

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 27 JANUARI 2014 (ISNIN)**

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Cold weather may not cause rain

KUALA LUMPUR: The ongoing cold weather that has caused shivers among Malaysians in some parts of the country may not result in heavy rains.

Malaysian Meteorological Department director-general Che Gayah Ismail said there was no indication of heavy rain in the next few days.

"The department is closely monitoring the weather changes and if there is an indicator, we will issue an advisory," she told *The New Straits Times*.

She said the standard operating procedure was to issue an advisory between 24 and 48 hours before such an event.

"We are still in the northeast monsoon period and it is normal to experience a few episodes of heavy rain."

On the possibility of heavy rains causing floods, she said it depended on the monsoon surge.

On the changes in temperature, she said Kuala Krai in Kelantan broke the record with its temperature dropping significantly from the 32°C on Jan 7 to 17.2°C on Jan 22.

Several countries in the region were also experiencing colder weather, with northern Vietnam snowing last month and Thailand's capital, Bangkok, hitting 15°C.

A local daily reported an oceanographer had advised Malaysians to watch out for heavy rain that could cause floods in the next few days following the cooler weather.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's Institute of Geospatial Science and Technology Associate Professor Dr Maged Mahmoud Marghany said the cold monsoon wind could get trapped in the warm atmospheric front once it hit the land mass in the east coast, Sabah and Sarawak.

He said in June 2006 forest fires in Indonesia resulted in increased humidity and heat in the atmosphere and due to the slow, weak wind above Johor, the heat hovered in the area during the monsoon season.

When the cold northeast monsoon wind converged with the heat, it resulted in heavy rain and floods in Johor, the state nearest to the forest fire, he said.

According to a statement in the Meteorological Department's website, January and February are when the minimum temperatures are relatively low compared with that of the other months.

The cooler than normal temperature in most areas, especially in the eastern and northern areas of the peninsula, was due to the strong north-easterly winds from mainland China, which was currently experiencing winter.

In addition, less cloud coverage throughout the peninsula this week also helped to lower the temperature at night and in the early morning.

Based on the weather conditions and wind direction for the next few days, the cooler weather was expected to continue until early this week.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 03
TARIKH: 27 JANUARI 2014 (ISNIN)

Angin kencang, laut bergelora

KUALA LUMPUR 26 Jan. - Angin kencang dan laut bergelora diramalkan berterusan sehingga Khamis ini di perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Johor Timur.

Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia turut mengeluarkan amaran kategori pertama itu bagi kawasan di Sarawak (Mukah, Bintulu dan Miri), Labuan, Sabah (Pedalaman, Pantai Barat dan Kudat), Samui, Tioman, Bunguran, Reef South dan Palawan.

Sepanjang tempoh itu, angin kencang timur laut dengan kelajuan 40 hingga 50 kilometer (km) sejam dan ombak mencapai ketinggian 3.5 meter dijangka berlaku di kesemua kawasan berkenaan.

"Keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora itu adalah berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, aktiviti rekreasi dan sukan laut," kata jabatan itu dalam kenyataan di sini, hari ini.

Jabatan itu juga menyatakan keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora kategori kedua diramal melanda kawasan perairan Condore, Reef North dan Layang-Layang sehingga Khamis ini.

Keadaan itu menyebabkan angin kencang bertiup antara 50 dan 60 km sejam dan ombak setinggi 4.5 meter, yang berbahaya kepada semua aktiviti perkapalan dan pantai termasuk menangkap ikan serta perkhidmatan feri. - BERNAMA

Visibility levels drop in west coast Hotspots in neighbouring countries a possible cause

Hazy weather:
The Petronas Twin Towers and KL Tower can barely be seen from the balcony of this condominium in Taman Tun Dr Ismail. — Picture courtesy of Sara Sukor



By ISABELLE LAI
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PETALING JAYA: Visibility levels in the west coast took a dive over the weekend although the weather remained on the cooler side.

The reason for the reduced visibility levels is not conclusive as air quality in the country is recorded at either "good" or "moderate" on the Air Pollutant Index.

Some Malaysians speculated it might be haze as they felt ill, listing symptoms such as fever, sore throat and sinus problems.

Homemaker Sara Sukor, 33, said she had observed her baby son's eczema flare up after the "haze" appeared on Friday afternoon.

She said she could barely make out the skyline of the Petronas Twin

Towers and KL Tower from her 19th floor apartment in Taman Tun Dr Ismail.

"Even though there is no smoky smell, I feel the haze is getting worse by the day," she said.

IT support executive, Martin Arulappa, 26, said he had not noticed lower visibility levels in Klang but he and his sister had been suffering from flu and fever since Friday.

"It could be the indecisive climate," he said.

The Meteorological Department (MET) said Petaling Jaya and Kuala Pilah in Negri Sembilan had visibility readings of up to 4km as of 5pm yesterday.

Visibility was up to 6km in Subang and Ipoh, 7km in Butterworth, 8km in Sepang and Malacca and 9km in Batu Pahat, Johor.

Normal visibility levels are from a range of 10km and further.

However, air quality remained at good and moderate levels, with Ipoh recording the poorest reading of 82 as of 5pm yesterday.

According to the Department of Environment's Air Pollutant Index (API), unhealthy, very unhealthy and hazardous air quality readings are from 100 to 200, 200 to 300, and more than 300 respectively.

The reduced visibility could be due to the 500 hotspots detected by the NOAA-18 Satellite on the Meteorological Service Singapore's website, for the areas of Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

The hotspot map for that region showed most of the hotspots were concentrated in Cambodia and spread out into Thailand and Laos.

Expect strong winds, rough seas

THE shores of Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor, Sarawak (Mukah, Bintulu and Miri), Labuan, Sabah (interior, west coast and Kudat), Samui, Tioman, Bunguran, Reef South and Palawan witnessed strong winds and rough seas which were expected to persist until Thursday.

The Meteorological Depart-

ment said, in a statement yesterday, that strong north-easterly winds with speed of 40 to 50kph and waves of up to 3.5m are expected to occur during that period.

This condition of strong winds and rough seas is dangerous to small boats, recreational activities and sea sports.

Second category high winds and rough seas would hit the waters of Condore, Reef North and Layang-Layang.

The strong winds blowing between 50 and 60kph and waves up to 4.5m were also expected to continue until Thursday.

The situation is dangerous to all shipping and coastal ac-

tivities, including fishing and ferry services.

Meanwhile, thunderstorms that can cause strong winds of up to 50kph and rough seas with waves up to 3.5m in the coastal waters of Sarawak (Bintulu and Miri) were expected to persist until late this afternoon.

— Bernama

