AKHBAR : BERITA HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Kerajaan terus sokong 'Perang Ke Atas Gula'

Syor kadar duti eksais 40 sen seliter untuk minuman bergula

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Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan bercadang menaikkan kadar duti eksais sebanyak 40 sen seliter untuk minuman bergula secara berfasa mulai 1 Januari 2025, bagi menyokong gerakan 'Perang Ke Atas Gula.'

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, berkata tambahan hasil yang diraih akan dimanfaatkan untuk menampung perbelanjaan kesihatan awam, antaranya meliputi penambahan bekalan ubat SGLT-2 inhibators bagi kegunaan rawatan diabetes.

"Selain itu, ia akan digunakan bagi penyediaan rawatan Dialisis Peritoneal untuk pesakit buah pinggang tahap akhir kepada lebih banyak pesakit, selain FELDA yang turut menambah baik pusat dialisis mereka," katanya.

Perdana Menteri berkata, Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menerima peruntukan kedua tertinggi iaitu RM45.3 bilion, berbanding RM41.2 bilion ringgit, tahun lalu, sekali gus menunjukkan komitmen kerajaan untuk memastikan kesihatan dan kesejahteraan rakyat.

"Keutamaan kerajaan adalah untuk menyediakan kemudahan kesihatan berkualiti, selesa dan mesra rakyat. Sejumlah RM1.35 bilion disediakan bagi menyelenggara prasarana kesihatan, termasuk membaiki tandas hospital yang uzur dan wad pesakit yang usang.

"Kerajaan juga terus menaik taraf klinik daif seluruh negara. Di bawah MADANI, peruntukan ditingkatkan setiap tahun, iaitu RM100 juta pada 2023, RM150 juta pada 2024 dan RM300 juta pada tahun depan," katanya.

Kerajaan juga meningkatkan jalinan kerjasama dengan 91 hospital swasta bagi menyumber luar pesakit KKM, membabitkan perkhidmatan seperti kardiologi, radiologi dan nefrologi.

"Pendekatan ini secara tidak langsung mewujudkan elemen persaingan mendapatkan harga terbaik buat kerajaan.

"Penyumberluaran ini turut diteruskan dengan Institut Jantung Negara (IJN), membabitkan pesakit jantung dalam kalangan pesara kerajaan," katanya.

RM27j untuk aktiviti sukan

Selain itu, sebagai menyokong Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat, Perdana Menteri berkata, RM27 juta disediakan bagi merancakkan lagi aktiviti sukan dan riadah rakyat, termasuk penganjuran Hari Sukan Negara.

Katanya, kerajaan bercadang memperluas skop pelepasan cukai pendapatan individu ke atas perbelanjaan perubatan meliputi bayaran ujian pengesanan penyakit, pembelian peralatan pemeriksaan kesihatan dan kit ujian pengesanan penyakit sebagai langkah ke arah amalan penjagaan kesihatan kendiri.

Sementara itu, Anwar berkata, elaun tugas atas panggilan dinaikkan antara RM55 hingga RM65 kepada Pegawai Perubatan dan Pegawai Pergigian mengikut bidang perkhidmatan dan jabatan tertentu.

Ia diberikan kepada pegawai yang berkhidmat di fasiliti kesihatan yang menggunakan sistem kerja baharu di hospital dan klinik kesihatan secara bersasar.

Selain itu, katanya, kerajaan akan menanggung kos pengajian sebanyak 50 peratus atau maksimum RM15,000 kepada penjawat awam yang berkhidmat melebihi 15 tahun untuk melanjutkan pengajian ke peringkat lebih tinggi.

"Ia diberikan di bawah Program APEL.Q di bawah kendalian Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN), sejajar dengan dasar pembelajaran sepanjang hayat," katanya.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Naik duti eksais minuman gula perangi obesiti

PETALING JAYA – Kadar duti eksais bagi minuman bergula dicadangkan untuk dinaikkan secara berfasa bermula 1 Januari tahun depan.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, kenaikan itu 40 sen seliter.

Katanya, Malaysia antara paling obes di rantau Asia Tenggara dengan salah musuh utama penyakit tidak berjangkit ialah gula.

"Tambahan hasil yang diraih dimanfaatkan untuk menampung perbelanjaan kesihatan awam antaranya meliputi penambahan bekalan ubat SGLT-2 inhibators bagi kegunaan rawatan diabetes.

AKHBAR : KOSMO
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : NEGARA

Tayang pistol lepas ditegur merokok, 3 individu diberkas

TANGKAP layar video tular menunjukkan perselisihan faham selepas ditegur kerana merokok di sebuah medan selera di Puchong Ahad lalu.

SERDANG – Polis menahan tiga individu disyaki terbabit dengan insiden video tular lelaki mengamuk sambil mengacukan pistol dalam kejadian di sebuah medan selera, Puchong di sini.

Ketua Polis Daerah Serdang, Asisten Komisioner AA Anbalagan berkata, pihaknya menerima laporan kejadian itu sekitar pukul 10 malam kelmarin.

Menurutnya, kejadian pada Ahad lalu itu berlaku selepas mangsa menegur seorang lelaki supaya tidak merokok di dalam kawasan medan selera tersebut.

"Kemudian berlaku salah faham antara kedua mereka sebelum seorang lelaki secara tiba-tiba mengacu objek menyerupai pistol ke perut mangsa.

"Selepas itu, lelaki tersebut terus beredar dan pengadu membuat laporan untuk keselamatan diri dan keluarga," katanya.

Jelas beliau, pihaknya menahan dua lelaki tempatan dan seorang wanita pemegang kad pemastautin tetap.

Katanya, hasil semakan mendapati salah seorang daripada suspek mempunyai satu rekod jenayah narkotik.

"Pihak polis juga merampas objek menyerupai sepucuk pistol warna hitam, satu kelopak dan dua butir peluru (bebola putih)," ujarnya.

Kata Anbalagan, satu kertas siasatan telah dibuka di bawah Seksyen 506 Kanun Keseksaan dan Seksyen 36 Akta Senjata Api, 1960.

Terdahulu, tular video berdurasi 26 saat tular seorang seorang lelaki menunjukkan objek menyerupai pistol dalam satu insiden pertengkaran.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

KEMENTERIAN Kesihatan mendapat peruntukan kedua terbesar dalam Belanjawan 2025 bagi menyediakan keMudahan kesihatan berkualiti, selesa dan mesra rakyat. – GAMBAR HIASAN

Sektor kesihatan dapat RM45.3 bilion

PETALING JAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan menerima peruntukan kedua tertinggi iaitu RM45.3 bilion berbanding RM41.2 bilion pada tahun ini.

Menteri Kewangan, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, keutamaan kerajaan adalah untuk menyediakan kemudahan kesihatan berkualiti, selesa dan mesra rakyat.

Katanya, sejumlah RM1.35 bilion disediakan bagi menyelenggara prasarana kesihatan termasuk membaiki tandas hospital yang uzur dan wad-wad pesakit yang usang.

"Kerajaan juga terus menaik taraf klinik-klinik daif seluruh negara. Di bawah Kerajaan Madani, peruntukan bagi maksud ini ditingkatkan setiap tahun iaitu RM100 juta (2023), RM150 juta (2024) dan RM300 juta untuk tahun hadapan," katanya.

Sementara itu, menurut beliau, Kementerian Kesihatan akan melaksanakan sistem kerja baharu di hospital dan klinik kerajaan secara bersasar.

Katanya, bagi fasiliti kesihatan yang menggunakan sistem ini, kerajaan bersetuju supaya Elaun Tugas Atas Panggil (*on-call*) dinaikkan.

"Kenaikan melibatkan jumlah antara RM55 hingga RM65 kepada Pegawai Perubatan dan Pegawai Pergigian mengikut bidang perkhidmatan dan jabatan tertentu," katanya.

Anwar yang juga Perdana Menteri berkata, kerajaan bercadang memperluas skop pelepasan cukai pendapatan individu ke atas perbelanjaan perubatan meliputi bayaran ujian pengesanan penyakit.

Selain itu, ia membabitkan pembelian peralatan pemeriksaan kesihatan dan kit ujian pengesanan penyakit sebagai langkah ke arah amalan penjagaan kesihatan kendiri.

Sebanyak RM27 juta pula disediakan bagi merancakkan lagi aktiviti sukan dan riadah rakyat termasuk penganjuran Hari Sukan Negara sebagai menyokong Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat.

Sementara itu, pelepasan cukai pendapatan individu ke atas bayaran premium insurans pendidikan dan insurans perubatan dinaikkan kepada RM4,000.

Pelepasan cukai pendapatan individu bagi perbelanjaan perubatan sehingga RM10,000 adalah juga meliputi bahagian bayaran perubatan yang dilakukan oleh pembayar cukai di bawah produk insurans dan takaful perubatan serta kesihatan dengan ciri-ciri pembayaran bersama.

Pengecualian cukai pendapatan ke atas pendapatan yang terbit daripada sumber luar negara dan telah tertakluk kepada cukai pendapatan di negara sumber serta diterima oleh individu di Malaysia, yang pada masa ini diberikan secara bertempoh sehingga 31 Disember 2026, dilanjutkan sehingga 31 Disember 2036.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Kadar duti eksais minuman bergula naik 40 sen seliter

KUALA LUMPUR: Kerajaan bercadang menaikkan kadar duti eksais bagi minuman bergula secara berfasa sebanyak 40 sen seliter mulai 1 Januari 2025.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, Malaysia antara paling obes di rantau Asia Tenggara dan salah satu musuh utama penyakit tidak berjangkit ialah gula.

Menurut Perdana Menteri, bagi menyokong gerakan *War on Sugar*, Kerajaan bercadang untuk menaikkan kadar duti eksais bagi minuman bergula secara berfasa mulai 1 Januari 2025 sebanyak 40 sen seliter.

"Tambahan hasil yang diraih akan dimanfaatkan untuk menampung perbelanjaan kesihatan awam antaranya meliputi Penambahan bekalan ubat SGLT-2 inhibators bagi kegunaan rawatan diabetes.

"Penyediaan rawatan Dialisis Peritoneal untuk pesakit buah pinggang tahap akhir kepada lebih banyak pesakit selain FELDA yang turut menambah baik pusat dialisis mereka," katanya.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 6
RUANGAN : NEWS / NATION

RM45.3B INJECTION FOR HEALTHCARE

It is the second-highest allocated sum, which will be used to improve facilities nationwide

KUALA LUMPUR

THE Health Ministry received an allocation of RM45.3 billion to improve healthcare facilities nationwide.

The allocation was the second highest after the sum allotted to the Education Ministry.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the money must be used to improve quality of healthcare and ensure comfortable, and people-friendly health facilities at all hospitals.

He announced an allocation of RM1.35 billion for the maintenance of health infrastructure, including the repair of dilapidated hospital toilets and outdated patient wards.

The government will also continue to upgrade clinics across the country, he said.

He pointed out that under the Madani initiative, allocation for this purpose had been increasing every year — from RM100 million last year to RM150 million this year, and RM300 million next year.

WAR ON SUGAR

The prime minister said Malaysia had become known as the most obese nation in this region and there was a need for the people to cut their sugar intake.

To promote a healthy lifestyle and support the "War on Sugar" initiative, he said the government planned to gradually increase the excise duty on sugary drinks by 40 sen per litre starting Jan 1.

Revenue collected from this would be channelled to subsidise public healthcare, including for the purchase of medication and medical equipment to treat diabetes, as well as dialysis centres.

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

A new partnership initiative will be introduced involving a collaboration with government-linked investment companies to provide affordable paid healthcare services to patients.

The implementation will start at five Health Ministry hospitals with high demand and suitable infrastructure, such as Cyberjaya Hospital, with an initial allocation of RM25 million.

Anwar said the government was also strengthening partnerships with 91 private hospitals to source patients from the Health Ministry for services such as cardiology, radiology, and nephrology.

"This approach indirectly creates a competitive element to secure the best prices for the government.

"The outsourcing will also continue with the National Heart Institute for heart patients among government retirees."

In addition, the government will implement an offtake policy or specific procurement from companies making new domestic investments to produce critical pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

"This approach not only supports the security of drug supply from local sources, but also has the potential to reduce costs in the medium term."

HEALTH CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

RM100 million will be allocated to improve health Centres of Excellence in the country, including funding for the latest equipment.

He said some of the best health experts in the country serve in government hospitals, including in Centres of Excellence.

Some examples of these centres are Serdang Hospital for heart treatment, Selayang Hospital for transplant and hepatobiliary services, the National Cancer Institute in Putrajaya, Putrajaya Endocrine Institute, Urology and Nephrology Institute at Hospital Kuala Lumpur, and the Women and Children Hospital in Kuala Lumpur.

In addition to the existing centres, the government is also initiating plans to establish a Cancer Centre in Kuching and a Heart Specialist Hospital in Kota Kinabalu.

HIGHLIGHT: HEALTH

RM1.35 billion is set aside for maintaining health infrastructure, including repairing dilapidated hospital toilets and outdated patient wards

Efforts to tackle malnutrition among children in the People's Housing Project in the Klang Valley will be enhanced through a pilot project funded jointly with Unicef, with an allocation of **RM5 million**

The individual income tax relief on education insurance and medical insurance premiums is increased to **RM4,000**

The government will set up a Rare Diseases Fund, where the allocation to cover the medical costs for rare diseases will be increased to **RM25 million**

RM300 million is to upgrade underdeveloped clinics nationwide

The government will undertake preliminary work to establish a Cancer Centre in Kuching and a Heart Specialist Hospital in Kota Kinabalu

On-call allowance to be increased from **RM55** to **RM65** for medical and dental officers, depending on department

BUDGET 2025 MADANI INFOGRAPHIC NST

The National Cancer Institute in Putrajaya is among the health centres of excellence that will be improved. NSTP FILE PIC

APHM welcomes plan to outsource patients

KUALA LUMPUR: The Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia (APHM) has welcomed the proposal to outsource patients from public hospitals to receive certain treatments at 91 private hospitals.

Its president, Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said APHM believed the amount was appropriate and sufficient to allow private hospitals to fully treat these patients, even under challenging conditions.

"If at all possible, technology should be used to facilitate referrals between public and private institutions, saving patients from longer waiting time."

Kuljit also praised the government's proposal to reduce health subsidies for the top 15 per cent income group, describing it as a "positive approach".

He expressed APHM's willingness to assist with the public hospital's private concept structure, suggesting the initiation of collaborative ventures and clinics where financially capable patients can receive treatment alongside private hospitals.

"This will enable the B40 and some M40 to receive public healthcare funding at a faster rate, while those who can afford it can receive treatment in a private initiative with a joint venture concept with private hospitals.

"It will also relieve the use of public infrastructure and human capital."

He said this in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement that the government is going to enhance collaborations with 91 private hospitals to outsource patients from public hospitals.

Patients waiting to get their medicine at Hospital Serdang last year. NSTP FILE PIC

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

Something is still better than nothing

Belanjawan 2025 MALAYSIA MADANI

DOCTORS and dentists say "something is better than nothing" regarding the government's move to increase on-call allowance by RM55 to RM65 for medical personnel.

A doctor, who wished to be known as Pardeep, said the amount is not much compared to the long hours and sacrifices put in by doctors on-call but every little bit does count.

"We put in long hours when on-call working through the night and into the next day and had been expecting a higher increase.

"I hope the government can also look into other aspects of our welfare to compensate us better," he said.

The on-call allowance currently enjoyed by these medical officers ranges from RM80 to RM200 depending on the specialty.

When tabling Budget 2025, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Health Ministry will introduce a new work system at selected hospitals and clinics nationwide in stages.

Doctors and dentists working at facilities which use the new system will see their on-call allowance increased by RM55 to RM65.

Meanwhile, a primary school teacher, who wished to be known as Khalid, thanked the government for introducing the APEL.Q programme as part of its lifelong learning policy.

"I have been planning to enrol for a degree programme for years now and with the introduction of this programme, I hope to finally do it.

"This will also allow me to get promoted later on," he said.

Under the APEL.Q programme, the government will bear 50% of the cost of the fees or a maximum of RM15,000 for civil servants who have been working for more than 15 years if they wish to pursue higher education.

Clerk Jamilah Atan is grateful for the special one-off RM500 aid for all government servants including those on contract in Grade 56 and below.

"Since we will already be getting higher salaries from December onwards, the RM500 aid is truly a bonus," she said.

In August, Anwar announced a 15% pay raise for officers in the implementing, management and professional groups, and a 7% increase for officers in top management and professional roles.

The increment will be implemented in two phases, the first in December this year and the second in January 2026.

Another public sector employee, who wished to be known as Thomas, said the announcement that the Public Sector Home Financing Board will introduce a new repayment scheme to allow young civil servants to service their housing loans for up to 40 years is good as houses are more expensive now.

However, he said government servants should be offered much lower interest rates than those imposed by commercial banks.

"This will not only motivate us but will allow more public sector employees to own houses which are getting costlier by the day," he said.

Thomas also lauded the government's decision to expand the Ex-Gratia Compensation Scheme which provides social security coverage for government servants to all employees.

Cut waiting time at hospitals

'Upgrade rundown facilities and provide better services'

HAVING received the second highest allocation in Budget 2025, stakeholders want the Health Ministry to heed the Prime Minister's reminder to upgrade rundown facilities and provide better services to the people, including reducing waiting time.

However, they conceded the allocation at RM45.3bil (a RM4bil increase from the previous budget) is still inadequate given the complexity and size of the service rendered by the ministry.

Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh, a health economics and public health specialist with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Medicine, said while some healthcare facilities are very rundown, funds should also be allocated for manpower as doctors and specialists are needed to run these facilities and attend to patients.

Room for improvement: Stakeholders feel that the RM45.3bil allocation for health is still inadequate.

She said the RM1.35bil to upgrade dilapidated healthcare facilities and RM300mil for upgrade and repairs of dilapidated clinics may not be enough as most of these facilities are already bursting at the seams with patient load.

She added that waiting time at healthcare facilities continues to be an issue.

On top of that, doctors are leaving the public service and sometimes there are shortages of treatment drugs and centres.

Hartal Doktor Kontrak spokesperson Dr Muhammad Yassin said while he agrees with the Prime Minister's call, it is more pressing to address the manpower shortage in hospitals.

"To tackle this issue as what Hartal had mentioned many times before, we need a Health Services Commission which has the autonomy to hire its own staff based on the needs of the healthcare sector," he added.

Meanwhile, Senator Dr RA Lingeshwaran said the RM1.35bil allocation to upgrade dilapidated healthcare facilities, including wards, is a great move as many public hospitals are more than 100 years old.

"In my home state of Penang alone, four out of six public hospitals namely Hospital Penang, Hospital Balik Pulau, Hospital Bukit Mertajam and Hospital Sungai Bakap are all over a century old," he said.

"Some of the facilities can be considered museum-grade hospitals and need to be urgently upgraded to render proper health services."

Former deputy health minister Datuk Dr Lee Boon Chye said to tackle the long waiting time at healthcare facilities, funds should be spent on digital technology, such as queue system and virtual consultation.

"There was no special mention of electronic medical records (EMR) which will centralise patient records. Hopefully, it will be in the next Malaysia plan," he said.

EMR refers to a digital database system that enables healthcare facilities to keep track of relevant medical information such as registration, clinical laboratory results, pharmacy, nursing and kitchen information.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com

War on sugar lauded, but absence of tobacco tax hike disappointing

TAXES on tobacco and smoking products should have been part of Budget 2025, health advocates say, as they welcomed the 40 sen hike to the sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) tax.

As part of the government's "war on sugar", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that excise duties on sugar-sweetened beverages will be raised by 40 sen per litre starting Jan 1, 2025.

Anwar said the funds collected from the excise duties will be used for treatments and procurement of medicine supplies.

"It is concerning that no mention was made regarding tobacco duties.

"Nevertheless, it is crucial that the government continues its efforts to combat tobacco consumption," said Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (Fomca) chief executive officer Saravanan Thambirajah.

However, he said the higher excise duties for SSB is a positive step towards tackling the alarming rise of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

"From a consumer perspective, this policy aligns with public health goals, but it must be accompanied by complementary efforts to educate and encourage healthier consumption habits," he said.

"However, the increased revenue from this sugar tax must be transparently reinvested into initiatives that directly benefit public health."

Saravanan said the funds collected from the duties should be used on awareness and education campaigns and school nutrition programmes.

He also proposed that healthier food be subsided to ensure those with low sugar content or sugar-free options remain affordable.

Fomca tobacco and smoking control coordinator Muhammad Sha'ani Abdullah said the absence of a tobacco tax is very disappointing as the last increase was in 2015.

"While the government is struggling to raise funds, tobacco tax is an easy and right way to raise government revenue and pricier tobacco products would discourage smoking," he said.

Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh, a health economics and public health specialist with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Medicine, said the SSB tax hike may not be sufficient, adding that more input is needed in future increments.

Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh said the increase of excise duty on sugar will reduce consumption to some extent but continued education on the harm of excessive sugar intake is important.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

Govt to work with Sarawak to develop cancer centre

DETAILS on the proposed Sarawak Cancer Centre need to be worked out so that the project can be implemented soon, says Sarawak Deputy Premier Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian.

"We are grateful to the Prime Minister and Health Minister for agreeing on the Sarawak Cancer Centre's financial partnership, with Sarawak paying first and the federal government reimbursing later.

"We will need to get the federal government's technical and working committee to sit down and get the project going as soon as possible," he said.

He was responding to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement when tabling Budget 2025 yesterday that Putrajaya would work with the state government to develop the Sarawak Cancer Centre, estimated to cost RM1bil.

He said a significant increase in funding is needed to repair dilapidated public health clinics and hospitals in the state, with the total cost estimated at RM17bil.

He said even with the Sarawak government's offer of RM50mil and a matching allocation from the federal government, it would take years for the repairs to be done.

On the plan to raise Sarawak's special grant to RM600mil, he said it is an interim solution pending a final formula in ongoing talks on the Malaysia Agreement 1963.