

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 21 JUN 2014 (SABTU)**

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FENOMENA EL NINO

Hingga Ogos

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Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia menjangkakan 70 peratus kebarangkalian fenomena El Nino terbentuk antara bulan ini dan Ogos, manakala ia dijangka berterusan sehingga musim bunga 2015 di Hemisfera Utara.

Merujuk kenyataan di laman sawang jabatan berkenaan menyatakan Monsun Barat Daya yang dicirikan angin permukaan bertiup secara tetap dari arah barat daya secara relatif lebih kering berbanding musim lain.

Dalam tempoh monsun ini, keadaan atmosfera menjadi lebih stabil yang melambatkan proses pencampuran menegak atmosfera dan mengurangkan proses perolakan yang kuat.

Perubahan kesan ini menyebabkan kebanyakan kawasan dalam negara ini tidak mengalami hujan dan cuaca kering.

Mengikut kenyataan itu, keadaan

cuaca kering ini mula dialami sejak awal tahun ini iaitu jumlah hari tanpa hujan meningkat yang menyebabkan Selatan dan Utara Semenanjung menerima taburan hujan melebihi 60 peratus kurang dari paras purata atau normal, manakala kawasan lain menerima taburan hujan pada paras purata.

Berdasarkan kepada kebanyakan model ramalan cuaca bermusim menjangkakan tempoh ramalan Mei hingga September tahun ini menerima jumlah hujan pada paras purata merangkumi seluruh negara.

Namun, sepanjang bulan ini dijangkakan menerima hujan sedikit di bawah paras purata meliputi semua kawasan dan keadaan ini berterusan Julai dan September kecuali Limbang dan Miri.

Pada 18 Jun lalu, akhbar ini me-

laporkan, Kementerian Tenaga, Teknologi Hijau dan Air meminta semua negeri menghantar laporan penuh status bekalan air mentah masing-masing dalam kadar segera sebagai persediaan berdepan musim kering berikutan jangkakan berlaku fenomena El Nino.

Timbalan Menteri Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid menyatakan, pihaknya sudah meminta laporan itu sejak minggu lalu bagi memudahkan kerajaan menganalisis kedudukan terkini bekalan air mentah.

Katanya, perbincangan lanjut mengenai tindakan yang akan diambil jika berlaku krisis air berdasarkan laporan berkenaan.

Sebelum ini, jawatankuasa peringkat kebangsaan menghadapi El Nino sudah ditubuhkan diketuai Timbalan Perdana Menteri Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin dan dianggotai 10 menteri bersama wakil kerajaan negeri.

FAKTA

70 peratus kebarangkalian fenomena El Nino terbentuk antara bulan ini dan Ogos

The haze is here again

Local pollution and lower rainfall contribute to current condition

By HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM
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PETALING JAYA: Local pollution and lower rainfall have contributed to a thin layer of haze enveloping certain parts of the country.

Malaysian Meteorological Department spokesman Dr Hisham Mohd Anip said the haze, likely due to smoke emitted from factories and vehicles, was not too serious at present.

Dr Hisham said no rainfall was expected until next week, except for local isolated rain in inland areas.

"We are now in the south-west monsoon season. It is normal for the country to receive low rainfall dur-

ing this season," he said.

"Most places in the peninsula will get rainfall between 75mm and 150mm this month, which is 20-40% lower than normal."

He said the south-west monsoon season, which began in the middle of last month, would continue until early September, bringing in heat, less rainfall and fewer cloud formations.

He added that the El Nino phe-

nomenon would kick in between this month and August and persist for at least five to six months.

Dr Hisham said the hot spell had also caused an increase in the number of open burning, forest and peat fires.

A check with the Fire and Rescue Department's website revealed a total of 416 cases of open burning, forest fires and peat fires throughout the country as of Monday.



"However, the number of hot spots detected (based on satellite images) is still low," said Dr Hisham. "On Thursday, we detected two hot spots in the peninsula and Sabah and nine in Sarawak."

Satellite images also showed two hot spots in Sumatera and 26 in Kalimantan, Indonesia, but Dr Hisham said they did not contribute to the current hazy condition.

The Air Pollutant Index (API) readings as at 3pm showed many places with good and moderate readings.

An API reading between 0 and 50 is considered good; 51 to 100, moderate; 101 to 200, unhealthy; 201 to 300, very unhealthy; and 301 and above, hazardous.

Sweltering heat keeping doctors busy

By VALERIE CHIN and
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PETALING JAYA: The hot weather is more than just bothersome for many. Checks with several clinics show that the number of people falling ill and seeing a doctor is also on the rise.

Primecare Clinic's Dr Chandra Vathana Selvarajah said here the number of patients visiting the clinic had increased in the last 10 days from between 50 and 60 people a day to between 70 and 80.

"Viral infections are very prevalent and many people are coming in with high temperatures at around 38°C," she said.

"Infections in the upper respiratory tract are the most common, like flu, cough, sore throat and sinuses."

She also attributed the extreme changes in surrounding temperature when walking inside and outside of cold air-conditioned offices and stress to be a cause that weakens the immune system of office workers.

Dr. Anthony Gabriel of Polyclinic Family, Shah Alam, said more people of all ages have been falling sick these past few days due to the hot weather.

"Our immune system is lowered through dehydration so it is not a surprise to see people coming in

Viral infections are very prevalent and many people are coming in with high temperatures.

— DR CHANDRA VATHANA SELVARAJAH

with flu, cough and sore throats, it's the same as last year," he said.

Dr Madhusudhan from Yap & Looi Clinic in Cheras said that children below the age of 12 and adults above the age of 50 were most prone to fall ill.

"Both of these groups have lower immune systems, the young do not keep to a healthy diet and eat more fast foods while the older ones are more sensitive to temperature changes in the surroundings," he added.

He also recommended that people should drink at least two to three liters of water per day to avoid dehydration and consume more fruits as they contain natural Vitamin C.

According to the **Meteorological Department Malaysia**, the maximum temperature yesterday in Petaling Jaya was 35.6°C and 35.8°C in Subang with no sight of rain until next Thursday.



Amaran Angin Kencang Dan Laut Bergelora

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 Jun (Bernama) -- Angin kencang dan laut bergelora (kategori pertama) di kawasan perairan Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang dan Kudat serta Pantai Barat di Sabah diramalkan berterusan sehingga Ahad ini.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dalam kenyataan hari Sabtu berkata keadaan angin dengan kelajuan 40 hingga 50 kilometer sejam (kmsj) dan ombak mencapai ketinggian 3.5 meter itu berbahaya kepada bot kecil, aktiviti rekreasi dan sukan laut.

Menurut kenyataan itu, keadaan cuaca yang sama juga dijangka melanda perairan Phuket, Selat Melaka Utara, Samui, Condore, Reef North, Layang-layang dan Pahlawan dijangka berterusan sehingga esok.

Angin dijangka bertiup kencang antara 40 hingga 50 kmsj serta ombak setinggi 3.5 meter dan berbahaya kepada aktiviti perkapalan dan pantai termasuk menangkap ikan dan perkhidmatan feri di kawasan-kawasan terlibat.

Sementara itu, ribut petir turut diramalkan di kawasan perairan Samui, Condore, Reef North, Palawan dan Sulu sehingga awal pagi esok.

-- BERNAMA

