

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 24 FEBRUARI 2014 (ISNIN)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH: 24 FEBRUARI 2014 (ISNIN)

Pembenihan awan di 4 negeri Rabu ini

Kuala Lumpur: Proses pembenihan awan yang sesuai akan dilaksanakan Rabu ini dengan menumpukan kawasan empangan di empat negeri yang merekodkan bacaan paras air rendah dan kritikal.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (JMM) Datuk Che-Gayah Ismail berkata, berdasarkan pemantauan satelit meteorologi JMM mendapati sekitar 26 Februari terdapat awan yang sesuai untuk melaksanakan operasi berkenaan.

Katanya, pembenihan awan itu akan dilakukan dengan semburan air garam menggunakan pesawat Tehtera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM) di kawasan tadahan empangan negeri Selangor, Johor, Melaka dan Negeri Sembilan.

"Melalui pemantauan berterusan, mendapati Rabu ini masa sesuai untuk melaksanakan pembenihan awan kerana di ramalkan awan yang sesuai terbentuk pada hari terbabit" katanya dihujung, semalam.

Katanya, proses pembenihan awan itu juga akan dilakukan berterusan tertakluk kepada keadaan awan, pergerakan angin dan cuaca.

Katanya, peratus kejayaan untuk hujan turun melebihi 80 peratus sekiranya semua syarat pembenihan awan dipenuhi.

Mengenai ramalan cuaca kering dialami di kebanyakan tempat di seluruh negara, JMM menjangka cuaca sedikit lembap menjelang pertengahan Mac ini.

Cuaca kering hingga pertengahan Mac

SITI NURSYAHIDAH
ABU BAKAR

SHAH ALAM – Cuaca kering yang melanda seluruh negara bersifat sementara dan dijangka berakhir pertengahan bulan depan.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi, Datuk Che Gayah Ismail berkata, fenomena ini disebabkan negara berada dalam fasa pertengahan Monsun Timur Laut.

“Keadaan ini menyebabkan lebih banyak hari kering berbanding hari hujan. Di



Semenanjung Malaysia, cuacanya lebih kering berbanding Sabah dan Sarawak.

“Bagaimanapun, cuaca kering ini masih berada dalam julat normal dengan suhu maksimum 32 hingga 35 darjah Celcius,” katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*, semalam.

Beliau berkata, keadaan cuaca panas seperti itu adalah

normal menjelang pertengahan bulan hadapan dan ia lebih rendah berbanding suhu yang dicatat pada 1997.

“Situasi ini berlaku setiap tahun dan negara pernah mengalami cuaca kering yang lebih teruk daripada ini pada 1997 ketika fenomena El-Nino. Selepas pertengahan Mac, suhu akan mula lembap,” katanya.

Menurutnya, cuaca kering tanpa hujan ini turut memberi kesan besar kepada penurunan paras air di empangan.

Oleh itu, katanya, proses

pembenihan awan dijangka dilakukan di kawasan berdekatan empangan atau kawasan tadahan hujan pada 26 dan 27 Februari ini.

“Pemantauan telah dilakukan dari sekarang untuk mengenal pasti hari yang mempunyai banyak awan. Tujuan pembenihan awan dilakukan bagi meningkatkan kadar hujan dan menambah kapasiti air empangan.

“Bagaimanapun, kejayaan proses itu tetap bergantung kepada keadaan awan, sama ada ia banyak atau tidak,” katanya.

Cloud seeding conditions 'need to be perfect'

By FAIZAL NOR IZHAM
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THE Meteorological Department cannot begin cloud seeding operations until cloud conditions are optimal, forecast director Muhammad Helmi Abdullah said.

"It's hard to predict when exactly the time will be," he said.

"Atmospheric conditions have to be perfect first."

Muhammad Helmi said he was unsure whether it would be done in the coming week.

He said ideal atmospheric conditions include factors such as a north-easterly wind, which would bring cumulus clouds over catchment areas.

"These will be decided based on radar images," he said.

"Everything else is ready, it's just that we are waiting for the right time to activate them."

Last week, Selangor state executive councillor Elizabeth Wong said the Meteorological Department was preparing to engage in cloud seeding and had given orders to seed all water catchment areas in the peninsula.

The Royal Malaysian Air Force had also been asked to gear up for the exercise.

According to the department's website, Selangor can expect isolated showers in the afternoon for today and tomorrow but will experience fair weather for the whole day from Thursday to Saturday.

Kuala Lumpur can expect fair weather for the whole day for today and tomorrow, while cloudy afternoons can be every day from Wednesday until Saturday.

Putrajaya will see only fair weather every day this week until Saturday.

Lack of rain also exacerbates other problems, such as pollution.

According to the Selangor Water Management Authority's (Luas) website, yesterday's water levels at Klang Gates have dropped to 54.73 per cent from the 56 per cent level on Tuesday, while water levels at the Sungai Selangor dam have dropped to 50.77 per cent from 53 per cent.

These levels, according to Syabas communications and public affairs deputy general manager Priscilla Alfred, had decreased from the reserves recorded the previous Thursday.

This demonstrated a five per cent decrease of reserve at the Sungai Selangor dam and a one per cent decrease at Klang Gates within five days.

1,200 bush fires since January

By HAN KAR KAY
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THE prolonged dry spell has tripled the number of forest and bush fires in Penang over the past few weeks. Penang Fire and Rescue Department operations centre officer Y. Anbarasan said the number of fires from Janu-

ary has reached a new high of 1,210 compared to 370 cases in the same period last year.

"The hotspots are mostly on the mainland, with more cases reported in Kepala Batas, Bukit Mertajam and Sungai Bakap," he told *The Malay Mail* yesterday.

Anbarasan said the fires occurred in forests, bushes

and landfills.

On Saturday, fire razed 3.2ha of mangrove forests in Kampung Bakau Tua, Sungai Bakap, from noon. It was only put out seven hours later.

Kuala Muda Fire and Rescue station operations chief Yusmin Mohd Yusoff said the overlapping trees and the wind caused the fire to

spread quickly.

Other areas were not affected by the fire

Two weeks ago, fires were spotted in Bukit Gambier but they were brought under control few hours later.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) has forecast that there will be no rain in the state for the next seven days.

