

THE STAR HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. 2  
02 JANUARY 1998

1. KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will reduce all existing toll rates by allowing toll operators longer concession periods, Works Minister Datuk S. Samy Vellu said yesterday. page 1;
2. KUALA LUMPUR: All heads of government departments have been directed to reject applications from staff for annual leave for holidays abroad. page 1;
3. KUALA LUMPUR: The Government's action to encourage Malaysian to buy local products should not be viewed as promoting "economic nationalism," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said. page 2;
4. IPOH: Datuk Bandar Datuk Ahmad Saleh Sarif has been appointed director-general of the Orang Asli Affairs Department effective Jan 1. page 2;
5. IPOH: Non-governmental organisations which depended on government funds to run their activities are in for a hard time as allocations can only be approved by the Finance Ministry secretary-general. page 3;
6. SEREMBAN: Several parents at estates in Jempol are concerned that their teenage children recruited as domestic helpers were instead forced into prostitution. page 3;
7. KUALA SELANGOR: The Tanjung Karang coastal area's eco-system hang in limbo as mangrove trees along 20km of the shoreline battle for survival after their roots and young plants became covered by patches of oil and tar. page 4;
8. KOTA BARU: Kelantan yesterday formally opened its doors to welcome tourists from all over the world on the first day of the Visit Kelantan Year 1998 (VKY '98). page 8;
9. MUAR: The Health Ministry has been in touch with the World Health Organisation to monitor the avian influenza or bird flu reported in Hong Kong. page 8;
10. KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee said Yesterday that the state government would help local small and medium industries to apply for SMI loans set aside by the Federal Government. page 11 -more
11. ALOR STAR: Samak Aquaculture Sdn Bhd will resume operations of its controversial RM 91million tiger prawn farm in Kerpan earlier than expected. page 11;
12. JOHOR BARU: Johor has offered to help companies find ways to increase exports. page 13;
13. LABUAN: Planners are looking at relocating the Liberty wharf and port here in efforts to upgrade the waterfront area in line with the island's financial centre status. page 16 --Bernama

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