

Issue: 禁烟令生意挫 30%

Title: 争取茶室设吸烟区

Source: 星洲日报 (15-04-2019)

Synopsis:

马新咖啡茶业联合总会总会长拿督何子孟指出，根据该会的咖啡茶业会员反映，今年一月起施行的禁烟令导致此行业生意下跌了 30%，而该会将继续向卫生部争取在咖啡店设立吸烟专区。拿督何子孟也指出，政府应考虑效仿新加坡日本设立吸烟区或吸烟房，以便有个空间隔开烟民及非烟民。他也说，业者明白政府希望通过禁烟令减少烟民，也尊重非烟民的人权，但政府也应该让烟民以自己的方式禁烟。

Comment:

1. 业者陷入两难，禁烟令导致生意下跌，但若政府实行设立吸烟区或吸烟房在餐饮店将加重业者负担。因此，政府需与业者找出双赢方案。

Issue: Gloom stock market and economy

Title:

Boring prospects for Malaysian stock market

Source: The Star Online

Date: 17 April 2019

Title:

Govt needs six months to make its mark.

Source: The Star Online

Date: 17 April 2019

Synopsis:

Alan Richardson, a regional fund manager at Samsung Asset in Hong Kong stated that the benchmark FBM KLCI is down 14% from a record in May 2018 and it's the worst major market in the world so far this year, having slipped 3.4% and the gloomy outlook for Malaysian stocks isn't likely to end anytime soon. Besides, Bloomberg also reported that foreign investors have dumped Malaysian shares worth more than a net US\$500mil (RM2.07bil) so far this year and it is predicted that there is nothing to be positive about over the next 12 months.

The Council of Eminent Persons chairperson Tun Daim Zainuddin stated that the Pakatan Harapan government needed another six months to repair the damage left by the previous government and bring the country back on track, not only in terms of economic development, but also in other issues and he hopes the people will understand this.

Comments:

1. The government should have learned from the losing in three consecutive polls in the recent months. The *rakyat* is getting impatient for the slow changes, unfulfilled manifesto promises, and the flip-flop decisions of the government.
2. The economic development and the struggling of people in Malaysia will still be remained the same after 6 months if the government does not have a clear economic prospect to give confidence to the people and foreign investors. Besides, the government should immediately devise strategy to tackle the high cost of living issues of the people.

Issue: Contract or temporary staffs is on the rise

Title: Workers not to blame for skills gap, MTUC says on rise in contract staff

Source: Free Malaysia Today

Date: 19 April 2019

Synopsis:

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) secretary-general J Solomon said that there is a lack of training at many companies following a survey showing that the hire of contract workers is on the rise, in part to fill the gaps in skill set among permanent workers. There are many companies only provide training for their employees in the management sector, while others are left to the guidance of e-learning programmes or the employee's own initiative to take external training programmes. Solomon also commented that releasing too many employees for training might also "cripple the company's operations".

Comments:

1. This phenomenon has brought to the question on whether the education in Malaysia is preparing or equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge in an environment that is increasingly evolving.
2. The collaboration between education institutions and companies are essential. The students need to be updated and taught on the latest technological trends so that they could develop the right skills for the working force and to prevent from being replaced by automation.