

# STATES LIFTED BY TOURISM SPENDING

Median monthly household income rose to RM6,338 last year, says Statistics Dept

## PUTRAJAYA

**T**HE key socioeconomic indicators for some states and federal territories improved last year, buoyed by a 248.1 per cent rise in domestic tourism expenditure to RM64.1 billion versus RM18.4 billion in 2021, according to the 2022 State Socioeconomic Report released by the Statistics Department.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said in a statement yesterday domestic visitor numbers spiked by 160.1 per cent last year, reaching a record of 171.6 million visitors against 2021's 66 million.

"The reopening of Malaysia's international borders and its

transition to the (Covid-19) endemic phase on April 1 last year profoundly impacted the country's socioeconomic landscape."

Uzir said the reopening of all economic activities, particularly tourism-related industries, helped strengthen the economy.

He said Selangor received the most visitors with 22 million, followed by Kuala Lumpur and Sarawak, each receiving 16.9 million and 15.5 million visitors, respectively.

Domestic tourists rose 337.1 per cent to 65.1 million against 14.9 million in 2021, with Pahang recording the highest growth at 511.8 per cent with 7.8 million arrivals from 1.3 million in 2021, elevating Pahang's gross domestic product growth in arts, enter-

tainment and other private services to 96.7 per cent, said Uzir.

This substantially improved living standards, with the median monthly household income rising to RM6,338 last year from RM5,873 in 2019.

Kuala Lumpur recorded the highest median income growth at RM10,234, followed by Putrajaya at RM10,056, and Selangor at RM9,983, he said.

The increase in income also influenced household expenditure patterns, with Malaysian households spending RM5,150 per month last year on average versus RM4,609 in 2021.

Putrajaya registered the highest average monthly household

expenditure at RM8,897.

Others that recorded household expenditures which exceeded the national average were Kuala Lumpur at RM7,823, Selangor at RM6,770, Melaka (RM5,707), Johor (RM5,342) and Penang (RM5,322).

Uzir said the surge in household income boosted consumer purchasing power which, in turn, increased the demand for goods and services.

"This was one of the factors which contributed to the increase in consumer prices. This was apparent as inflation rose to 3.3 per cent compared to 2.5 per cent in 2021," he said.

This was driven by an increase

in the expenses related to the food and beverage group at 5.8 per cent, restaurants and hotels at five per cent, transportation at 4.7 per cent and household furnishings, equipment and maintenance at 3.5 per cent.

Three areas with inflation rates exceeding 3.3 per cent were Putrajaya at 7.3 per cent, which was the highest, followed by Selangor at 4.2 per cent and Johor at 3.4 per cent.

Labuan's inflation rate at 2.4 per cent was the lowest, and lower than the 3.3 per cent national average.

Uzir said the government's proactive measures accelerated the economic transition from recovery to consolidation.

"Economic recovery is not only translated through stronger economic growth. It is also reflected in an improvement in the community's standard of living and social wellbeing." **Bernama**

## INFO BOX

**7.3pc**

Putrajaya had the highest inflation rate last year

**2.4pc**

Labuan had the lowest inflation rate last year