

AKPS faces manpower shortage despite better package

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PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS) is still facing shortage of manpower despite the government offering a competitive service transfer package.

Its director-general Comm Datuk Seri Mohd Shuhaily Mohd Zain said to date, only 54% of eligible officers had opted to join the agency.

"Due to this, we still need the support of all six core agencies to ensure smooth operations at entry points nationwide.

"The package includes two annual salary increments, a RM200 service incentive payment and eligibility to claim overtime.

"The Public Service Department had described it as the best service transfer package ever offered to civil servants.

"I personally do not see why the



offer has not been accepted because it is far better than the existing scheme," he told reporters after the AKPS monthly assembly here yesterday.

Comm Mohd Shuhaily said of those offered the new service scheme, only 3,419 officers accepted, leaving the agency with just about 25% of the manpower it requires to operate independently.

The service scheme covers officers from five core agencies absorbed into AKPS, namely Customs Department,

Immigration Department, Road Transport Department, Wildlife and National Parks Department, and Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department.

Comm Mohd Shuhaily said although the Health Ministry is

one of the core agencies, its officers were not offered the new scheme.

He said AKPS was awaiting further instructions from the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar on measures to strengthen its manpower.

"Officers from other ministries and agencies have expressed interest in joining AKPS.

Down to business: Mohd Shuhaily (second from right) attending the AKPS monthly assembly in Putrajaya.

"We are intensifying efforts to strengthen integrity by adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption and misconduct," he added.

Since commencing operations less than a year ago, AKPS has dismissed five officers.

Another 15 are undergoing disciplinary proceedings while 50 others remain under investigation for integrity-related offences.

The agency is also tightening internal discipline, warning officers who abuse medical leave or submit fraudulent medical certificates (MC) to skip work will face disciplinary action.

Any private clinic found issuing fake MC will be reported to the police.

To strengthen its operational capabilities, Comm Mohd Shuhaily said AKPS has also proposed to procure Glock pistols for its officers, citing their durability and low maintenance costs.

Scientist tackles warming world's rising mosquito threat

GROWING up in Tahiti, Anna-Bella Failloux saw first-hand the threat posed by mosquitoes: nearly a third of adults on the picturesque island once had swollen limbs from elephantiasis caused by their bites.

She has since dedicated her life to studying mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit — a concern that looms ever larger as climate change expands the area where the insects roam.

"You have to accept being bitten by a mosquito from time to time," the 63-year-old entomologist at France's Pasteur Institute said.

"But we have to avoid too many people getting sick and dying from the infections," Failloux said as she observed a mosquito trap being installed in the woods east of the French capital Paris.

A keen seamstress, Failloux had sown the trap's netting herself. Every few days over summer, these traps will be checked to see if the tiger mosquitoes inside could have spread yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya or Zika.

Once confined to the tropics, these mosquitoes have recently been detected in greater number across France and elsewhere, raising fears of outbreaks.

Failloux's life-long interest in mosquitoes goes back to a childhood spent in Papeete, Tahiti, where her shopkeeper parents arrived at

the end of the 19th century.

While it seemed a tropical paradise, the island suffered from shockingly high rates of elephantiasis, which swells limbs to immense proportions. The condition is caused by a bacteria called *Wuchereria bancrofti*.

People become infected when mosquitoes inject "a small worm into their lymph nodes, which blocks circulation", Failloux explained.

"At one point, around 30 per cent of French Polynesia's population was affected," she added.

'INCREASINGLY VAST PLAYING FIELD'

Failloux would move to mainland France to study the *Wuchereria bancrofti* bacteria at university and dedicate herself to studying mosquito-borne diseases.

"Thirty years ago, climate change wasn't a major topic of discussion and neither were mosquitoes," she said.

"Luckily, I persisted, and then at some point, I was needed," said Failloux, who now heads the Pasteur Institute's arbovirus and insect vector unit.

While she had wanted to return to work in French Polynesia, life intervened.

"I met my husband in mainland France... so there you have it," Fail-

loux said.

Rising temperatures caused by human-driven global warming have given mosquitoes and the many pathogens they spread "an increasingly vast playing field," she warned.

According to the World Health Organisation, 80 per cent of the world's population is now at risk of being exposed to one or more infectious diseases that were long considered tropical.

These diseases kill more than a million people a year, most of them children, according to the UN agency.

From 2028, Failloux will lead a team of around 15 researchers at a large new research centre in which the Pasteur Institute has invested 30 million euros.

The centre aims to develop strategies to control mosquitoes, particularly through their microbiota.

For now, Failloux's training for young entomologists includes courses in anthropology and sociology because she believes fighting mosquitoes also requires engaging the public.

One "long neglected" yet essential measure in the fight against mosquitoes is "cleaning your garden, unclogging your gutters", and eradicating any other stagnant water sources where mosquitoes could breed, Failloux added.



Hentikan budaya 'merajuk' dan alasan cuti sakit palsu

Amaran tegas Shuhaily kepada mereka yang sertai AKPS supaya keluar daripada zon selesa

Oleh AFHAM RAMLI

PUTRAJAYA - Pegawai dan anggota yang menyertai Agensi Kawalan dan Perlindungan Sempadan Malaysia (AKPS) perlu menekankan disiplin, elak budaya 'merajuk' dan memberi alasan cuti sakit palsu apabila ditegur.

Ketua Pengarah AKPS, Datuk Seri Mohd Shuhaily Mohd Zain berkata, semua yang masuk dan menyertai AKPS harus keluar daripada zon selesa masing-masing.

Menurutnya, budaya *chain of command* akan menjadi tunjang pengoperasian AKPS.

"Disiplin yang mana sekiranya ditegur, tidak merajuk dan esoknya tidak memberi alasan sakit dan mengambil surat cuti sakit yang diragui."

"Budaya ini akan saya nuktahkan dengan tindakan disiplin. Mana-mana klinik swasta yang memberikan surat cuti tidak sah akan saya buat laporan polis," katanya semasa berucap di Perhimpunan Bulanan AKPS di sini pada Rabu.

Mohd Shuhaily berkata, budaya sebegini-lah yang membuatkan sesuatu organisasi penguatkuasaan hilang taringnya.

Jelasnya, dalam erti kata lain AKPS memerlukan komitmen pegawai dan anggota dalam memartabatkan kembali maruah diri yang berada di barisan hadapan pintu masuk negara.

"Secara langsung kembalikan kepercayaan rakyat dalam memikul amanah ini... dengan wajah baru, saya amat berharap tuan dan puan puan dapat membawa wadah baharu," ujarnya.

Perhimpunan Bulanan AKPS bagi bulan



Mohd Shuhaily (dua dari kanan) memotong pulut kuning sebagai simbolik pentadbiran setahun kepimpinannya menerajui AKPS ketika perhimpunan bulanan AKPS di Putrajaya pada Rabu.

Julai 2026 diadakan bagi menghimpunkan seluruh warga AKPS sebagai platform komunikasi rasmi kepimpinan tertinggi agensi dalam menyampaikan hala tuju strategik, memperkukuh kesatuan organisasi serta menyemarakkan budaya kerja yang berteraskan integriti, kecekapan dan profesionalisme.

Penganjuran kali ini turut membawa signifikansi yang tersendiri kerana diadakan bersempena pelaksanaan rasmi Skim Perkhidmatan AKPS yang mula berkuat kuasa pada 1 Julai 2026.

Tarikh 1 Julai ini juga merupakan genap satu tahun kepimpinan Mohd Shuhaily sejak 1 Julai 2025.

Dalam pada itu, beliau turut berkongsi kejayaan tangkapan, rampasan dan serahan bagi tempoh Januari hingga Mei lalu

yang mencecah RM140.863 juta iaitu hampir dua kali ganda berbanding RM82.1 juta yang direkodkan sepanjang tahun 2025.

"Sebanyak 432 kontena e-waste dengan jumlah berat melebihi 5,803 tan berjaya ditahan daripada dibawa masuk atau keluar negara secara tidak sah," ujarnya.

Kata beliau, melalui koordinasi tersusun di bawah prinsip *Whole of Government*, 122 kontena e-waste telah dihantar keluar ke beberapa negara penerima mengikut keperluan Konvensyen Basel.

Noktah rasuah

Sementara itu katanya, budaya rasuah dan salah laku di pintu masuk perlu diberikan tanda noktah berhubung perihal integriti yang masih menjadi duri dalam daging.

"Satu isu yang merunsingkan saya ialah

perihal integriti yang masih menjadi duri dalam daging.

"Sejak beroperasi AKPS kurang daripada setahun kita telah menamatkan perkhidmatan lima pegawai dan 15 orang masih dalam prosedur tatatertib, 50 masih lagi dalam siasatan aktif," katanya lagi.

Dalam pada itu beliau berkata, 54 peratus pegawai daripada lima agensi teras menyertai Skim Perkhidmatan AKPS yang mula dikuatkuasakan secara rasmi pada 1 Julai.

Lima agensi teras itu ialah Jabatan Imigresen, Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (JKDM), Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia, Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan serta Jabatan Perlindungan Hidupan Liar dan Taman Negara Semenanjung Malaysia.