juga katanya, berterusan mengukuhkan kemampuan penguatkuasaan terutama dalam melindungi harta intelek.

"Rejim perdagangan yang adil dan promosi amalan perniagaan beretika juga menjadikan Malaysia tempat perniagaan yang selamat dan menguntungkan. "Baru-baru ini Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) juga mengeluarkan garis panduan komprehensif untuk kemudahan pelabur," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika berucap merasmikan sesi mesyuarat pepadanan perniagaan antara antara Pengusaha Kecil dan Sederhana (PKS) Malaysia dengan pengusaha serta pemborong dari seluruh Perancis di Hotel Le Meridien Montparnasse di sini, semalam.

Nilai perdagangan Malaysia-Perancis tahun lalu meningkat sebanyak 24.4 peratus kepada RM15.6 bilion, yang disumbangkan menerusi kedua-dua sektor import dan eksport.

Mohd Shafie berkata, koridor raya multimedia di Cyberjaya juga menyediakan kemudahan berkelas dunia bagi pelabur. "Apa yang lebih penting ialah kualiti rakyat Malaysia sendiri, sehingga rakan perniagaan dan pelabur luar negara memuji semangat kerja keras, kesanggupan menerima perubahan dan kecekapan mereka," katanya.

Mengenai program itu, beliau berkata, produk yang dibawa untuk menembusi pasaran Perancis, semuanya memenuhi standard kualiti antarabangsa dan dijamin mutunya.

Ini, katanya, selari dengan peraturan dan garis panduan keselamatan dan kualiti makanan di negara ini yang begitu ketat, keperluan yang perlu dipatuhi juga sangat tinggi, selain kedudukan Carrefour Perancis sebagai pasar raya besar yang kukuh.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Disenarai hitam jika tak bayar gaji amah**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

KUALA LUMPUR: Jabatan Imigresen akan menyenaraihitamkan nama majikan yang didapati gagal membayar gaji pembantu rumah mereka sebagai langkah mengelak tenaga kerja ini terus menjadi mangsa.

Perkara itu diumumkan Pengarah Penguat Kuasa jabatan berkenaan, Datuk Ishak Mohamad ketika mengadakan pertemuan dengan ahli jawatankuasa Persatuan Agensi Pembantu Rumah Asing Malaysia (Papa) di Putrajaya, petang semalam.

Presiden Papa, Datuk Raja Zulkepley Dahalan ketika dihubungi berkata, langkah tegas itu adalah tindakan terbaru jabatan terbabit dalam menangani pelbagai isu membabitkan tenaga kerja berkenaan agar tidak berlarutan.

"Bahagian penguat kuasa Jabatan Imigresen memandang serius masalah ini dan berharap tindakan menyenaraihitamkan nama majikan yang melakukan perbuatan itu akan menyedarkan pihak lain supaya tidak bertindak sesuka hati. "Ini kerana, majikan yang disenaraihitamkan tidak akan lagi dibenarkan untuk mengambil tenaga kerja ini pada masa depan," katanya kepada Berita Harian, semalam.

Pertemuan Papa dengan Ishak diadakan bagi mendapatkan penjelasan berhubung langkah Kementerian Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri menggantung operasi 19 agensi pembekal pembantu rumah asing negara ini pada Rabu lalu.

Mengenai isu penggantungan operasi 19 agensi berkenaan, Raja Zulkepley berkata, semua pihak terbabit diberi tempoh sehingga hujung bulan ini bagi memberi penjelasan berhubung kesalahan dilakukan.

Penggantungan itu diumumkan Menteriya, Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad selepas agensi terbabit didapati melakukan pelbagai kesalahan seperti melanggar syarat permit, termasuk menipu dan menempatkan pekerja di rumah majikan lain tanpa kebenaran.

Mengulas lanjut, Raja Zulkepley berkata, dalam pertemuan kira-kira dua jam itu, Ishak turut memohon kerjasama Papa mengemukakan nama majikan yang dikenal pasti melakukan perbuatan itu. "Papa diminta mengumpulkan maklumat dan kemudian mengemukakan nama majikan yang melakukan perbuatan itu. Kita harap semua pihak terbabit akan membantu, bagi memastikan tidak ada majikan terlepas dari tindakan," katanya.

Raja Zulkepley yang menyokong penuh pendekatan baru itu, berkata langkah Jabatan Imigresen itu sebagai tepat kerana sebelum ini agensi sering kali dipersalahkan apabila ada pembantu rumah yang lari atau tidak dibayar gaji. Katanya, sebelum ini pendekatan secara perundingan dilakukan antara majikan dan agensi terbabit sekiranya timbul isu seperti itu, namun ia didapati kurang berkesan kerana ia masih berulang.

"Sebab itu kita menyokong penuh pendekatan ini. Kita tidak mahu ada lagi majikan tidak bertanggungjawab dibenarkan mengambil tenaga kerja seperti ini kerana ia sudah pasti menjejaskan industri ini," katanya. Beliau bagaimanapun mengakui bilangan yang disyaki terbabit dengan perbuatan itu sebelum ini tidak banyak.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Tiada siapa kebal undang-undang**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

Oleh Rosli Abdul Jalil dan Saufi Hamzah

### **Polis bebas lakukan siasatan, ambil tindakan jika perlu: Najib**

PEKAN: Datuk Seri Najib Razak berkata, tiada sesiapa di negara ini yang bebas daripada tindakan undang-undang jika didapati terbabit dalam kegiatan jenayah. Ketika diminta mengulas seorang timbalan menteri dan hartawan Sarawak yang disiasat polis berhubung dakwaan terbabit dalam gengster, pembalakan haram dan rasuah, Timbalan Perdana Menteri berkata: "Tindakan akan dikenakan pada sesiapa yang melanggar undang-undang negara."

Najib, yang ditemui pemberita selepas menghadiri majlis pecah tanah Institut Kemahiran Tenun Pahang Diraja yang disempurnakan Sultan Pahang, Sultan Ahmad Shah di sini, bagaimanapun enggan mengulas lanjut perkara itu, dan meminta media merujuk kepada polis.

Media semalam melaporkan timbalan menteri itu dan hartawan berkenaan yang juga seorang ahli politik kanan disiasat Bukit Aman kerana disyaki cuba merasuah polis bagi mendapatkan pembebasan seorang ketua samseng dalam tahanan polis di Sarawak.

Pengarah Siasatan Jenayah, Datuk Christopher Wan Soo Kee, berkata, pasukan khas polis sedang melakukan siasatan menyeluruh.

"Polis bebas melakukan siasatan dan mengambil tindakan terhadap sesiapa jika perlu. Tiada sesiapa kebal daripada undang-undang negara. Bagaimanapun, saya difahamkan kes itu masih dalam peringkat siasatan," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Najib berkata, kerajaan berharap Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC) tidak mengambil sikap berkonfrontasi bagi menuntut kerajaan menggubal dasar gaji minimum untuk pekerja swasta.

Katanya, tindakan mengugut untuk mengadakan piket di seluruh negara seperti yang dirancang MTUC tidak akan menyelesaikan masalah, sebaliknya boleh merumitkan lagi rundingan yang dijalankan.

"Saya berharap mereka tidak meneruskan hasrat mengadakan piket kerana rundingan dengan Kementerian Sumber Manusia belum muktamad. Malah, difahamkan mereka sepatutnya mengadakan pertemuan dengan Perdana Menteri bagi membincangkan perkara itu," katanya.

Najib berkata, semua pihak tidak harus memburukkan lagi keadaan kerana ia boleh memberi kesan kepada hubungan majikan dan pekerja dan MTUC perlu peka bahawa kerajaan perlu menjaga daya saing serta kepentingan negara.

Dalam tuntutan yang dibuat sebelum ini, MTUC mahu kerajaan menetapkan paras gaji minimum sebanyak RM900 serta elaun sara hidup (cola) sebanyak RM300 bagi kakitangan sektor swasta.

Kesatuan itu menyerahkan memorandum kepada Pejabat Perdana Menteri pada 18 Jun dengan memberi tempoh seminggu untuk membuat keputusan berhubung tuntutan itu atau berdepan tindakan piket di Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya, Bangi, Shah, Klang, Johor Baru, Kuching dan Pulau Pinang.

Najib berkata, kerajaan tidak pernah mengabaikan kepentingan pekerja tetapi tuntutan itu perlu seimbang bagi mengekalkan daya saing negara.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Kerajaan kena pastikan pelaburan KWSP selamat**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

SINGAPURA 25 Jun – Menteri Kewangan Kedua Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop berkata, kerajaan perlu memastikan sebarang pelaburan Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) dibuat secara berhemah, selamat dan memberi pulangan yang munasabah kepada pelabur.

“Mana-mana keputusan (KWSP) adalah berasaskan kepada keselamatan dan ciri-ciri kecairan untuk memastikan pelabur dan pencarumnya tidak mengalami kerugian,” katanya kepada Bernama di sini selepas menjadi anggota panel pada sidang pleno Forum Ekonomi Dunia mengenai Asia Timur.

Beliau diminta mengulas langkah KWSP baru-baru ini yang menegah pencarumnya daripada melabur dalam unit amanah luar negara yang menimbulkan rungutan di kalangan pencarum.

Mengulas tentang rayuan sesetengah pihak terhadap keputusan KWSP itu, termasuk dari Persekutuan Pengurusan Amanah Saham Malaysia, Nor Mohamed berkata: “Kita kena tengok rayuan ini dalam konteks sama ada ia sesuai dilaksanakan, daripada segi keselamatan pelaburan dan kepentingan nasional.

Beliau juga berkata, Malaysia menyediakan banyak peluang pelaburan. “Kita harus memberi keyakinan kepada peluang pelaburan dalam negeri,” katanya. – Bernama

## **Tajuk Artikel : Bank diminta jelas beku akaun**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

KUALA LUMPUR 25 Jun – Sebuah bank komersial terkemuka tempatan diminta memberikan penjelasan berhubung tindakannya membeku akaun simpanan pelanggan yang gagal membayar bayaran minimum kad kredit bank itu melebihi tempoh tiga bulan.

Setiausaha Agung Persatuan Pengguna Islam Malaysia (PPIM), Datuk Dr. Maamor Osman berkata, tindakan itu sekiranya tidak dihentikan segera boleh menjejaskan imej bank berkenaan dan menyebabkan pelanggan beralih kepada bank-bank lain.

“Kita menganggap tindakan ini sebagai tidak munasabah dan sebelum ini PPIM turut menerima banyak aduan daripada pelanggan bank yang sama melibatkan kes-kes lain termasuk berkaitan pinjaman perumahan dan pengeluaran kad kredit baru,” katanya di sini hari ini.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas aduan yang diterima Utusan Malaysia daripada pelanggan bank itu mendakwa akaun simpanan mereka dibekukan walaupun tidak pernah menandatangani sebarang perjanjian bagi membolehkan perkara itu dilaksanakan.

Setelah dibekukan pelanggan tidak boleh lagi mengeluarkan wang menerusi mesin teler automatik (ATM) dan kaunter bank serta dihalang berurusan menerusi laman webnya.

Bagi pengguna ATM mereka akan dipaparkan dengan perkataan ‘Haraf maaf. Transaksi ini tidak dibenarkan pada masa ini’ pada skrin.

Akaun simpanan hanya akan diaktifkan semula setelah pelanggan membayar tunggakan bayaran minimum kad kredit berkenaan.

Maamor berkata, tindakan bank itu adalah ganjil kerana kebiasaannya bank akan gembira jika pelanggan lambat membayar bayaran minimum kerana mereka boleh mengenakan caj tambahan sebagai denda.

Katanya, orang ramai yang menghadapi masalah berkenaan diminta membuat aduan terus kepada Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dan menyertakan salinannya kepada PPIM.

"Aduan juga boleh dibuat kepada PPIM dengan menghubungi talian 03-42566618 atau dengan melayari laman web [www.muslimconsumer.org](http://www.muslimconsumer.org)," ujarnya.

Dalam pada itu, Presiden Gabungan Persatuan Pengguna Malaysia (FOMCA), N. Marimuthu berkata, tindakan itu tidak wajar dilakukan kerana kedua-dua akaun berkenaan adalah berasingan antara satu sama lain.

Beliau berkata, ia merupakan langkah yang menyalahi undang-undang kerana pembekuan akaun hanya boleh dibuat setelah mendapat persetujuan daripada pengguna.

Bertindak

"Pihak bank perlu memberi alasan yang munasabah kerana tindakan mereka ini seolah-olah menganggap pelanggan mereka bodoh," ujarnya.

Menurut beliau, bank berani bertindak demikian kerana pengguna selalunya bersikap terlalu baik dan enggan membuat aduan kerana bimbang nama mereka akan disiarkan menerusi akhbar. Katanya, aduan boleh disalurkan kepada Pusat Khidmat Aduan Pengguna Nasional menerusi talian 03-78779000.

Sementara itu, jurucakap bank itu, yang dihubungi hari ini enggan mengulas kes berkenaan dengan alasan mereka perlu mendapat maklumat lanjut termasuk nama dan nombor akaun pengadu. Beliau juga enggan mengulas lanjut apabila ditanya sama ada langkah tersebut adalah amalan biasa bank itu bagi memastikan pelanggan membayar tunggakan berkenaan tepat pada masanya.

## **Tajuk Artikel : Kerajaan Cadang Pinda Akta Bagi Bekas Penagih Kembali Berkhidmat**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

PUTRAJAYA, 26 Jun (Bernama) -- Kerajaan bercadang meminda Akta Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam bagi membolehkan pegawainya yang terlibat dalam penagihan dadah tetapi didapati telah pulih sepenuhnya, kembali berkhidmat sebagai penjawat awam, kata Timbalan Menteri Keselamatan Dalam Negeri Datuk Johari Baharum.

Katanya hampir 99 peratus penagih yang dihantar ke pusat serenti telah pulih daripada ketagihan tetapi apabila pulang ke pangkuan masyarakat, mereka kembali kepada tabiat asal kerana sikap komuniti yang menganggap mereka sebagai sampah masyarakat ataupun penjenayah.

"Jika masyarakat berterusan menganggap bekas penagih demikian, maka kerja bagi memulihkan mereka menjadi sukar," katanya kepada pemberita selepas majlis Peringatan Hari Antidadah Antarabangsa 2007 di sini hari ini.

Oleh yang demikian, Johari berkata pihaknya telah membuat beberapa cadangan termasuk mengkaji beberapa peraturan JPA bagi membenarkan bekas penjawat awam yang telah disahkan pulih sepenuhnya diterima semula sebagai penjawat awam.

Katanya cadangan demikian telah dipersetujui oleh Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, yang juga Menteri Keselamatan Dalam Negeri, dalam satu mesyuarat yang diadakan baru-baru ini.

Di bawah peraturan JPA sekarang, katanya, setiap penjawat awam yang didapati menyalahguna dadah akan diberhentikan kerja, diberikan pencen dan sebagainya.

"Jadi, akta-akta ini perlu dikaji semula supaya mereka ini diberi peluang kedua. "Sekurang-kurangnya ada kesungguhan untuk memulihkan diri sendiri dan mereka yang terlibat dalam dadah ini boleh tampil kehadapan untuk berubat," katanya.

Selain kerajaan, Johari juga merayu kepada majikan termasuk pihak swasta melihat secara serius membantu untuk memulihkan mereka supaya menjadi anggota yang baik.

Johari berkata kadangkala ada orang yang terlibat dengan masalah dadah pada awalnya, tetapi apabila pulih, beliau boleh menjadi pegawai yang lebih baik daripada sebelum itu dan mungkin lebih baik daripada yang ada.

Di samping itu, Johari berkata pihak kementeriannya bersama Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan dan PEMADAM akan mengadakan beberapa pendekatan baru bagi menangani masalah dadah dalam negara.

Terdahulu dalam ucapannya, Johari berkata mengikut statistik yang dikeluarkan oleh Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan (AADK), jumlah penagih terkumpul di seluruh negara yang dikesan mulai 1998 hingga 2006 adalah seramai 300,241 orang.

Sementara itu, pada tahun 2006, sebanyak 22,811 kes yang dikesan dengan penagih baru direkod sebanyak 10,381 kes manakala penagih berulang sebanyak 12,430 kes.

Mengikut statistik bulan Januari hingga April 2007, seramai 5,324 orang penagih dadah dikesan dengan penagih baru dicatat seramai 2,372 orang manakala penagih berulang seramai 2,952 orang.

"Walaupun perangkaan tersebut secara relatifnya berbanding tempoh yang sama pada tahun 2005 menunjukkan penurunan sebanyak 41.73 peratus hasil kerjasama semua pihak terlibat, namun kita tidak boleh leka dengan kejayaan tersebut," kata Johari.

Pada majlis itu, Johari menyampaikan anugerah Tokoh AntiDadah Negara 2007 kepada Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayub yang banyak berbakti dalam usaha-usaha pembasmian penagihan dadah. Beliau diwakili oleh anaknya, Megat Firdaus.

Petroleum Nasional Bhd telah mendapat Anugerah Khas Syarikat 2007 kerana menaja program antidadah berjumlah RM1 juta setahun bagi tempoh lima tahun berturut-turut (2003-2008).

Sempena majlis tersebut, Johari juga melancarkan buku "Dadah Musuh No.1 Negara" terbitan Thinker's Library dan menyampaikan sijil pelancaran kepada Yayasan Al-Bukhari yang menderma sebanyak 3.5 juta naskhah buku tersebut.-- BERNAMA

## **Tajuk Artikel : Wanita Mengandung Terdedah Kpd Asap Rokok Berisiko Dapat Anak Hiperaktif**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

KOTA BAHARU, 26 Jun (Bernama) -- Wanita yang terdedah kepada asap rokok semasa mengandung berisiko dapat anak mengalami masalah kesihatan terutamanya masalah hiperaktif.

Pengarah Kampus Kesihatan Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Prof Datuk Dr Mafauzy Mohamed berkata masalah hiperaktif atau dalam istilah perubatan dipanggil 'Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder'(ADHD) dikesan dialami oleh lapan sehingga 10 peratus kanak-kanak sekolah di negara ini.

"Kanak-kanak ADHD gemar bertindak sebelum berfikir, terlalu aktif dan sukar menumpukan perhatian terhadap sesuatu perkara," katanya ketika merasmikan Majlis Sambutan Bulan Bebas Tembakau peringkat Kampus Kesihatan USM di sini, hari ini.

Beliau berkata, ibu-ibu mengandung yang terdedah kepada situasi itu juga berisiko melahirkan anak yang kurang berat badan, cacat, lemah otak dan lahir tidak cukup bulan.

Kementerian Kesihatan melaporkan pada akhir 2006, jumlah perokok di Malaysia adalah seramai 3.8 juta.

Daripada jumlah itu Orang Melayu merupakan kategori perokok paling ramai iaitu 50 peratus berbanding Cina (21 peratus) dan India (9 peratus).

Dr Mafauzy berkata, setiap tahun kira-kira lima juta penduduk dunia mati akibat merokok dan di Malaysia, bilangan kematian akibat penyakit yang berkaitan dengan rokok adalah kira-kira 10,000 orang setahun.

"Sebanyak 30 peratus kematian adalah disebabkan kanser, 25 peratus sakit jantung dan 25 peratus strok.

"Dua pertiga daripada semua jenis penyakit kanser boleh dielakkan, dan caranya sangat mudah iaitu dengan berhenti merokok," katanya.-- BERNAMA

## **Tajuk Artikel : Pemegang Kad Kredit Bayar Ikut Tempoh Dpt Caj Dikurangkan 15 Peratus**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 26 Jun 2007 - Selasa**

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 Jun (Bernama) -- Para pengguna kad kredit yang mempunyai rekod pembayaran balik yang baik baki kad kredit masing-masing tanpa berlengah untuk tempoh 12 bulan berturut-turut akan menerima manfaat dari caj pembiayaan yang dikurangkan dari maksimum 18 peratus sekarang ini kepada tidak lebih 15 peratus.

Ini adalah berikutan pengenalan struktur penetapan harga setingkat yang diumumkan hari ini oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) untuk menggalakkan penggunaan kad kredit sebagai instrumen pembayaran.

Struktur setingkat penetapan harga yang akan dilaksanakan menjelang 1 Julai tahun depan itu adalah sebahagian daripada usaha berterusan BNM untuk menggalakkan pengurusan kewangan berhemah dan memupuk disiplin kewangan, kata Penolong Gabenor BNM Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus hari ini.

Langkah melakukan penjejakan tabiat membayar balik oleh pengeluar kad akan bermula 1 Julai tahun ini, katanya di taklimat media di sini hari ini.

"Mereka yang membayar sekurang-kurangnya pembayaran balik tanpa berlengah sekurang-kurangnya 10 bulan daripada pusingan 12 bulan, layak dikenakan caj maksimum 17 peratus setahun manakala pemegang kad yang lain akan dikenakan caj kadar siling sama 18 peratus setahun," katanya.

Apabila penetapan harga baru berkuatkuasa bulan depan, mereka yang ingkar akan dicaj satu peratus daripada baki atau RM10, yang mana lebih tinggi. Kini, mereka yang ingkar dikenakan pembayaran balik minimum satu peratus atau RM5.

Menurut Nor Shamsiah, satu pertiga daripada pemegang kad kredit telah menggunakan kad masing-masing sebagai instrumen pembayaran dan membayar balik perbelanjaan kad masing-masing sepenuhnya.

"Daripada dua pertiga itu, lebih 70 peratus menjelaskan hutang masing-masing tanpa berlengah, yang merupakan kira-kira 50 peratus pemegang kad," katanya.

Menurut BNM, kini sembilan juta kad kredit telah dikeluarkan di mana lapan juta merupakan kad prinsipal dan sejuta kad tambahan.

Tahun lepas, nilai transaksi kad kredit dicatatkan RM47.6 bilion manakala kad kredit yang masih berbaki ialah RM19.9 bilion.

Nor Shamsiah berkata BNM menggalakkan penggunaan kad debit sebagai satu alternatif instrumen pembayaran.

Katanya institusi perbankan domestik sedang dalam proses meningkatkan keupayaan terminal kesemua kad kredit yang digunakan oleh mereka untuk menerima ATM (mesin juru wang) masing-masing.

Eksesais itu yang dijangka diselesaikan pada tahun ini, akan membolehkan 15.4 juta pemegang kad ATM menggunakan kad ATM masing-masing untuk melakukan belian di cawangan pedagang yang mengambil bahagian, katanya.

Nor Shamsiah berkata penggunaan yang lebih meluas kad pembayaran itu adalah sebahagian daripada usaha BNM untuk mempercepatkan pemindahan kepada e-pembayaran.

"BNM dan industri kewangan akan terus melaksanakan inisiatif untuk menggalakkan e-pembayaran," katanya.

Sementara itu, jurucakap Persatuan Pengeluar Kad Kredit, National Cards Group Gan Kheng Chai berkata penggunaan kad kredit dijangka mencatatkan pertumbuhan 20 peratus setahun untuk tempoh lima tahun akan datang.-- BERNAMA