KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 4 JANUARI 2015 (AHAD)

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	Hujan monsun dijangka bermula rabu atau khamis	Mingguan Malaysia
2	Minister: Brace for major monsoon rain	Sunday Star
3	Hujan berterusan mulai 7 Januari	Berita Harian
4	Veggies up, poultry down	Sunday Star
5	Sunny outlook continues	New Straits Times

KERATAN AKHBAR
MINGGUAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH: 4 JANUARI 2015 (AHAD)

Hujan monsun dijangka bermula Rabu atau Khamis

KOTA KINABALU 3 Jan. - Satu lagi episod hujan monsun dijangka berlaku bermula Rabu atau Khamis ini di beberapa negeri yang terlibat dengan banjir sebelum ini

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin (**gambar**) berkata, berikutan ramalan Jabatan Meteorologi itu, penduduk yang tinggal di kawasan berisiko banjir diingatkan supaya sentiasa mengikuti perkembangan cuaca terkini.

Katanya, dalam tempoh itu juga orang ramai diinasihatkan untuk tidak menjalankan sebarang aktiviti rekreasi atau sukan laut berikutan angin kencang dan laut bergelora yang turut berbahaya kepada botbot kecil.

"Sebelum ini Jabatan Meteorologi mengeluarkan Amaran Angin Kencang dan Laut Bergelora (Kategori Kedua) iaitu Angin Kencang Timur Laut dengan kelajuan 50 hingga 60 kilometer sejam di beberapa negeri meliputi Pahang, Johor, Sabah, Sarawak dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan.

"Ombak juga dijangka mencapai ketinggian sehingga 4.5 meter di perairan Pahang, Johor Timur, Sarawak, Sabah (Pedalaman, Pantai Barat dan Kudat) dan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan yang dijangka berterusan sehingga esok," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini hari ini.

Menurut Ewon, nasihat Hujan Lebat Peringkat Kuning kepada Amaran Hujan Lebat (Peringkat Jingga) yang dikeluarkan oleh Jabatan Meteorologi pada 24 Disember lalu untuk negeri ini akan pulih hari ini.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, pihak kementerian melalui Jabatan Meteorologi sentiasa memantau keadaan cuaca di seluruh negara dan akan memberi perkembangan terkini kepada pihak berkenaan demi kepentingan orang ramai.

Menurutnya, orang ramai juga boleh mendapatkan maklumat dengan menghubungi Talian Hotline 1-300-22-1638 atau melawati laman web *www.met.gov.my* atau *www.facebook.com/malaysiamet* atau *twitter.com/malaysiamet*.

KERATAN AKHBAR
SUNDAY STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 13
TARIKH: 04 JANUARI 2015 (AHAD)

Minister: Brace for major monsoon rain

KOTA KINABALU: A major monsoon rain is expected to hit several parts of the country from Wednesday with a senior minister advising those living in flood prone areas to be on the alert.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Ewon Ebin is also advising against any recreational activities at sea for now with winds currently gusting up to 60kph and waves as high as 4.5m.

He said the affected areas include the coastal areas of Pahang, east Johor, Sarawak, Labuan and Sabah.

Meanwhile, clear skies over most of Sabah yesterday enabled flood waters to recede in most areas with only 368 villagers remaining at evacuation centres in the northern Kudat district.

Sabah Fire and Rescue Services Department spokesman Affendy Ramin said the evacuees were from Kampung Korina, Naradang Darat and Andap Jawa.

He said most of the evacuees were housed at the SK Sikuati while the 810 villagers in Kota Belud district who took shelter at the community centre were allowed to return home.

A flash flood hit the southwestern Sipitang district after the Sungai Menggalong burst its banks early yesterday.

Incessant heavy rains in the area since Friday caused water to overflow from the river banks since 4am, Sipitang police chief Deputy Supt Mustafa Osma said.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (NASIONAL): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 4 JANUARI 2015 (AHAD)

Hujan berterusan mulai 7 Januari

Kuala Lumpur: Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) menjangkakan angin Monsun Timur Laut bermula 7 atau 8 Januari ini berkemungkinan membawa taburan hujan berterusan selama dua hingga tiga hari di negeri seperti Johor, Sabah dan Sarawak.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Che Gayah Ismail (**gambar**), berkata kejadian luruan monsun itu hanya dapat dipastikan dua atau tiga hari sebelum tarikh berkenaan.

"Biasanya setiap musim tengkujuh, luruan monsun berlaku empat hingga lima kali. Musim tengkujuh kali ini sudah bermula pada November 2014 dan dijangka berakhir pada Mac 2015," katanya dalam satu kenyataan menerusi laman web jabatan itu di sini, semalam.

Waspada hadapi banjir

Menteri Sains Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin, dalam kenyataannya mahu orang ramai, terutama penduduk di kawasan berisiko banjir diminta sentiasa berwaspada berikutan amaran hujan lebat mungkin melanda beberapa lokasi berikutan angin monsun bermula, tidak lama lagi.

Beliau juga meminta orang ramai supaya jangan mudah percaya dengan maklumat cuaca buruk atau tsunami yang tidak sahih yang disebarkan menerusi media sosial.

Katanya, kementerian menerusi MetMalaysia memang sentiasa memantau perubahan cuaca di seluruh negara termasuk Sabah, Sarawak dan Labuan.

"Orang ramai jangan mempercayai khabar angin disebarkan menerusi media sosial mengenai ribut tropika Jangmi kerana ia sudah lenyap sepenuhnya di Laut Sulu pada 31 Disember lalu, dengan lokasi terakhir ialah di latitud 8.9 Utara dan Longitud 121.7 Timur iaitu 527 kilometer ke Timur Sandakan, Sabah," katanya.

Che Gayah berkata, pihaknya sudah menempatkan seorang pegawai meteorologi di Majlis Keselamatan Negara untuk memberi perkembangan terkini berhubung fenomena cuaca termasuk episod hujan monsun yang mungkin berlaku.

Kemas kini maklumat

"Kami akan terus mengemas kini sebarang maklumat dari semasa ke semasa melalui laman web rasmi dan akaun laman sosial seperti Facebook dan Twitter rasmi jabatan," katanya.

Orang ramai juga boleh menghubungi talian bebas tol 1-300-22-1838 atau melayari laman sesawang *www.met.gov.my* dan twitter di https://twitter.com/malaysianmet untuk membuat sebarang pertanyaan dan mendapatkan maklumat lanjut.

KERATAN AKHBAR
SUNDAY STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH: 4 JANUARI 2015 (AHAD)

Veggies up, poultry down

Flood crisis and prolonged rainy season wreak havoc on prices

By **CHRISTINA CHIN** and **AMANDA YEAP**
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PETALING JAYA: The East Coast flood crisis has sent vegetable prices soaring, while chicken farmers are scrambling to prevent a glut as delivery to affected states has been cut off.

The prices of fish and seafood are also rising as fishermen are unable to go out to sea due to unfavourable weather and choppy seas.

Federation of Malaysian Vegetables Wholesalers Association treasurer Chong Tek Keong said the prices of vegetables have risen by between 40% and 50%.

He said the prolonged rainy season had caused a drop in local supply by between 30% and 40%.

Denying that the profits of wholesalers' had increased because of the higher demand, he said it was farmers who were charging more for their produce.

"Supply was already low because of the recent crackdown on illegal immigrants in Cameron Highlands and mud floods there and the East Coast floods have pushed prices even higher.

"Wholesalers only resumed their delivery to certain areas in Kelantan and Pahang on Monday," he said.

Costlier: Prices of vegetables have risen by between 40% and 50%.

Chong said prices of locally grown vegetable were only expected to drop after the Chinese New Year next month.

Cameron Highlands Vegetable Growers Association secretary Chay Ee Mong said the rainy weather and floods affected the produce of vegetables throughout the country and not only in the highlands.

"The weather is too wet for any harvest progress.

"Hopefully, the weather will return to normal soon so that leafy vegetables can be harvested in time to meet the higher demand during Chinese New Year," he said.

According to the Meteorological Department, the weather was gradually improving in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang but heavy rains were likely to continue in Johor, Sabah and Sarawak.

Chicken farmers said they were being forced to sell poultry below the controlled price of RM4.60 per kilo due to a drastic drop in demand.

Federation of Livestock Farmers Association of Malaysia secretary general Jeffrey Ng said about 3,000 poultry farms nationwide were struggling to clear their "excessive stock" of birds.

"Restaurants and eateries are essential markets for our members and since the floods, many kitchens cannot operate and the demand for poultry is very low," he said.

Selangor and Federal Territory Chicken and Duck Traders Association vice-president Yap Chau Hen said some traders were selling birds for as low as RM3.50 per kilo.

National Fisherman's Association general manager Norizaman Ghazali said fish prices were usually higher in January because there is less fish in the sea.

"This is a seasonal trend," he said.

Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia (LKIM) director-general Abdul Rahman Ellis said with fishermen landing up to 15% less in catches, prices have risen by between 5% and 10%.

Citing an example, he said *ikan cencaru* (torpedo scad) now cost between RM1 and RM2 more at the farmer's market.

"Many fishermen in the East Coast are flood victims so they cannot go out to sea," he said.

Abdul Rahman said LKIM was prepared for the drop in supply and had implemented a freeze on the export of common fishes like the *cencaru*, *selar* (yellowtail scad), *kembong* (short mackerel), *pelaling* (Indian mackerel) and *selayang* (round scad) since middle of November.