

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 11 SEPTEMBER 2015 (JUMAAT)**

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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH : 11 SEPTEMBER 2015 (JUMAAT)

Jabatan Meteorologi jangka tiada banjir besar

KUALA KRAI 10 Sept. - Jabatan Meteorologi menjangkakan tidak berlaku banjir besar di negeri ini seperti tahun lepas berdasarkan jangkaan taburan hujan berada dalam keadaan purata iaitu 600 hingga 700 milimeter sebulan pada musim tengkujuh ini.

Timbalan Ketua Pengarahnya, Alui Bahari berkata, jangkaan tersebut dibuat berdasarkan beberapa faktor meteorologi lain yang berlaku termasuk fenomena El Nino yang akan memberi kesan kepada taburan hujan.

Menurut beliau, sekiranya taburan hujan berada dalam keadaan purata 600 hingga 700 milimeter seperti yang dijangka, banjir akan berlaku seperti biasa.

"Kita menjangkakan taburan hujan tidak akan melebihi purata 600 hingga 700 milimeter sebulan pada bulan November dan Disember ini kerana lazimnya apabila El Nino berlaku, jumlah curahan hujan di pantai timur akan berkurangan.

"Untuk tahun ini, kita jangka El Nino ke arah pertengahan, jadi dari segi kajiannya, kita jangka keadaan ini memberi impak kepada jumlah hujan dan lazimnya begitu," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan Kempen Kesedaran Awam Mengenai Cuaca Ekstrim dan Banjir di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Bandar, di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi negeri, Maqrun Fadzli Mohd. Fahmi dan Ketua Jajahan Kuala Krai, Tengku Azmi Tengku Jaafar.

Dalam kempen tersebut, beberapa agensi seperti Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat, Jabatan Pengaliran dan Saliran (JPS), Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) dan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) turut sama mengadakan ceramah serta pameran masing-masing.

Alui berkata, jabatannya akan menambah 60 lagi Stesen Cuaca Automatik (AWS) dan lima lagi radar 'doppler' dalam usaha meningkatkan keupayaan sistem pencerapan cuaca ekstrim di Malaysia.

"Daripada jumlah tersebut, lima Stesen AWS akan ditambah di Kelantan iaitu di Bachok, Gua Musang, Dabong, Lojing dan Kota Bharu. Stesen-stesen AWS ini dijangka beroperasi sepenuhnya pada penghujung tahun ini," katanya.

Sementara itu, menyentuh mengenai jerebu, beliau berkata, keadaan jerebu akan bertambah baik apabila taburan hujan bertambah sehingga Oktober ini.



Bad visibility: Planes and helicopters grounded at Kuching International Airport.

Haze worsens in Sarawak and Sabah

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KUCHING: The haze in Sarawak could get worse, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said.

His warning came as schools were ordered to halt outdoor activities and hospitals reported a rise in cases of respiratory illnesses.

"If the wind direction does not change in the next 48 hours, then the present unhealthy level in Kuching will reach Sarikei and Sibu in central Sarawak," Junaidi said.

In the afternoon, three areas in southern Sarawak recorded the highest air pollutant index (API) readings in the whole country for this year.

At 2pm, the API was 150 in Kuching, in Samarahan it was 174 and in Sri Aman it was 155.

The API was 100 in Sarikei and 91 in Sibu. Up north, it was 64 in Miri.

No hotspots were detected in Sarawak and Sabah. Most of the haze is from across the border.

Dr Wan Junaidi said "four-fifths" of the Indonesian portion of Borneo was "under a cloud of smoke".

The haze is so thick that at least two satellites have been unable to detect hotspots.

"The satellites did not get a clear picture perhaps because of the thick haze. We could

not discern the number (of hotspots). There's nothing much we can do if the wind doesn't change. This cloud of smoke will keep coming," he said.

In one of the last complete passes by the satellite AQUA on Sept 8, it detected a staggering 951 hotspots in Borneo.

Yesterday, the API in Pontianak, the closest Indonesian city to Kuching, was reportedly above 500.

Sarawak Assistant Public Health Minister Datuk Dr Jerip Susil said there had been a marked increase in respiratory illness cases in hospitals and clinics in the state.

"All the hospitals are seeing more asthma patients. In clinics, we are seeing more cases of flu-like symptoms, including runny nose, coughing and red eyes," Dr Jerip said.

An Education Department circular has been issued to all schools to stop sporting activities.

With visibility in the state capital as low as 400m in the morning, several flights at Kuching International Airport were rescheduled or diverted.

Meanwhile in Kota Kinabalu, the situation worsened overnight, with visibility in the city reduced by more than half and more districts enveloped by the smog.

State Meteorological Services Department director Abdul Malik Tussin said visibility in Kota Kinabalu dropped to 3.5km as at 2pm yesterday compared to 8km a day earlier.

Air Pollutant Index (As at 8pm, Sept 10)

X Unhealthy **X Moderate**

Kuching **157** | Samarahan **162** | Sri Aman **154** | Labuan **71**

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (PRIME NEWS): MUKA SURAT 21
TARIKH : 11 SEPTEMBER 2015 (JUMAAT)



The Air Pollutant Index reading in Kuching hit 146 yesterday. Samarahan, Sri Aman, and Sarikei also recorded unhealthy readings.

API readings in Sarawak worsen

UNHEALTHY: Flight operations disrupted due to low visibility

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THE haze has worsened in Sarawak with four areas recording unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings yesterday, causing bad visibility and disrupting flights at the airport here.

As of 5pm yesterday, Samarahan recorded the highest API at 167, followed by 154 in Sri Aman, 146 in Kuching and 104 in Sarikei.

On Wednesday, the API for Samarahan was an unhealthy 103, while Sri Aman, Kuching and Sarikei showed moderate readings of 99, 92 and 82 respectively.

In a tweet yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he took note of the situation and would monitor the situation.

Checks by the *New Straits Times* found that the haze had disrupted flights, stranding about 100 passengers for about seven hours.

Kuching International Airport (KIA) senior manager Mohd Nadzim Hashim said poor visibility had disrupted landings, causing a backlog of planes on the runway.

"The problem with the haze is that arriving flights cannot land during low visibility, which contributes to take-off delays," he said.

Ground visibility at KIA was between 800m and 1,000m yesterday morning. Visibility improved to 2,000m at 1pm.

"It's possible for aircraft to land with a visibility of 2,000m, but the pilot will have the final say on whether to land or divert the flight," Nadzim said.

As of 2pm, nine flights were delayed and diverted, while two flights from Kuching to Pontianak and Singapore were cancelled.

The haze also disrupted operations at Miri Airport, said a MASwings spokesman.

"We cancelled six flights today. We are monitoring the situation and will take action as needed," said the spokesman.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department Central Forecast Office senior meteorologist Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip, said there would be a change in wind direction on Sept 20, which would help ease the smog.

"Currently, the wind is carrying smoke from Sumatra and Kalimantan into the country. And not much rain can be expected during this southwest monsoon season.

"However, the condition is expected to improve during the intermonsoon season, where there would be more widespread rain, unlike the isolated rain and drier weather we are experiencing currently," he told NST yesterday.

The department yesterday issued a warning for Malaysian waters, citing low visibility below 5km in waters off Kedah, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan, Malacca, Johor, Pahang and Sarawak (Kuching and Rejang).

It said the condition was expected to continue until today, making it dangerous for ships not equipped with navigational instruments.

Malaysian Employers' Federation executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan said companies should be encouraged to provide masks for employees in hazy areas.

"Employees must use masks to protect their health. They must also reduce outdoor activities and follow the management's and authorities' instructions.

"Those working in plantations in Sarawak, for instance, should be provided with the N95 masks for outdoor work."

Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Ashok Zachariah Philip said the haze was likely to worsen respiratory symptoms for people with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He advised the public to see a doctor if symptoms worsen.

"It is advisable for people to drink plenty of fluids so there is adequate mucus production in the lungs. This will trap any particles and clear them from the lungs.

"Masks, generally, won't help unless you use the N95 type, and these are uncomfortable for daily use. Inside air, after some time, becomes as bad as outside air, but using an air filter and air-conditioners with clean filters may help a little." Additional reporting by Tharanya Arumugam

