

THE NEW STRAITS TIMES HIGHLIGHTS  
16 OCT 2002

1. KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15: From next year, all magistrates' courts will implement a 24-hour court system, to include weekends and public holidays, to allow the police to present suspects for remand orders.

Chief Justice Tun Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdullah said the round-the-clock system, proposed by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam), was to prevent the abuse of the remand process and police power. Page 1

2. KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15: Any further development of six of the country's most popular hill resorts will be subject to new classifications to prevent pollution, landslides and erosion.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that the National Land Council had accepted recommendations that Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands (all in Pahang), Penang Hill, Gunung Jerai in Kedah and Bukit Larut in Taiping, Perak, be given specific classifications, with new development projects regulated under the respective categories.

Fraser's Hill, for instance, has been classified for "recreation and relaxation", permitting only low-density development, while Cameron Highlands as a designated "agro-tourism centre" will only feature projects in this category. Page 1

3. JAKARTA: As Indonesia prepares to issue an emergency decree empowering authorities to take preventive measures against terrorist attacks, an international police task force has been assembled to hunt down those responsible for the bomb blast in Bali.

Lawmaker Ade Komaruddin of the Golkar party said the Government had consulted legislators and Parliament would not oppose such powers in the absence of an anti-terrorism law. Page 1

4. KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will push for an international dialogue to address and develop a consensus on the threat of nuclear weapons proliferation, the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament and export control.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia had a duty to the world and mankind to urgently pursue the dialogue. Page 2

5. KUALA LUMPUR: State governments have agreed to give their commitment and co-operation to the Agriculture Ministry's proposal that all states implement and develop the aquaculture industrial zones.

Such co-operation was urgently needed if the country is to meet the target of 600,000 tonnes of aquaculture produce by 2010 as this requires additional area of not less than 38,000 hectares.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said this after chairing the 58th National Land Council meeting. Page 2

6. KUALA LUMPUR: With immediate effect, Employees Provident Fund members who are about to turn 55 and are eligible to withdraw their savings will receive a notice and an application from the fund.

The notice and application form will be sent to members at either their residential or employment address, depending on EPF's records, three months before they reach 55. Page 4 7. Jalan Kuching and Jalan Cheras in Kuala Lumpur will be toll-free from Jan 7 and Sept 15 next year respectively.

Deputy Works Minister Datuk Khaled Nordin told Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (Keadilan Permatang Pauh) that the Government did not plan to extend the concession given to Kamunting Corporation Berhad at Jalan Kuching.

"The concession to collect toll will end at 12.01am on Jan 7, 2003. All lanes will be opened to motorists for free use."

Toll collection at the road was extended once several years ago

following upgrading and expansion by the company.

For the Jalan Cheras toll, Khaled said the concession would end on Sept 15 next year. Page 8

8. JOHOR BAHRU: The more than 40,000 English, Mathematics and Science teachers teaching in Government schools throughout the country will soon laptop computers.

The move is being made in a bid to improve their teaching capabilities.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin said the computers would enable the teachers to be more efficient in teaching the subjects. Page 12

9. PETALING JAYA: Small and medium industries must adopt the concept of training and retraining as part of a company's work culture and business strategy to remain competitive.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said this was seriously lacking where SMIs were concerned. Page 14

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