



## **Tajuk Artikel: Robbery suspects in Subang Jaya**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

SUBANG JAYA: The three suspects in the Poh Kong goldsmith shop robbery who were nabbed in Kelantan on Sunday have been handed over to police here for investigation.

They will be investigated together with four accomplices including a woman, who were arrested at a luxury hotel here.

Last night, police here obtained a further seven-day remand against them after the earlier remand order granted by a magistrate in Rantau Panjang expired.

Selangor CID Chief SAC II Tajuddin Isa said: "The remand order on the three men, in their late 20s, starts today (yesterday). They had been in remand since Feb 4, when police arrested them at a roadblock in Rantau Panjang."

The remand order of the other four suspects ends on Feb 13.

In last Saturday's robbery, five armed men rushed into the jewellery store in Subang Parade and in a shootout that ensued, two security guards and a robber were killed while another security guard was seriously injured.

The robbers escaped with jewellery worth more than RM890,000. However, they were detained and the loot recovered nine hours later.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Don't make kids pay for sins of parents, say NGOs**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

PETALING JAYA: It is shocking that Malaysian authorities will be punishing babies for the wrongdoings of adults, said Women's Aid Organisation executive director Ivy Josiah.

"You cannot deport a child if one parent is a Malaysian and if the child is born here. Citizenship is automatically conferred to the child if a parent is Malaysian," she said, quoting Article 14 (1) of the Federal Constitution .

Even though a fake certificate would render the marriage of a Malaysian to a foreign bride illegal and the child illegitimate, it does not negate the fact that the child's father is a Malaysian citizen and hence citizenship should be automatically conferred, she said.

"If the marriage is illegal, the couple should get it legalised," she said.

Vice-president of the Association of Women Lawyers Yasmeeen Shariff said penalising the women and children would not resolve the issue.

"Instead of going after them, the authorities should investigate the syndicates involved and penalise the agents that arranged the fake marriages for them," she said.

It was likely that the couples were cheated, she said.

On humanitarian grounds, the children and mothers should not be deported because the parents believed that they were married, she said.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Babies face deportation**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

By CHAN LI LEEN

CAMERON HIGHLANDS: Babies born to foreign wives of Malaysian men whose marriages are not legal may be deported to the mother's country of origin.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Tan Chai Ho said children born to couples whose marriages were not registered with the National Registration Department were considered illegitimate and would not be granted Malaysian citizenship.

"The parents may have to resort to adopting the baby to keep it," he said yesterday.

Last year, the department came across 15 cases of Malaysians and their foreign "wives" being duped into paying thousands of ringgit for fake marriage certificates.

According to the Federal Constitution, any newborn with a Malaysian parent would be granted automatic citizenship provided the parents were legally married.

He added that a child's citizenship status would always follow that of its mother if it was considered to be born out of wedlock.

"A birth certificate will still be issued in the child's name but in the citizenship column, the words 'Section 13' (of the National Registration Act 1959) referring to *anak luar nikah* (illegitimate child), will be written," he explained.

He noted that in the past two years, some 13,000 Malaysians had married foreign women, especially those from Vietnam, China and the Philippines.

"Many of these couples only realised their marriages were not legal when they tried to register the births of their babies," he said.

Tan added that the department was investigating if matchmaking agencies were part of a syndicate which specialised in issuing forged marriage certificates.

He said a marriage involving a foreigner would only be considered legal if witnessed by a registrar of marriages.

MCA Public Services and Complaints Department head Datuk Michael Chong said many of the complainants who had approached him about problems regarding their marriages could not give substantial proof that they were legally married.

### **Tajuk Artikel: Conserve or face rationing, public told**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians have been told to start conserving water now or brace themselves for water rationing if the expected hot and dry weather hits the country next month. Selangor water concessionaire Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) has sounded out to the state government that rationing was among the steps that would have to be taken if the situation takes a turn for the worse.

For a start, Syabas has urged the state government to activate the State Water Supply Monitoring Committee headed by State Infrastructure, Public Services and Rural Development Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar to carry out preliminary action.



Precious resource: A man having a drink from the pipe at the KLCC Park. Syabas wants the public to start conserving water.

Syabas executive chairman Tan Sri Rozali Ismail said that while the concessionaire would carry out its tasks as best as it could, the public must conserve "as much as possible and use water intelligently."

"We need to look at all the areas that might be affected by a prolonged drought and come up with an action plan. We will need the co-operation of all parties to make sure that the plans we come up with will be executed successfully and the difficulties that consumers might face are minimised," he said yesterday.

The panel would include representatives from the Selangor Water Management Board, Health Department, Department of Environment, Drainage and Irrigation Department, Meteorological Department, water treatment plants operators and Syabas.

Rozali said other steps proposed included allowing water from nine retention ponds already identified to be released into rivers supplying raw water to various treatment plants if the river levels fell too low for the plants to maintain optimum production.

He said Syabas had also proposed that Selangor source for underground water from areas close to the Klang Valley like Kuala Langat and have the water tested by the Chemistry Department, Health Department and the Minerals and Geo-science Department.

"We also proposed cloud seeding to be carried out."

The proposal by the concessionaire followed a call by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo last month to Syabas to make the necessary preparations to face a possible drought.

*The Star* front-paged a report yesterday that the country was preparing to face a drought due to hot and dry weather expected to hit next month when the El Nino phenomena reaches our shores.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk S. Sothinathan also advised Malaysians to save water now.

"Although the El Nino is predicted to be a mild one, we cannot take things for granted. The La Nina was predicted to be mild last year yet there was heavy flooding," he said yesterday after opening the three-day East and South-East Asia regional seminar on flood hazard mapping.

"At the ministry level, a trans-boundary committee is working with Indonesia on how to tackle a potential haze situation should it occur during the upcoming dry season," he said.

Dr Khir lamented that while Selangor had sufficient water, there was a lot of wastage.

He also said the state government had initiated a programme to tap water from Sungai Bernam and commissioned all dams to be deepened to increase water storage.

Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said the state government would step up its campaign to educate the public to cut down on water wastage although there was enough supply in the three dams on the island to last between 90 and 240 days without rain.

## **Tajuk Artikel: RM3.6b flood mitigation plan**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: Better flood mitigation costing at least RM3.6bil is in the works for flood-hit Johor.

Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah said they were dividing the state into six areas to better implement structural and non-structural measures to regulate flood flow, reduce the scale of floods and regulate activities at a river basin.

Keizrul said it would cost between RM600mil and RM1.5bil to carry out these and other measures in each zone and initial plans had been submitted to the Government.

"The six areas are Muar, Batu Pahat, Mersing, Kluang, Iskandar Region and Sungai Johor.

"We are looking at various options including providing new storage dams, widening and deepening rivers and having more flood bypass outlets," he said yesterday after speaking at the three-day East and South-East Asia regional seminar on flood hazard mapping jointly organised with the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management, Japan.

Keizrul said they were still working out a detailed flood protection plan and the cost was not part of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"The amount may look big but if we don't do something, the next flood might cause more and more damage resulting in billions of ringgit in losses," he said.

Flood hazard maps, used in many developed countries, show areas frequently inundated by floods as well as additional information such as water depth, relief centres and alternative evacuation routes as means to reduce loss of lives and property.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk S. Sothinathan, who opened the seminar, said that although there were some flood hazard maps for some rivers and dams, there was still a need to develop one on a national scale.

"The maps, which show the extent of flooding based on some probabilities, can also assist flood relief machinery in rescue operations and is useful for environmental disaster management," he added.

## Tajuk Artikel: Aid keeps pouring in for flood victims

Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007



Help a Family Campaign



Generous donor: Chan (left) presenting a mock cheque to Aeria at Menara Star in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

PETALING JAYA: It is heartening to see that people are still coming forward to donate to the flood victims, said *The Star's* group chief editor Michael Aeria.

"Individuals as well as corporate organisations are still lending a helping hand and it is something we should be proud of," Aeria said after receiving a mock cheque from United Overseas Bank (M) Bhd (UOB Malaysia), which contributed RM100,000 to *The Star's Help A Family Campaign* for victims of the recent floods that hit Johor.

UOB Malaysia director and chief executive officer Chan Kok Seong said the bank decided to donate the money because it was concerned with the current situation faced by numerous families affected by the recent floods.

"More so since Chinese New Year is only a week away. We empathise with them and we would like to bring some festive warmth and cheer to them," said Chan, adding that the gesture reflected UOB Malaysia's continuous commitment to the local community.

Among those present at the ceremony were Star Publications (M) Bhd deputy group general manager Datin Linda Ngiam, and advertising and business promotions general manager Calvin Kan.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Respite in number of dengue cases in fifth week**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

PUTRAJAYA: The fifth week of the year generally sees a respite in the number of dengue cases and all states recorded a reduction – except for Johor, Sarawak and Perlis. Even hotspots such as Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Penang showed a slight decrease in the number of reported dengue cases.

Disease Control Director Datuk Dr Hasan Abdul Rahman said overall, the country saw 1,180 suspected dengue cases during the week compared to 1,330 cases reported the previous week.

“Out of this, 84 cases were suspected to be haemorrhagic dengue fever and 259 cases were later confirmed positive.

“Two deaths were also reported in the fifth week, one each from Selangor and Johor, bringing the total number of fatal cases to 16,” he said in a statement here yesterday.

Johor saw a jump of 78 cases to 93, probably as a result of the post-flood situation in the state as the waters receded.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Floods hit restaurant business**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

By MEERA VIJAYAN

YONG PENG: The Chinese New Year period is usually the busiest period for restaurants here.

However, many restaurant operators see a quiet festive season this year as they expect families to save money and eat at home instead.

Sharon Soh, manager of Rong Cheng Restaurant, one of the largest here, said she could see a marked difference in her business this year compared with previous years.

“We have not had as many bookings for the reunion dinner and expect at least a 30% decline this year,” she said.

Furthermore, she said, the last two weeks leading up to the Chinese New Year would usually be a busy time.

“It is so quiet now and these days we actually close the shop early as people have become more frugal,” she said.

Last year, she printed 800 pamphlets on what was on offer and they were snapped up two weeks before the New Year.

This year, she printed 500 pamphlets but hardly any have been taken.

"When people have lost all their belongings in the floods, their first priority will be to pay for their children's school necessities," she said, adding that high-end restaurants like hers would be the first to see the decline.

Retiree Yong Ah Hwa, 65, said his family would be breaking tradition and holding their reunion dinner at home instead of at a restaurant.

"We are trying to cut costs and save money to repair and replace all the damaged goods in our home," he said. He said the festivities this year would be on a smaller scale because everyone was in no mood to celebrate.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Pig industry remains defiant**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

By V.P. SUJATA

PUTRAJAYA: Although the deadline has passed, pig farmers and butchers have yet to sign the new loyalty pledge banning them from using beta-agonist on livestock. While the farmers are not pleased with certain wordings in the document, butchers and pork sellers are downright unhappy that they are also dragged into the matter although they have no business feeding pigs.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek had asked them to sign the loyalty pledge by the end of last month. Federation of Livestock Farmers Associations of Malaysia pig unit chairman Tung Hong Chai could not say which words in the document the farmers were unhappy with.

However, he said all problems could be solved after meeting with the Veterinary Services Department (VSD) and Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Datuk Mah Siew Keong soon.

Malaysian Pork Sellers Association chairman Goh Chui Lai said the 3,000 association members were not told earlier about signing the loyalty pledge and had refused to do so.

"We do not have anything to do with the livestock although most of our members take the pigs from the farms to the licensed abattoirs and also sell the meat to consumers later," he said.

Goh said they would meet Dr Chua first before making a decision.

VSD director for public health Dr Muhmad Kamarulzaman Muhmad Sarif expressed surprise that butchers did not know that they, too, had to sign the loyalty pledge.

He said all those involved in transporting the pigs from the farms to the slaughterhouses had to sign the loyalty pledge.

"The retailers who take the pork from slaughterhouses to be sold to consumers must get a receipt from the butcher stating which farm the pig was from so that contaminated meat can be traced," he said.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Six more civil servants to face the music**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

IPOH: Two senior officers are among six civil servants facing disciplinary action for abuse of power. Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the Perak Integrity Committee was trying to speed up action against the two and the remaining four who were support staff with state agencies.

He said the offences committed by the two senior officers last year were not "corrupt practices."

"What they have done did not bring monetary gain to themselves. The manner in which they discharged their duties brought inconvenience to the Government," he said, adding that action was taken after complaints from the public and other staff members.

He said this after meeting newly appointed Perak Anti-Corruption Agency director Samsiah Abu Bakar.

In a one-hour meeting at the State Secretariat, Tajol Rosli and Samsiah discussed the 21 cases of abuse of power involving civil servants for which the ACA had recommended disciplinary action.

Of these, nine involved state civil servants while the rest were federal agency staff who would be dealt with by their respective heads. Tajol Rosli said that so far, three of the nine had been punished. One employee was suspended in 2005, another was issued a warning letter last year while another was charged in court.

"With the remaining six cases undergoing disciplinary action, we consider all nine cases solved."

Samsiah said she hoped the respective heads of department would heed the directive issued by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohamed Sidek Hassan who had called for action to be taken against the remaining 12 errant federal civil servants in Perak before June.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Government may amend CPC**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

PUTRAJAYA: The Government will look into the request by the judiciary to amend the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) so that judges can type their notes on computers instead of writing them out. Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said it was a reasonable request and would be discussed with the Attorney-General.

He said the current laws were "pre-IT laws". "Now, computers are part of our daily lives. At the end of the day, all that is needed is the signature of the judge to confirm whether what has been typed in the computer is his," Nari told reporters here yesterday.

Chief Judge of Sabah and Sarawak Datuk Richard Malanjum had called on the A-G to amend the CPC to help speed up the hearing and disposal of cases.

Asked whether the CPC was outdated, Nazri agreed that it was since the code was inherited from the British. "Since the judiciary is independent and this matter concerns them, it is entirely up to them to voice out such matters to us," he added.

On the issue of the setting-up a judicial commission, he said: "This (current system) is the same system used when Tun Suffian Hashim was the Lord President. "There is nothing wrong with the system but some quarters are unhappy with the person making the decisions. Why change the system?"

On a poison pen letter alleging the minister was in collusion with the Chief Justice to protect him (Nazri) and the judiciary as there were several cases involving Nazri's law firm, he said: "I do not entertain unsigned letters, as it is an irresponsible way of proving things. So, we should not give credence to these letters."

Nazri said he stopped practising law in 1995 and no longer hold any interest in the firm.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Primary healthcare always been government priority**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: Primary healthcare has always been the priority of the Government, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek. Primary healthcare is medical and healthcare provided outside hospitals.

"In our healthcare delivery system, primary healthcare has always been the centre pillar of the system," he said at the opening of the First Asean Regional Primary Care Conference here last night.

Dr Chua said under the 9th Malaysia Plan, 540 clinics would be built while static and mobile clinics would be introduced in urban centres.

"The Cabinet has approved 96 mobile clinics to be established in stages over the next few years. The mobile clinics will cater to the needs of the urban poor and the marginalised groups," he said. He also said the healthcare services had improved tremendously since independence.

Post-independence saw major improvements in the healthcare system, with major infrastructure developments including the building of clinics in rural areas, he said.

"One of the major policies of the ministry is that primary healthcare shall be the foundation and engine of the country's healthcare system," Dr Chua added.

## Tajuk Artikel: NS trainees get to know M16

Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007

By KHONG PUI YEE [newsdesk@thestar.com.my](mailto:newsdesk@thestar.com.my)  
Photo by ABDUL RAHMAN SENIN

A total of 104 National Service trainees at the Millennium camp in Beranang, Selangor, were among the first in their camp to experience handling an M16 rifle. The firearms training at the camp is staggered into four groups and they have been allocated one week to complete their two-day firearms training exercise.

Each group is required to undergo a theory class where they learn to identify, open, clean, hold and reload the firearms as well as target focusing.



Point and shoot: Lee pointing to the target as a trainee takes aim at the shooting range at Millennium camp in Beranang.

On the following day, they are brought to the shooting range where they are able to try the firearms themselves. National Service corporate communications senior assistant director Lt-Kol Zalina Abdullah said safety was of utmost importance at all stages of the firearms training exercise.

"Throughout the exercise, all trainees are accompanied by a trainer and at no point are they allowed to carry the firearms around after they have used it. "We work hard to ensure that the trainees' contact with the M16s stays within the spot where they shoot the firearms.

"Trainees do not change the bullet magazines themselves either. All they need to do is literally pull the trigger. We want to be certain that this firearms training exercise remains safe for all of our trainees," she added.

Of the total of 417 trainees at Millennium camp, only eight trainees did not obtain their parents' signed permission for the exercise.

National Service training council chairman Tan Sri Datuk Lee Lam Thye said he was informed that two of them were very keen on the exercise despite their parents' objection.

"We cannot allow trainees without permission to go through the exercise and this is a sorry matter as I feel this exercise is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them. "The figures are very encouraging as the percentage of trainees allowed to undergo the exercise is improving with every batch."

"Of course, no trainee is forced to use the firearms. We will not allow them to shoot if they are scared, too nervous or have health problems," he added. When queried about his feelings before his turn on the range, Edmund Teo, 17, exclaimed that he was "excited but anxious".

"My parents are not too worried about the firearms training. They let me decide whether I want to try or not." "I feel the safety procedures taken are quite sufficient."

After handling his M16, the Petaling Jaya lad said he was elated and exclaimed he felt "syiok" about the whole experience. Echoing his statement is his fellow trainee Phang Yinn Rhu. "I feel I have more confidence now. My trainer told me my aim wasn't too bad either. It is so different from playing computer games," said the 17-year-old from Sepang.

Ahmad Redzuan Roslan, 18, from Kemaman said it was not the first time he tried firearms, as he was a member of the Kadet Bersatu Malaysia in school. "I'm still quite excited nonetheless," he said. Each trainee are given 30 live bullets and only 10 trainees will be handling the firearms at one time. The exercise is expected to last from Jan 29 to March 2 at all 78 National Service camps.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Don't take advantage of their space**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

Stories and photos by by STUART MICHAEL

ABUSE of parking facilities meant for the disabled is a daily occurrence in Rawang and Selayang. A random check by *StarMetro* recently discovered rampant abuse of parking bays for the disabled not just by motorists but also by shop owners.

This is happening despite the risk of being slapped with a RM100 fine by the Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) for parking in bays specially allotted for disabled motorists.

There are 22 such parking bays in five areas in the municipality – Bandar Baru Rawang, Bandar Baru Selayang, Selayang Mall, Selayang Capitol and Taman Sri Gombak.

Independent Living and Training Centre (ILTC) secretary Gurdip Kaur said many people parked in bays for the disabled because they felt that these bays were most often not taken up by handicapped motorists.

"Or maybe it's because they think these bays are free.

"MPS enforcement officers should issue summonses to people who make use of parking bays for the disabled. Or maybe the council should clamp the wheels of vehicles which occupy these designated space.

"We often see motorcycles or cars parked in these spots. Sometimes, even shop owners stack their goods there," added Gurdip.



Thoughtless act: A car parked in a parking bay for the disabled in front of a bank in Bandar Baru Rawang.

She said MPS should also make parking meters in the municipality more disabled-friendly.

"At present, disabled motorists in wheelchairs are unable to reach the parking meter to buy parking tickets as there is a raised pavement at the base of the meter," she explained.

ILTC president Francis Siva said there were still a lot that needed to be done by the council and other public and private organisations to make the municipality more disabled friendly.



Stop gap: A wheelchairbound person faces difficulty getting on board a KTM Komuter train without help as the gap between the train and the platform is rather wide.



Unreachable: The raised platform at the base of the parking ticket machine makes it impossible to reach from a wheelchair.

"Many buildings especially in business areas still do not have ramps to accommodate the wheelchair-bound. In many banks, the automatic teller machines (ATMs) are inaccessible to us. "Public buses are out of bounds for us and we can only get on the KTM Komuter trains with the help of others," he added.

MPS said it had provided disabled-friendly ramps at the MPS building, the Bandar Country Homes market and Seri Siantan Sports Complex.

Francis hoped MPS would take heed of the views presented by the disabled community to make life easier for them when they visit public areas such as banks, parks, shopping complexes, sports complexes, MPS buildings and car parks.

"Facilities should be accessible not just for the wheelchair-bound but also the blind, deaf, physically challenged and small people. "We don't ask for much. Just the convenience of being able to pay our bills," he said.

MPS public relations officer Helda Syima Abu Talab said MPS was currently looking for a place where disabled traders could set up business in Rawang.

"From now onwards, we will hold discussions with the disabled on new building projects. For now, we think there is ample parking bays and ramps for the disabled. "To ensure that parking bays for the disabled are not abused, the council will increase the fine to RM100 for the offence. Normally, the fine is RM50 for parking in a slot meant for the disabled.

"MPS will also look into providing disabled-friendly bus stops," she said.

She added that MPS secretary Jamri Basni had donated two computers worth RM5,000 to ILTC on behalf of MPS last year.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Second raid on disabled trader**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

ENFORCEMENT officers from the Rawang branch of the Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) have taken action for a second time against disabled trader Murugan Rajoo.

This time round, the officers confiscated the titbit trader's umbrella and iron bars.

Murugan said he was just about to open his stall outside SK Tamil Kuala Garing when the officers conducted the raid. They placed his umbrella and iron bars inside the council van.

As wheelchair-bound Murugan was trying to stop them, one of the enforcement officers accidentally slapped Independent Living and Training Center (ILTC) secretary Gurdip Kaur on her face.



Victims of circumstance: Murugan, his wife and children with newspaper clippings of MPS' previous action against him.

ILTC president Francis Siva said Murugan, who does not possess a valid trading licence, had to resort to opening a titbit stall as he had no other way of making a living.

"He has a wife and four children to feed. His three-year-old child sometimes go without milk.

"MPS enforcement officers should be more compassionate. We have lodged a police report at the Rawang police station at 4.30pm on the same day of the incident," he said.

Francis said the council should train its enforcement officers on how to treat the disabled and learn public relations skills.

"I am disappointed with the treatment the public servants give to the disabled and this must changed," he added.

The first time action was taken on Murugan was on Jan 4, when MPS enforcement officers seized his motorcycle when he was selling titbits outside the school.

Murugan's motorcycle was kept at the MPS branch office in Rawang but was returned a few hours later.

On Jan 25, an appointment was made for Murugan to meet Rawang assemblyman Datuk Tang See Hang at his office in Rawang at 4pm. However, Tang failed to show up.

In an earlier meeting with the disabled, Tang told Murugan to stop business for a week and he did.

The meeting on Jan 25 was supposed to finalise where the disabled in Rawang could set up their business.

### **Tajuk Artikel: A house meant for the needy**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

By VIVIENNE PAL

DEEP within the Taman Yarl neighbourhood in Puchong, just beyond the congested commercial area and single-storey link houses, is a quiet community of plush bungalow houses.

Within the labyrinthine area, stands a cream-coloured two-and-a-half storey 17,000 sq ft bungalow with 16 rooms and 15 bathrooms.

The bungalow, valued in excess of RM2mil, is the new Rumah Charis. Beginning April 1, all 75 residents (35 children aged four to 21 and senior citizens aged 60 to 90) from Rumah Charis' five premises will move into their new home, starting with the children who are excited at the prospect of living together in a beautiful mansion.



Spacious: Rev Teo showing off the new Rumah Charis premises where some 75 children and senior citizens will be housed.

"They'll have fun painting the bungalow themselves during the next school holidays, we won't need to employ painters," said Rumah Charis founder Rev Teo How Ken.

For Rev Teo, the purchase of the home is a miracle.

Vacant for the last 10 years since its completion, the house was put up for auction in February last year at a reserve price of about RM2mil.

"We just couldn't afford it," he said.

The house was not sold and was again put up for auction at a reserve price of RM1.8mil. Again there were no takers and by the third auction, Rev Teo had made up his mind to bid for the house, which was priced at a reserve of RM1.64mil.

"I prayed about it, that if it was God's will, then he would pave the way for me to obtain the house."

Everything fell into place as other potential bidders made way for Rev Teo to obtain the house at the reserve price.

By then, Rumah Charis had managed to raise about RM500,000 from the sale of a piece of land and obtained a loan from a bank after numerous attempts.

The house is currently being treated for termite infestation and repairs are currently under way to patch up the leaking roof and replace stolen electrical wires.

Handrails, power points, fan and light fittings will be installed and a ramp for the elderly and disabled will be constructed as well.

There will also be a music studio, a small area for baking, badminton court and counselling room.

The bill will be a hefty one with RM500,000 for repairs and renovation and monthly instalments of some RM7,000 to the bank for the next two decades.

Is it worth it?

Rev Teo sees it as a sign from above.

"It is as if the house was built for Rumah Charis. It has never been lived in and can accommodate more people than the children and senior citizens that we have now.

"These people are underprivileged and I want them to have only the best."

*Rumah Charis is currently holding a fund raising campaign to raise money for their building fund in Bangsar City Homemart until Feb 17. Cheques should be addressed to RUMAH CHARIS at 77 Taman Lucky, Batu 6, Jalan Puchong, 58200 Kuala Lumpur, or banked in directly to RUMAH CHARIS at Bank Affin (account number 100330008106.)*

*Please send your details to [rumahcharis@yahoo.com](mailto:rumahcharis@yahoo.com) to obtain an official receipt. For inquiries, contact 03-7781 5977 or 03-7784 4645.*

## Tajuk Artikel: New market ready, but relocation delayed

Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007

By PRIYA MENON

[metro@thestar.com.my](mailto:metro@thestar.com.my)

Photos by SAM THAM

RESIDENTS of Jalan 27/154 in Taman Bukit Anggerik, Cheras, are counting the days till the market near their homes is relocated.

The move will end their 10-year nightmare of living in the midst of a horrendously dirty market where walls are stained with chicken blood and drains filled with rubbish and carcasses.

However, if traders' dirty habits persist, the same situation could eventually be repeated at the new temporary market, which is located just 200m from the present site.

The market was completed on Dec 15 last year.

Moorthy Krishnan, 51, is among those looking forward to the relocation of the market.



Ready and waiting: The site of the new temporary market in Taman Bukit Anggerik. It is just 200m away from the present market.

He has been complaining about the filth and smell of the market ever since he moved into the neighbourhood in 1995.

Moorthy said it was disappointing that not many residents in the area were brave enough to file complaints to Kuala Lumpur City Hall on the state of the market.

"They are afraid, and I don't know why. Only a few of my friends from this neighbourhood were willing to say something," said Moorthy, a building manager.

He wrote letters to the mayor and even made telephone calls to City Hall to complain about the market, but he only got reassurances that something would be done. When the new market was completed, City Hall's petty traders and hawkers management department gave its word that the market would be relocated within 14 days.

"Mayor Datuk Abdul Hakim Borhan himself came to visit the site recently but he came after the market had closed. The market starts at 6am and ends at noon," he said. Moorthy said he received a letter from City Hall informing him that the market would be relocated before Jan 16 but this did not happen.

So he called City Hall once again and was this time he was told that the matter had become a political issue as a prominent Member of Parliament had stepped in to help the traders. It turned out that only 100 traders out of the 140 trading at the present site are licensed. Since there are only 100 stalls at the new market, the 40 unlicensed traders have nowhere to go.

Apart from the filthy state of the market, residents are fed up of having to deal with haphazard parking in front of their homes. "Driving our cars out of our porches is difficult once people start arriving at the market in the morning. Some of us get up as early as 4.30am just to park our cars outside," said Moorthy.

If that is not enough, the cars that are parked outside are sometimes scratched. Moorthy's 28-year-old son's parked car was once hit by a motorist outside their home. "Some of the drivers would even pick a fight with us when we ask them to remove their cars," he added.

To add to the long list of complaints, Moorthy said the traders would arrive as early as 2am to set up their stalls and the noise deprived residents of their sleep.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Our roads are filled with selfish drivers**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

SOME Malaysian drivers never cease to amaze me when it comes to queue jumping. They jump queue without thinking of others who have to endure a long wait.

I have encountered this many times, and feel that our country is now teeming with selfish people. I travel to Sunway from Puchong, and the crawl at the Sunway toll gives me enough heartache every day.

Many drivers divert through the LDP rest area while others pretend to refuel their cars at the nearby Esso station just to cut the long queue.

For those queue jumpers, please act in a civil way on our journey to be a first class nation! Litrak, please do something about this.

Recall the police or whoever in power to guard the area so only genuine Esso customers and rest area users are allowed to pass through.

**MISS A.A,  
PUCHONG JAYA.**

## **Tajuk Artikel: Cut red tape**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

PETALING JAYA: Cutting red tape of local governments to ensure their delivery system is business-friendly – this will be the first task of the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (Pemudah).

The Prime Minister's Office said the task force was aimed at improving the public delivery system, especially related to administration of the country's economy.

"Pemudah has been given the mandate to identify and propose appropriate measures to improve procedures, regulations as well as existing laws.

"It will report directly to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," it said in a statement yesterday.

The task force will be jointly headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan and Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers president Datuk Yong Poh Kon. Its 21 other members comprise top civil servants and leading figures from the private sector.

"The combination of strength and experience, both from the public and private sectors under the joint leadership of Mohd Sidek and Yong, would not only help improve the nation's business environment but also encourage more investment and provide job opportunities for Malaysians," the statement said.

In announcing the formation of the task force last month, Abdullah said that too many procedures were slowing down the approval process for foreign investors.

Citing a World Bank report, Abdullah said businessmen had to go through 25 procedures, taking at least 281 days to complete, to set up a warehouse or factory in Malaysia. In comparison, businessmen in Vietnam had to go through only 14 steps in 133 days, 11 steps in 129 days in Singapore, and nine steps in 127 days in Thailand.

"To start a business, an investor needs to follow nine procedures which will take 30 days in Malaysia, five procedures over six days in Singapore, and two procedures over two days in Australia. "Which country would investors select?" he asked.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Panel to give input on boosting business**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Star Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: Apart from ensuring efficiency of the public delivery system, Pemudah's members would also be providing feedback on what the private sector could do to enhance Malaysia's business environment.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, who co-chairs the task force, said its first meeting would be held in two weeks.

"I want members of the task force to get the big picture of their role and functions. I have some ideas of what we are going to do but I would like to listen to the members' ideas and what they have to say," he added.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers president Datuk Yong Poh Kon said the setting-up of Pemudah was timely.

"Working jointly with input from the private and public sectors will produce results," he said.

Former president of the American Malaysian Chambers of Commerce Datuk Nicholas S. Zeffreys said the setting-up of Pemudah showed that the Government was highly proactive.

"It is a good idea to incorporate people from different sectors to get the best of ideas," he said.

Malaysian Associated Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry president and National Chamber of Commerce and Industry deputy president Pardip Kumar Kukreja said his vision would be to make the government administration world-class.

"We hope the task force will have enough mandate to pull up irresponsible people in the administration," he said.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Work-for-spouses lure to draw home experts**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

[Farrah Naz Karim](#)

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysian experts overseas have the government's guarantee that upon their return to work in the country their non-citizen spouses will be given permanent residence in six months. Their spouses will also be able to work.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said the Cabinet had decided that spouses of returning Malaysians could seek employment even before being granted PR status.

"The Cabinet felt that foreign spouses of Malaysians should be allowed to be gainfully employed, especially those with expertise not found in Malaysia or in areas where they could contribute very significantly," he said after his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting.

This policy applies to non-citizen spouses of those who returned under the Expert Returnee Programme or those who came back on their own and were waiting for permanent resident (PR) status.

In the past, non-citizens and those waiting for their PR were not allowed to work.

This decision, along with a slew of other incentives, is aimed at attracting more Malaysian professionals to return home.



“  
**Foreign spouses will  
get permanent  
residence in six  
months.**

*Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn,  
Human Resources Minister*  
”

Other incentives include the bringing in of two vehicles without import tax. They are also given the choice of buying two locally-assembled cars with no import and excise duties. On top of that, they are also allowed to bring in two years' earnings tax free.

Fong's deputy, Datuk Abdul Rahman Bakar, said the government was working with all its embassies to encourage Malaysian experts to take up the offer. He said 985 applications from Malaysians wanting to return were received between Jan 1, 2001 and last month.

Of the number, 485 applications had been approved, seven had withdrawn their applications and the remaining were under consideration. Of the 485, 330 had returned.

The bulk of the successful applicants were experts in the field of medicine and health (150), information technology (116), accountancy and finance (72), science and technology (24), education (eight), arts and culture (three) and aerospace (two).

The remaining number specialised in sectors such as manufacturing and industry.

Abdul Rahman said 147 applications were received from Malaysians in the United Kingdom, United States (92), Singapore (54), Brunei (29), Australia (26), Japan (25), Taiwan (23), Hong Kong (14), Canada (eight), China (seven) and the rest from other countries.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Droughts may dry up taps in state**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

SHAH ALAM: Selangor may face a water crisis if the drought lasts for more than seven months. Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said that in the case of a prolonged drought, current water resources would not be able to cope.

He said that dams in the state have enough water to last for two months without rain.

Dr Khir added that seven projects to boost the state's water resources were being carried out. Among them are drawing raw water from Sungai Bernam, upgrading dams to hold more water and piping system.

He said the current dry spell also meant that the public should start conserving water by using pails to wash

cars or watering plants.

"Avoid wastage," he said after chairing the weekly state exco meeting here yesterday.

## **Tajuk Artikel: RM3.6b to tackle Johor floods**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

[M.K. Megan](#)

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is expected to spend at least RM3.6 billion to prevent floods in Johor.

A report on the projects was submitted to the government last week and it is expected to give the go-ahead soon.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk S. Sothinathan said Johor had been divided into six zones, and projects for each zone is expected to cost between RM600 million and RM1.5 billion.

The zones are classified under Muar, Batu Pahat, Mersing, Kluang, Iskandar and Sungai Johor.

"We acknowledge it is a huge amount but these measures are long term. In the recent floods, we spent about RM1.5 billion to bring life back to normal in the affected areas. This does not include the personal loss of residents and damage to goods and property.

"Instead of spending about RM1.5 billion every year, it is better to spend a big amount one time to save on future expenses."

Sothinathan said the projects would complement the non-structural approaches, such as mapping and demarcation of flood-prone areas, that were currently being planned by the government.

Sothinathan was speaking after the East and Southeast Asia Regional Seminar on Flood Hazard Mapping here yesterday.

Also present was director-general of the Drainage and Irrigation Department Datuk Paduka Keizrul Abdullah. More than 40 participants from eight countries are taking part in the three-day seminar.

Keizrul said the flood mitigation projects in Johor would be an extension of existing drainage projects, costing some RM250 million, financed by the World Bank several years ago.

He said the work would include deepening and widening of rivers, constructing flood bypass and building dams.

Keizrul said usually such projects would take between eight and 18 months to get approval from the government.

"But due to the urgency of the matter, we are hoping to start work within the next three months," he added.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Agro start-up capital is for all**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

PUTRAJAYA: Government start-up capital for agro-based businesses is for everyone and not only for the Malays. Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said yesterday that non-Malays should apply for such grants.

"This is in line with the government's effort to produce some 10,000 successful agriculture entrepreneurs of all races by 2010," he said.

Applicants can apply for a maximum of RM20,000.

Muhyiddin said response from non-Malays had been lukewarm as many were still unaware of the scheme.

"Indians are generally good in animal husbandry with the Chinese doing well in other areas. They should come forward and apply for the grants like the Malays," he said after the ministry's post-Cabinet meeting at his office.

In 2005, the ministry approved 698 applications with grants totalling RM3 million. Last year, 2,586 applications were approved with RM17 million paid out.

This year, he said, the committee on agro-based industrial development had approved 3,342 applications with grants totalling RM28 million.

"Before the end of this year, we will be offering grants to another 4,000 applicants. We have also decided to give additional grants to those who have proven to be successful in their respective businesses.

"For those wanting to expand their business, we will recommend loans from the SME Bank or Bank Pertanian."

A study by the committee showed that participants in the scheme earned an additional RM896 on the average every month.

Muhyiddin said those whose applications had been approved would be provided basic training in food manufacturing and processing where aspects like quality of products, branding, grading and marketing will be emphasised.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Wholesale price cap for fair profit**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

[Deborah Loh](#)

PUTRAJAYA: Ceiling prices for controlled food items will now include wholesale prices to prevent profiteering by wholesalers and retailers.

Ceiling prices for wholesalers and retailers will be enforced for 11 items for the Chinese New Year festival from Feb 11 to 25.

"This is the first time we are introducing a maximum ceiling on the wholesale price of controlled items to ensure a fair profit margin for wholesalers and retailers that is also fair to the consumer.

"From past experience, we found that some retailers who breached the ceiling price said they had to do so because of wholesalers who raised the price of goods come festive seasons," Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal said yesterday.

The ceiling prices vary depending on location and transport costs but are generally lower in comparison to the ceiling prices imposed during the Chinese New Year festival last year as supply was sufficient, Shafie said.

The 11 items, and their range of retail ceiling prices, are (per kg): live chicken from RM4.50 to RM6.20; standard chicken dressed with leg, head and innards (RM5.40 to RM7.50); super chicken dressed without leg, head and innards (RM6.05 to RM8.60); local beef (RM17 to RM26), imported Indian buffalo meat (RM7.50 to RM8); imported round cabbage, except Beijing cabbage (RM2.50 to RM3.50); white pomfret (RM35 to RM40); and large banana prawns (RM32 to RM35).

Retail prices for chicken eggs, Grade A range from 28 sen to 31 sen each, Grade B (27 sen to 32 sen each) and grade C (26 sen to 31 sen each).

Wholesale prices (per kg) for live chickens range from RM4 to RM5.70; standard chicken (RM4.80 to RM6.80); super chicken (RM5.35 to RM7.90); local beef (RM16.40 to RM23); imported Indian buffalo meat (RM6.50 to RM8), imported round cabbage (RM1.80 to RM2.50); white pomfret (RM30 to RM37); and banana prawns (RM27 to RM30).

Wholesale prices for Grade A chicken eggs range from 26 sen to 31 sen each; grade B (25 sen to 30 sen each); and grade C (24 sen to 29 sen each).

Retailers must display ceiling prices on pink tags for customers to identify the controlled items.

Shafie said enforcement officers would conduct spot checks to ensure that wholesalers and retailers were following the price scheme.

For breaching the price ceiling, individual sellers can be compounded up to RM7,500, or fined RM15,000 or be sentenced to two year's jail under the Control of Supplies Act.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Dr M heads panel to probe four leaders**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

KUALA LUMPUR: A Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission formed on the final day of the Global Peace Organisation Conference will start investigating a series of charges made against four world leaders.

The commission, headed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will check on the allegations by petitioners who were war victims and survivors of war crimes from countries such as Iraq and Palestine.

If the commission manages to establish a prima facie case, United States president George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Australian Prime Minister John Howard and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would have to face the consequences of being branded as war criminals.

Some of the charges presented by the legal counsel Matthias Chang claim that Bush, Blair and Howard misled their respective Congress and Parliament to wage war against Iraq, and that Bush and Blair had embarked on a campaign to destroy Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine's economy and military.

Other charges said the leaders had manipulated the United Nations Security Council.

Speaking at a Press conference yesterday, Dr Mahathir said once a case was established, the results would be sent to the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal, which was being set up by a pro-tem committee.

The pro-tem committee includes Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman, a former Malaysian Federal Court judge and prominent legal figures like Tunku Datuk Dr Sofiah Jewa, Datuk Mohd Saari Yusoff and Professor Shad Faruqi.

The War Crimes Commission studying the case comprised Datuk Dr Yaacob Hussain Merican, Zainur Zakaria, Musa Ismail, Professor Dr Mohd Akram Shair Mohamed and Professor Gurdial Singh Nijar.

Asked on what would be among the actions to be taken against the leaders if they were found guilty, Dr Mahathir said:

"We would like to hang them like Saddam Hussein but since we are not going to see that happen, we will find other ways of making their lives miserable."

Earlier, the Global Peace Organisation committee concluded its three-day "Expose War Crimes, Criminalise War" Conference at the Putra World Trade Centre.

### **Tajuk Artikel: Gems heist: Remand extended for trio**

**Sumber / Tarikh: New Straits Times Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Police last night obtained a six-day extension on the remand of three Thais detained in Kelantan in connection with Saturday's jewellery heist in Subang Jaya.

The three men in their 30s were brought to a magistrate at Bukit Aman here around 9.45pm.

Selangor CID chief SAC (II) Tajuddin Md Isa said the extension was to facilitate investigations into Saturday's heist and three other similar robberies last year.

On Saturday, several men armed with guns killed two security guards and injured another when they stormed into Poh Kong jewellery store and robbed it of jewellery worth RM890,000.

Seven hours after the robbery, police arrested three men and a woman in a room in a hotel in Bandar Sunway.

Few hours later, they stopped an express bus in Rantau Panjang, Kelantan and arrested three men.

All but one are Thais. A 41-year-old Malaysian is believed to be the mastermind of the robberies.

### **Tajuk Artikel: DrM heads KL War Crimes Commission**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Sun Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

**KUALA LUMPUR (Feb 7, 2007):** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad heads the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission set up at the three-day War Crimes Conference here, which ended today.

The commission will hear the testimony of victims of war and if it finds a worthy charge, it would then recommend that the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal make a case against the perpetrators, reports Bernama

The tribunal will pass judgment after hearing arguments against the war perpetrators by the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Legal Team would then pass a judgment.

The tribunal would also be presented with the statutory declarations from victims of war in a particular case.

The list of the commission members, released at the conference today, includes:

- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, chairman
- Datuk Dr Yaacob Hussain Merican (advocate and solicitor)
- Zainur Zakaria (former president of the Malaysian Bar)
- Musa Ismail (former magistrate and advocate and solicitor)
- Prof Dr Mohd Akram Shair Mohamed (professor of law, International Islamic University)
- Prof Gurdial Singh Nijar (professor of law, University Malaya).

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal comprises:

- Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman (former Federal Court judge), chairman
- Tunku Datuk Dr Sofiah Jewa (advocate and solicitor)
- Datuk Mohd Saari Yusoff (former Court of Appeal judge)
- Prof Shad Faruqi (Professor of law, Mara University of Technology)
- Mohamad Ariff Md Yusof (advocate and solicitor)
- Mohd Noor Yahya (former president of sessions court and former chairman of the Industrial Court of Malaysia)
- Datuk Abu Mansor Ali (former Federal Court Judge)
- Prof Francis Boyle (legal adviser to the Palestine Liberation Organisation on the Creation of the State of Palestine)

\* Prof Salleh Buang (barrister-at-law).

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Legal Team consists of Malaysian practising lawyers Matthias Chang, Jacqueline Chang, Megat Shaharuddin Merican, Elaine Zarina Zainur, Avtaran Singh, Nizam Bashir and Jamal Ridzuwan.

## **Tajuk Artikel: M'sians looking forward to even better salary increases, fringe benefits**

**Sumber / Tarikh: The Sun Online Thursday 8th February, 2007**

*B.Suresh Ram*

PETALING JAYA (Feb 7, 2007): Malaysian workers - both executive and non-executive categories - are looking at better salary increases and fringe benefits than that forecast by an international human resources firm's survey.

Feedback from both Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) and the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) shows that employees stand to gain a minimum 5% pay rise and benefits this year.

This figure is significantly higher than the ECA International's Salary Trends Survey 2006/2007 forecast yesterday of a 2% to 3.5% salary hike this year for Malaysian employees.

The survey puts Malaysia and South Korea at 8th-9th spot worldwide.

MEF executive director Samsuddin Baradan said the 2% to 3.5% figure is usually adopted by companies, who are unsure of what is transpiring (in the economic front), as an average forecast.

"Our own survey shows a higher figure," he said when contacted by theSun today.

He said one of the reasons for a higher salary range to be expected this year was that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for this year is expected to be below 3%.

Samsuddin said from The Salary & Fringe Benefits Survey Report that they had conducted last year, the MEF expects the salary and fringe benefits increase for executives for this year to be between 5.5% and 5.9%, whereas for non-executive it would be between 5.4% and 5.6%.

MTUC secretary-general G. Rajasekaran said salary and fringe benefits increase was only natural following the increase in the cost of living.

He cited price and rate increases in petrol, electricity and toll as having increased cost of living.

"There is a lot of pressure from the workers and unions to increase salary by 8%," he said.

Rajasekaran said feedback from some unions showed that employers' response to pay hike requests had been encouraging.

He said early negotiations of some collective agreements saw employers offering about 5%.

Rajasekaran agreed this figure was somewhat higher than the previous years initial opening figures which were 2% to 3%.

He attributed this to employers understanding the position their employees were in.

Rajasekaran said he was confident follow-up negotiations would see pay hikes higher than 5%. "It would not make us rich but would enable us to keep pace with costs."

## **Tajuk Artikel: Paduan awam, swasta**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

**Oleh Mohd Feroz Abu Bakar**

### **PM lantik KSN, Presiden FMM terajui bersama Pemudah**

PUTRAJAYA: Satu pasukan petugas khas yang dianggotai 23 profesional sektor awam dan swasta ditubuhkan bagi menambah baik sistem penyampaian kerajaan dan merencanakan pertumbuhan ekonomi negara

Pasukan Petugas Khas Pemudahcara Perniagaan (Pemudah) yang diumumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi dalam satu kenyataan semalam, diketuai bersama Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan dan Presiden Persekutuan Pengilang Malaysia (FMM), Datuk Yong Poh Kon.

Abdullah yang juga Menteri Kewangan berkata, Pemudah akan mengenal pasti dan mencadangkan langkah penambahbaikan terhadap prosedur, peraturan dan undang-undang kerajaan untuk memudahkan pengendalian perniagaan negara ini.

Pemudah akan dibantu sembilan wakil swasta meliputi pelbagai cabang perniagaan dan 12 wakil sektor awam dari beberapa kementerian serta agensi berkaitan perniagaan dan perindustrian.

"Bagi memastikan hasil yang berkesan, Pemudah dianggotai paduan tenaga antara sektor awam dan sektor swasta," katanya.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kewangan Kedua, Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop (**gambar**) ketika menjelaskan rasional di sebalik penubuhan pasukan petugas itu berkata: "Perdana Menteri dalam pelbagai majlis sebelum ini memaklumkan kepada kami bahawa beliau mahu 2007 menjadi tahun pelaksanaan."

Katanya, Abdullah mahu 2007 menjadi satu tahun yang mana:

- Projek dilaksanakan dengan berkesan;
- Syarat pelesenan yang tidak perlu, dihapuskan;
- Birokrasi dikurangkan dan yang mana perlu, dihapuskan terus;
- Mengurangkan ketirisan dan pembaziran bagi memastikan projek dalam Rancangan Malaysia Kesembilan (RMK-9) mencapai manfaat yang diperlukan untuk mencapai wawasan negara maju menjelang 2020.

"Kita mempunyai dasar baik yang dirancang dengan teliti dan laluan mencapai Wawasan 2020 dinyatakan dengan jelas," katanya.

Nor Mohamed berkata, Perdana Menteri percaya sektor swasta akan memberi sumbangan besar kepada pasukan petugas itu dengan mengenal pasti halangan, kerenah birokrasi, undang-undang dan peraturan lapuk yang terpaksa mereka lalui untuk menjalankan perniagaan.

Beliau berkata, sektor awam yang akan bekerjasama rapat dengan swasta, boleh menumpukan usaha merangka perubahan dan terhadap pelaksanaan kerana faktor masa sangat penting.

"Malaysia kembali mendapat perhatian pelabur asing. Angka tunjuk utama ekonomi makro adalah positif. Wujud persekitaran yang menggalakkan daripada segi pertumbuhan, guna tenaga, inflasi rendah, pertumbuhan keuntungan dan kecairan.



"Penyusunan semula syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC) disambut baik di peringkat tempatan dan antarabangsa. Mengambil kira semua faktor ini, pengwujudkan pasukan petugas ini perlu dan langkah terbaik untuk melonjakkan pertumbuhan dan produktiviti ke peringkat lebih tinggi," katanya.

Beliau juga berkata, terdapat iltizam politik yang kukuh serta kesungguhan kakitangan kerajaan serta sektor awam menyumbang ke arah pencapaian yang lebih tinggi.

"Jika kita semua dapat memainkan peranan ke arah perubahan ini, justeru laluan ke arah kejayaan lebih besar sangat cerah," katanya.

Nor Mohamed berkata, sebagai sebahagian proses pemudah cara perniagaan, beliau akan mengadakan pertemuan dengan semua ketua setiausaha kementerian Jumaat ini untuk memastikan pembayaran dibuat tepat pada masanya dan projek dilaksanakan mengikut jadual.

Wakil swasta ialah bekas Presiden Dewan Perniagaan Malaysia-Amerika, Datuk Nicholas S Zeffreys; Presiden Persekutuan Majikan-majikan Malaysia, Datuk Azman Shah Harun; Presiden Dewan Perdagangan dan Perindustrian Antarabangsa, Mike Krishnan; Timbalan Presiden Dewan Perdagangan dan Perindustrian Kebangsaan, Pardip Kumar Kukreja; Ahli Lembaga FMM, Dr Andy Seo; Ketua Eksekutif Kumpulan Symphony House Berhad (Bhd), Datuk Azman Yahya; Timbalan Pengerusi Eksekutif Ahmad Zaki Resources Bhd, Datuk Seri Wan Zaki Wan Muda; Ketua Unit Kajian Ekonomi Dewan Perdagangan dan Industri Cina Bersekutu Malaysia (ACCCIM), Chua Tia Guan dan Pengerusi Eksekutif Westport Sdn Bhd, Tan Sri D Gnanalingam.

Sektor awam pula diwakili Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam, Tan Sri Ismail Adam; Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan, Tan Sri Izzuddin Dali; Ketua Pengarah Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Tan Sri Khalid Ramli; Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Abdul Rahman Mamat; Ketua Pengarah Unit Pemodenan Tadbiran dan Perancangan Pengurusan Malaysia (Mampu), Datuk Yaacob Hussin; Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Datuk Suboh Md Yasin.

Wakil lain ialah Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail; Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sumber Manusia, Datuk Thomas George MS George; Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Wilayah Persekutuan, Datuk Ahmad Pheisal Talib; Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Pembangunan Perindustrian Malaysia (Mida), Datuk R Karunakaran; Ketua Eksekutif Perbadanan Pembangunan Industri Kecil dan Sederhana (Smidec), Hafsa Hashim dan Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Kerajaan Tempatan, Datin Arpah Abdul Razak.

Penubuhan pasukan petugas khas itu, yang diumumkan Abdullah ketika menyampaikan amanat pada Majlis Perdana Perkhidmatan Awam Ketujuh (MAPPA VII) 2007 di sini 11 Januari lalu.

Ketika itu, Perdana Menteri yang kecewa dengan masalah berkenaan, merujuk kepada laporan Bank Dunia bahawa untuk mendirikan kilang di Malaysia, pelabur perlu mengikuti 25 prosedur yang mengambil masa 281 hari.

Urusan yang sama di Australia hanya membabitkan 17 prosedur dalam 140 hari, manakala di Singapura 11 prosedur dalam 129 hari, Thailand sembilan prosedur dalam 127 hari dan Vietnam 14 prosedur dalam 133 hari.

Dalam temu ramah dengan Berita Harian baru-baru ini, Abdullah berkata, penubuhan pasukan petugas khas itu perlu bagi menangani masalah terlalu banyak peraturan bertindih dan dengan itu, lahirlah birokrasi yang mengutamakan prosedur dan menepati undang-undang.

Katanya, ini kerana setiap jabatan mempunyai prosedur sendiri dan ia perlu dipendekkan serta permudahkan bagi mempercepatkan segala kerja.

**Tajuk Artikel: Harga maksimum 11 barang ditetapkan**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**  
**Oleh Shamshul Azree Samshir**

PUTRAJAYA: Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) menetapkan harga maksimum 11 barang yang turut membabitkan pemborong, sempena perayaan Tahun Baru Cina minggu depan.

Sebelum ini, Skim Kawalan Harga Musim Perayaan hanya membabitkan peruncit, tetapi penetapan harga maksimum selama 15 hari mulai Ahad ini meliputi peringkat pemborong.

Menterinya, Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal (**gambar**), berkata 1,490 harga maksimum borong dan 1,490 harga maksimum runcit ditetapkan, berkuatkuasa di 138 kawasan di seluruh negara.



Katanya, penetapan harga maksimum pada peringkat pemborong pertama kali diperkenalkan bagi mengelak peniaga mengaut keuntungan dan memastikan pengguna mendapat lebih perlindungan ketika musim perayaan.

"Kita perlu mengawal harga di kedua-dua peringkat kerana kita tidak dapat menentukan margin keuntungan yang diperoleh kedua-dua pihak.

"Kadang-kadang pemborong nak untung lebih, kadang-kadang peruncit, jadi untuk memastikan ada sedikit keuntungan, kedua-dua peringkat ini kita kawal," katanya ketika mengumumkan Skim Kawalan Harga Musim Perayaan Tahun Baru Cina 2007 di sini, semalam.

Sebelas barangan kawalan kali ini membabitkan ayam hidup, ayam standard (disembelih dan dibersihkan berserta kaki, kepala, hati dan hempedal), ayam super (disembelih dan dibersihkan tanpa kaki, kepala, hati dan hempedal) serta daging lembu tempatan.

Turut disenaraikan ialah daging kerbau import (India), telur ayam Gred A (berat antara 65 gram hingga 69.9 gram sebiji), telur ayam Gred B (berat antara 60 gram hingga 64.9 gram sebiji), telur ayam Gred C (berat antara 55 gram hingga 59.9 gram sebiji) dan kubis bulat import (tidak termasuk kubis Beijing).

Bawal putih (berat antara 200 gram hingga 400 gram seekor) dan udang putih besar (berat antara 41 ekor hingga 60 ekor sekilogram) juga disenaraikan sebagai barangan kawalan Tahun Baru Cina 2007.

Mohd Shafie berkata, penetapan harga pada peringkat pemborong dibuat selepas kajian menyeluruh kementerian dan agensi terbabit, selain mendapat maklum balas persatuan pembekal.

"Kita buat perbincangan dan bertemu dengan agensi kerajaan terbabit, Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani serta pihak pembekal sendiri, persatuan pembekal... berapa kos yang dikeluarkan contohnya ayam, telur, kubis bulat.

"Selepas kita dapat dan teliti (maklumat harga dan kos), kita tetapkan harganya (harga maksimum

pemborong dan peruncit)," katanya.

Beliau berkata, harga maksimum barangan kawalan yang boleh dijual peruncit bergantung kepada jenis barangan dan faktor lain yang mempengaruhi harganya.

"Saya harap pemborong dan peruncit akan patuh pada harga maksimum yang sudah ditetapkan kerajaan. Kami akan memantau pelaksanaan sistem ini dan akan mengambil pendekatan yang sama pada masa depan jika ia memberi kesan positif," katanya.

Peniaga yang gagal mematuhi harga maksimum boleh didenda sehingga RM15,000 atau dua tahun penjara serta kompaun sehingga RM7,500.

Pengguna boleh mengemukakan aduan melalui khidmat pesanan ringkas (SMS) nombor 32255 atau talian bebas tol 1-800-886-800 atau mana-mana pejabat kementerian di seluruh negara.

**INFO**

**Harga minimum dan maksimum 11 barangan kawalan peringkat pemborong dan peruncit bagi musim Tahun Baru Cina 2007**

	Pemborong		Peruncit	
	minimum	maksimum	minimum	maksimum
Ayam hidup (kg)	RM4	RM5.70	RM4.50	RM6.20
Ayam standard (kg)	RM4.80	RM6.80	RM5.40	RM7.50
Ayam super (kg)	RM5.35	RM7.90	RM6.05	RM8.60
Daging lembu tempatan (kg)	RM16.40	RM23	RM17	RM26
Daging kerbau import India (kg)	RM6.50	RM8	RM7.50	RM8
Telur ayam Gred A (sebutir)	26 sen	31 sen	28 sen	31 sen
Telur ayam Gred B (sebutir)	25 sen	30 sen	27 sen	32 sen
Telur ayam Gred C (sebutir)	24 sen	29 sen	26 sen	31 sen
Kubis bulat import (kg)	RM1.80	RM2.50	RM2.50	RM3.50
Bawal putih (kg)	RM30	RM37	RM35	RM40
Udang putih besar (kg)	RM27	RM30	RM32	RM35

\* Harga berbeza mengikut kawasan

## Tajuk Artikel: PBT punca kes denggi naik

Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis  
Oleh Anwar Hussin

Menteri Kesihatan mahu longkang, premis kerap diselenggara

KUALA LUMPUR: Penguatkuasaan pencegahan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) yang kurang cekap dan tidak menyeluruh antara faktor peningkatan kes denggi sehingga mencapai tahap membimbangkan ketika ini.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, berkata kegagalan PBT itu disebabkan sumber manusia

atau kakitangan yang terhad berbanding penambahan penduduk di kawasan tadbirannya.

Beliau menjelaskan PBT berperanan besar menghapuskan denggi dan kementerian hanya bertindak sebagai pembantu.

"Tanggungjawab penyelenggaraan longkang, halaman dan sampah sarap menjadi tanggungjawab utama PBT," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas merasmikan persidangan Penjagaan Asas Kesihatan Asean di sini, malam tadi.

Dua punca lain yang menyebabkan peningkatan kes denggi adalah sikap penduduk yang mengangap pencegahannya tanggungjawab kerajaan dan tapak pembinaan menjadi tempat pembiakan utama Aedes.

Dr Chua berkata, apabila kerajaan melancarkan gotong-royong bagi membasmi wabak berkenaan, sambutan masyarakat kerap dingin.

Kes denggi mencapai tahap membimbangkan di tiga negeri dengan Selangor mencatat kes tertinggi diikuti Wilayah Persekutuan dan Negeri Sembilan.

Berikutan itu, kementerian melantik Timbalan Menteri dan Setiausaha Parlimen Kementerian Kesihatan yang masing-masing dipertanggungjawabkan memantau wabak itu di Wilayah Persekutuan dan Selangor.

"Ia supaya dua negeri ini diberi lebih fokus kepada usaha pencegahan, pendidikan dan kawalan. Saya difahamkan, mereka sudah mengatur banyak kempen termasuk membabitkan masyarakat untuk menyedari bahayanya wabak ini," katanya.

Terdahulu, Dr Chua berkata, 129 hospital kerajaan dan hampir 3,500 pelbagai klinik termasuk klinik desa dan kesihatan di seluruh negara boleh dimanfaatkan untuk meningkatkan tahap kesihatan rakyat.

Beliau berkata, dalam Rancangan Malaysia Kesembilan (RMK-9), kerajaan akan membina 12 hospital kerajaan dan menambah 540 klinik di luar bandar dan bandar.

"Kabinet juga meluluskan tambahan klinik bergerak sebanyak 90 di seluruh negara. Usaha ini dilakukan supaya rakyat Malaysia, terutama di luar bandar mendapat perkhidmatan kesihatan berkualiti," katanya.

### **Tajuk Artikel: MMC arah kolej ikut peraturan**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR: Majlis Perubatan Malaysia (MMC) mengarahkan dua daripada tujuh kolej perubatan yang disiasat berikutan pengambilan pelajar yang terlalu ramai berbanding tenaga pengajar, segera melakukan proses penambahbaikan bagi mengelakkan kebenaran kursus itu ditarik semula.

Bagaimanapun, Setiausahanya, Dr Wan Mazlan Mohamed Woojdy, enggan menamakan dua kolej itu kerana ia dalam proses siasatan.

"Kolej itu melaburkan berjuta-juta ringgit untuk mewujudkan kursus perubatan, dan saya yakin mereka akan mengikuti segala arahan dan prosedur jawatankuasa itu," katanya ketika dihubungi Berita Harian semalam.

Sehubungan itu, pemantauan berterusan akan dijalankan bagi memastikan semua kriteria yang ditetapkan jawatankuasa dilantik dipatuhi termasuk nisbah pensyarah dan pelajar sebanyak 1:6, berbanding 1:20 yang diamalkan dua kolej terbabit sebelum ini.

Dr Wan Mazlan berkata, jawatankuasa itu membabitkan MMC, Lembaga Akreditasi Negara (LAN), Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA), Kementerian Kesihatan dan Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi akan memastikan kebajikan pelajar di kolej berkenaan terbela.

Katanya, ibu bapa pelajar yang menuntut di kolej yang sedang disiasat tidak perlu bimbang kerana kerajaan akan memastikan kebajikan mereka terjamin.

"Ia termasuk menempatkan mereka ke institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) yang lain yang menawarkan kursus serupa. Perkara ini dapat diatasi sebaik mungkin," katanya.

**Tajuk Artikel: Kelajuan 80km/j dapat elak nahas**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

PUTRAJAYA: Langkah menurunkan had laju daripada 90 kilometer (km) sejam kepada 80km di Jalan Persekutuan dan negeri sepanjang 15 hari Ops Sikap 12 bermula Ahad ini dijangka mengurangkan kemalangan maut seperti di beberapa negara lain.

ni kerana kenderaan yang bergerak pada kelajuan 90km sejam akan berlanggar pada kelajuan sekurang-kurangnya 50km sejam, iaitu tahap menyebabkan kecederaan kepala, pembuluh darah dan tulang belakang yang boleh membawa maut atau lumpuh.

Sebaliknya, penurunan had laju dapat mengurangkan kemalangan yang berkaitan dengan kelajuan seperti terbabas atau terbalik kerana kenderaan yang bergerak pada kelajuan 80km sejam akan berlanggar pada kelajuan kurang 40km sejam.

Ketua Pengarah Institut Penyelidikan Keselamatan Jalan Raya Malaysia (Miros), Prof Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi, berkata bagi kelajuan pelanggaran tidak lebih daripada 40km sejam, pemandu, penumpang atau pejalan kaki hanya mempunyai risiko 25 peratus mendapat kecederaan membawa maut.

Katanya, kajian negara lain juga menunjukkan kelajuan kemalangan pada 45km sejam pula boleh membawa peningkatan mendadak kepada 55 peratus risiko kecederaan menyebabkan kematian.

"Bagi kenderaan yang bergerak pada 90km sejam, iaitu had laju kebangsaan, ia berlanggar pada kelajuan antara 50 hingga 70km sejam selepas pemandu membrek atau melepaskan pedal minyak.

"Kajian di seluruh dunia menunjukkan kelajuan pelanggaran antara 50 hingga 70km sejam tidak dapat diterima anggota badan manusia kerana pertembungan dengan objek keras hingga menyebabkan kecederaan maut," katanya kepada Berita Harian semalam.

**Tajuk Artikel: Cuepacs minta syor lanjut usia bersara dipercepat**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: Berita Harian Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR: Cuepacs mahu cadangan melanjutkan usia persaraan kakitangan kerajaan kepada 60 tahun seperti yang dipraktikkan di negara jiran dipercepatkan dan dibuat mulai dalam tahun ini.

Presiden Cuepacs, Omar Osman berkata, sejak lima tahun lalu pihaknya sudah mengemukakan cadangan berkenaan tetapi ia belum mendapat reaksi yang positif daripada kerajaan.

Katanya, beliau berterima kasih kepada Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yang sedia mengkaji semula usia persaraan dilanjutkan kepada 60 tahun.

"Pada mesyuarat dengan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA), Isnin depan, kita akan kemukakan cadangan ini bersama agenda lain. Kajian Cuepacs mendapati mereka yang bersara awal iaitu dalam usia 50 hingga 56 tahun sering mendapat penyakit kronik.

"Malah, kita dapati kos perubatan mereka selepas bersara juga meningkat. Kita percaya jika usia perkhidmatan dilanjutkan sehingga 60 tahun, kakitangan kerajaan mungkin dapat mengurangkan kos perubatan mereka.

"Kebiasaannya apabila bersara, mereka yang berpacen lebih mudah diserang penyakit berbanding dalam perkhidmatan. Bekerja adalah terapi untuk kesihatan kerana kita sentiasa bergerak.

"Justeru, kita minta perkara ini dipercepatkan, kalau boleh tahun ini juga," katanya dihubungi Berita Harian, semalam.

Beliau mengulas kenyataan Perdana Menteri bahawa kerajaan sedia mengkaji cadangan melanjutkan usia persaraan kakitangan awam kepada 60 tahun mengambil kira faktor peningkatan jangka hayat dan tahap kesihatan rakyat Malaysia sekarang.

Perdana Menteri, berkata ada kewajaran cadangan usia persaraan 60 tahun dikaji berdasarkan pembangunan negara serta kedudukan sektor perkhidmatan awam negara.

Pengerusi Majlis Bersama Kesatuan Agensi Yang Diasingkan, Mohd Noor Abdullah berkata, beliau percaya kakitangan awam berusia 56 tahun ke atas masih mampu memberikan perkhidmatan mereka kerana tahap kesihatan di negara ini semakin baik.

Katanya, produktiviti juga akan meningkat jika usia persaraan dilanjutkan kerana mengambil kira pengalaman dan kesetiaan kepada majikan.

Sementara itu, Kongres Kesatuan Sekerja Malaysia (MTUC) mengalu-alukan usaha kerajaan mengkaji usia persaraan kakitangan kerajaan dan mahu perkara yang sama dapat dipraktikkan dalam sektor swasta.

Presidennya, Syed Shahir Syed Mohamud berkata, MTUC juga akan mengemukakan hujah tambahan mengenai usia persaraan itu dalam perbincangannya dengan kerajaan.

"Setiap tahun, MTUC akan mengemukakan cadangan melanjutkan usia persaraan kepada 60 tahun bagi sektor swasta kerana tenaga kerja kakitangan berkenaan diperlukan berikutan mereka lebih mahir, berpengalaman dan berpengetahuan," katanya.

Persekutuan Majikan Malaysia (MEF) dalam reaksinya pula berpendapat langkah meningkatkan usia persaraan perlu dilakukan berperingkat-peringkat dan mengambil kira jumlah pekerja dalam pasaran kerja.

"Jika usia persaraan dinaikkan kepada 60 tahun, kita perlu mengambil kira jumlah graduan yang tamat pengajian dan bakal diambil sebagai pekerja.

"Kita merasakan usia persaraan sedia ada seperti yang diamalkan sektor swasta cukup selesa. Namun, kebanyakan majikan akan mengambil semula pekerja yang sudah bersara pada umur 55 tahun dengan menawarkan kontrak," katanya.

**Tajuk Artikel: Cuma pekerja layak -- Perlu ditawarkan bekerja di sektor awam hingga umur 60 tahun**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

**Oleh Norila Daud, Zabry Mohamad dan S. Anand Kumar**

KUALA LUMPUR 7 Feb. – Cadangan melanjutkan tempoh persaraan kakitangan awam daripada umur 55 kepada 60 tahun perlu dibuat secara terpilih dengan mereka yang berkebolehan dan berkemampuan sahaja 'dipelawa' untuk terus berkhidmat hingga usia tersebut.

Ini kerana, tidak semua kakitangan di sektor awam mempunyai keupayaan untuk berkhidmat hingga berumur 60 tahun berdasarkan faktor produktiviti dan kesihatan.

Cadangan tersebut jika dilaksanakan dibimbangi boleh menjejaskan produktiviti berdasarkan tempoh perkhidmatan terlalu panjang sehingga melebihi 35 tahun selain ada yang terpaksa bergelut dengan masalah kesihatan hingga membebankan kerajaan.

Oleh itu, pelanjutan tempoh persaraan berasaskan tawaran itu akan memastikan hanya mereka yang benar-benar layak dan diperlukan sahaja 'dipelawa' untuk terus berkerja hingga usia 60 tahun.

Bekas Panglima Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM), Jeneral (B) Tan Sri Hashim Mohd. Ali berkata, tidak semua jawatan boleh dipertimbangkan untuk dilanjutkan tempoh perkhidmatan.

"Ini perlu diteliti dan dipertimbangkan mengikut tugas yang mereka pikul," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini, hari ini.

Bagi ATM, katanya, mungkin tidak sesuai jika menghantar tentera yang sudah berusia ke medan perang yang mana tugas itu seharusnya dipikul oleh anggota muda.

Tetapi cadangan itu, katanya, sesuai dilaksanakan untuk jawatan tertinggi dalam pasukan bersenjata seperti panglima.

"Ia bagi membolehkan seseorang pemerintah tertinggi tentera melaksanakan segala perancangan yang telah dibuat sebelum ini," katanya.

Isnin lalu Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi menyuarakan pendapat bahawa usia persaraan 55 atau 56 tahun untuk kakitangan awam adalah terlalu awal dan 'muda'.

Abdullah berkata demikian sebagai reaksi kepada cadangan Presiden Persatuan Perkhidmatan Tadbir dan Diplomatik Malaysia (PPTD), Tan Sri Aseh Che Mat supaya umur persaraan kakitangan awam dinaikkan kepada 60 tahun.

Pengarah Eksekutif Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF), Shamsuddin Bardan berkata, produktiviti dan prestasi pekerja perlu dititikberatkan sebelum sesuatu kontrak perkhidmatan ditawarkan kepada pekerja yang telah mencecah usia 55 tahun.

"Kita tidak mahu pekerja yang bekerja sambil lewa dan menunggu masa untuk bersara pada usia wajib 55. Apa yang kita mahukan ialah mereka yang sihat dan bekerja bersungguh-sungguh untuk kemajuan syarikat," katanya.

Menurut Shamsuddin, sekiranya jangka hayat penduduk Malaysia yang semakin panjang iaitu 74 tahun bagi wanita dan 72 tahun bagi lelaki dijadikan asas melaksanakan cadangan itu, ia perlu dilakukan secara berperingkat.

"Hanya dengan cara ini kerajaan boleh membuat perancangan bagaimana untuk menyediakan pekerjaan kepada ribuan lepasan sekolah dan universiti," katanya.

Setiausaha Agung Persatuan Perkhidmatan Perguruan Kebangsaan (NUTP), Loke Yim Pheng juga berpendapat bahawa lanjutan tempoh perkhidmatan kakitangan awam perlu dilakukan secara terpilih dengan memberi keutamaan kepada bidang yang kritikal.

Dalam bidang perguruan katanya, lanjutan tempoh perkhidmatan boleh dijadikan pilihan kepada guru yang mengajar mata pelajaran kritikal seperti Matematik dan Sains bagi menampung kekurangan tenaga pengajar.

"Mereka yang mengajar subjek kritikal sahaja wajar dipertimbangkan supaya tidak menjejaskan peluang bekerja bagi graduan yang baru keluar dari institusi perguruan," jelasnya.

Bagaimanapun, Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja Di Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (Cuepacs) yang mewakili lebih sejuta kakitangan awam mengalu-alukan cadangan melanjutkan usia persaraan kepada 60 kerana selaras dengan perjuangan kesatuan itu sejak 1999.

Beliau menyangkal dakwaan jika umur persaraan dilanjutkan sehingga 60 tahun, golongan muda tidak berpeluang untuk bekerja di sektor awam.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Persatuan Pegawai Kanan Polis Cawangan Inspektor, Cif Inspektor Basharuddin Mohd. Nordin berpendapat, semua peringkat pegawai dan bukan pegawai Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) berkemampuan untuk berkhidmat sehingga umur 60 tahun.

"Saya lihat ramai anggota polis apabila bersara menceburi sektor keselamatan di syarikat-syarikat swasta. "Ini membuktikan mereka masih mampu untuk memberikan khidmat pada usia tersebut," ujarnya.

Beliau menarik perhatian di negara-negara maju seperti United Kingdom telah melaksanakan had usia persaraan anggota polis pada 60 tahun.

**Tajuk Artikel: Wujudkan zon pelihara kualiti air sungai**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR 7 Feb. – Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi mengarahkan Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) supaya mengkaji bagi mewujudkan zon penampungan di tebing sungai untuk memelihara kualiti air.

Ketua Pengarah JPS, Datuk Ir. Keizrul Abdullah berkata, arahan tersebut yang diterimanya semalam melibatkan larangan aktiviti pembangunan dan pembinaan rumah di tebing sungai dengan kelebaran antara lima hingga 50 meter.

"Lebar sebenar zon penampungan yang akan kita tetapkan bergantung kepada keluasan sungai dan sekiranya ia kecil sahaja maka kawasan larangan pembangunan tidaklah mencecah sehingga 50 meter," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri majlis perasmian Seminar Peta Risiko Banjir Rantau Asia Timur dan Asia Tenggara oleh Timbalan Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Datuk S. Sothinathan di sini, hari ini.

**Tajuk Artikel: Pemudah dibentuk baiki sistem penyampaian**  
**Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**  
**Oleh HABIBAH OMAR**

PUTRAJAYA 7 Feb. – Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi berkata, kerajaan menubuhkan Pasukan Petugas Khas Pemudahcara Perniagaan (Pemudah) dalam usaha menambah baik sistem penyampaian kerajaan terutama yang berkaitan dengan perjalanan ekonomi negara.

Menurut Perdana Menteri, sebagai permulaan, Pemudah akan memberi tumpuan kepada isu-isu sistem penyampaian di peringkat kerajaan tempatan bagi menjadikannya lebih cekap, responsif dan mesra perniagaan.

"Pemudah akan diberi mandat untuk mengenal pasti dan mencadangkan langkah-langkah penambahbaikan yang wajar diambil terhadap prosedur, peraturan serta undang-undang dalam memudahkan pengendalian perniagaan di Malaysia.

"Ia akan membuat laporan terus kepada Perdana Menteri," katanya dalam satu kenyataan yang dikeluarkan oleh Pejabat Perdana Menteri, di sini, hari ini.

Untuk memastikan hasil yang berkesan, beliau memberitahu, Pemudah yang diumumkan pada Majlis Perdana Perkhidmatan Awam, 11 Januari lalu akan dianggotai oleh paduan tenaga di antara sektor awam dan swasta.

Bagi sektor awam, Pemudah akan diketuai oleh Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd. Sidek Hassan sementara sektor swasta oleh Presiden Persekutuan Pekilang-Pekilang Malaysia (FMM), Datuk Yong Poh Kon.

Perdana Menteri berkata, paduan tenaga dan pengalaman sektor awam dan swasta di bawah kepimpinan bersama Mohd. Sidek dan Poh Kon akan membawa kepada penambahbaikan persekitaran perniagaan negara.

Kedua ini, kata beliau sekali gus menggalakkan lebih banyak pelaburan serta peluang pekerjaan bagi rakyat Malaysia.

Mengenai keahlian Pemudah, Abdullah mengumumkan pasukan petugas khas itu akan terdiri daripada wakil kedua-dua sektor awam dan swasta dengan kepakaran masing-masing yang tersendiri.

Sebanyak 21 orang telah dipilih di kalangan sektor awam dan swasta, antaranya ialah Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam, Tan Sri Ismail Adam; Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan, Tan Sri Izzuddin Dali dan Ketua Pengarah Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan Jabatan Perdana Menteri (ICU), Tan Sri Khalid Ramli bagi sektor awam.

Bagi sektor swasta pula, antara wakil-wakilnya ialah Presiden Dewan Perdagangan Malaysia-Amerika, Datuk Nicholas S. Zeffreys; Presiden Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia, Datuk Azman Shah Harun dan Presiden Dewan Perdagangan dan Industri Antarabangsa Malaysia, Mike Krishnan.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Kerajaan sedia Peta Risiko Banjir 100 tahun Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR 7 Feb. – Setelah dikejutkan dengan banjir luar biasa yang melanda Johor sebanyak dua kali baru-baru ini, kerajaan mengambil langkah proaktif dengan menyediakan Peta Risiko Banjir (PRB) yang berfungsi meramalkan bencana itu untuk tempoh sehingga 100 tahun.

Timbalan Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Datuk S. Sothinathan berkata, PRB yang meliputi seluruh negara akan mengenal pasti kawasan berisiko tinggi serta jangkaan kedalaman paras banjir dengan mengambil kira kesan fenomena pemanasan global.

“Sekarang kita hanya mempunyai maklumat umum kawasan yang sering dilanda banjir dan dengan kaedah terbaru menggunakan komputer ini, ia adalah lebih lengkap termasuk jangkaan taburan hujan serta luas kawasan serta jumlah penduduk terlibat untuk tempoh 50 hingga 100 tahun akan datang,” katanya.

Beliau bercakap kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan Seminar PRB Rantau Asia Timur dan Asia Tenggara anjuran Pusat Antarabangsa Pengurusan Risiko dan Bahaya Air (ICHARM) serta Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) di sini, hari ini.

Turut hadir Ketua Pengarah JPS, Datuk Ir. Keizrul Abdullah dan Pemangku Pengarah ICHARM, Akira Terakawa.

Sothinathan berkata, kerajaan telah meminta bantuan pakar ICHARM yang beribu pejabat di Jepun untuk menyiapkan peta terbabit dengan segera.

Panduan

Menurutnya, peringkat pertama PRB membabitkan kawasan berhampiran lembangan sungai dijangka siap dalam tempoh enam hingga lapan bulan.

Tambah beliau, peta terbabit boleh dijadikan panduan oleh kerajaan negeri dan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) bagi mengenal pasti kawasan berisiko banjir supaya tidak dijalankan sebarang projek pembangunan di situ.

“Sekiranya pihak pemaju masih bertegas untuk membangunkan kawasan tersebut, maka mereka perlu menyediakan sistem perparitan mencukupi, reka bentuk bangunan sesuai untuk menghadapi banjir dan mesti ada plan kecemasan bagi memindahkan penduduk,” katanya.

Beliau berkata, peta tersebut yang akan dikeluarkan oleh JPS juga berguna kepada orang ramai bagi mendapatkan maklumat lengkap sebelum membeli rumah dan perlindungan insurans bagi mengelak kerugian akibat banjir.

Sothinathan berkata, pihak berkuasa juga boleh menggunakan PRB untuk merancang secara sistematik jalan-jalan alternatif yang boleh digunakan bagi menyelamatkan penduduk ketika banjir dan memastikan pusat-pusat pemindahan selamat.

"Kita tidak mahu berulang kejadian seperti di Johor apabila pusat pemindahan turut tenggelam kerana ini amat memalukan kerajaan dan menunjukkan seolah-olah kita tidak bersedia," katanya.

Mengenai kemungkinan kawasan-kawasan yang diramal dilanda banjir pada masa depan akan mengalami kemerosotan nilai, Sothinathan berkata, ia lebih baik jika dibandingkan kemusnahan harta benda dan nyawa sekiranya kawasan itu dilanda bencana tersebut.

Dalam pada itu, ditanya mengenai musim kemarau yang dijangka melanda negara tidak lama lagi, Sothinathan berkata, semua agensi berkaitan telah diminta membuat persiapan bagi memastikan tiada pembaziran air.

"Walaupun El Nino yang diramal melanda mulai Mac tidak akan menyebabkan kemarau teruk, kita tetap perlu membuat persiapan bagi menghadapi sebarang kemungkinan," katanya.

### **Tajuk Artikel: Kabinet lulus 96 klinik bergerak di pusat bandar Sumber / Tarikh: Utusan Malaysia Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR 7 Feb. – Menteri Kesihatan Datuk Seri Dr. Chua Soi Lek berkata, Kabinet pada dasarnya meluluskan penubuhan 96 klinik bergerak di pusat bandar di seluruh negara secara berperingkat-peringkat dalam beberapa tahun akan datang.

Beliau berkata, klinik bergerak yang dikendalikan oleh doktor dan kakitangan sokongan itu dilengkapi peralatan sesuai.

"Klinik ini lebih baik berbanding klinik bergerak yang kini disediakan di beberapa kawasan luar bandar di seluruh negara," katanya ketika ditemui pemberita selepas merasmikan Persidangan Rawatan Utama ASEAN kali pertama di sini malam ini.

Soi Lek berkata, khidmat klinik bergerak itu akan menangani masalah kumpulan miskin di bandar dan kumpulan terpinggir.

Beliau berkata, usaha untuk meningkatkan kualiti khidmat klinik bergerak dipertingkatkan dalam Rancangan Malaysia Kesembilan sekarang.

Menerusi pelan itu, Soi Lek berkata, 540 klinik dikenal pasti akan dibina bagi memastikan khidmat rawatan kesihatan sampai ke semua tempat di seluruh negara.

"Mengenai rawatan kesihatan utama, Malaysia boleh berbangga dengan kejayaannya dalam memberikan khidmat yang cekap pada kos yang rendah kepada orang ramai.

"Sebagai contoh, sebagai negara membangun, Malaysia boleh berbangga atas kejayaannya membabitkan aspek kelahiran bayi, dengan hampir 100 peratus selamat mengikut standard yang ditetapkan oleh Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia," katanya.

Mengenai kegagalan usaha menghapus dan mengawal denggi, beliau berkata, ia berpunca daripada kelemahan penguatkuasaan pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

Katanya, penguatkuasaan oleh PBT penting kerana penjagaan kebersihan seperti tugas penyelenggaraan parit dan pengumpulan sampah terletak di bawah bidang kuasa PBT.

"Kelemahan penguatkuasaan tersebut disebabkan kekurangan kakitangan di PBT," katanya.

Soi Lek berkata, kekurangan kakitangan itu berlaku sama ada kurang pengambilan kakitangan atau pengambilan kakitangan yang tidak seimbang selain pertambahan penduduk.

Katanya, persepsi umum bahawa tugas menghapuskan denggi terletak ditangan kerajaan semata-mata turut menyumbang peningkatan kes denggi, selain pembangunan pesat sektor pembinaan seperti di ibu negara dan Selangor.

### **Tajuk Artikel: Tidak masuk akal**

## **Sumber / Tarikh: Harian Metro Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR: Pelbagai pihak semalam menentang cadangan restoran mamak mengenakan bayaran mengguna tandas di premis mereka sebagai melampau, malah ada yang menyarankan boikot restoran yang berbuat demikian.

Ada di antara restoran mamak sendiri turut menentang cadangan itu.

Penasihat Gabungan Persatuan Pengguna-Pengguna Malaysia (Fomca), Prof Datuk Hamdan Adnan, berkata cadangan berkenaan adalah melampau.

"Takkan untuk ke tandas pun nak dikenakan bayaran, ini langsung tidak masuk akal dan tak perlu dilayan. Tindakan mereka itu semata-mata untuk mengaut keuntungan lebih.

"Tidak cukup dengan mengenakan bayaran makanan yang mahal, sekarang nak suruh pelanggan bayar lebih lagi.

"Sepatutnya pengguna mengambil tindakan memboikot restoran yang berbuat demikian. Jangan biarkan hak kita sebagai pengguna dipermainkan dengan sewenang-wenangnya.

"Kalau restoran lain boleh menyediakan tandas yang bersih tanpa sebarang bayaran, mengapa tidak restoran mamak?" katanya.

Beliau diminta mengulas kenyataan Presiden Persatuan Penguasaha Restoran Muslim Malaysia (Presma), Jamarul Khan Kadir, di akhbar semalam mengenai cadangan pengusaha restoran mamak mengenakan caj penggunaan tandas terhadap pelanggan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif D'Kayu Nasi Kandar, Sirajudin Mohamed Mydin berkata cadangan itu langsung tidak praktikal, malah akan menyebabkan pelanggan enggan berkunjung ke restoran mamak.

"Ia adalah satu keperluan yang mustahak disediakan semua kedai makan kerana pelanggan datang untuk menikmati makanan dan ia adalah rezeki kepada peniaga. Kenapa perlu mereka (pelanggan) bayar untuk ke tandas?" katanya.

Beliau berkata, langkah demikian memberi pandangan negatif di kalangan pelancong asing mengenai Malaysia.

"Tetapi jika tandas itu diswastakan dengan melantik satu syarikat untuk menyelenggarakannya dan kemudian dikenakan bayaran berpatutan itu tidak mengapa," katanya.

Timbalan Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Datuk Dr Robert Lau Hoi Chew, berkata menjadi tanggungjawab sosial pemilik kedai makanan menyediakan tandas yang bersih kepada pelanggan mereka.

"Kenapa perlu pelanggan bayar sedangkan mereka datang untuk menikmati makanan yang dijual? Idea itu saya rasa tidak wajar," katanya.

Lau, yang juga Presiden Persatuan Bilik Air Berkualiti Malaysia menasihatkan agar idea itu difikirkan lebih mendalam. – Bernama

**Tajuk Artikel: Aksi penyeluk saku ala 'larian baton'**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Harian Metro Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**  
**Oleh Mohd Jamilul Anbia Md Denin dan Ahmad Najib**

KUALA LUMPUR: Sekumpulan pakar seluk saku warga Indonesia dikesan menggunakan taktik mencuri ala 'larian baton' dengan menjadikan sekitar kawasan stesen transit aliran ringan (LRT) serta dalam gerabak LRT sasaran melakukan jenayah.

Difahamkan, kumpulan terbabit yang bergerak berkumpulan antara tiga hingga empat orang menasarkan golongan wanita membawa telefon bimbit mahal serta berkamera sebagai sasaran utama.

Sumber polis berkata, penjenayah dikesan kerap bermaharajalela dengan mengambil kesempatan ketika orang ramai berpusu-pusu keluar gerabak pada waktu pagi atau ketika pulang bekerja.

Seorang mangsa yang hanya mahu dikenali sebagai Nurqamarina, 22, berkata dia menjadi mangsa kumpulan terbabit yang cuba melarikan telefon bimbit model Nokia 6610 miliknya, Selasa lalu.

Dalam kejadian jam 8.30 pagi itu, mangsa yang bekerja sebagai kerani bank mendakwa menaiki LRT di Stesen Masjid Jamek, Jalan Tun Perak untuk ke Stesen LRT Pasar Seni.

"Saya yang berjalan keluar dari gerabak LRT bagaimanapun terkejut apabila ditolak beberapa lelaki tidak dikenali.

"Akibatnya, saya hampir terjatuh ketika ditolak dengan kuat dari belakang namun saya bernasib baik kerana masih sempat berpaut pada seorang penumpang berhampiran," katanya.

Menurutnya, dia yang segera memeriksa beg tangan bagaimanapun terkejut apabila mendapati telefon bimbitnya lesap begitu sahaja.

"Saya jadi bingung apatah lagi ketika itu gerabak LRT dipenuhi orang ramai yang berpusu-pusu untuk ke tempat kerja," katanya.

Menurutnya, beberapa minit sebelum kejadian, dia perasan beberapa lelaki Indonesia memerhatikannya dan cuba menghampirinya.

"Malah sebelum keluar gerabak LRT, saya ternampak kelibat lelaki terbabit berdiri di belakang saya.

"Selepas menolak saya, lelaki Indonesia terbabit dilihat bergegas masuk kembali ke dalam gerabak LRT yang sama untuk melarikan diri," katanya.

Namun, saya bernasib baik kerana seorang penumpang lelaki yang turut menaiki gerabak sama turut melihat kejadian itu lalu mengejar suspek yang berlari ke belakang gerabak.

"Penjenayah terbabit yang berusia awal 20-an akhirnya diberkas orang ramai sebelum diserahkan kepada pengawal keselamatan di stesen LRT berhampiran.

"Apa yang saya tahu, penjenayah cuba menyerahkan telefon bimbit saya yang dicuri kepada rakannya untuk menghilangkan bukti namun tidak sempat melakukannya," katanya.

Menurutnya, lelaki dari Lombok, Indonesia itu kemudian diserahkan pengawal keselamatan LRT kepada polis Dang Wangi.

Sementara itu, Pengurus Kanan Bahagian Komunikasi Korporat Rangkaian Pengangkutan Integrasi Deras Sdn Bhd (RapidKL), Katherine Chew yang dihubungi Harian Metro berkata, pihaknya memandang serius cubaan beberapa kumpulan penjenayah yang dikesan aktif melakukan kes seluk saku terhadap penumpang LRT.

Menurutnya, sepanjang tahun lalu, lebih 10 penyeluk saku dan beg diberkas orang ramai yang menggunakan LRT dengan dibantu pengawal keselamatan bertugas.

"Setiap pengawal keselamatan yang ditugaskan di stesen LRT amat peka dengan masalah ini tidak teragak-agak membantu mangsa.

"Walaupun jenayah ini boleh berlaku di mana-mana, pihak pengurusan LRT mengambil langkah serius termasuk memasang kamera litar tersembunyi (CCTV) di setiap stesen LRT selain meletakkan papan tanda amaran jenayah ragut," katanya.

## **Tajuk Artikel: Kerajaan Rugi Lebih RM7 Juta Jika MyKad Tidak Dituntut Dimusnahkan**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**



MYKAD... Kerajaan terpaksa menanggung kerugian lebih RM7 juta membabitkan 200,000 MyKad yang terpaksa dimusnahkan jika tidak dituntut, kata Timbalan Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri Datuk Tan Chai Ho. Kelihatan Tan Chai Ho (dua dari kanan) bertanya sesuatu kepada seorang pelanggan yang berurusan di kaunter Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara di Cameron Highlands. *Foto: Dusa Abas*

CAMERON HIGHLANDS, 7 Feb (Bernama) -- Kerajaan menanggung kerugian berjumlah RM7,600,492.10 sekiranya semua MyKad yang tidak dituntut, yang berada di pejabat-pejabat Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara (JPN) di seluruh negara, terpaksa dimusnahkan.

Timbalan Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri Datuk Tan Chai Ho berkata ketika ini jumlah MyKad tidak dituntut oleh pemiliknya melebihi 200,000 manakala kos menghasilkan setiap kad pengenalan bermutu tinggi itu adalah sekitar RM38 tiap satu.

Beliau berkata MyKad yang tidak dituntut untuk satu tempoh masa yang ditetapkan, akan dihantar ke ibu pejabat JPN di Putrajaya untuk dimusnahkan.

"Saya harap setiap Anggota Dewan Undangan Negeri (Adun) dapat membantu mengatasi

masalah ini kerana masing-masing lebih mengenali penduduk setempat di kawasan mereka yang masih belum menuntut MyKad yang sudah siap," katanya kepada pemberita selepas melawat pejabat JPN Tanah Rata di sini.

Beliau juga meminta orang ramai yang masih belum memohon MyKad supaya mengemukakan permohonan mereka sekarang dan tidak menunggu sehingga saat-saat akhir.

"Ada 400,080 rakyat Malaysia yang belum memohon MyKad. Walaupun kerajaan belum mengumumkan secara rasmi tarikh akhir kad pengenalan lama boleh diguna-pakai, jangan tunggu sampai saat akhir. Kena

buat permohonan sekarang," katanya.

-- BERNAMA

## **Tajuk Artikel: Enam Empangan Lembah Klang Mampu Hadapi Kesan El-Nino**

**Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Feb (Bernama) -- Enam empangan utama dengan kapasiti 493,280 juta liter air masih mampu menyediakan bekalan kepada 7.1 juta penduduk sekitar Lembah Klang sekiranya kesan fenomena El-Nino berlarutan sehingga September, kata Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas).

Sehingga 22 Jan lepas kapasiti air di Empangan Sungai Selangor, Empangan Sungai Tinggi, Empangan Sungai Semenyih, Empangan Sungai Langat, Empangan Klang Gates dan Empangan Sungai Batu dalam keadaan penuh, kata Pengerusi Eksekutif Syabas Tan Sri Rozali Ismail dalam kenyataan hari ini.

Menurutnya bagi memastikan kesan buruk seperti fenomena 1997-98 tidak berulang, Syabas akan memastikan pelepasan air daripada empangan-empangan itu dilakukan mengikut prosedur yang ditetapkan.

Katanya biasanya air akan dilepaskan daripada empangan hanya jika sungai-sungai berhampiran tidak menerima cukup bekalan air ataupun paras air empangan itu mencecah paras bahaya.

Selain itu, Syabas juga bersama-sama dengan Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS), Jabatan Kesihatan dan Jabatan Kimia akan memantau sungai-sungai yang menjadi sumber bekalan air agar tidak terjejas akibat pencemaran dan selamat untuk digunakan, katanya.

"Jabatan-jabatan ini akan memastikan kuantiti air yang dibekalkan cukup dan kualitinya adalah selamat daripada sebarang pencemaran bahan-bahan berbahaya terutamanya toksik," katanya.

Rozali berkata kempen kesedaran penggunaan air secara berhemah juga penting supaya pengguna tahu menjimatkan sumber itu ketika kemarau.

"Kita juga akan memberikan petua-petua penggunaan air kepada penduduk dan industri untuk semua tujuan sama ada keperluan rumah atau perkilangan," kata Rozali.

Syabas akan mengedarkan botol-botol minuman bersaiz lima liter secara percuma kepada penduduk untuk memastikan pengguna memperoleh bekalan air minuman yang bersih sekiranya kemarau berpanjangan.

Catuan bekalan air juga akan dilakukan sekiranya keadaan terdesak dan ia hanya akan diambil sebagai langkah terakhir, katanya.

Rozali berkata sembilan buah tasik di sekitar Lembah Klang telah dikenal pasti boleh digunakan airnya untuk dilepaskan ke dalam sungai untuk menampung kekurangan bekalan air.

"Syabas juga selepas ini akan bertindak cepat atas aduan awam sekiranya ada kes paip-paip air yang pecah atau bocor, dengan itu pembaziran air yang banyak dapat dielakkan," katanya.

Kontraktor-kontraktor yang akan membekalkan lori tangki air yang besar juga sudah dipilih dan mereka semua diminta supaya memastikan lori-lori tersebut sentiasa bersedia digerakkan ke kawasan yang

memerlukan bekalan air, katanya.

Langkah lain, menurut Rozali, ialah kerjasama dengan Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM) untuk menjalankan proses pembenihan awan.

Katanya semua langkah persediaan ini telah terkandung dalam Pelan Tindakan Kecemasan (ERP) yang telah disediakan oleh Syabas sejak mengambil alih tanggungjawab membekalkan air pada 1 Jan 2005 ke Selangor, Putrajaya dan Kuala Lumpur.

Sebarang aduan mengenai bekalan air boleh disalurkan kepada Syabas melalui Pusat Perkhidmatan Pelanggannya (PUSPEL) melalui talian bebas tol 1-800-88-5252 yang beroperasi 24 jam atau dengan khidmat pesanan ringkas (SMS) ke nombor 39222.

-- BERNAMA

### **Tajuk Artikel: Kesatuan Pegawai Kastam Setuju PTK Dimansuhkan Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis**

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Feb (Bernama) -- Peperiksaan Penilaian Tahap Kecekapan (PTK) wajar dimansuhkan kerana ia bukannya kaedah yang tepat untuk menilai kemampuan kakitangan perkhidmatan awam, kata Kesatuan Pegawai-Pegawai Kastam Semenanjung Malaysia.

Presidennya, Ibrahim Ahmad berkata PTK tidak boleh dijadikan pengukur kebolehan sebenar seseorang kakitangan awam dalam melaksanakan tugas.

"Malahan, ia merupakan penghalang kepada kakitangan, terutama yang kanan untuk naik pangkat hanya kerana gagal peperiksaan itu," katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama untuk mendapatkan pandangannya mengenai cadangan Presiden Persatuan Perkhidmatan Tadbir dan Diplomatik Tan Sri Aseh Che Mat supaya PTK dimansuhkan.

Aseh pada hujung minggu lepas berkata di Putrajaya bahawa PTK menjadikan perkhidmatan awam terlalu berorientasikan kepada peperiksaan dan berpendapat bahawa memadai jika kakitangan awam hanya menduduki peperiksaan wajib di awal perkhidmatan dan kursus-kursus wajib semasa dalam perkhidmatan.

Ibrahim berkata bagi kakitangan yang sudah berumur, mereka sukar untuk mengingat bahan yang dibaca dan menjawab soalan pada standard yang dikehendaki dalam PTK, berbanding kakitangan yang baru keluar dari sekolah dan universiti.

"Tambahan pula subjek yang hendak dibaca adalah luas. Misalnya dalam perkhidmatan kastam terdapat kira-kira 20 Akta yang perlu diketahui. Jadi yang mana satu akta yang perlu diberi tumpuan oleh kakitangan?," katanya.

Beliau berkata kos untuk membiayai PTK juga tinggi kerana perlu mewujudkan satu jabatan dan kakitangan untuk melaksanakan PTK.

Sementara itu penasihat Gabungan Persatuan-Persatuan Pengguna Malaysia (Fomca) Prof Datuk Hamdan Adnan berkata kaedah pelaksanaan PTK perlu dikaji semula bagi mengelakkan ketidakadilan kepada kakitangan yang mendudukinya.

"Peperiksaan ini sebagai kayu ukur mutu kerja seseorang oleh itu kaedah pelaksanaannya perlu dikaji

semula untuk keadilan bersama," katanya.

Katanya rungutan bahawa PTK tidak adil timbul mungkin disebabkan oleh kaedah pelaksanaan yang disalah guna dan dianggap sebagai menindas.

-- BERNAMA

## Tajuk Artikel: Harga Maksimum 11 Barangan Terkawal Berkuatkuasa 11 Feb

Sumber / Tarikh: Bernama Online 8 Februari 2007 – Khamis



BARANGAN TERKAWAL... Datuk Shafie Apdal (kanan) menunjukkan sepinggan udang putih besar yang turut tersenarai sebagai barang-barang terkawal ketika mengadakan sidang media. Turut hadir Setiausaha Parlimen Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna Ho Seong Chang. Foto: Shaifuldin Ahmad

PUTRAJAYA, 7 Feb (Bernama) -- Kerajaan akan menguatkuasakan harga maksimum bagi 11 jenis barangan harga terkawal sempena musim perayaan Tahun Baru Cina selama 15 hari, mulai 11 Feb ini.

Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal berkata buat julung kalinya, penetapan harga maksimum itu bukan sahaja di peringkat peruncit, malah di tahap pemborong.

Katanya langkah itu bagi memastikan tiada pihak yang cuba mengaut untung lebih pada musim perayaan dan pengguna juga akan mendapat harga yang berpatutan.

"Kita perlu mengambil langkah mengawal di kedua-dua peringkat, kerana kita tak dapat menentukan margin keuntungan yang diperoleh

oleh kedua-dua pihak.

"Kadang-kadang pemborong nak untung lebih, kadang-kadang peruncit, jadi untuk memastikan ada sedikit keuntungan, kedua-dua peringkat ini kita kawal tetapi yang penting pengguna, agar harga yang dikawal dapat memberi manfaat kepada mereka dan harga tidak terlalu tinggi atau terlalu rendah sehingga bekalan tidak mencukupi. Kita memastikan harga adalah berpatutan," katanya kepada pemberita di sini.

"Yang penting untuk memastikan tiada pihak yang mengaut keuntungan sepanjang musim perayaan ini dan jika didapati sistem ini berkesan, kenapa tidak kita harus laksanakan pada musim perayaan," katanya.

Shafie berkata 11 jenis barangan itu ialah ayam hidup, ayam standard (disembelih dan dibersihkan berserta kaki, kepala, hati dan hempedal), ayam super (disembelih dan dibersihkan tanpa kaki, kepala, hati dan hempedal), daging lembu tempatan dan daging kerbau import (India).

Ia juga melibatkan telur ayam gred A (berat antara 65 gram hingga 69.9 gram sebiji), telur ayam gred B (berat antara 60 gram hingga 64.9 gram sebiji), telur ayam gred C (berat antara 55 gram hingga 59.9 gram sebiji), kubis bulat import (tidak termasuk kubis Beijing), ikan bawal putih (berat antara 200 gram hingga 400 gram seekor) dan udang putih besar (berat antara 41 ekor hingga 60 ekor sekilogram).

Oleh itu, beliau mengingatkan peniaga supaya mematuhi harga maksimum yang ditetapkan dan tindakan tegas akan diambil terhadap mereka yang ingkar.

Katanya jika didapati ada peniaga yang tidak mematuhi skim itu, pengguna boleh membuat aduan kepada kementerian melalui e-aduan.kpdnhep.gov.my atau sms 32255 atau hubungi talian bebas tol 1-800-886-800.-- BERNAMA