



KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN WANITA,
KELUARGA DAN MASYARAKAT

LAPORAN PEMANTAUAN MEDIA KPWK

JUMAAT, 8 MAC 2024

LAPORAN HARIAN





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3	VOXPOP JAPENTV ISTIMEWA HARI WANITA ANTARABANGSA 2024 WANITA DIJULANG, NEGARA GEMILANG	
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14	HOW TO INVEST IN WOMEN: GROUPS CALL FOR GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVES TO BEAT ECONOMIC, SOCIAL BARRIERS AND ACCELERATE MALAYSIA'S PROGRESS	
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Malaysia masih ketinggalan khususnya dalam jurang gaji gender - Nancy

Bernama
Mac 7, 2024 23:19 MYT



Menurut Nancy, Malaysia masih ketinggalan di belakang negara lain di Asia Tenggara, terutamanya mengenai isu kritikal seperti jurang gaji jantina. - Bernama

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia telah menyaksikan kemajuan ketara dalam merapatkan jurang jantina dalam beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini, dengan peratusan pengarah wanita meningkat kepada 29.7 peratus pada 2023 daripada 14 peratus pada 2016.

Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri berkata bagaimanapun masih terdapat banyak yang perlu dilakukan bagi merapatkan jurang itu.

"Malaysia, dalam meraih kemajuan, masih ketinggalan di belakang rakan kita di Asia Tenggara, terutamanya mengenai isu kritikal seperti jurang gaji jantina," katanya.

Nancy berkata demikian ketika berucap pada majlis penganugerahan Program Wanita dalam Keusahawanan (WiE) 2024 oleh Futuremakers by Standard Chartered dan Mereka Innovative Education (Mereka) di sini hari ini sempena Hari Wanita Antarabangsa yang akan disambut esok.

Turut hadir Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Standard Chartered Malaysia Mak Joon Nien dan Pengarah Mereka Juliana Adam.

Nancy berkata menyedari bahawa wanita memainkan penting dalam mencorakkan masyarakat, kejayaan mereka dalam arena perniagaan secara langsung berkait rapat dengan kejayaan ekonomi negara.

Justeru, beliau berkata inisiatif seperti program WiE menandakan kemajuan yang signifikan dalam usaha kolektif untuk mengurangkan perbezaan jantina supaya lelaki dan wanita dapat berada pada tahap yang sama dalam landskap keusahawanan.

Beliau berkata terdapat keperluan untuk lebih banyak program pemerksaan bagi menaikkan wanita, memupuk persekitaran organisasi yang diterajui wanita bukan sahaja berkembang tetapi juga memacu kemajuan negara.

"Kita mesti mengambil pendekatan proaktif, melabur pada masa depan kita untuk memupuk ekosistem yang membolehkan keusahawanan wanita berkembang maju.

"Bersama-samalah kita memupuk legasi pemerksaan dan inovasi, berusaha ke arah masa depan yang kesaksamaan gender bukan sekadar ideal tetapi aspek asas kemajuan masyarakat kita," katanya.

Pada majlis itu, Nancy menyampaikan cek cura AS\$20,000 (kira-kira RM47,100) setiap satu kepada lima pertubuhan diterajui wanita di bawah program WiE iaitu Early Mind Ripple, LJD, Enoku, Edulab dan Keto.

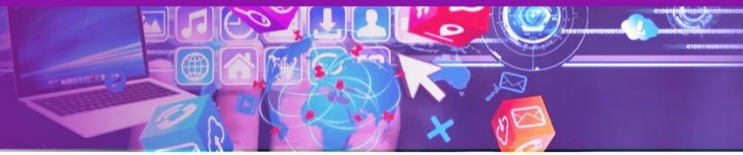
Kelima-lima organisasi itu akan memulakan program bimbingan mentor selama enam bulan dengan pakar industri Mereka dan menerima bimbingan peribadi yang meliputi aspek penting pembangunan organisasi, merangkumi operasi perniagaan asas dan integrasi teknologi serta taktik pemasaran dan perhubungan awam berkesan.

Sementara itu Futuremakers telah memperkasakan lebih 2.1 juta beliau di seluruh dunia iaitu 68 peratus ialah wanita dan kanak-kanak perempuan dengan pendidikan, pekerjaan dan kemahiran keusahawanan.

Pada September 2023 Futuremakers dan Mereka melancarkan WiE di Malaysia untuk mengwibawakan organisasi yang diterajui wanita tempatan.

Futuremakers ialah inisiatif global untuk menangani ketidaksamaan dengan menggalakkan kemasukan ekonomi yang lebih besar dalam pasaran. Ia menyokong golongan muda yang kurang bernasib baik berumur 35 tahun ke bawah, terutamanya kanak-kanak perempuan dan orang kurang upaya penglihatan, untuk mempelajari kemahiran baru dan meningkatkan peluang mereka mendapatkan pekerjaan atau memulakan perniagaan.

Mereka pula ialah platform pendidikan alternatif bertujuan untuk mengajar kemahiran masa depan bagi membina kumpulan bakat yang bijak, terlibat dan dimaklumkan untuk menghadapi cabaran masa akan datang.



KPWKM sedia kerjasama beri data, bantu golongan memerlukan

Oleh NUR SHARIEZA ISMAIL 7 Mac 2024, 8:21 pm



NORAINI Ahmad pada Majlis Pelancaran 'Kempen Happening Raya' di Mydin Seremban 2, Seremban hari ini.-Foto MOHD. SHAHJEHAN MAAMIN/ KOSMO!

SEREMBAN – Lebih banyak pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO), syarikat korporat serta sukarelawan diseru untuk mengambil peluang bulan Ramadan dalam membantu kumpulan masyarakat yang kurang berkemampuan.

Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM) malahan juga bersedia bekerjasama memberi data dan maklumat golongan sasaran terbabit.

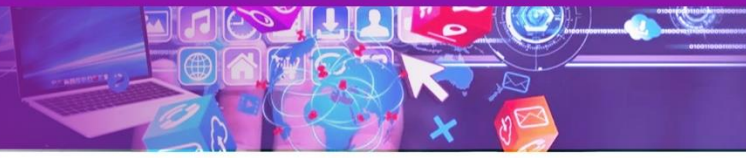
Timbalan menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad berkata, langkah itu bagi memudahkan proses pengagihan bantuan sekali gus lebih banyak golongan sasaran dapat dibantu dan disantuni dengan lebih baik.

"Di pihak kementerian, kami sedia bekerjasama dalam memberi data serta maklumat golongan sasaran untuk diberi bantuan tersebut.

"Lazimnya pada setiap tahun di bulan Ramadan memang ramai sukarelawan, NGO dan pihak korporat memberi sumbangan dan langkah itu kami memang alu-alukan serta menggalakkan lebih ramai lagi ke hadapan membantu mereka yang memerlukan,"katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita pada Majlis Pelancaran 'Kempen Happening Raya' di Mydin Seremban 2 di sini hari ini.

Dalam pada itu, Noraini berkata, pihak kementerian melalui Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) juga sentiasa memastikan golongan sasaran dapat dibantu. – KOSMO! ONLINE



TAJUK : STICKING TO AGE-OLD TRADITION

HARI : JUMAAT

AKHBAR : THE STAR

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024

M/SURAT : 07

TONE : POSITIF

SEKTOR : KPWKM

Sticking to age-old tradition

Matriarch's stall a scent-sational utopia for coffee lovers

By **BERNARD SEE**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Keeping it simple and sticking to tried-and-true methods have been the model of success for matriarch H'ng Mooi Gim, 80.

For generations, her persistence in sticking to the old ways has helped maintain the flavours of morning coffee and toast at her stall next to the wet market located nearby Taman Free School flats here.

For six days a week, the stall bustles with activity as the nutty scent of charcoal-brewed beverage brings in coffee lovers.

"I am at my stall daily (except Thursdays) from 6am to prepare for the opening at 6.45am. I have been brewing coffee here for the past 45 years," said H'ng.

"My son's wife helps to toast the bread over an aluminium charcoal stove and prepares half-boiled eggs while three other workers attend to customers."

Her son, 52-year-old Chow Hun Meng, also helps at the stall.

H'ng said when she was young,



she worked for a few years at a construction site but quit after realising the job was not for her.

"I have tried my hands at selling curry noodles and yong tau

foo from a pushcart, but that venture didn't pan out either.

"In 1979, I took a chance and set up my coffee stall at Taman Free School.

"I began using charcoal to make my coffee, and I've stuck with it ever since.

"I find that charcoal burns well and helps with boiling water.

Freshly brewed: H'ng making coffee on her charcoal stove at her stall in Taman Free School, Penang.
— ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star



Charcoal fire also imparts a smoky taste and enhances the flavour of coffee compared to gas.

"I built the charcoal cement stove myself based on my experience while working at the construction site.

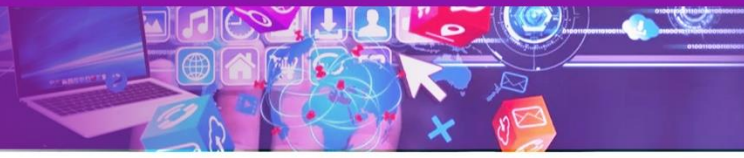
"It may look ugly, but it serves its purpose and can accommodate up to three kettles at a time," she added.

After over 45 years, H'ng is considering retirement and handing over the business to her son.

"I have been at the stall almost daily for more than half of my life, and the only significant break I had was during the Covid-19 movement restrictions," she said.

"I believe the moment has arrived for me to take a step back and savour life's pleasures while I still have the energy to do so."

Regular customers, baker Tay Eng Chye, 59, and his wife Jessica Cheah, 57, expressed their sadness upon learning about H'ng's potential retirement but found solace in the fact that her son has learnt her skills and would ensure the coffee's aroma and taste remain the same.



TAJUK : WHEN A WOMAN'S TOUCH HELPS IN A 'MAN'S JOB'

HARI : JUMAAT

AKHBAR : THE STAR

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024

M/SURAT : 07

STONE : POSITIF

SEKTOR : KPWKM

When a woman's touch helps in a 'man's job'

By N. TRISHA
trishang@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Park your car illegally and you might have the "privilege" of having your vehicle towed away by the only woman city council tow truck driver in the country.

It is a tough job, not just because of the technicalities involved in towing vehicles, but owners of illegally parked cars will be livid at seeing them carted off.

Rabiatusyahida Mohd Shahidan, a Penang Island City Council tow truck driver, however, takes it in her stride.

The 35-year-old said it was part of her duty to ensure that motorists stick to the rules.

She said she was a Petaling Jaya City Council truck driver for a decade before applying for the job in Penang in 2023 to be closer to home.

"I was the only woman applying but not once during the inter-



All in a day's work: Rabiatusyahida posing in front of her tow truck at the compound of the Penang Island City Council Enforcement Department building in George Town. — ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

view did the issue of my gender come up.

"I passed the test on the first try," she said.

Rabiatusyahida, or Ruby as she

is fondly called, said her seniors showed her how to handle tow trucks, giving her their trust and encouragement from the first week.

"Some did put me down and said it was a man's job but it did not bother me. Now, they treat me like one of the boys," she said.

She admitted that it was harder to operate a tow truck because of the need to manoeuvre it without damaging vehicles being towed.

"It takes skill, especially when we are towing multipurpose vehicles as they are big and heavy.

"Penang roads are narrow and it is a workout for me to repeatedly turn the steering wheel.

"I almost gave up, but then realised with practice, I could build my skills," she said.

She is not the only woman dealing with large vehicles in Penang.

Alisa Ali, 42, is the depot head of Rapid Penang on the mainland, and has been in the company for 17 years.

"I do believe it is a man's job and I know being the only woman handling 100 buses is no joke.

"There are 235 people with various temperaments reporting to

me and most of them are older than me.

"I have to work with technicians. When there is a problem, I grab a spanner and say, 'let's fix it together'.

"Whether they like me or not, we have to work together as I need the buses running," she said.

She said her days were largely spent walking around the depot, checking on buses that need to be fixed, and speaking to drivers about their woes.

"I do look a bit on the 'rough' side, but I am a softie and having lost drivers to accidents, I worry for their well being," she said.

Alisa said despite the work seeming like a man's job, she felt that her gentleness and sense of humour helped.

"I usually crack jokes and lighten the moment.

"I now realise being on the ground is my calling and I cannot see myself doing anything else," she added.



TAJUK :	WOMEN RALLY FOR EQUAL VOICE OVER POLITICAL LEADERSHIP		
HARI :	JUMAAT	AKHBAR :	THE STAR
TARIKH :	8 MAC 2024	M/SURAT :	06
STONE :	POSITIF	SEKTOR :	KPWKM

Women rally for equal voice over political leadership

By S. INDRAMALAR
lifestyle@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The continued under-representation of women in politics in the country, especially in leadership positions, means that women are often left out of major decisions that affect them, say Malaysian women.

"It is a clear signal of Malaysia's lack of commitment to gender equality and also, the lack of political will to make equality a reality," said Dr Lai Suat Yan, senior lecturer and coordinator of Universiti Malaya's Master of Gender Studies programme.

"The commitment seems to be lip service only," she added.

Increasing women's representation in politics will not just fulfil Malaysia's commitment in ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Malaysia acceded to in 1995, but also signify political will for gender equality.

"It will send the message to everyday Malaysians that women have leadership capabilities – contrary to the stereotypes – and

are fit to run the country," said Lai.

"These female parliamentarians can also be role models to young women."

In the Global Gender Gap Index 2023, Malaysia was ranked at 102 out of 146 countries (up one place) in the world with a score of 0.682.

Women's achievement in the Educational Attainment sub-index was good: they are on par with men (with a score of 1 compared to 0.995 in 2022 – a score of 1 means equality has been attained).

However, women's political empowerment recorded the lowest score – 0.098 (a drop from 0.102 in 2022), showing not only that women are seriously lagging behind in the political arena, but that the situation is getting worse.

PAS MP for Tumpat, Kelantan, Datuk Mumtaz Md Nawi, said the participation of women in political leadership is a must "because 50% of our electorate are women".

"We must represent the entire population, not just half. The needs of men and women are different and so, we need women leaders who voice the concerns of



women so that our specific needs are not undermined.

"Issues like period (poverty) and reproductive health are important issues that men will not be able to fight for women adequately. There's also the discrimination against women in the workplace," she said.

Lai added: "Policies that affect the family, children and women will be prioritised and hopefully, the need for childcare – a long standing issue – will be addressed. Many women drop out of the workforce and cannot work outside to bring home an income due to the lack of childcare.

"The more diverse the leadership, the better it is as they will bring their diverse experiences, insights and innovations to address issues of concern to everyday Malaysians."

Anis Ismail, the co-lead of Parliwomen (a youth-led initiative to increase political literacy among girls), says that having more women in political leadership will serve as role models to young women and girls.

"For girls, it is so important to see themselves represented. Visibility is important; when you see someone who looks like you up there, you will be interested and curious to find out more about politics and policymaking and learn how it affects you," she said.

Closing the gender gap requires political will and buy-in from male politicians and citizens too.

"Political parties must adopt a policy of 30% of female leadership, not only at the state level but also national level. These female leaders are to be given the opportunity to be candidates in safe seats, as opposed to unsafe ones, or running against other female politicians, as this will be a zero sum game and not lead to an increase in female parliamentarians," said Lai.

The role of party members is also important in supporting the

cause for better representation of women in political parties, she added.

Civil society groups, too, can campaign for this cause.

"After all, they have persistently and successfully advocated for issues in the past, such as the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act. Youth leaders and youths can be game changers as well," she said.

Siti Aisyah Adly from Parliwomen pointed out that the support of men was also important to increase the number of women in politics.

"Male allies are important in supporting women's leadership aspirations by challenging gender stereotypes, amplifying women's voices, advocating for inclusive policies and fostering a culture of respect and equality within political institutions.

"By working together, we can create lasting change and build a more inclusive society for all," Siti Aisyah said.





TAJUK :	'WOMEN STILL GETTING RAW DEAL IN CAREER GROWTH'		
HARI :	JUMAAT	AKHBAR :	THE SUN DAILY
TARIKH :	8 MAC 2024	M/SURAT :	03
TONE :	NEUTRAL	SEKTOR :	KPWKM

'Women still getting raw deal in **career** growth'

○ Need to address gender imbalances, implement strategies for female involvement in decision-making: MEF

■ BY **JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Malaysian women are still getting the wrong end of the stick in employment, board directorships, business, and other areas, despite being just as qualified as their male counterparts.

In light of International Women's Day which falls today, the Malaysian Employers Federation has called on the government and private sectors to address the challenges they face.

Its president, Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman, told *theSun* that as of February 2023, female participation in the labour force was 56%, compared with males at 82.9%, even though Statistics Department data in 2020 showed 56.9% of females had higher education than males (43.1%).

"The 2023 Malaysia Gender Gap Index showed that women with the same experience, qualifications and job titles earned only RM66 to a man's RM100.

"On average, men earned RM63,117 annually and women RM42,080," he said, adding that the gap persists across most industries and occupations, contributing to economic disparities between genders.

Syed Hussain said women's lower earnings impact their financial stability, with long-term consequences including reduced retirement savings, and limited access to career advancement.

In leadership roles, women are under-

represented in decision-making positions across sectors, including corporate boards, government and academia.

"Structural barriers, gender biases, and lack of mentorship mean few women are board directors, except in the accommodation and food and beverage sector, where they had an 80% representation in 2019. But even this decreased to 30% in 2020 and 31% in 2021."

Syed Hussain called on companies and policymakers to implement strategies and policies to address gender imbalances so women can participate in decision-making at the highest levels.

In terms of occupational segregation, the percentage of female and male representation in various occupational categories in 2020, 2021 and 2022 showed many sectors heavily segregated by gender.

"Women were employed in lower-paying and traditionally female-dominated jobs, with fewer of them in managerial roles from 2020 to 2022, compared with males.

"This disparity is reflected in income levels, with men dominating higher-paying roles, even though there are more females than males in professional positions," he said.

In political empowerment, women comprised 13.5% of parliamentarians. However, their representation in ministerial positions was only 17.9% in 2022.

"The Malaysia Gender Gap Index for political empowerment in 2022 stood at 0.102, which underscores the challenges women

face in participating in political leadership and decision-making positions."

Syed Hussain said 24.6% of legislators, senior officials and managers in Malaysia were women, compared with 44% in Sweden and 38% in Singapore.

In workplace discrimination, harassment and violence, women frequently encounter subtle micro-aggressions to overt acts of sexism.

The "Voices of Malaysian Women on Discrimination & Harassment in the Workplace" survey by the Women's Aid Organisation in 2020, said 56% of women experienced at least one form of gender discrimination.

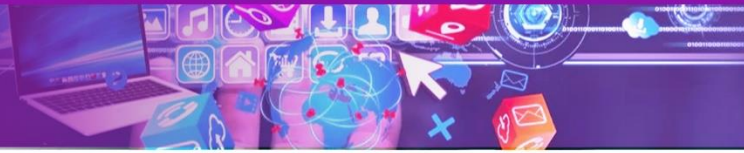
He said the sad part is that 49% of Malaysians believe violence against women is often provoked by the victim.

Women also face obstacles in accessing financial resources, venture capital and business networks, which are necessary for entrepreneurship and business ownership.

In 2022, approximately 16% of the total 1,173,601 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) were owned by women. The services sector recorded the largest share of them, making up 92.7% of all MSMEs.

Syed Hussain said the MEF wants a fairer and more conducive environment for the professional and economic advancement of women, which requires the collective effort of policymakers, employers and individuals.

"Policymakers are crucial to enacting and enforcing gender-responsive policies that address systemic barriers to women's advancement. This includes relevant legislation promoting equal pay, non-discrimination in hiring and promotion, and access to education and training opportunities," he said.



TAJUK : EX-WELFARE DEPT STAFF CHARGED WITH MONEY LAUNFERING, CBT INVOLVING OVER RM15 MLN

HARI : JUMAAT AKHBAR : THE BORNEO POST

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024 M/SURAT : 01

TONE : NEGATIF SEKTOR : KPWKM

Ex-welfare dept staff charged with money laundering, CBT involving over RM15 mln



Mohd Zairull is escorted from the courtroom at the end of one of the proceedings.

Desiree David

KUCHING: A former Sarawak Welfare Department financial administrative assistant claimed trial in the Sessions Court here yesterday to 31 charges of money laundering and three charges of criminal breach of trust (CBT) involving over RM15 million.

Mohd Zairull Arzuan Mohd Shamsuddin Ja'afar @ Ang Chui Thong, 38, pleaded not guilty to all the charges in separate proceedings before judges Iris Awen Jon, Afidah Abdul Rahman, Musli Ab Hamid and Saiful Bahari Adzmi.

The judges allowed the accused to be released on bail totaling RM365,000 with two local sureties, and fixed May 10, 2024 for case management.

The 31 money laundering charges were framed under Section 4(1)(b) of the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism

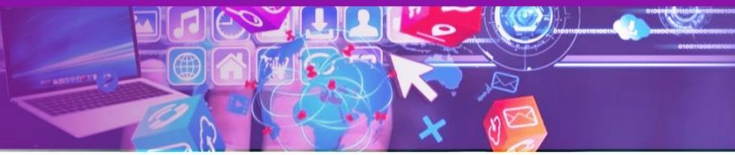
Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001, punishable under Section 4(1) of the same Act.

Mohd Zairull allegedly committed the offences involving a total sum of RM4,734,221.13 between 2020 and 2022.

For the other three charges framed under Section 409 of the Penal Code, he allegedly committed CBT involving a total sum of RM10,272,350.13 between 2019 and 2021.

It was informed that Mohd Zairull, as an officer responsible for salary simulations at the Sarawak Welfare Department, had submitted a resignation letter effective Jan 31, 2022 but then shortened the notice period to Dec 31, 2021.

The cases were prosecuted by DPPs Wan Nur Amanina Wan Din and Mohd Ashrof Kamarul, while lawyer Christopher Bada represented the accused.



Bekas kakitangan JKM didakwa songlap hampir RM15 juta

Mohd Roji Kawi
am@hmetro.com.my



Bekas kakitangan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat JKM Sarawak, dibawa masuk ke Mahkamah dituduh menghadapi 34 pertuduhan mengikut Seksyen 4A (1) AMLATFPUAA membabitkan penyelewengan lebih RM10 juta di Mahkamah Tinggi Kuching. FOTO NADIM BOKHARI

Kuching: Bekas pembantu tabdir kewangan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) mengaku tidak bersalah atas 34 pertuduhan pengubahan wang haram dan tiga pertuduhan pecah amanah dengan nilai keseluruhan hampir RM15 juta.

Tertuduh, Mohd Zairull Arzuan Mohd Shamsuddin @ Ang Chui Thong, 38, membuat pengakuan itu selepas pertuduhan dibacakan di empat Mahkamah Sesyen di sini, hari ini.

Dia didakwa mengikut Seksyen 4A (1) Akta Pencegahan Pengubahan Wang Haram, Pencegahan Pembiayaan Keganasan dan Hasil Daripada Aktiviti Haram (AMLATFPUAA) 2001 dan Seksyen 409 Kanun Keseksaan kerana pecah amanah.

Keempat-empat hakim Mahkamah Sesyen kemudian membenarkan tertuduh diikat jamin yang keseluruhan berjumlah RM365,000 dengan dua penjamin tempatan dan menetapkan 10 Mei depan sebagai tarikh sebutan semula kes berkenaan.

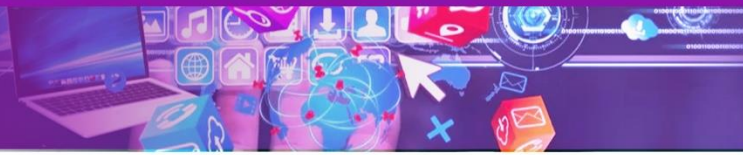
Bagi kes mengikut Seksyen 409 Kanun Keseksaan, dia dituduh melakukan pecah amanah membabitkan nilai sebanyak RM10.2 juta.

Ia membabitkan pecah amanah wang gaji kakitangan JKM Sarawak antara Jun 2019 hingga Disember 2021.

Dalam kes mengikut Seksyen 4A(1) (AMLATFPUAA) 2001 pula, dia menghadapi 34 pertuduhan melakukan pengubahan wang haram bernilai RM4.7 juta antara Disember 2020 hingga Januari 2022.

Empat hakim yang mengendalikan kes berkenaan ialah Hakim Mahkamah Sesyen 1 Iris Awen Jon, Hakim Mahkamah Sesyen 2 Afidah Abdul Rahman, Hakim Mahkamah Sesyen 3 Musli Abdul Hamid dan Hakim Mahkamah Sesyen 4 Saiful Bahri Adzmi.

Tertuduh yang kini bekerja sebagai pemandu e-hailing selepas meletak jawatan dari JKM Sarawak pada 2021 diwakili peguam Christopher Bada.



Police urge American woman to lodge report following claims of sexual harassment by 50 men in KL

07-03-2024 04:17 PM



BERNAMAPIX

PETALING JAYA: The police have urged a woman who claimed she was "groped by 50 men" in Kuala Lumpur, to come forward and lodge a report.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Allaudeen Abdul Majid said that no report was lodged regarding the alleged incident as claimed by Christine Hill, a former financial journalist, on X recently.

According to the *NST*, Allaudeen had questioned Hill's claims, calling it "highly incredible" while asserting that the capital city was "perfectly safe".

"People from all walks of life, regardless of their backgrounds, are safe in the city.

"Please do not tarnish the image of Kuala Lumpur," he said in the report.

Hill, an American, spoke of the alleged incident in response to a post on X (now removed) about the recent gang rape of a female Spanish tourist in India.

In the post, Hill said that she had been constantly harassed throughout her eight-year residence in the capital city.

Following the post, she received significant backlash and later clarified in a piece she published on her X profile that the incident took place when she was much younger.



TAJUK : WOMEN-LED BUSINESSES WIN BIG

HARI : JUMAAT

AKHBAR : THE STAR

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024

M/SURAT : 06

STONE : POSITIF

SEKTOR : KPWKM

Women-led businesses win big

Five social enterprises receive over RM90,000 each in seed funding and mentorship

By BENJAMIN LEE
benkh@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Social enterprises to help underprivileged Sabah women and empower persons with disabilities as well as a card game to improve English proficiency among youth were among five women-led businesses that have won funding in a Women in Entrepreneurship (WiE) programme.

Each of the five businesses received US\$20,000 (RM94,080) in funding at an awards ceremony hosted by Standard Chartered's Futuremakers initiative and the Mereka Innovative Education (Mereka) and will undergo a six-month mentorship with industry experts and Mereka trainers.

The training scheme will see them receive personalised guidance covering the essential facets of organisational development that include fundamental business operations, technological integration, impactful marketing and public relations tactics.

The awards ceremony was in conjunction with International Women's Day that falls today.

One of the winners was 21-year-old Syaarveeni Ashok, whose Edulab Dream Academy hopes to improve English proficiency among Malaysian youth with the Zing! card game, which she described as "Uno but with English instead of numbers".

The Edulab Dream Academy



Winning ladies:

Nancy (standing, centre) together with award recipients during the Winners of Women in Entrepreneurship ceremony in Putrajaya. — MUHAMMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/ The Star

CEO said she plans to use the seed funding to develop an online version of the card game.

"This will make it more accessible throughout the country by allowing teachers to customise their card games according to their syllabus from anywhere in Malaysia," she said.

Another winner was LJD Corporation, a social enterprise that empowers underprivileged women and housewives in Sabah by providing them with a source of income.

It does this by employing and teaching women to make photo keychains and jewellery from

plastic waste and environmentally-friendly materials to sell.

Another social enterprise was Enoku (formerly Enable OKU), that aims to foster accessible and inclusive workplaces while empowering persons with disabilities (OKU) by expanding employment opportunities for them.

Enoku does this by providing consultation and solutions to organisations on making their workplaces more inclusive for OKU employees.

Early Minds by Ripple Community won over judges for its special services for people with mental health and special needs.

The company provides on-demand, comprehensive, evidence-based, affordable and accessible mental health and special needs professional help through both virtual and in-person services via its web application, Early Min Is.

Its vision is to deliver a one-stop solution for children, youth and families facing accessibility and financial challenges.

Lastly, Conscious Group Choice Sdn Bhd wants to address the country's obesity crisis by giving Malaysians easy access to low-carb, keto-compliant foods and supplements that align with local tastes through its online

Keto Mall platform.

Attending the event was Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri who underscored the importance of similar programmes in empowering women entrepreneurs.

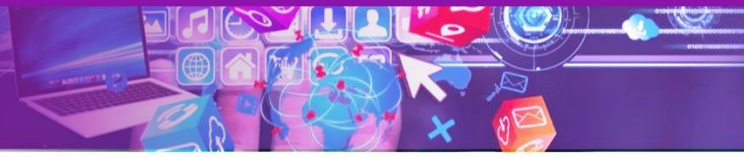
"The WiE Programme has proven itself to be a leap forward in helping to close the inequality gap, as well as showcase the importance of the private sector's contribution in helping the government to champion the women's agenda," she said in her speech at the award ceremony last night.

"The women award-winners have demonstrated incredible grit and determination, and I hope their stories will pave the way for other Malaysians to follow in their footsteps.

"We need more programmes like this to empower and uplift women, fostering an environment where women-led organisations will not only flourish but also drive our nation's advancement forward," she added.

Recognising the importance of International Women's Day today, Nancy also called on all Malaysians to don a touch of purple or lilac to show their support for women.

"Together, let us forge a legacy of empowerment and innovation, working towards a future where gender equality is not just an ideal but a fundamental aspect of our societal progress," she added.



Konvensyen Kerjaya Wanita 2024 akan diadakan pada 9 Mac

Hariz Hafiz - 07 Mar 2024, 12:43 PM

Acara sehari TalentCorp diadakan sempena Hari Wanita Antarabangsa, bertujuan menyediakan peluang kerjaya kepada wanita pelbagai latar belakang.



Kira-kira 1,000 peserta dijangka menghadiri Konvensyen Kerjaya Wanita 2024 di Connexion Conference & Event Centre di Nexus, Bangsar South. (Gambar: TalentCorp)

PETALING JAYA: Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) akan menganjurkan Konvensyen Kerjaya Wanita 2024 pada 9 Mac, bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran mengenai pengambilan pekerja majmuk dan memastikan peluang sama rata untuk semua.

Diadakan sempena Hari Wanita Antarabangsa, konvensyen sehari itu mahu menyeru semua pihak mengiatkan lagi usaha mencapai kesaksamaan dengan mengambil wanita tempatan berbakat bekerja, dan memecutkan kemajuan mereka.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan TalentCorp, Thomas Mathew, menjangkakan kira-kira 1,000 peserta menghadiri acara di Connexion Conference & Event Centre di Nexus, Bangsar South, yang juga akan disiarkan secara langsung.

"Acara tahun ini dijangka menarik penyertaan hadirin yang majmuk, termasuk wanita sedang bekerja, wanita yang kembali bekerja, dan bakat-bakat berjawatan tinggi."

"Matlamat utama konvensyen ini ialah menyediakan peluang kerjaya kepada wanita pelbagai latar belakang, terutama untuk menangani isu pengangguran dan guna tenaga tidak penuh dalam kalangan wanita dan warga emas, dengan meningkatkan akses mereka kepada pasaran kerja," katanya kepada FMT.



Katanya, selaku agensi Kementerian Sumber Manusia yang ditugaskan untuk memacu strategi membangunkan bakat negara, TalentCorp bersungguh untuk memperjuangkan keberadaan wanita di tempat kerja.

"Kajian menunjukkan tempat kerja yang majmuk menyumbang kepada prestasi lebih baik dari segi kewangan dan mengekalkan pekerja berbakat. Mengalakkan kesaksamaan dan meningkatkan penyertaan wanita dalam tenaga kerja adalah langkah ekonomi yang wajar dan bijak.

"Kami komited menyokong wanita memasuki pasaran kerja, kerana kami percaya terdapat banyak bakat wanita yang luar biasa. Baru-baru ini, kami mengumumkan Wanita MyWIRA, yang bertujuan untuk menutup jurang gender dalam pasaran kerja," kata Mathew.

Pada 5 Mac, Kementerian Sumber Manusia, melalui agensinya TalentCorp, memperkenalkan Wanita MyWIRA, sebuah platform yang menggabungkan program pemberdayaan wanita.

Inisiatif Wanita MyWIRA oleh TalentCorp akan menggunakan platform MyNext bagi penilaian, mencipta pangkalan data yang terpusat untuk tenaga kerja wanita. Usaha lain termasuk senarai pekerjaan kritikal dan meningkatkan kerjasama industri-akademik untuk sokongan wanita.

Wanita aset tenaga kerja

Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, Nancy Shukri, menegaskan peranan bernilai yang wanita mainkan sebagai aset penting dalam tenaga kerja.

Menurut Nancy, ramai wanita di Malaysia mempunyai kelayakan yang tinggi, berbakat dan mampu memberikan sumbangan besar, termasuk ramai yang memegang jawatan sangat tinggi.

"Apabila kita perhatikan data, ia menunjukkan ramai wanita meninggalkan tenaga kerja. Pertama, kerana mahu menjaga keluarga. Mereka ada anak atau orang tua yang perlu dijaga.

"Jadi mereka berhenti kerja. Kerajaan kini telah menetapkan sasaran 60% wanita untuk kembali ke pasaran buruh dalam tempoh 10 tahun," katanya.

Mencapai kadar penyertaan wanita dalam pasaran buruh sebanyak 60% adalah antara tujuh penanda aras diterangkan dalam Kerangka Ekonomi Madani, diperkenalkan tahun lalu oleh Perdana Menteri Anwar Ibrahim.

Menurut Jabatan Perangkaan, penyertaan wanita dalam tenaga kerja mencecah 56.3% setakat Jun tahun lalu, berbanding lelaki, iaitu 82.9%.

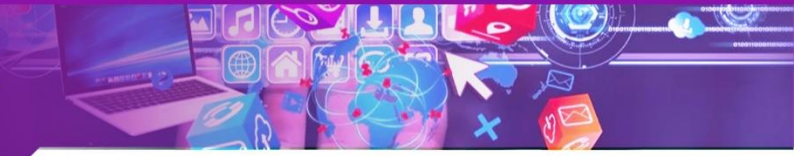
Ini bermakna Malaysia melaporkan peratusan wanita dalam tenaga kerja yang terendah di Asia Tenggara, berbanding Kemboja (74.0%), Singapura (59.4%), dan Thailand (59.0%).

Nancy berkata, kementerian dan agensi kerajaan lain sedang melaksanakan beberapa inisiatif penting untuk memperkasakan wanita dalam tenaga kerja, serta kepimpinan.

Tema Hari Wanita Antarabangsa tahun ini ialah "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress".

TalentCorp turut menganjurkan Minggu Pemerkasaan Wanita dari 2 hingga 9 Mac, dengan beberapa siri aktiviti termasuk konvensyen berkenaan, yang mula diadakan pada 2021.

Pendaftaran untuk Konvensyen Kerjaya Wanita, yang akan dibuka dari 9 pagi hingga 5 petang adalah percuma dan boleh dilakukan [di sini](#).



Apa yang anda perlu tahu mengenai Sambutan Hari Wanita Antarabangsa 2024?

07 Mac 2024, 1:15pm



Hari Wanita Antarabangsa disambut pada 8 Mac setiap tahun bagi mengiktiraf pencapaian wanita dalam pelbagai bidang serta memperjuangkan hak golongan berkenaan.

Sejarah Hari Wanita Antarabangsa bermula pada awal abad ke-20 di seluruh Amerika Utara dan Eropah.

Tujuannya; mengiktiraf perjuangan wanita untuk hak memilih, keadilan pekerjaan dan hak asasi manusia.

Menurut Pertubuhan Pendidikan, Saintifik dan Kebudayaan, Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (UNESCO), Hari Wanita Sedunia pertama kali diraikan di Amerika Syarikat pada 28 Februari 1909.

Pada 1945, Piagam Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) menjadi perjanjian antarabangsa pertama yang mengesahkan prinsip kesaksamaan antara wanita dan lelaki.

Seterusnya pada 8 Mac 1975, PBB meraikan Hari Wanita Sedunia secara rasmi buat kali pertama.



Hari Wanita Sedunia diraikan secara rasmi buat kali pertama pada 8 Mac 1975, selepas disahkan Piagam PBB - Foto: Laman web rasmi PBB

la menjadi semakin penting dan diiktiraf secara meluas pada 1977 apabila Perhimpunan Agung PBB mengisytiharkan 8 Mac sebagai Hari Wanita Antarabangsa.

Tema kempen sambutan pada 2024 ialah 'Inspire Inclusion' yang menekankan kepentingan mengenai kepelbagaian dan pemeraksanaan terhadap golongan wanita dalam semua aspek kemasyarakatan.

la menggariskan peranan penting penyertaan (inclusion) dalam mencapai kesaksamaan jantina, memerlukan tindakan untuk memecahkan halangan, mencabar stereotaip dan mewujudkan persekitaran untuk semua wanita dihargai dan dihormati.

'Inspire Inclusion' menggalakkan semua individu mengiktiraf perspektif unik dan sumbangan wanita daripada semua lapisan masyarakat, termasuk mereka daripada komuniti terpinggir.

Senada dengan sambutan peringkat antarabangsa, tema 'Wanita Dijulang Negara Gemilang' dipilih bagi sambutan di Malaysia.

Menurut Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, tema ini memberikan penekanan betapa pentingnya mewujudkan budaya inklusif dan kesaksamaan jantina pada semua peringkat, sebagai usaha memartabatkan wanita di negara ini.

"Tema pada tahun ini juga mengangkat peranan dan sumbangan wanita yang merupakan tonggak utama dalam pembangunan sosial masyarakat.

"Wanita memainkan peranan penting dalam pelbagai aspek seperti menjadi ibu, ketua keluarga, ketua masyarakat, penggerak komuniti profesional dan pemimpin global," menurut kenyataan itu.

Antara objektif Sambutan Hari Wanita Antarabangsa ialah menyediakan platform bagi mengiktiraf dan menghargai peranan yang dimainkan oleh wanita dalam pembangunan negara serta mendaya upaya peranan semua pihak dalam usaha memperkasa wanita.

Selain itu, menyebar luas maklumat dan pengetahuan kepada masyarakat umum berkaitan peluang penyertaan dalam pelbagai bidang, isu sejagat dan cabaran semasa khususnya berkaitan wanita; dan mempamerkan komitmen Kerajaan dalam mengarus perdana kepentingan jantina.



Kenapa masih pinggirkan OKU dalam sektor awam?



PENCAMBILAN Orang Kurang Upaya (OKU) dalam sektor kerajaan dapat mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada inisiatif kerajaan serta mendorong kemandirian mereka untuk jangka masa panjang.

Oleh Mohd. Fauzi Fadzil | 7 Mac 2024, 8:00 am

PENEMPATAN satu peratus Orang Kurang Upaya (OKU) dalam sektor awam sudah diperkenalkan melalui Pekeliling Perkhidmatan 10/1988 dan Akta OKU 2008 (Akta 685). Pun begitu setelah hampir 36 tahun sektor awam masih gagal mencapai sasaran tersebut.

Sesuatu yang menyedihkan apabila Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam melaporkan pada 2022 kesemua kementerian kecuali Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, gagal mematuhi dasar penempatan satu peratus OKU di dalam sektor awam.

Paling menyedihkan apabila pentadbiran Kerajaan Negeri Sabah tidak mempunyai walau seorang penjawat awam OKU.

Laporan Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam (SPA) menunjukkan pada 2022 seramai 1.2 juta orang memohon sebagai penjawat awam, namun hanya 763 OKU yang dipanggil untuk temuduga.

Lebih menyedihkan lagi pada tahun itu juga hanya 71 OKU diterima sebagai bekerja berbanding jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak 20 762 (0.3 peratus OKU mendapat perlantikan).

Data-data tersebut jelas menunjukkan bahawa tiada kesungguhan daripada pihak kerajaan untuk menghormati dan melaksanakan dasar penempatan OKU dalam sektor awam.

Perkara ini dibangkitkan Majlis Belia Orang Kurang Upaya (MBOKU) dalam sesi Dialogika Daerah (Konvensyen Belia Nasional) yang melibatkan Timbalan Menteri Belia dan Sukan (KBS), Adam Adli Abdul Halim.

MBOKU secara tegas menyatakan KBS gagal untuk menghormati dasar kerajaan dalam isu tersebut.

MBOKU bukan sahaja menuntut kerajaan melaksanakan dasar tersebut secepat mungkin malah dasar itu sepatutnya digubal untuk meningkatkan jumlah golongan OKU dalam penjawatan awam sebanyak tiga peratus, ia selari dengan standard yang dilaksanakan oleh negara-negara maju di seluruh dunia.

Perkara ini bukan sesuatu yang asing kerana Itali menetapkan 7 peratus kuota untuk golongan OKU dalam penjawatan awamnya, Perancis (6 peratus) dan Sepanyol (5 peratus).

Lebih memalukan bagi negara membangun seperti Malaysia apabila negara seperti Tanzania mampu menetapkan kuota 5 peratus untuk penjawat awam OKU.

LAKSANA CADANGAN

MBOKU sebelum ini membangunkan sebuah Kertas Makluman bagi menggesa kerajaan meningkatkan kuota penjawat awam OKU dari satu peratus kepada tiga peratus, perkara ini disarankan dengan rasional bahawa dasar tersebut dapat mengurangkan kebergantungan golongan OKU kepada inisiatif kerajaan serta mendorong kemandirian golongan ini untuk jangka masa panjang. Perkara ini dapat dicapai bukan sahaja dalam sektor awam malah swasta melalui potongan cukai berganda bagi majikan yang menggaji golongan OKU.

Cadangan ini mempunyai asasnya kerana pekeliling kerajaan menyentuh berkenaan Potongan Berganda P.U.(A) 61/1992 Cukai Pendapatan (Potongan bagi Latihan Yang Diluluskan) dan P.U.(A) III Cukai Pendapatan (Potongan bagi Latihan yang Diluluskan) (Perubahan) Undang-Undang 1995.

Justeru pihak kerajaan perlu mula menunjukkan kesungguhan dan iltizam bagi melaksanakan dasar tersebut. Negara madani yang didambakan tidak akan dicapai tanpa melibatkan seluruh segmen masyarakat.-UTUSAN

DR. Mohd. Fauzi Fadzil ialah Timbalan Pengerusi Biro Pendidikan Majlis Belia Malaysia (MBM).



TAJUK : HOPE PLACE HELPS FAMILY WITH FOOD, EDUCATIONAL AID

HARI : JUMAAT

AKHBAR : THE BORNEO POST

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024

M/SURAT : 10

TONE : POSITIF

SEKTOR : KPWKM



Hope Place representative Mary Vun (right) poses with (from left) Wati, Wardina, Zakaria and the youngest daughter.

Hope Place helps family with food, educational aid

KUCHING: Hope Place Kuching is helping a family whose breadwinner is a recovered stroke patient but still unable to work.

Zakaria Poniman, 51, presently relies on his eldest daughter, 19, to bring food to the table for the family residing in Matang.

"The family of six rents a small room in a shoplot. Zakaria, who has four daughters aged 14 to 19, had severe stroke in 2021 which left him bedridden and on tube-feeding," said the non-governmental organisation (NGO) in a statement yesterday.

Hope Place said Zakaria used to work as a security guard and his 41-year-old wife, Wati used to be a sales assistant.

Both of them lost their income after Zakaria had a stroke and Wati had to take care of him.

Even though Zakaria can now walk and eat normal food, he remains very weak and is unable to speak clearly.

The main breadwinner of the family is their eldest daughter Wahida who works in a coffee shop. Her 18-year-old sister Wardina also pitches in, working part-time in another coffee shop.

"According to Wati, her children all dropped out of school last year because of money constraint.

"However, knowing the importance of education, she wants her younger children aged 14 and 17 to go back to school next week," said Hope Place.

During the recent visit to the family, the Hope Place team also found out that Wati is visually impaired and has hearing problem but never had a thorough health check.

"Both Zakaria and Wati are long-term diabetic patients. With two school-age siblings and two disabled parents, all responsibilities rest on Wahida and Wardina's shoulders."

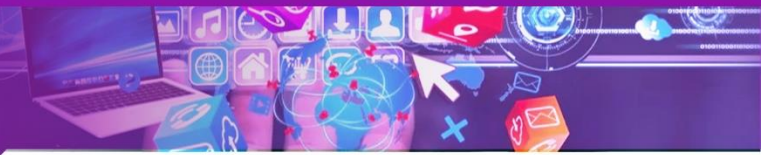
Hope Place is thus supporting the family with regular basic food aid as well as school supplies for the two younger children.

The NGO also thanked all donors who provided school supplies for 450 students under its assistance scheme this year.

Hope Place welcomes all donations and will issue receipts upon request.

Donations can be made directly to its Maybank account (511289001160) or by scanning the S Pay Global QR code on its Facebook page.

For more information, call Hope Place on [082-505987](tel:082-505987).



ZAKARIA dan keluarga ketika menerima kunjungan pihak Hope Place yang turut menyampaikan sumbangan.

Hope Place salur sumbangan peralatan sekolah

@news 📅 23 minit lepas 📍 SARAWAK 🕒 23 minit lepas

KUCHING: Dua anak pesakit strok tercicir daripada mendapatkan pendidikan menengah sebelum ini, kembali ke sekolah minggu depan.

Hope Place dalam kenyataan memaparkan kisah pesakit strok yang pulih berhadapan cabaran, menyatakan kesemua anak pasangan Zakaria Poniman, 51 dan Wati, 41 tercicir sejak tahun lalu disebabkan kekangan wang.

“Pendaftaran masuk pelajar sekolah menengah agak mahal.

“Terdapat begitu banyak kurikulum tambahan yang perlu dibayar pada masa kini,” katanya.

Kini, anak sulung Wahida, 19, dan anak kedua Wardina, 18, bekerja di kedai makan memikul sepenuhnya tanggungjawab menyara keluarga.

Pada 2021, Zakaria bekerja sebagai pengawal keselamatan diserang angin ahmar menyebabkannya terlantar di atas katil dan menyusur dengan tiub. Walaupun pulih, namun dia masih tidak dapat bekerja.

Kini enam sekeluarga itu menetap di Matang dengan menyewa sebuah bilik kecil di lot kedai.

Hope Place menyara keluarga tersebut dengan memberi bantuan makanan asas tetap, serta bekalan sekolah untuk kedua-dua anak pasangan itu yang berusia 14 dan 17 tahun.



Vital to also include and empower women who rely on healthcare system - Tuanku Zara

07-03-2024 05:58 PM



-BERNAMAPIX

IPOH: It is crucial for stakeholders to ensure that women have unhindered access to proper healthcare through the deliverance of essential information and education, and empowering them to make well-informed decisions about their health.

Raja Permaisuri of Perak Tuanku Zara Salim outlined that in the realm of medicine, there are two crucial dimensions concerning women: those actively contributing to the healthcare system, dedicating their skills, time, and passion to healing; and those relying on the healthcare system for their own well-being and that of their loved ones.

While acknowledging that the first aspect is often the primary focus in discussions on this topic, she opted to underscore the second facet, which involved acknowledging that, due to factors such as poverty, limited access, or the repercussions of societal challenges, some women have unfortunately 'fallen out of the system,' leaving them with nowhere to turn.

"It is vital that we (also) include and empower the women who rely on the healthcare system, often bearing the weight of illness, caregiving responsibilities, and navigating complex medical journeys.

"Their voices and experiences are equally important in shaping the inclusivity and effectiveness of our healthcare systems. The theme 'Inspire Inclusion' must include both ideas," she said during her speech at the Women In Medicine Symposium 2024, here today.

Her Royal Highness said the efforts must encompass the availability of early screening and detection for preventable diseases, particularly for women in remote regions in the country.

Furthermore, it also includes extending the reach to those who require attention, sometimes due to decisions that have led them down difficult paths, she said.

"Teenage pregnancies, for instance, is a prime example, and I am pleased to see this issue being addressed within this forum. No one should be condemned or defined by a single mistake in their life," she emphasised.

Tuanku Zara also noted that the success and importance of women within the healthcare system cannot be overstated.

"As we gather here today, we are not blind to the pressing challenges facing our healthcare system. The Ministry of Health in its Strategic Framework Of The Medical Program 2021-2025 has identified unmet human resource needs with increasing workload and capacity as one of the primary challenges to be addressed.

"Hospitals are understaffed, underfunded, overcrowded, impacting the quality of healthcare provided for patients.

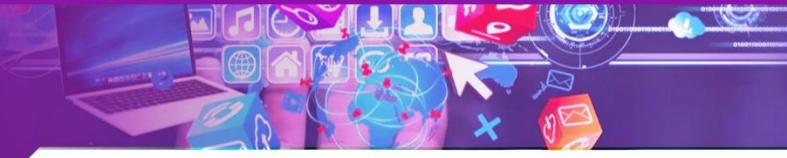
"It is therefore not surprising that a 2018 survey of 2,600 mothers across Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines found that 75 per cent quit their jobs due to lack of flexibility on issues such as lactation room and unavailability of child day care," she elaborated, adding that the statistics highlight the urgent need to address the challenges faced by women in medicine.

Therefore, stakeholders must embrace the challenge of tackling the array of issues and obstacles faced by women, from ensuring access to quality care to addressing disparities in healthcare delivery, all of which necessitate collaborative solutions.

"Whether it be balancing work and personal life or navigating the complexities of the system, these challenges are part of the journey," she said.

The Women In Medicine Symposium 2024 is organised by the Malaysian Medical Association, Perak in conjunction with International Women's Day.

The one-day symposium featured presentations from health experts, including Dr. Azizan Abdul Aziz, MMA president, who discussed "Healthcare in Malaysia - Issues, Challenges & Differing Perspectives", and Prof. Dr. Shatriah Ismail, president of the Ophthalmologists Academy of Medicine of Malaya, who presented a paper on "Challenges in Current Pursuit of Specialist and Subspecialty Training". - Bernama



How to invest in women: Groups call for gender equality initiatives to beat economic, social barriers and accelerate Malaysia's progress



Advocacy groups said women in Malaysia continue to grapple with income inequality and opportunities at work as well as greater risks of physical violence and vulnerability to poverty in their daily lives, despite the country's apparent growth and progress. — Picture By Raymond Manuel

By Shathana Kasinathan and Anis Zalani
Thursday, 07 Mar 2024 7:00 AM MYT

KUALA LUMPUR, March 7 — A national initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment is increasingly necessary to help overcome economic and social barriers that still hinder women from participating and contributing fully to Malaysia's development, advocacy groups said ahead of the International Women's Day tomorrow.

With the United Nations calling for countries to "invest in women: accelerate progress", they said women in Malaysia continue to grapple with income inequality and opportunities at work as well as greater risks of physical violence and vulnerability to poverty in their daily lives, despite the country's apparent growth and progress.

"These entrenched barriers cannot be easily overcome, they must nevertheless be explicitly acknowledged. Continuously educate society through media, daily interaction," senior fellow at the Malaysian Future Institute (Masi) Datuk Madeline Berma told *Malay Mail*.

"To support and implement a long-term national initiative to increase knowledge and awareness of gender equality and women empowerment and promote ways to break down barriers for women and girls."

For instance, Madeline cited the imbalance between parental leave for women and men in the country, which she said had not even been available to fathers prior to 2022.

"The Employment (Amendment) Act 2022 states that the minimum period of paid maternity leave in Malaysia is 98 consecutive days. This is an increase from the previous 60 days, and it reflects a change from the initial proposal of 90 days.

"On the other hand, paternity leave is now seven days," she said.



Madeline Berma said that paternity leave might appear to be about giving fathers crucial time to bond with their new children, it was also vital in helping reduce workplace discrimination that women could face because of pregnancy and motherhood. — Picture by Mukhriz Hazim

Madeline said that paternity leave might appear to be about giving fathers crucial time to bond with their new children, it was also vital in helping reduce workplace discrimination that women could face because of pregnancy and motherhood.

Citing Malaysia's Business and Economic Conditions Survey, conducted by the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCIM), she said employers were found to prefer hiring men for full-time roles or women on a part-time basis due to the length of maternity leave.

According to All Women's Action Society (Awam) information and communications officer Amanda Shweeta Louis, improving women's economic opportunities in the country required a comprehensive approach as this would involve addressing structural, social, and cultural barriers, involving both anti-discrimination laws to eliminate gender-based disparities in pay and opportunities, empowering women to actively contribute to economic growth by addressing structural inequalities like pay gaps and limited career advancement access, she said.

This could take the form of implementing equal wage policies and government policy changes and societal shifts.

"Moreover, structural changes often have a ripple effect on social and cultural barriers. When policies are put in place to promote gender equality in the workplace, it sends a message to society that women's contributions are valued and should be treated equally to men's.

"This can lead to a shift in societal attitudes towards women's roles in the workforce, challenging traditional gender norms and stereotypes," she told *Malay Mail*.

Since waiting for these to occur organically would take a long time, she said proactive government intervention is necessary to accelerate the process of change.

Asked about policies on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and women's participation in the workforce, Amanda said it all goes back to strengthening and investing more in primary healthcare responses to gender-based violence and domestic violence.

"This includes providing gender sensitisation training to hospital staff to ensure survivors of violence receive appropriate care and support.

"Furthermore, addressing maternal mortality rates (MMR) and reducing teenage pregnancies are essential components of SRHR policies and investing in comprehensive sexual education programmes and ensuring access to safe and affordable contraception can significantly reduce the MMR and teenage pregnancy rates," she added.

She said that when women can make informed decisions about their reproductive health, it empowers them to pursue education and career paths which results in higher levels of female participation in the labour force.



Awam information and communications officer Amanda Shweeta Louis said improving women's economic opportunities in the country required a comprehensive approach as this would involve addressing structural, social, and cultural barriers, involving both anti-discrimination laws to eliminate gender-based disparities in pay and opportunities, empowering women to actively contribute to economic growth by addressing structural inequalities like pay gaps and limited career advancement access, she said. — Picture by Miera Zulyana

Essentially, she said quality healthcare, including maternal and family planning services, helps women balance their reproductive duties with career goals

In accelerating investment in economically empowering women in Malaysia, Amanda said one can contribute time, resources, or expertise to civil society organisations (CSOs) or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) focused on women such as Awam itself.

"People can actively champion gender equality and women's rights in both their personal and professional circles to promote awareness.

"They may also engage with their local members of parliament and state legislative assembly members to stimulate discussions and advocate for the implementation of additional programs aimed at expediting investment in economically empowering women within their constituencies," she added.

Amanda also said advocating for government-initiated gender-sensitisation programmes can further lead to substantial economic initiatives for women at the community level.

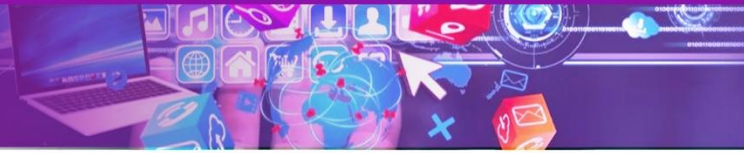
She also said economic empowerment initiatives that prioritise the needs and voices of marginalised and vulnerable groups of women in Malaysia can be done through data collection and targeted programmes, citing the Pangkalan Data Utama (Padu) as an example.

"By analysing demographic data and socio-economic indicators, the government can tailor economic empowerment programs to address the specific needs of these groups.

"This ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to uplift those who are most in need," she said.

For this year, United Nations Women listed five areas for joint action to ensure women are not left behind — leading with how investing in women is a human rights imperative and cornerstone for building inclusive societies.

It also called for an end to poverty, the implementation of gender-responsive financing by nations, a shift to a green economy and care society, and support for feminist change-makers.



TAJUK : LELAKI DIDAKWA UGUT BUNUH IBU, AMANG SEKSUAL TIGA ABAK

HARI : JUMAAT

AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024

M/SURAT : 19

TONE : NEGATIF

SEKTOR : KPWKM

Lelaki didakwa ugut bunuh ibu, amang seksual tiga anak

Melaka: Seorang lelaki didakwa di Mahkamah Sesyen Ayer Keroh, di sini semalam terhadap lapan pertuduhan iaitu mengugut bunuh dan membakar ibu, mencederakan anak serta isteri dan melakukan amang seksual terhadap tiga anaknya pada bulan lalu.

Bagaimanapun, tertuduh berusia 40 tahun itu mengaku tidak bersalah terhadap semua pertuduhan pada prosiding berasingan di hadapan Hakim Azaraorni Abd Rahman dan Rohatul Akmar Abdullah.

Mengikut tiga pertuduhan di hadapan Rohatul Akmar, tertuduh didakwa melakukan amang seksual bukan fizikal terhadap tiga anak perempuannya berusia 12, 14, dan 16 tahun dengan cara menunjukkan kemaluannya kepada mangsa.

Kesalahan itu didakwa dilakukan di sebuah rumah di Taman Merlimau Baru, Jasin pada 26 Februari lalu, kira-kira jam 10 malam dan dituduh mengikut Seksyen 15(a) Akta Kesalahan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-kanak 2017 (AKSTK 2017) yang dibaca bersama Sek-



Tertuduh ketika tiba di Mahkamah Sesyen Ayer Keroh, semalam. (Foto Meor Riduwan Meor Ahmad/BH)

syen 16 akta sama.

Jika sabit kesalahan, tertuduh boleh dipenjarakan sehingga 10 tahun atau didenda maksimum RM20,000 atau kedua-duanya.

Pada prosiding di hadapan Azaraorni pula, tertuduh didakwa mengugut untuk membunuh dan membakar ibunya berusia 63 tahun, di luar rumah pada tempat serta tarikh sama yang sabit kesalahan boleh dipenjarakan sehingga tujuh tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya sekali.

Tertuduh juga didakwa atas empat pertuduhan

menyebabkan kecederaan terhadap tiga anak perempuannya berusia 12, 14 dan 16 tahun serta isterinya berusia 41 tahun pada tarikh, tempat dan masa sama, sabit kesalahan boleh dipenjarakan sehingga dua tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya.

Pendakwaan kes dilakukan Timbalan Pendakwa Raya Anis Najwa Nazari dan Muhammad Nazrin Ali Rahim.

Mahkamah kemudian menetapkan kes sebutan semula pada 22 April ini untuk lantikan peguam dan serahan dokumen.



TAJUK : 3 JADI MANGSA AMANG SEKSUAL BUKAN FIZIKAL

HARI : JUMAAT

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO

TARIKH : 8 MAC 2024

M/SURAT : 18

TONE : NEGATIF

SEKTOR : KPWKM



TERTUDUH nafi ugut bunuh dan bakar ibu, cederakan anak dan isteri serta melakukan amang seksual terhadap tiga anak perempuan bulan lalu.

Oleh Meor Riduwan
Meor Ahmad
am@hmetro.com.my

Melaka

Seorang lelaki didakwa di Mahkamah Sesyen Ayer Keroh, dekat sini, semalam atas lapan pertuduhan mengugut bunuh dan bakar ibu, mencederakan anak dan isteri serta melakukan amang seksual terhadap tiga anak, bulan lalu.

Tertuduh berusia 40 tahun itu bagaimanapun mengaku tidak bersalah dan minta dibicarakan terhadap semua pertuduhan dalam prosiding berasingan di hadapan Hakim Azaraorni Abd Rahim dan Rohatul Akmar Abdullah.

Mengikut tiga pertuduhan di hadapan Rohatul Akmar, tertuduh didakwa melakukan amang seksual bukan fizikal terhadap tiga

3 jadi mangsa amang seksual bukan fizikal

Tertuduh turut didakwa mengugut untuk membunuh dan bakar ibu berusia 63 tahun

anak perempuan berusia 12, 14 dan 16 tahun.

Kesalahan itu didakwa dilakukan di sebuah rumah di Jasin jam 10 malam, 26 Februari lalu.

Tertuduh didakwa mengikut Seksyen 15(a) Akta

Kesalahan Seksual Terhadap Kanak-Kanak 2017 (AKSTK 2017) dan dibaca bersama Seksyen 16 akta sama.

Jika disabitkan kesalahan, tertuduh boleh dipenjarakan hingga 10 tahun atau denda

maksimum RM20,000 atau kedua-duanya.

Dalam prosiding di hadapan Azaraorni, tertuduh didakwa mengugut membunuh dan bakar ibunya berusia 63 tahun, di luar rumah di tempat kejadian, pada tarikh dan masa sama.

Tertuduh didakwa mengikut Seksyen 506 Kanun Keseksaan dan jika sabit kesalahan, dia boleh dipenjarakan sehingga tujuh tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya sekali.

Dia juga didakwa atas empat pertuduhan menyebabkan kecederaan terhadap tiga anak perempuan berusia 12, 14 dan 16 tahun serta isteri berusia 41 tahun pada tarikh, tempat dan masa sama.

Pertuduhan dibuat mengikut Seksyen 323 Kanun Keseksaan dan dibaca bersama Seksyen 326A kanun sama yang memperuntukkan hukuman penjara sehingga dua tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya.

Mahkamah menetapkan kes disebut semula pada 22 April untuk lantikan peguam dan serahan dokumen.

Dia juga didakwa atas empat pertuduhan menyebabkan kecederaan terhadap tiga anak perempuan berusia 12, 14 dan 16 tahun serta isteri berusia 41 tahun pada tarikh, tempat dan masa sama.



Lelaki tak mengaku salah ugut bunuh ibu, cederakan anak isteri, lakukan amang seksual

Oleh Meor Riduwan Meor Ahmad - Mac 7, 2024 @ 2:03pm
bhnews@bh.com.my



MELAKA: Seorang lelaki didakwa di Mahkamah Sesyen Ayer Keroh, hari ini, atas lapan pertuduhan iaitu mengugut bunuh dan membakar ibu, mencederakan anak serta isteri dan melakukan amang seksual terhadap tiga anaknya pada bulan lalu.

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Jika sabit kesalahan, tertuduh kan boleh dipenjarakan sehingga 10 tahun atau didenda maksimum RM20,000 atau kedua-duanya.

Pada prosiding di hadapan Azaraorni pula, tertuduh didakwa mengugut untuk membunuh dan membakar ibunya berusia 63 tahun, di luar rumah pada tempat serta tarikh sama yang sabit kesalahan boleh dipenjarakan sehingga tujuh tahun atau denda atau kedua-duanya sekali.

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Mahkamah kemudian menetapkan kes disebut semula pada 22 April ini untuk lantikan peguam dan serahan dokumen.



Lelaki yang didakwa mengugut bunuh ibu, mencederakan anak dan isteri serta melakukan amang seksual mengaku tak bersalah di Mahkamah Sesyen, hari ini. NSTP/ Meor Riduwan Meor Ahmad