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TARIKH: 25 JULAI 2014 (JUMAAT)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (RENCANA) : MUKA SURAT 15
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Perkukuh, perluaskan jaringan bioteknologi

Oleh **NURUL HUDA HASSAN**
pengarang@utusan.com.my

SEJAK Pelan Transformasi Bioteknologi (BTP) negara diperkenalkan pada 2012, mereka yang terlibat dalam bidang berkenaan giat mencari peluang menerusi pelbagai aspek dalam usaha untuk mengukuhkan lagi industri itu di Malaysia. Malah, sehingga hari ini pihak tersebut terus berusaha memperhebatkan industri terbabit bagi merealisasikan hasrat menjadikan Malaysia sebagai salah satu pusat kecemerlangan dunia dalam bidang bioteknologi menjelang tahun 2020.

Tidak hanya duduk diam, satu demi satu aktiviti digerakkan dari menjayakan pelbagai program berkaitan selain mempertingkatkan usaha untuk menarik pelabur berpotensi ke Malaysia sekali gus menjalinkan kerjasama bersama.

Industri berasaskan bioteknologi menerusi pelbagai penghasilan produk seperti menerusi bidang pertanian dan perindustrian juga dilaporkan dijangka mampu menyumbang sebanyak RM150 bilion kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) menjelang tahun 2020. Jumlah ini jelas menunjukkan bidang bioteknologi turut memainkan peranan penting dalam menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi negara sekali gus pelbagai perancangan perlu dibuat bagi menjayakan usaha tersebut.

Johor juga tidak ketinggalan untuk merebut peluang dalam industri bioteknologi menerusi Perbadanan Bioteknologi & Biodiversiti Negeri Johor (J-Biotech) yang kini sedang rancang merancang pelbagai seminar, program dan kerjasama. Memilih Taiwan sebagai destinasi antarabangsa pertama untuk memastikan bidang bioteknologi dapat terus diperhebat di Malaysia khususnya di Johor, Seminar Kerjasama Johor : Ekonomi Bioteknologi Malaysia-Taiwan dianjurkan.

Bertempat di Hotel Grand Hyatt yang terletak berhadapan Menara Taipei 101 atau dikenali sebagai Pusat Keunggulan Taipei di Taiwan, merupakan menara kedua tertinggi di dunia dengan menasarkankan pemain industri itu di republik berkenaan.

Taiwan dipilih kerana mempunyai satu struktur dan ekosistem dalam bidang bioteknologi yang boleh dicontohi Malaysia amnya dan negeri Johor khususnya, malah turut disokong dengan pelbagai insentif oleh kerajaan Taiwan.

Seminar tersebut turut disertai **Malaysia Biotechnology Corporation Sdn. Bhd. (Biotech Corp)**, Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia (MIDA), Pusat Pelaburan Negeri Johor (JSIC), Tourism Malaysia Johor dan agensi kerajaan lain. Turut menyertai program tersebut adalah Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pelancongan, Perdagangan dan Kepenggunaan Johor, Datuk Tee Siew Kieng.

Mengulas mengenai seminar tersebut, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Wan Amir Jeffery Wan Abdul Majid berkata, ia dianjurkan bagi mewujudkan satu penglibatan yang aktif antara mereka yang terlibat selain menjalin kerjasama yang baik.

Ia juga katanya, satu usaha meningkatkan persaingan sektor ekonomi bioteknologi yang kini sedang pesat berkembang dan membangun di Malaysia sekali gus menasarkankan untuk menarik pelaburan berkaitan ke negara.

"Kita juga mahu menguar-uarkan lagi kewujudan Malaysia amnya dan Johor khususnya sebagai negara yang berpotensi untuk menawarkan peluang pelaburan yang terbaik dalam bidang perniagaan berasaskan bioteknologi.

"Negara kita mempunyai beberapa tarikan yang boleh membantu menarik pelabur dari Taiwan seperti di Johor yang kini menjadi tumpuan pelabur kerana disifatkan sebagai satu lokasi strategik dan berbaloi untuk pelaburan.

Justeru, beliau mengharapkan seminar itu mampu menjadi platform kepada pihak berkaitan untuk mewujudkan kerjasama dan memperluaskan jaringan antara kedua-dua negara di masa akan datang.

Malaysia tambah pakar bantu kenal pasti mangsa

» Belanda beri kepercayaan bagi percepat proses pengecaman



Veena Rusli

veena@bh.com.my

Amsterdam, Belanda

Malaysia terus meraih kepercayaan Belanda apabila diminta menambah bilangan pakar bagi membantu proses mengenal pasti identiti mangsa nahas pesawat MH17 yang dijalankan di kem tentera Hilversum, kira-kira 45 kilometer dari Amsterdam.

Ketika ini, 28 pakar forensik dan penyiasat perubatan Malaysia membantu pasukan Pengecaman Mangsa Bencana (DVI) yang diketuai oleh Belanda.

Menteri Pengangkutan, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, berkata pertambahan berikutnya

membabitkan 11 pakar yang ketika ini masih berada di Kharkiv, Ukraine bagi urusan penghantaran mayat mangsa, menjadikan jumlahnya 39 orang dengan pasukan DVI Malaysia diketuai Dr Mohd Shah Mahmud.

"Kumpulan ini membabitkan pakar daripada Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM), Jabatan Kimia dan Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Pertambahan bilangan ini adalah permintaan Kerajaan Belanda yang memahami pentingnya urusan mengenal pasti identiti dan pengecaman dilakukan dengan secepat mungkin.

Proses ikut prosedur

"Pada masa sama, prosesnya perlu mengikut prosedur ditetapkan tanpa kompromi dalam mana-mana aspek kerana kita mahu memulangkan jasad yang betul kepada ahli keluarga dan waris mangsa," katanya kepada media Malaysia di sini, semalam.

Tiong Lai berkata, operasi pasukan Malaysia yang membantu urusan penghantaran



mayat di Kharkiv ditutup berikutan ketibaan kumpulan terakhir di Eindhoven.

Kelmarin, 40 keranda mayat mangsa dihantar menerusi penerbangan khas pesawat Hercules C-130 milik Tentera Udara Diraja Belanda dan C-17 Globemaster Tentera Udara Diraja Australia ke pangkalan penerbangan tentera Eindhoven.

Ia diikuti 80 mayat mangsa yang dihantar semalam dan bakinya dijadual tiba hari ini dengan semuanya menerima penghormatan penuh adat istiadat ketenteraan.

Mengulas dakwaan 40 mayat yang tiba kelmarin turut membabitkan rakyat Malaysia, Tiong Lai berkata, belum

ada pengesahan diterima dan saya akan menjadi orang pertama dihubungi pasukan DVI kita di Hilversum sebaik ada rakyat kita dikenal pasti.

Pemeriksaan berulang

Katanya, Malaysia turut meminta kerjasama Kerajaan Ukraine melakukan pemeriksaan berulang di lokasi nahas di Donetsk bagi memastikan tiada aspek yang terlepas pandang, termasuk cebisan anggota badan mangsa.

"Pakar berupaya mengesan dan mengenal pasti punca sebenar kejadian menerusi bukti yang diperoleh pada mayat atau fragmen ditemui," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, Tiong Lai meminta semua pihak terutama keluarga mangsa memberi ruang secukupnya bagi pasukan pakar teknikal mengenal pasti mayat memandangkan tragedi MH17 adalah jenayah antarabangsa.

Tegasnya, komitmen Malaysia dalam menangani isu nahas MH17 tidak berubah sejak hari pertama dan cabaran pertama iaitu membawa keluar mayat dilepasi dengan baik.

Bodies may hold vital clues

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Forensic teams working round the clock to perform post-mortem

FARRAH NAZ KARIM
AMSTERDAM
news@nst.com.my

INVESTIGATORS are hopeful that the bodies of the victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 now undergoing post-mortem in Hilversum, the Netherlands, would provide them clues as to what happened to the Boeing 777-200 jetliner.

At this point of the investigation, this has become one of the most promising sources of information, considering the fact that the wreckage of the aircraft has not been recovered from where it crashed in Grabovo in Donetsk, Ukraine, after it was blown out of the sky last Thursday.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai told the Malaysian press here that Kuala Lumpur had asked Ukraine to grant the investigating team full access to the crash site.

He said the access currently provided was "very limited".

This, he said, was critical if the international investigating team was to get their hands on what's left of the aircraft, and to put together the pieces of this huge puzzle.

However, a source said a large portion of the twin jet was destroyed on impact and if investigators did manage to reconstruct the fuselage, it would likely only be just a quarter of the jetliner.

They are also concerned with visuals showing those at the site sawing through parts of the aircraft that were lying scattered soon after the crash.

"The edges of the parts of the aircraft lying there can tell a lot about the incident. If the parts have been severely compromised... it will be a problem," said the source.

As of yesterday, the three teams of Malaysian investigators, who were among the first to arrive and comb the site for clues, were still there gathering evidence.

A forensics expert with the Malaysian delegation said investigators only had photos of the wreckage to work with.

"The Dutch-led team needs to be able to take the wreckage out as it is crucial to the probe. As it is, the elements, could have, to a great extent, compromised the evidence."

The wreckage had been in the open for a week now.

Liow said the Netherlands had asked for a reinforcement of Malaysian experts.

Eleven of them would join the 28-man Malaysian forensics team already holed up at the Hilversum military medical facility since more than 24 hours ago, working round the clock on the bodies alongside their international counterparts.

The reinforcements include officers from the **Chemistry Department**, the military, police and the Health Ministry.

They will come with DNA samples of the victims' families.

The Disaster Victim Investigation (DVI) team is currently working on five operation



Workers using a forklift to load caskets containing the remains of victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 onto a Dutch transport military aircraft before its departure for the Netherlands, at Kharkiv Airport in Ukraine yesterday. Reuters pic

lines, focused on five bodies at a time.

As at 2pm local time yesterday, they had not concluded any of the post-mortems.

The first 40 bodies were brought there on Wednesday and at least 70 more were brought in yesterday.

The 24-member Malaysian SmartTeam's base in Kharkiv will wrap up their operations today after the remaining bodies are flown to the Netherlands.

"Aside from identifying the bodies, the post-mortem can also shed some light on areas the investigators are probing," the forensics expert said.

He said among the things that forensics could establish was whether there was shrapnel on the bodies.

This would establish whether the aircraft sustained a direct missile hit or whether the projectile exploded before it hit the plane.

Traces of molten metal on the bodies if any, would determine if it was indeed a missile that blew up the aircraft.

Putting the investigating process in perspective, the expert said, based on the passengers' manifest, their seats and the matching of DNA and the condition of their bodies, investigators would be able to pinpoint where the plane was hit.

Meanwhile, Malaysian chef-de-mission Khairil Hilmi Mokhtar, who is from the National Security Council, said once the post-mortem on each body was concluded, the body would be immediately sent back on the next MAS flight out of the Netherlands.

"No, there is no need to wait for the post-mortem on all the bodies to be concluded."

On whether it had been established how many of the bodies flown in to Eindhoven were Malaysians, Hilmi said, only the DVI teams would know for sure, as once the bodies were put in body bags at the site, they had remained unopened until they reached Hilversum.

He said the bodies were, however, scanned before they were flown to the Netherlands from Kharkiv in Ukraine.