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Yayasan Diraja Sultan Mizan Nafi Anjur Lawatan MB Terengganu Ke Antartika

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Jan (Bernama) -- Yayasan DiRaja Sultan Mizan (YDSM) Jumaat menafikan ia menganjurkan lawatan Menteri Besar Terengganu Datuk Seri Ahmad Said ke Antartika.

"Lawatan itu bukan anjuran YDSM, dan ia tiada kaitan dengan program yayasan," kata Setiausaha Kerja YDSM Mohd Azrul Ismail dalam kenyataan hari ini.

Beliau berkata yayasan itu hanya menjalankan kerja amal bagi memberi sumbangan ke arah meningkatkan taraf sosioekonomi, kesejahteraan hidup dan pendidikan rakyat, selain melakukan program penyelidikan sejarah, pembangunan seni warisan serta pemuliharaan alam sekitar negeri itu.

Pada 15 Jan lepas, akhbar melaporkan satu kenyataan bahawa Ahmad akan mengetuai lawatan ke Antartika selama 15 hari anjuran **Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi** melalui inisiatif Yayasan Diraja Sultan Mizan (YDSM).

Kenyataan itu, yang dikeluarkan oleh Pejabat Menteri Besar Terengganu, menyatakan lawatan itu bertujuan membuka laluan bagi membantu kerajaan menubuhkan sebuah stesen penyelidikan bersama Instituto Antartico Chileno (INACH).

-- BERNAMA

Bundle up for cold week ahead

DAY 6: People, especially those with asthma, should monitor their health, advises National Security Council

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WITH the current low temperatures in several areas in the country expected to last until next week, those affected are resorting to various ways to keep warm.

Many people in areas blessed with hot springs, especially those without the privilege of having water heaters at home, are making a beeline for the natural pools.

Others continue to layer up, as the cold climate enters its sixth day.

The National Security Council (NSC) is in close contact with the Health Ministry to check if the change in weather is affecting the health of those in the affected areas.

NSC secretary Datuk Mohamed Thajudeen Abd Wahab said even though the current dip in temperatures did not warrant the council to be on "standby mode", it had alerted government clinics to monitor the situation in their respective areas.

"Even though the cool weather is temporary, the public, especially people with asthma, should monitor their health and seek medical

Weather outlook for the next six days												
	Jan 25		Jan 26		Jan 27		Jan 28		Jan 29		Jan 30	
	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C
Kuala Krai, Kelantan	21	29	22	30	22	30	22	31	23	31	23	31
• Jan 25 - 30: Afternoon showers												
Besut, Terengganu	22	30	22	30	22	30	22	31	23	31	23	31
• Jan 25: Fair whole day • Jan 26 - 30: Afternoon showers												
Chuping, Perlis	22	32	22	32	22	32	22	32	22	32	22	32
• Jan 25 - 30: Fair whole day												
Alor Star, Kedah	21	32	21	32	21	32	21	32	21	32	21	32
• Jan 25 - 30: Afternoon showers												
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	23	30	25	33	25	33	25	33	25	33	25	33
• Jan 25 - 27: Afternoon showers • Jan 28 - 30: Afternoon thunderstorms												

treatment if they begin to have health problems," he told the *New Straits Times*.

As the people in Kuala Krai, Kelantan; Perlis; Besut, Terengganu; Alor Star, Kedah; Cameron Highlands, Pahang; and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, seek thicker materials for reprieve from the chill, Kelab Putera Malaysia is expected to knock

on their doors and hand out wool blankets.

Its president, Datuk Abdul Azeez Rahim, said he considered temperatures below 20°C to be "critical", as most Malaysians were not used to such cool weather.

"The club's secretariat is in the midst of sourcing these blankets for distribution.

"We have, since yesterday (Thursday), sourced jackets that are suitable for children in the affected areas," he told NST, adding that the items would be distributed soon.

The country is experiencing record low temperatures in several areas, with Kuala Krai topping the list.

The temperature there dropped significantly from 32°C on Jan 7 to 17.2°C on Wednesday.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department expects the low temperatures, attributed to cold, dry winds from China, which is currently experiencing winter, to start rising by next week.

Its central forecast division director, Muhammad Helmi Abdullah, said temperatures in the affected areas were gradually increasing.

He said the affected areas should be seeing normal temperature readings next month.

"The northeast monsoon winds that come from China are slowly moving towards the northwest.

"The strong winds that we have been experiencing have also weakened."

Helmi said the low temperatures recorded in some areas in the east coast and north of the peninsula were normal climatic changes that happened occasionally in the months of January and February.

"We have not yet made sure if the record of the country's lowest temperature has been broken over the past few days.

"However, the temperature readings that we have been seeing are far below the average minimum temperature."

Kuala Krai residents don sweaters to stay warm

UNUSUAL WEATHER: Kuala Krai Hospital ensures patients have enough blankets

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IT may seem unusual but people in this Kelantan town have been putting on sweaters this week. The reason: the mercury is showing 17° Celsius!

A check by Bernama at the Kuala Krai Lake Gardens and the Cinta Wangsa Park, a popular workout spot, found that people were turning up later than usual because of thick mist.

Civil servant Mohd Baihaqi Che Man, 28, said he now headed to the park an hour later than usual, at 8am, to exercise.

"The cold weather caused a thick

mist to envelop the area and visibility is reduced. I also had to put on three layers of clothing, including a sweater, because the weather is colder than it was last week."

Teacher Abd Aziz Daud, 42, from Sungai Pas here, said the cold was unusual and some pupils and teachers started wearing sweaters to school.

"It is also cold in the evenings. However, pupils are still turning up for school."

Civil servant Norazita Ismail, 36, from Guchil 3, said she started taking hot baths before going to work.

"I dread the cold water. It is too cold, like touching ice. Fortunately, we are able to start our cars in the

morning. The town is shrouded in mist even at 9.30am," she said.

The Meteorological Department reported last Wednesday that the temperature hit 17.2°C, the second coldest area after Cameron Highlands in Pahang at 12°C.

The mercury showed a minimum of 19.1°C and a maximum of 29.2°C here yesterday.

In **Kota Baru**, it was between 21°C and 27.9°C.

Management at the district hospital here began increasing its stock of blankets at all the wards to make sure patients were kept warm.

Assistant director (administration) Intan Shahrizat Mohd Nasir said the move was taken after they

received information on the change in the weather pattern from the Meteorological Department.

She said the additional blankets sent to the wards depended on patients' needs.

"It is normal for us here to experience low temperatures in January and February every year but some of our patients feel uncomfortable at night.

"Therefore, we had asked our supplier to send more blankets."

A cold air surge from mainland China moving southwards to the South China Sea, a phenomenon usually associated with the northeast monsoon, had been cited as the cause of the chilly conditions.

