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Penang takes measures to save water

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GEORGE TOWN — A contingency plan is being worked out as the state attempts to overcome its water woes caused by the current dry spell.

State Agriculture, Agro-based Industries, Rural Development and Health Committee chairman Dr Afif Bahardin said all irrigation activities had been stopped and water supply was being focused on domestic use as the El Nino phenomenon is expected to persist until June.

"Agriculture activities, including padi farming had been delayed due to shortage of water caused by the current dry spell," he said.

"We are doing everything within our resources to solve this issue and we hope the federal government would assist us in the matter."

He added that although it rained for the past few days, the amount of rainfall was not enough to carry out agricultural irrigation works in the state.

It would be unprecedented if Penang was hit by a water crisis as the state has never implemented water rationing.

Penang Water Supply Corporation and PBA Holdings Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa has warned that some four million people in the northern region would be badly affected by an imminent water crisis.

He said water reserves in the regional dams would only last until June if the current aridity continued indefinitely, and called on Kedah to stop all irrigation activities involving Sungai Muda as the river was drying up.

Kedah has been continuing its irrigation of padi fields as the state has had rain for the past few days.

Nearly 80 per cent of Penang's water supply comes from Sungai Muda.

The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry conducted cloud seeding on Tuesday at targeted dam areas in Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis, with limited success.

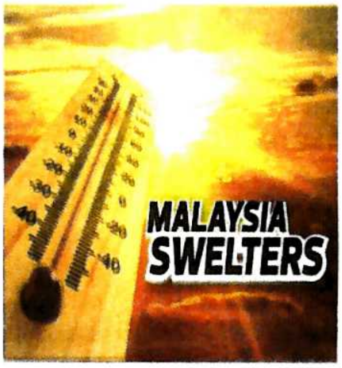
The operation was conducted from 2.50pm to 5.15pm at Timah Tason dam in Perlis, Ahning dam, Pedu dam, Muda dam and Beris dam, all in Kedah, and Teluk Bahang dam and Air Itam dam in Penang and Bukit Merah dam in Perak.

Minister Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau said in a statement cloud seeding was done to trigger rain and increase water levels in the dams to prevent a regional water crisis.

The levels at the dams have dropped considerably, some near danger level, due to the extreme dry spell.

"However, the cloud seeding operations in the four states only had limited success as it only rained heavily at the Bukit Merah dam in Perak, while other areas remained dry," he said.

In Penang, water level at the Teluk Bahang dam was recorded at 59.5 per cent while Air Itam dam recorded only 57.4 per cent capacity.



Awas serangan 'Ransomware'!

■ *Virus berupa mesej serangan siber terbaru landa Asia*

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Kuala Lumpur

Awas jika anda melihat mesej pop - up seperti 'Your computer has been infected with a virus. Click here to resolve the issue' (komputer anda sudah diserang virus. Tekan di sini untuk menyelesaikan isu ini) pada skrin komputer.

Itu adalah cara serangan siber terbaru yang semakin berkembang di rantau Asia dan ia boleh berlaku hanya dengan menekan satu pautan pada emel yang membawa kemungkinan mangsa diperas ugut untuk membayar ribuan ringgit kepada individu tidak dikenali selepas akses kepada sistem komputer disekat.

Serangan jenis ini dikenali sebagai 'Ransomware' adalah sejenis malware atau virus berbahaya yang menyerang komputer dan mengehadkan akses kepada sistem sehingga bayaran tertentu dibuat kepada pencipta virus untuk membuka sekatan.

Aplikasi berbahaya ini cuba memaksa mangsa membayar wang tebusan dengan mengeluarkan mesej 'pop-up' di atas skrin komputer.

Mesej pop-up ini akan menyatakan komputer pengguna sudah dikunci dan semua fail di dalamnya dienkripsi sebelum meminta wang tebusan dibayar bagi memulihkan semula akses ke komputer mereka.

Mengulas lanjut, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif CyberSecurity Malaysia, Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab berkata, serangan jenis ini pesat berkembang di rantau Asia malah ramai pakar keselamatan siber dari negara Jepun dan Hong Kong menyampaikan maklumat yang sama kepada agensi di bawah Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) itu.

"Pencipta Ransomware akan mengakibatkan mangsa menjadi panik hingga menekan pautan ataupun membayar wang tebusan bernilai ribuan atau jutaan ringgit.

"Namun, pengguna tidak akan sedar, pembayaran wang tebusan bukan penyelesaian untuk serangan jenis ini berikutan mereka akan terjurus kepada jangkitan malware atau virus yang lain pula," katanya ketika ditemui selepas menghadiri Persidangan Keselamatan Siber pada Abad ke 21 : Ancaman kepada Sektor Pertahanan dan Keselamatan sempena Pameran Persidangan Pertahanan Asia DSA 2016, semalam.

Beliau berkata, serangan ini tidak terhad kepada individu persendirian sebaliknya boleh melumpuhkan operasi atau sistem perniagaan dan syarikat selain mendatangkan kerugian besar berikutan terpaksa membaiki dan memulihkan sistem atau fail yang rosak serta boleh menjejaskan reputasi syarikat.

"Contoh mesej yang biasanya akan dipamerkan dalam ransomware termasuk 'Your computer was used to visit websites with illegal content. To unlock your computer, you must pay a $100 fine' (Komputer anda digunakan untuk mengakses laman web mengandungi bahan terlarang. Untuk mengakses komputer anda, tolong bayar denda $100) atau 'All files on your computer have been encrypted. You must pay this ransom within 72 hours to regain access to your data' (Semua fail anda sudah dienkripsi. Anda perlu membayar wang tebusan dalam tempoh 72 jam untuk mengakses data).

Katanya, masalah ini kini sedang berkembang pesat dan pencipta Ransomware ini tidak meletakkan sasaran kepada negara tertentu sebaliknya ia melangkaui batasan kemajuan sesebuah negara.

"Bagi memastikan serangan ini tidak tersebar secara meluas, semua pakar keselamatan siber di rantau ini perlu berganding bahu selain berkongsi pengalaman dan kepakaran untuk mengatasinya secara berkesan," katanya.

DR Amirudin

Pasar alat pengecas tulen

Kuala Lumpur: Suruhanjaya Tenaga (ST) mengingatkan pengilang, pengimport, pembekal dan penjual supaya hanya memasarkan alat pengecas tulen yang mempunyai label SIRIM-ST atau yang dibekalkan bersama telefon bimbit dengan label Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM).

ST dalam kenyataan medianya semalam turut mengingatkan pengguna bahawa pengecas yang tidak tulen tidak terjamin keselamatannya. - BERNAMA