

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 25 APRIL 2016 (ISNIN)

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Operasi pembenihan awan membuahkan hasil

KUALA LUMPUR - Operasi pembenihan awan yang berpangkalan di Pangkalan Udara Subang dan Pulau Pinang diteruskan seperti biasa semalam dan berjaya menghasilkan hujan di beberapa kawasan.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata, kawasan berkenaan ialah Empangan Timah Tasoh di Perlis, Empangan Ahning, Pedu, Muda dan Beris di Kedah, Empangan Teluk Bahang di Pulau Pinang, Empangan Bukit Merah dan Air Kuning serta kawasan tadahan Bukit Larut di Perak, Empangan Sepri dan Gemencheh di Negeri Sembilan dan Empangan Durian Tunggal di Melaka.

“Bagi kawasan sasaran di Empangan Air Hitam, Pulau Pinang, perkembangan awan diperhatikan selepas pembenihan,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, setakat pukul 4 petang kelmarin, hanya Stesen Meteorologi Kuala Krai di Kelantan didapati mencatatkan bacaan suhu melebihi 37 darjah Celsius iaitu 37.1 darjah Celsius.

Sehingga semalam, sebanyak tiga kawasan mencatatkan bilangan hari tanpa hujan melebihi 10 hari iaitu Kota Bharu, Kelantan (20 hari), Machang, Kelantan (20 hari) dan Kudat, Sabah (12 hari). - Bernama

Army and cops to guard water catchment areas in Johor

ISKANDAR PUTERI: Johor will rope in the army and police to prevent unscrupulous parties from drawing water illegally from water catchment areas.

The operations would also involve SAJ Holdings Sdn Bhd and District Land Offices, said state Public Works, Rural and Regional Development Committee chairman Datuk Hasni Mohammad.

Johor Water Regulatory Body (Bakaj) would also monitor and co-ordinate the anti-water theft operation.

"We will take stern action against those found drawing water illegally from the water catchment areas including charging them for trespassing on state-owned land," Hasni told reporters during the state assembly break.

He said the action was necessary as water levels at rivers in Kota Tinggi and Mersing – which supplied raw water to dams in the two districts – had reached critical levels because of El Nino.

Hasni said the state authorities had issued notices to large scale vegetable farmers with farms close to the water catchment areas to look at other water resources instead of using river water.

"We are also closely watching whether animal breeders and factories draw water illegally from the water catchment areas and rivers," he added.

Hasni said Johor had requested the Meteorological Department to conduct 40 cloud seeding operations in the Kota Tinggi and Mersing districts.

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The water level in Air Itam Dam has fallen as there was no rainfall in that area recently. Pic by Mikail Ong

'No rainfall in Penang catchment areas'

GEORGE TOWN: The water level of the Air Itam Dam here has dropped despite a few downpours the last few days.

Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said this was because there was no rainfall in the catchment areas.

"Today (yesterday), the Air Itam Dam is at 56.7 per cent capacity and the Teluk Bahang Dam is at 58.4 per cent.

"The water level has gone down but the supply can last until June provided the Beris and Muda Dams (in Kedah) can supply and sustain the Sungai Muda level at above

two metres.

"The Sungai Muda level is at 2.38m," he told the *New Straits Times* here yesterday.

Jaseni was commenting on Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau's statement that cloud-seeding operations based at the Subang

Airport and in Penang had succeeded in producing rain in several areas, including the Muda and Beris dams, and the Teluk Bahang Dam.

Jaseni had called on the Federal Government to put a stop to agricultural irrigation and instead intensify its cloud-seeding operations.

Jerebu tidak pengaruhi proses pembenihan awan

SHAH ALAM – Jerebu yang melanda beberapa kawasan tidak mempengaruhi proses pembenihan awan, kata **Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Sains) Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Prof Madya Dr Ramzah Dambul**.

Namun, beliau menjelaskan keadaan cuaca panas dan kering yang dialami kini, menyukarkan lagi proses pembenihan awan.

“Jerebu tidak ada pengaruh kepada pembenihan awan sama ada boleh dibuat atau tidak. Pembenihan awan akan berjaya sekiranya mempunyai awan yang se-

suai untuk dibenihkan, iaitu awan kumulonimbus.

“Cuma pada musim kering, proses pembentukan awan kumulonimbus ini agak sukar berlaku,” katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* semalam.

Bagaimanapun, Ramzah berkata, dalam cuaca kering, pembentukan awan kumulonimbus boleh berlaku daripada pengeluapan wap air yang datang daripada air laut, pokok dan tanah.

“Ini membolehkan awan terbentuk dan proses pembenihan awan boleh dilakukan,” katanya.

