

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 01 JANUARI 2016 (JUMAAT)**

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1.	Wet New Year for Sarawak	New Straits Times
2.	Kerajaan pandang serius isu 'laut merah'	Utusan Malaysia

Wet New Year for Sarawak

KUCHING: Clear skies are set to paint the weather in most states today, although dark clouds still loom over some districts in Sarawak.

As of press time, more than 200 flood victims were expected to celebrate their New Year's Eve countdown at relief centres here and in Samarahan after a 12-hour downpour. The downpour had caused the evacuation of victims to the relief centres and higher grounds since 10am yesterday, after a number of low-lying urban and rural areas were inundated.

Sarawak fire and rescue assistant director Farhan Sufyan Borhan said, as of 4pm yesterday, five relief centres here at SMK Sri Setia, SMK Tabuan Jaya and SMK Bako, and

Sinar Budi and Stapok community halls were housing about 140 people.

At the same time, the Samarahan Civic Centre and Kampung Jaie community hall had also been opened to receive evacuees.

"Most of the low-lying areas have been hit by flash floods about 2m-deep. There are 32 people from seven families at the Samarahan Civic Centre, while more than 50 people from 11 families are staying at Sadong Jaya Community Hall."

Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail said weather conditions in Sarawak might persist throughout the day.

"In Sarawak, moderate to heavy rains are hitting Kuching, Samara-

han, Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibuan and Mukah divisions," she said, adding that similar weather were also expected in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor.

The situation in Terengganu was improving though, with only one relief centre remaining open to shelter 286 victims from 66 families.

State secretary Datuk Osman Muda, who is also state disaster operations chairman, said the Dewan Felda Seberang Tayor was the only evacuation centre still open in the state as of 10am yesterday.

"The evacuees are expected to return to their homes in two days' time. The weather is all sunny and clear lately," said Osman. **Additional reporting by Goh Pei Pei**

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 09
TARIKH: 01 JANUARI 2016 (JUMAAT)



SEKUMPULAN nelayan membaiki bot sebelum keluar menangkap ikan, semalam, walaupun kawasan Jeti Pasar Nelayan Kampung Balok, Kuantan, turut dicemari air berwarna merah akibat aktiviti perlombongan bauksit. - UTUSAN/MAHATHIR ALI

Keputusan analisis sampel air dua hingga tiga minggu

Kerajaan pandang serius isu 'laut merah'

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■ KUANTAN 31 DIS.

KEMENTERIAN Sumber Asli Dan Alam Sekitar memandangkan serius kejadian warna air laut bertukar merah di Pantai Batu Hitam di sini yang dikatakan berpunca dari stok penyimpanan bauksit berhampiran Pelabuhan Kuantan, tidak jauh dari kawasan perkampungan Sungai Pengorak.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Dr. Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar berkata, Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) mengesan kejadian laut merah di pantai itu pada Selasa lalu dan menjalankan persampelan kualiti air sebelum dihantar ke Jabatan Kimia untuk dianalisis.

"Semalam, JAS sekali lagi menjalankan persampelan air dan menjalankan siasatan bersama Jabatan Pengaliran dan Saliran (JPS) negeri di kawasan terlibat.

"Keputusan analisis kimia dijangka diperoleh dalam tempoh dua hingga tiga minggu memandangkan analisis bagi sesetengah param-



WAN JUNAIDI

eter pencemar perlu dijalankan di makmal **Jabatan Kimia** di Petaling Jaya, Selangor," katanya dalam kenyataan hari ini.

Mengulas lanjut, Wan Junaidi berkata, JAS masih menjalankan siasatan bagi mengenal pasti punca sebenar kejadian laut merah tersebut.

Dalam masa sama, kata beliau, pemantauan kualiti air di kawasan dikenal pasti terkesan dengan ak-

tiviti perlombongan bauksit yang dijalankan sebelum ini masih diteruskan.

"Sebagai langkah awal, JAS Pahang bersama JPS diarahkan menjalankan siasatan bagi mengenal pasti punca kejadian tersebut. JAS dan JPS telah ke jeti nelayan Kampung Balok Pantai di sini untuk mengambil sampel air di muara sungai.

"Berdasarkan pemerhatian, kawasan terjejas dianggarkan 100 meter ke tengah laut dengan unjuran pesisiran pantai kira-kira 10 kilometer. Empat botol sampel air di kawasan ini diambil untuk dihantar ke Jabatan Kimia," ujarnya.

Tambah beliau, Jabatan Mineral dan Geosains (JMG) negeri akan menjalankan audit terhadap pematuhan syarat-syarat lombong manakala JPS diarahkan memantau ketinggian paras air sungai.

"Satu sesi pemeriksaan di kawasan lombong akan turut disertai oleh JAS Pahang bersama dengan JMG dan JPS. Pemantauan berterusan akan dilaksanakan oleh JAS negeri untuk memastikan kualiti air pulih seperti sedia kala," katanya.