

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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Cloud Seeding Operation Brings Rain In Northern Peninsula

KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- Cloud seeding operation conducted today which targeted the northern zone has brought rain over five dams in Kedah, Perlis and Penang.

The operation based in Bayan Lepas, Penang brought rain over Beris Dam and Ahning Dam (Kedah), Timah Tasoh Dam (Perlis), Air Itam Dam and Teluk Bahang Dam (Penang).

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau said the maximum temperature recorded did not exceed 37 degree celsius with the maximum temperature recorded in Limbang, Sarawak at 36.1 degree celsius.

"As of May 20, the highest number of days without consecutive rain was 12 days in Kuantan, Pahang," he said in a media statement Saturday.

--BERNAMA

M'sians under increasing attacks by cyber criminals

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian computer users are under increasing attack by cyber criminals, especially those using malicious codes to target their victims.

Malaysian cyber attack victims reported 2,470 incidents in the first quarter of this year, a 41.7% rise compared to the number of complaints logged in the previous quarter, according to **CyberSecurity Malaysia**.

Malicious codes – a category that includes malicious software (malware) and botnets or networks of infected private computers controlled by cyber criminals – were the fastest growing type of attack.

CyberSecurity said the number of incidents involving malicious codes grew by 65.8% or from 76 cases in the last quarter of 2015 to 126 cases in the first quarter of this year.

One type of malware gaining popularity among attackers was ransomware, a malware that blocked access to the victim's computer system until a sum of money was paid.

The number of cases reported to CyberSecurity rose from seven in the last quarter of last year to 14 in the first quarter of this year.

"All types of computers, regardless of home computers or business computers are vulnerable and users will need to adhere to best practices to prevent being infected," said CyberSecurity chief executive officer Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab.

Ransomware infects a computer through several ways including via spam emails and online ads which the user clicks or opens.

Once infected, the computer is locked and a ransom is demanded typically in the range of US\$100 to US\$500 (RM408 to RM2,040) and payment is sometimes required using the digital currency Bitcoin.

This is to tempt victims to pay the ransom rather than spend a bigger sum of money to recover their data.

But Dr Amirudin warned users against paying, even if the ransom sum appeared modest.

"Security experts and security organisations advise victims not to pay as there is no guarantee that the encrypted files would be decrypted," he said.

He said victims should immediately report to the Cyber999 Help Centre.

Internet users can channel their enquiries or to report any incident through various means including by email to cyber999@cybersecurity.my or mycert@mycert.org.my or by calling 1-300-88-2999.