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Bomba Malaysia Sedia Bantu Indonesia Padam Kebakaran Hutan Tangani Jerebu

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 Okt (Bernama) -- Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia sedia membantu Indonesia memadam kebakaran di hutan republik itu yang menjadi punca utama jerebu rentas sempadan yang melanda negara ketika ini.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Wan Mohd Noor Ibrahim berkata pihaknya sedia menghulurkan bantuan sekiranya pihak berkuasa negara itu memerlukan bantuan negara luar termasuk Malaysia bagi menangani masalah jerebu yang kini kian meruncing.

"Kami memang bersedia untuk membantu tetapi ini bergantung kepada keputusan kerajaan Malaysia sama ada mahu menghantar pihak bomba menyertai misi memadam kebakaran di Indonesia," katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama di sini, hari ini.

Wan Mohd Noor berkata pihak bomba mempunyai aset yang lengkap dan kemahiran untuk menggalas misi memadam kebakaran di hutan di Sumatera dan Kalimantan itu.

"Kebakaran hutan ini berbeza dengan kebakaran biasa kerana kawasan hutan yang sangat luas dan sangat mencabar selain menuntut pihak berkuasa menggunakan khidmat anggota yang ramai serta segala aset yang ada bagi memadam kebakaran.

Setakat pukul 9 pagi ini, kualiti udara di kebanyakan kawasan seluruh negara semakin merosot dengan beberapa kawasan di Lembah Klang mencatatkan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) tidak sihat dan satu kawasan merekodkan bacaan IPU bahaya 308 iaitu Shah Alam.

Semalam, [Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Madius Tangau](#) dalam satu kenyataan berkata jerebu teruk yang melanda negara sejak pertengahan bulan lepas bakal berkurangan untuk tempoh singkat iaitu dari 6 Okt sehingga 9 Okt ini.

Namun, beliau berkata jerebu bakal melanda kembali bermula 10 Okt ini berikutan satu lagi ribut tropika diramalkan terbentuk di timur Filipina, jika kebakaran di Sumatera dan Kalimantan masih belum dipadamkan.

-- BERNAMA

More hazy days next week

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians will have to brace themselves for prolonged hazy days as volatile changes in wind directions threaten to bring back the smog from Indonesia.

Although they could expect a brief reprieve from the "unhealthy" Air Pollution Index reading between next Tuesday and Friday, the haze would likely make a comeback from Oct 10.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said this would be caused by a tropical storm expected to occur in eastern Philippines that would carry smog from the fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

He said the worsening haze for the past few days was caused by winds blowing from the south and southwest.

"The country will experience normal wind and weather between the monsoon season with weak wind and wetter weather, especially in the west coast.

"However, the country is at risk of transboundary haze if the wind blow from south and southwest.

"We are fortunate that winds from the direction of the forest fires of Mount Lokon in the North Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, are not blowing our way and its position is far from us."

KERATAN AKHBAR
SUNDAY STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 12
TARIKH: 04 OKTOBER 2015 (AHAD)

Mt Kinabalu guides honoured for heroic acts during Sabah quake

KOTA KINABALU: Four mountain guides killed in the June 5 Mount Kinabalu earthquake were honoured along with over 100 other hero guides by Sabah Yang di-Per-tua Negri Tun Juhar Mahiruddin in conjunction with his 62nd birthday celebrations.

Vallerian Joannes, Robbie Sapin-gi, Ricky Masirin and Joseph Salun-gin, who died while helping to save climbers, were posthumously awarded the Bintang Setia Kinabalu. The BSK was also bestowed upon

157 mountain guides as well as staff of Sabah Parks, Sutera Sanctuary Lodges and Mountain Torq, who worked to rescue 160 people trapped on the mountain following the disaster that killed 18 people.

Mount Kinabalu Guides Associa-tion chairman Richard Soibi said they never expected to get the award and he himself was unaware of it until he saw the honours' list yesterday.

"We are surprised but thankful that the Government recognised

our role in the earthquake. We are truly humbled by it," he said.

Those awarded, he said, included Fredyrick Alim, Hairi Rainin, Moidin Sompot and Obyzander Sabran, who risked their lives at the height of the rock falls in the sum-mit area in the immediate after-math of the quake.

A total of 25 guides were strand-ed and another 89 were involved in the rescue efforts.

The guides were expected to receive their awards from Juhar

during a special ceremony at a later date.

Chief Justice Tun Arifin Zakaria is among four recipients of the Seri Panglima Darjah Kinabalu (SPDK), the highest state award, which carries the title "Datuk Seri Panglima".

The others are Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Raymond Tan Shu Kiah, **Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau** and Pantai Manis assemblyman Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail.

Sabah Infrastructure Develop-ment Assistant Minister Datuk Ghulam Haidar Khan Bahadar is among 48 recipients of the state's second highest award, the Pang-lima Gemilang Darjah Kinabalu (PGDK), which carries the title "Datuk".

Mercy Malaysia's Dr Heng Aik Cheng also received the PGDK.

Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak is among 11 people to receive the Justice of Peace (JP).

Flights disrupted due to poor visibility

PETALING JAYA: Deteriorating air quality disrupted flights at two major airports in peninsular Malaysia and **MetMalaysia** is warning that the haze could last longer than first expected.

Six AirAsia flights to and from KLIA2 and eight to and from Penang International Airport were disrupted as of 5pm.

"This is due to visibility below the minimum level caused by the haze. Affected passengers were notified and attended to accordingly at the airport," said AirAsia Berhad in a statement.

The airline added that it would continue to monitor the situation closely and keep its guests informed.

A spokesman for Malaysia Airport Holding Berhad said visibility at KLIA had dropped to 0.7km from 2km the previous day.

But he said no flight had to be cancelled at any airports as a result of the haze.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Madius Tangau said

MetMalaysia initially predicted the haze to ease by the start of this month.

But the formation of a tropical storm in the Philippines had resulted in consistent southwest winds bringing the transboundary haze back over Malaysia, he said.

"The tropical storm known as the Mujigae, formed on Oct 1, had resulted in the southwest winds," he said in a statement.

He said Malaysia should get a short reprieve between Oct 6 and Oct 9 following a change in wind direction.

The haze is predicted to make a comeback if fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan are not extinguished on Oct 10 on the heels of another tropical storm in the eastern Philippines.

A total of 23 areas reported unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings as of 5pm compared with only 13 areas at noon.

Areas recording the highest API readings were Seremban (170), Nilai (169), Shah Alam (166), Port Klang (159) and Petaling Jaya (153).

The Health Ministry has also made neces-

sary preparations to face the possible increase in cases of illnesses.

Its deputy minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahya said there was enough medicine and face masks to meet the situation.

In **George Town**, many Penangites cancelled their outdoor activity as the haze worsened and hit the unhealthy level.

The Seberang Prai Municipal Council issued a notice, saying that its Car-Free Morning event today in Jalan Todak 2 and Jalan Todak 3 in Seberang Jaya had been cancelled due to the unhealthy air quality.

The air quality in Penang deteriorated as the day progressed yesterday, with the DOE monitoring station at Universiti Sains Malaysia registering API readings of 71 at 6am, 81 at 11am and 99 at 2pm before breaching the unhealthy level at 4pm with a reading of 109.

However, Penang International Airport senior manager Mohd Ariff Jaafar said there were no flight cancellation as yet.

