

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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## 'Economic recovery efforts bearing fruit'



People dining at a food stall at the Ampang Jaya Muhibah Building Complex in Ampang, Selangor, on June 9. National Recovery Council chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (inset) says the government is aware of the people's call to help them deal with the rising cost of food. PIC BY EFFENDY RASHID

### GDP GROWTH

## 'Economic recovery efforts bearing fruit'

**PUTRAJAYA:** National Recovery Council chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the country's economic recovery efforts have produced results.

"The gross domestic product grew five per cent in the first quarter of this year, with an increase in export and import demand.

"For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic struck two years ago, the unemployment rate has also decreased to under four per cent, at a record 3.9 per cent in April," he said after chair-

ing a National Recovery Council meeting on Tuesday.

Muhyiddin said this promising sign showed that the efforts of the government during the pandemic, including eight aid and economic stimulus packages valued at RM530 million, were fruitful.

However, he stated that they were also aware of growing challenges, including the increase in prices of essential food items.

"The Statistics Department reported that food inflation in April rose by 4.1 per cent with 89.1 per cent of food items recording an

increase.

"Multiple factors — including unpredictable weather, international geopolitical situations that affected the global supply chain, increasing prices of agricultural input such as seeds and fertiliser, rising logistics cost and manpower shortages in the agriculture sector — have caused prices of food items to rise."

Muhyiddin said that if this issue persisted, it could disrupt the country's food supply chain and food security, which would burden the people.