MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
12 MEI 2020 (SELASA)

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Akhbar	The Star
Tajuk Berita	Plastic use on the rise
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Plastic use on the rise

Activists urge companies to use sustainable material

TS 12/5/2020 ms 10

By CLARISSA CHUNG
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Sea of waste: An illegal dumpsite in Bukit Mertajam being overwhelmed with waste. Shariffa Sabrina suggests companies switch to biodegradable packaging material to reduce waste.

PETALING JAYA: The abundant use of plastic packaging for delivery services must be looked into, especially with the spike in online delivery services during the movement control order, say environmental activists.

Pertubuhan Pelindung Khazanah Alam Malaysia president Puan Sri Shariffa Sabrina Syed Akil said online delivery services had grown rapidly, increasing the demand for plastic.

"Getting meals has become more convenient as it is literally at your fingertips. However, it involves a lot of single-use plastic packaging, which of course is damaging to the environment as most end up in rivers and oceans.

"As companies that profit from such activities, they have a responsibility to ensure that their activities are sustainable and do not harm the environment," she said.

She added companies could use biodegradable material for their packaging such as sugarcane fibre.

"This has already been done for smaller items such as straws. That being said, some food delivery services have taken the initiative to reduce plastic by offering users the option to refuse plastic cutlery.

"This may be a tiny effort on a larger scale, but it plays a vital role in reducing single-use plastic," she said.

Shariffa Sabrina urged consumers to be more environmentally-conscious when placing online orders.

"Many online stores now have an option for customers to collect their items themselves.

"Consumers can choose online businesses that use eco-friendly packaging and also push businesses to change from plastic packaging to better alternatives," she said.

Global Environment Centre river care programme manager Dr K. Kalithasan said there were many alternative material available for packaging.

"There are plant or organic-based packaging or wrapping. However, even this does not tackle the root cause of the waste.

"The ideal solution is for e-commerce companies to adopt sustainable or life cycle assessment (LCA) packaging and educate their customers and vendors on minimising plastic packaging," he said.

An LCA is a technique to evaluate the environmental impact of a commercial product during all its life-cycle stages.

He said companies should invest in producing their own sustainable packaging and can even collect back the packaging when the products are delivered to ensure they are sustainably disposed of.

"Companies should think about the long term impact and benefits. Sustainable materials may cost higher at initial stages, but over time, it has a lower environmental impact and economic cost," Dr Kalithasan said.

"The policymakers could also provide additional incentives or tax rebates for companies that want to adopt LCA."

Aroe Ajoeni, a youth environmentalist from Klima Action Malaysia, said the no-plastic movement was an important one to push for.

"Plastic is cheap to produce, it's waterproof and it makes it safer to deliver items. That's why retailers use it to ship items.

"However, policymakers and civil society should look at this as a climate change issue, starting from the production of a product until its disposal," she said.

According to a World Cleanup Day 2019 audit, 10,370 littered pieces of plastic take-out containers were picked up during a mass cleanup across 90 locations in the country last year.

Former SWCorp deputy chief executive officer (technical) Dr Mohd Pauze Mohamad Taha had said in 2019 that plastic made up about 20% of total waste.

While not all companies have switched entirely to being plastic-free, some have undertaken measures to reduce plastic usage.

Grab Malaysia country head Sean Goh said the company was taking measures towards improving the environmental sustainability of their services and customers responded positively.

"The year 2020 will continue to see us actively working with our restaurant-partners to identify more eco-friendly packaging options. Currently, some 85% of our food orders have opted for the 'no-cutlery' toggle on our app.

"For every order which opted for no plastic cutlery, 10 sen will be channelled towards a Green Fund which will support our restaurant partners in becoming eco-friendlier businesses," he said in a statement to *The Star*.

He added that GrabFood also partnered with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in which it pledged towards WWF's vision of having no plastic in nature by 2030.

A representative of a popular hangout for youths in Kuala Lumpur said her restaurant had been providing biodegradable paper straws, as well as packing deliveries in paper containers and bags.

"We are also making strides in sourcing sustainable and local ingredients," she said.

Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association president Datuk Jawahar Ali Taib Khan said the move to eliminate single-use plastic at eateries would take time.

"You cannot do everything in one shot. But at least we are trying to adjust to the environmentally-friendly concept," he said.

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lokal

ANGGOTA pengua tkuasa DBKL menjalankan tugas menutup premis kendalian warga asing di sekitar ibu kota, semalam.

Lima kedai runcit warga asing ditutup

DBKL sita premis di sekitar ibu kota termasuk pusat cuci kereta

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Kuala Lumpur

Lima premis perniagaan membabitkan kedai runcit dan barang basah dikendalikan warga asing ditutup serta disita dalam pemeriksaan dilakukan di empat lokasi berasingan di sekitar ibu kota ini, semalam.

Jurucakap Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) berkata, pihaknya melakukan pemeriksaan khas terhadap premis dikendalikan warga asing tanpa kebenaran di sekitar Jalan Dwi Tasik, Bandar Tun Razak; Jalan Horley, Jalan Khoo Teik Ee dan Jalan Walter Grenier, Bukit Bintang.

"Dalam pemeriksaan ini, kami menutup dan menyita lima premis membabitkan kedai runcit dan barang basah dikendalikan warga asing.

"Selain itu, tindakan penguatkuasaan menyita barang perniagaan juga dilakukan membabitkan satu premis cuci kereta dikendalikan warga asing dan tiada lesen sah dari DBKL," katanya.

Lima premis membabitkan kedai runcit dan barang basah ditutup

Menurutnya, semua barangan peralatan perniagaan disita dihantar ke Stor Sitaan DBKL Jalan Lombong bagi proses dokumentasi.

"Tindakan penguatkuasaan ini dilaksanakan mengikut peruntukan dan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) DBKL mengikut Akta Kerajaan Tempatan 1976.

"Tindakan seumpama ini akan diteruskan dari semasa ke semasa," katanya.

ANTARA premis kendalian warga asing yang diperiksa.

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Larangan bawa anak ke pusat beli-belah

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Kerajaan pertimbang masukkan peraturan baharu itu dalam Akta 342

Oleh HASNIZA HUSSAIN dan ZUBIR SULAIMAN

PUTRAJAYA

Kerajaan tidak menolak kemungkinan untuk memasukkan peraturan baharu dalam Akta 342 bagi melarang ibu bapa bapa membawa anak ke tempat khalayak ramai termasuk pusat beli-belah.

Menteri Kanan (Keselamatan), Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, tindakan tersebut boleh dipertimbangkan sekiranya ibu bapa dilihat masih berterusan membawa anak-anak mereka ke pusat beli-belah.

"Jika ibu bapa dilihat masih tidak menghiraukan keselamatan anak mereka, kerajaan boleh buat undang-undang melarang perbuatan tersebut.

"Kita boleh memasukkan dalam peraturan bawah Akta 342, bawa anak ke tempat khalayak ramai sebagai perkara terlarang," katanya pada sidang akhbar di sini semalam.

Bagaimanapun katanya, buat masa ini, kerajaan masih tidak meletakkan peraturan itu dalam akta untuk menghalang ibu bapa membawa anak mereka ke pusat beli-belah.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan berharap ibu bapa mempunyai kawalan kendiri serta berdisiplin dengan tidak membawa anak-anak ke tempat tumpuan ramai kerana keselamatan anak adalah di bawah tanggungjawab mereka.

Sementara itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan akan berbincang dengan Kementerian Sumber Manusia berhubung keperluan untuk mewujudkan satu identiti khas bagi membezakan warga asing yang sudah menjalani saringan kesihatan ujian swab koronavirus (Covid-19).

ISMAIL SABRI

Ismail Sabri berkata, perkara itu akan dirujuk kepada kementerian terbabit kerana buat masa ini belum ada kaedah khusus mengenal pasti identiti warga asing yang sudah atau belum membuat ujian tersebut.

Katanya, setakat ini, hospital hanya mengeluarkan surat mengatakan seseorang individu itu negatif Covid-19 atau tidak dijangkiti wabak berkenaan.

"Jadi kalau mereka lalui sekatan jalan raya umpamanya, boleh tunjuk surat tersebut sebagai cara untuk mengetahui mereka sudah jalani ujian swab tapi dari segi identiti belum lagi," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan akan berbincang dari segi kaedah untuk membezakan identiti warga asing tersebut dan berkemungkinan dengan menyediakan tag.

Ketika mengulas berhubung dakwaan mengatakan banyak kluster baharu Covid-19 wujud dalam kalangan warga asing di pelbagai premis kerja disebabkan ketidakpatuhan prosedur operasi standard (SOP), Ismail Sabri menafikan perkara tersebut.

Beliau berkata, sebaliknya apa yang berlaku adalah kerana penularan jangkitan wabak itu dari luar.

"Ini yang menyebabkan kluster baharu wujud seperti di Pedas, Negeri Sembilan, tapak binaan di Setia Alam dan Ampang.

"Ia berlaku bukan semasa mereka bekerja tetapi selepas dihantar untuk membuat saringan kesihatan ujian swab oleh majikan yang mematuhi SOP sebelum membenarkan mereka bekerja," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan akan terus menumpukan kepada mereka yang dijangkiti serta kawasan yang dijangkiti.

Dalam pada itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, kerajaan sekali lagi ingin menasihatkan orang ramai supaya sentiasa mengamalkan penjarakkan sosial dan kebersihan ketika keluar membeli barangan keperluan asas mereka.