

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 9 JULAI 2016 (SABTU)**

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Penang more worried about drying dams

GEORGE TOWN: There are fears of heavy rains soon but for now, Penangites are more concerned about the hot weather that has left the dams in the state drying up.

State Local Government, Traffic Management and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said it was crucial that the dams were filled in the next three months to ensure enough supply to handle any dry spell next year.

"Rain is necessary at this point in time as the dam levels are not increasing," he said yesterday.

Chow said the Penang Water Supply Corporation Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) was expecting rain in July, August and September.

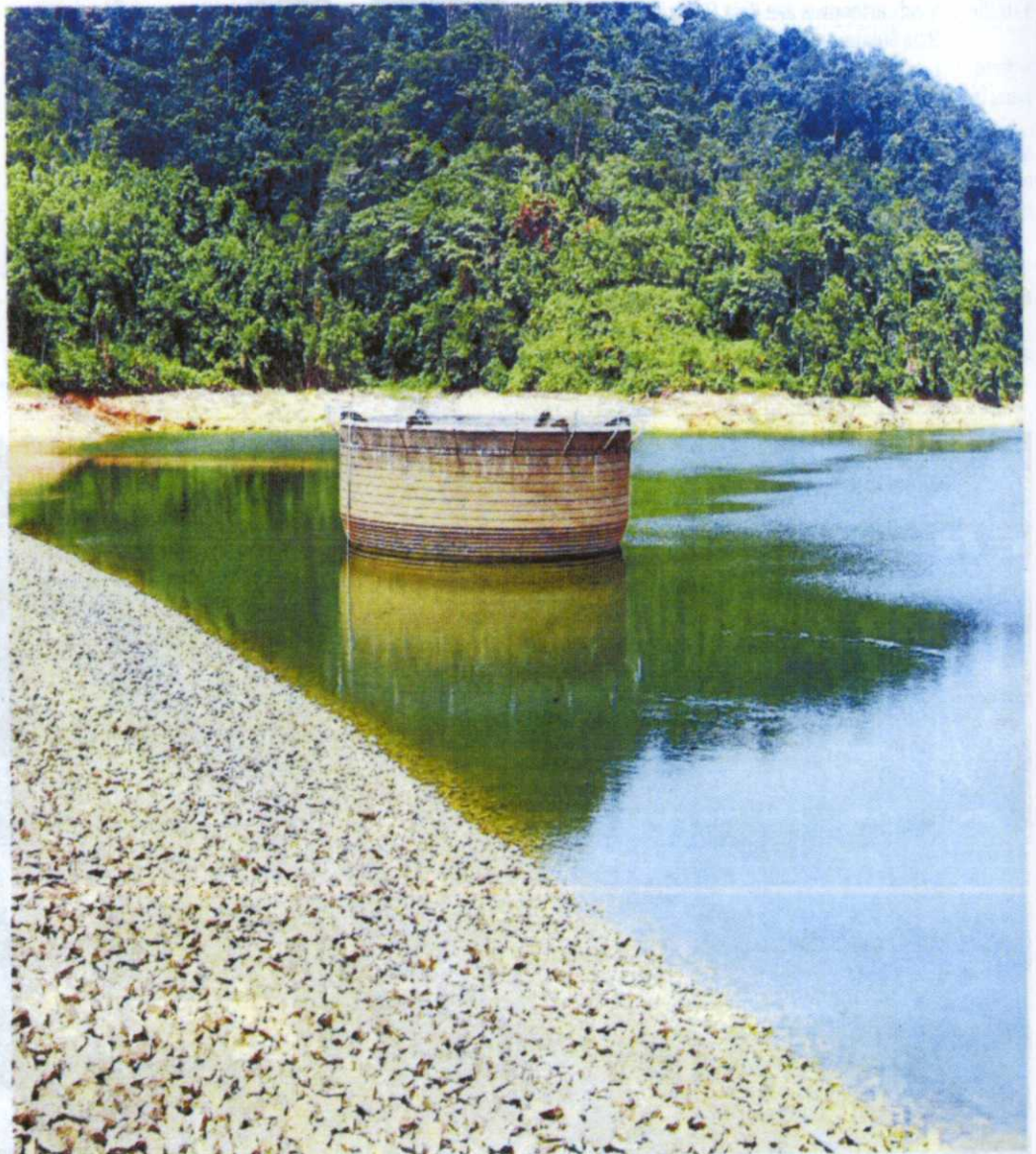
"We are still puzzled over the delay in the rain, as it is already July," he said.

Penang Fire and Rescue Department director Azmi Tamat said his men were ready to respond in the event La Nina hits the state.

"Sometimes, we are prepared to face a disaster, but it does not occur.

"We just make sure that our men and equipment are ready at all times," he said.

According to a report, dated July 1 on the Malaysian Meteorological Department website, rainfall levels



Bad sign: The water level at the Air Itam Dam in Penang reading 52.3% at 12.25pm yesterday.

are forecast at between 90mm at its lowest and 430mm at its highest over the next six months.

Penang is expected to experience normal rainfall levels for the second half of the year. The state will only get heavier rains and thunder-

storms in October due to the monsoon.

The website also indicated that Penang will experience rain and isolated thunderstorms for the next seven days starting yesterday.

A check by *The Star* showed that

the water level at the Teluk Bahang Dam was 45.3%, while the Air Itam Dam was at 52.3% while for the Mengkuang Dam, it read 95.2%.

(PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa could not be contacted for comment.

Reports by CHAN LI LEEN, LUSHANA K SHAGAR, RUBEN SAKIU AND N. IKISMA

Downpours to replace dry spell

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians burned under the merciless El Nino heatwave in the first half of the year, but they might be wading through La Nina's heavy rain and floods in the second half.

As the Philippines and Taiwan floundered under the onslaught of Super Typhoon Nepartak, international weather forecasters were predicting a possible deluge in Malaysia in the next few months.

The La Nina is likely to be here at the tail end of the strongest El Nino in 20 years, which brought scorching heat and dry days. The La Nina is predicted to bring heavy rain.

In the wee hours of yesterday morning, there were already thunderstorms, heavy rain and strong winds over parts of Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya in Selangor and in Muar, Kuang, Kota Tinggi and Johor Bahru in Johor.

The latest data from a US climate agency revealed that there was a 75% chance that La Nina will hap-

Effects of La Nina starting to take hold

pen sometime from October to December.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (Met Malaysia) had also previously told *Bernama* that it would monitor developments and will be on high alert during the last three months of the year.

Its deputy director for operations Alui Bahari was quoted as saying that based on the weather pattern, La Nina's effects could be worst at the year's end, which is also when the monsoon peaks.

"If there is no La Nina effect, the weather will return to normal with the usual wet spell in the East Coast during December, where the rains average between 600mm and 700mm," he said.

El Nino, which means "the boy" in Spanish, is an irregular weather phenomenon that causes sea temperatures in the equatorial Pacific

Ocean to rise while La Nina, "the girl" leads to a cooling of seawater.

La Nina often takes place after El Nino ends.

The last El Nino cycle between March 2015 and May 2016 was the most powerful on record, heating the world's oceans to never-before-seen levels, drying up dams and withering crops.

According to climate expert Prof Datuk Dr Azizan Abu Samah, the east coast states, along with Sabah and Sarawak, are likely to bear the worst brunt of La Nina's effects.

"The floods are dependent on the location and the duration of the rainfall.

"If the heavy rainfall is along coastal areas, a devastating deluge like the one that occurred in 2014 may be possible.

"However, if the heavy rainfall happens in the interior for, say four

to five days, like how it happened in 2014, that could cause the river levels to rise up to 10m and cause massive flooding," he was quoted as saying by *Bernama*.

Floods submerged six states in the peninsula in the last weeks of 2014, with Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang being the worst-hit. Nearly 100,000 people had to be evacuated during the floods.

Right now, however, haze is also a concern as areas in Sumatra and Kalimantan begin open burning.

Dr Azizan, however, was reported as saying the haze would not be as bad as last year because of La Nina's predicted stronger effects, which will bring more rain for this month and the next.

"Places in the east coast like Kemaman, Kota Baru, and the south of Sarawak, especially Kuching will have to be wary of the haze from

July to August, and later the possibility of a deluge," he said.

Two days ago, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar allayed fears of a severe transboundary haze happening this year.

He said Indonesia seemed to be doing its part to honour its commitment to contain haze, and so far there had been only a few hotspots in Sumatra and two in Kalimantan.

"Whatever it is, Indonesia is still going to be answerable to its neighbours based on the Asean Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution 2002," he said.

Indonesian law allows 40% of smallholders cultivating oil palm and trees for pulp and paper to conduct open burning on their farmlands of 2ha each.

However, Indonesia is facing a lot of pressure from Malaysia and Singapore, which suffers the most from the phenomenon.

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT B2
TARIKH : 9 JULAI 2016 (SABTU)

Mavcap continues to empower businesses

VENTURE CAPITAL: It aims to provide solid platform for investees to move up

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MALAYSIA Venture Capital Management Bhd (Mavcap), the country's largest venture capital (VC) company, is upbeat about bringing new investments and will continue to invest locally and worldwide despite market uncertainties.

Mavcap chief executive officer (CEO) Jamaludin Bujang said since its inception in 2001, the company has invested more than RMI billion in more than 160 companies in Malaysia and Asia.

"As a venture capitalist, Mavcap is focused on investing in businesses that can generate a significant value in a defined period of time.

"We want to provide a solid platform for our investees to take their business to the next level," he said in an interview with Business Times recently.

He said the investments were made either directly in the companies or via its partner programmes.

Previously, a majority of Mavcap's investments were in start-ups.

"But today, we are investing a lot more in steadier companies. It's not because we became stricter in the way we invest, but we became more experienced. We learnt what works and what doesn't."

Jamaludin, 51, who joined Mavcap in 2011, said the company has also become more proactive when it comes to investments, adding that Mavcap also facilitates professional development programmes.

"When we see companies with strong potential, we will make the first move by approaching them.

"In order to increase private sector participation in fundraising and reduce reliance on government funds, we have also identified potential partners whom we could work with and we are geared up to make this a success," he added.

Mavcap has evolved over the last 15 years to become one of the most important domestic players in the country's VC industry.

Mavcap's focus is to support Malaysian-based information, communications and technology companies as well as the VC industry.

The government-owned company is also committed to technology sectors and will continue to invest in a mix of local and overseas businesses to bring together a successful blend of technologies and entrepreneurial skills.

The agency is also focused on corporate governance and provides the expertise needed for investees to flourish.

Jamaludin said the company has raised more than RM650 million in recent years, contributed about



RM60 million to the government's revenue and generated more than 1,000 jobs.

He said in Malaysia, there are 15 firms under Mavcap's portfolio listed on Bursa Malaysia, including Censof Holdings Bhd, Aemulus Holdings Bhd, Kelington Group Bhd and Fibon Bhd.

Jamaludin said companies under its portfolio have collectively made about RML5 billion in revenue and RM250 million in profit.

He said the company plans to set up three more funds worth US\$250 million (RMI billion), through collaboration with major corporations locally or abroad, to invest in technology companies.

"We are working on it. If everything goes according to plan, we aim to launch the funds sometime next year."

To date, Mavcap has created 17 funds and trained more than 50 local VC fund managers.

Current funds include ECM Straits Fund I, Gobi Fund III, 500 Durians I.P., 500 Startups Fund III, Axiata Digital Innovation Fund and Super-Seed Fund.

Mavcap is confident of bringing

Strong Track Record in VC Investing

Build and scale our investments to generate positive returns

Company	Business Description	Exit Method		Exit Remarks	Exit Multiple
		Trade Sale	IPO		
WRCM	Develops & publishes mobile entertainment-related content	✓		Acquired by UK based MonsterMob Group Plc in 2004	7.75x
aexio	Mobile network optimization specialist	✓		Acquired by a French company, InfoVista in 2013	3.17x
catalist	Financial management solutions provider		✓	Listed on the primary market of the Malaysian Stock Exchange in 2011	2.24x
E-PRO	Develops real-time online shop-floor data collection and feedback management systems		✓	Listed on the secondary market of the Malaysian Stock Exchange in 2004	1.19x
Tranglo	Provides mobile transaction gateway services	✓		Secondary buyout by Ekunas, a based Malaysian PE firm in 2014	1.17x

