

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 14 FEBRUARI 2017 (SELASA)**

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INOVASI PACU EKONOMI

Negara tidak lagi boleh bergantung kepada pertanian untuk terus maju



MADIUS Tangau

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Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) diberi mandat untuk memacu ekonomi baru yang tidak lagi bergantung kepada komoditi tapi pengetahuan berasaskan inovasi.

Sebagai peneraju sains, teknologi dan inovasi (STI), kementerian tidak boleh lagi bergantung kepada pertanian sebagai sumber ekonomi.

Ini kerana aset utamanya adalah tanah memandangkan kawasan tanah negara terhad dan mungkin kehabisan sumber ini pada masa akan datang.

Era ekonomi kini memerlukan kreativiti dan inovasi yang menjadi pemangkin kepada daya saing pada masa hadapan. Justeru, ekosistem STI negara bakal diperkukuhkan dalam mendepani 'The

fourth industrial revolution'. Menteri, Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata, ia bakal mengubah landskap ekonomi dunia secara keseluruhan sekiranya inovasi ini diperhebatkan.

Beliau berkata, negara ekonomi utama dunia seperti Jerman, Belanda dan Jepun bermula dengan ekonomi berasaskan pertanian serta sumber semula jadi.

"Tetapi kini kekuatan dan kesinambungan ekonomi negara mereka beralih kepada pengetahuan, inovasi, kemahiran dan kepakaran yang tinggi.

"Bagi Malaysia mara ke hadapan, sudah tiba masanya kita terus menjadikan inovasi sebagai pelonjak utama yang mampu memacu ekonomi negara terutama dengan mengembangkan inovasi dalam sains dan teknologi.

"Kegagalan untuk menjadikan STI agenda utama

negara ataupun jika Malaysia mahu melepaskan diri daripada 'perangkap pendapatan sederhana,' kita mesti beralih arah," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas merasmikan majlis penutup Pameran Anugerah Inovasi Negara (AIN) 2016 di NU Sentral, Kuala Lumpur, baru-baru ini.

Madius berkata, Malaysia perlu beralih daripada negara yang bergantung kepada sumber asli dan industri intensif buruh kepada ekonomi yang berasaskan sains, teknologi serta industri.

Terdapat banyak peluang untuk STI di Malaysia maju ke hadapan dan memacu pembangunan ekonomi negara selaras dengan Dasar Sains dan Teknologi Negara.

Ia bertujuan menggalakkan penggunaan sains dan teknologi sebagai satu alat untuk pembangunan ekonomi negara, sekali gus

mencapai hasrat Malaysia bergelar sebuah negara maju," katanya.

Menurutnya, Malaysia masih mempunyai ruang yang luas untuk tenaga kerja muda berkeaktiviti dan melakukan inovasi dalam segenap bidang.

"Misalnya menjelang 2020, dianggarkan sebanyak 26 bilion peranti disambungkan ke Internet of Things (IoT). Teknologi ini bakal membantu memacu inovasi pada kadar yang lebih pantas.

"Ia dijangka menjana peluang ekonomi bernilai RM890 bilion di peringkat global menjelang 2020.

Kebanyakan negara maju sudah menggerakkan usaha meningkatkan keupayaan masing-masing.

"Negara terbabit meneroka dan mengeksploitasi teknologi IoT, mengurus data dan menjamin keselamatan ruang siber," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT) : MUKA SURAT 22
TARIKH: 14 FEBRUARI 2017 (SELASA)

Johor Bahru

LPTA tunggu proses pinda akta

Lembaga Perlesenan Tenaga Atom (LPTA) dalam proses meminda Akta Perlesenan Tenaga Atom 1984 (Akta 304) kepada Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Tenaga Atom baru dengan skop lebih jelas merangkumi bidang keselamatan, sekuriti dan kawalgunaan.

Ketua Pengarahnya Hamrah Mohd Ali berkata, pindaan akta baru itu berikutan ia tidak dikaji semula selama 35 tahun, malah draf sudah diserahkan kepada Jabatan Peguam Negara untuk dimuktamadkan tahun ini.

"Kami berada pada peringkat terakhir Akta 304 (akta lama atom) dan akta baru itu dimuktamadkan Jabatan Peguam Negara sebelum dibawa ke Parlimen,

manakala peringkat teknikal mengenainya selesai.

"Walaupun Akta 304 sekarang tidak begitu jelas dan membabitkan isu keselamatan, namun tragedi 11 September menyebabkan ia ditambah baik," katanya pada sidang media di Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Skudai di sini, semalam.

Terdahulu, Hamrah mewakili LPTA menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) bersama UTM bagi program pertukaran maklumat teknikal dan

kerjasama dalam keselamatan nuklear dan sinaran, sekuriti bahan radioaktif dan bahan nuklear serta kawalselia bahan nuklear.



HAMRAH

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 01
TARIKH : 14 FEBRUARI 2017 (SELASA)

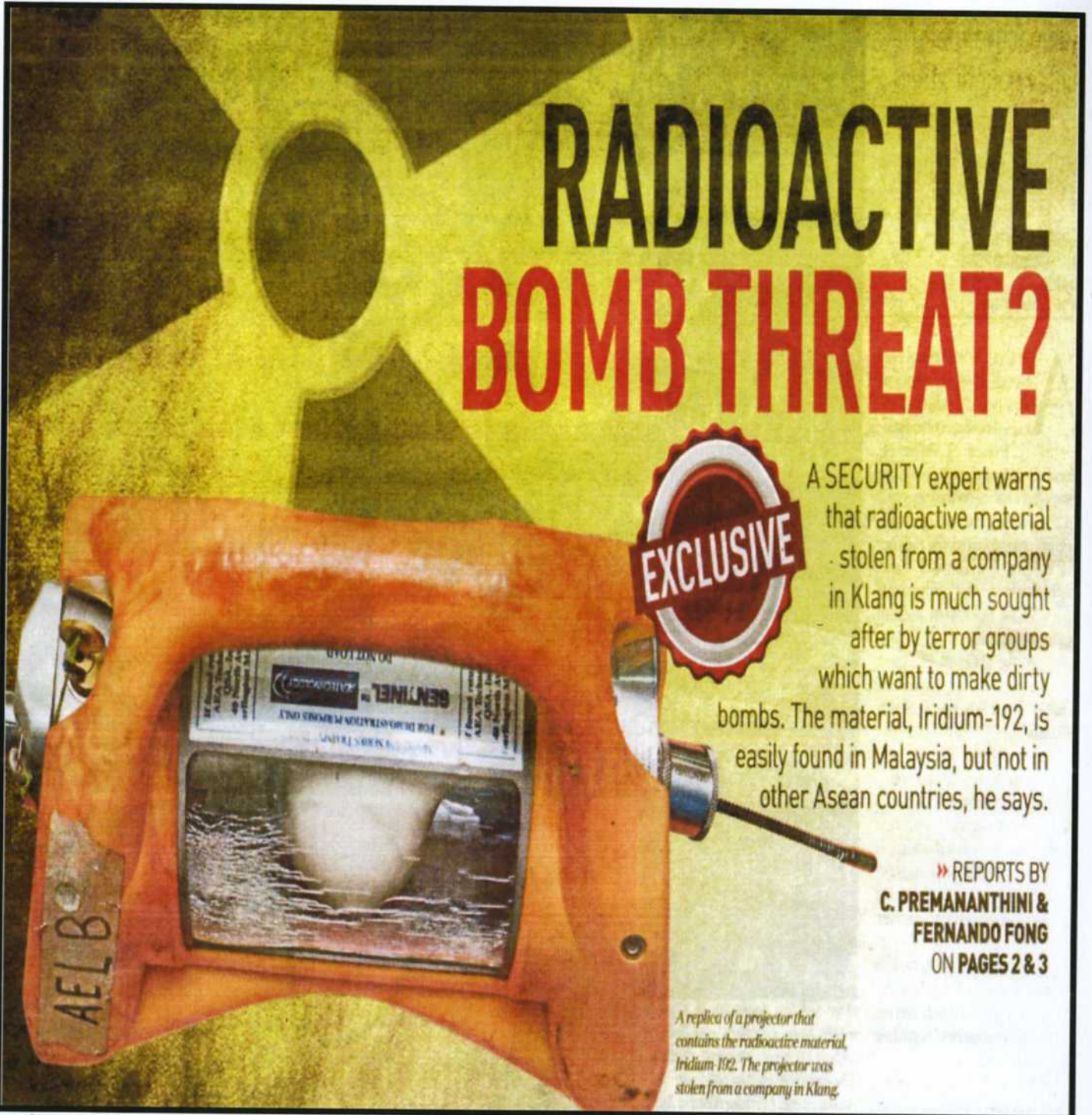
RADIOACTIVE BOMB THREAT?

EXCLUSIVE

A SECURITY expert warns that radioactive material stolen from a company in Klang is much sought after by terror groups which want to make dirty bombs. The material, Iridium-192, is easily found in Malaysia, but not in other Asean countries, he says.

» REPORTS BY
**C. PREMANANTHINI &
FERNANDO FONG**
ON PAGES 2 & 3

A replica of a projector that contains the radioactive material, Iridium-192. The projector was stolen from a company in Klang.



'IRIDIUM-192 THEFT A WAKE-UP CALL'

Radioactive material highly sought after by IS to make dirty bombs, says expert

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A SECURITY expert has cautioned that the theft of equipment, which contained canisters of radioactive material from an oil and gas exploration company here, could be more than what meets the eye.

Counterterrorism specialist Andrin Raj said yesterday the radioactive material - Iridium 192 - was highly sought after by terror groups such as Islamic State, which use it to make dirty bombs.

He said the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNe) threat was new in South-east Asia.

"For some years, there was only talk of the threat in Southeast Asia.

"This (CBRNe) threat is (now) the region's new threat.

"The Iridium 192 found in Klang is a worrying sign that Malaysia is becoming a major transit point and base for religious and violent extremists.

"This discovery by the authorities is a wake-up call for Malaysia as Iridium 192 is easily found here and not in other Asian countries," he told the *Near Straits Times*.

Residents of Seri Era Apartment, where materials containing Iridium 192 were found on Saturday, have been advised to seek medical attention.

Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) Radiation Regulatory Division director Hasmadi Hassan said residents should contact the board so that blood tests could be run on them.

"We want to make sure residents are safe and not in danger.

"If anyone had been exposed (to radiation), it could cause health problems.

"Also, I would like to inform them (residents) that if any of them is experiencing nausea or dizziness, he or she should immediately call our centre at 03-8922 5888.

"We will bring them to our centre in Klang and run tests," he said at the Klang Selatan police headquarters yesterday.

The scare came after two stolen



(Top) Seri Era Apartment in Klang, where some canisters containing Iridium 192 were recovered. (Right) The equipment used by police and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board to find the radioactive material. PIX BY FAIZ ANUAR AND MUHAMMAD SULAIMAN



projectors were found dismantled in the area.

AELB is concerned that radioactive material inside the projectors could have leaked out.

Hasmagi, who is also AELB's Nuclear Emergency Team chairman, said the board would conduct investigations into the standard operating procedure (SOP) of the oil and gas exploration company from which the projectors were stolen.

He said the company had been operating for 10 years and this was the first time such an incident had occurred.

"We want to look into the company's SOP and see if there was any negligence on the part of its employees. Even though we have found the projectors with the help of the police,



Andrin Raj

we still need to take the matter seriously."

Klang Selatan police chief Assistant Commissioner Alzafry Ahmad advised Seri Era Apartment residents to contact the board to have blood tests carried out.

He said police were not sure when and where the projectors, containing Iridium 192, were dismantled.

Alzafry said he had instructed his men, who had been involved in the investigation, to have blood tests run

on them.

He said police had arrested eight people in connection with the theft of the projectors.

Alzafry said the suspects, aged between 26 and 37, were detained on Friday and Saturday.

He said four of them were employees of the oil and gas exploration company from which the projectors were stolen, while the others were arrested in Jalan Samarinda and Seri Era Apartment.

"If said, the projectors could fetch about RM80,000."

Alzafry said the suspects used the company's van to transport the projectors, returning it an hour later.

On Saturday, police and AELB raided Seri Era Apartment and a scrap metal yard, where they found canisters containing Iridium 192.

It was learnt that the authorities used a special detector brought in by AELB to find the radioactive material.

RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS

GOVERNMENT TO AMEND ACT 304

The move is to improve safety in atomic energy use

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THE government will improve the safety, security and safeguards of radioactive material with a proposed amendment to the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304).

Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) director-general Hamrah Mohd Ali said it was high time Malaysia updated its law on the safe and peaceful use of atomic energy.

"Malaysia is among the countries that are up to date in terms of knowledge in atomic energy and our experts have been tasked by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help in missions around the globe," he said yesterday.

He said this after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between AELB and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) for the exchange

of technical, information and cooperation in nuclear and radiation safety and the security and safeguards of radioactive and nuclear materials.

Hamrah represented AELB while UTM was represented by its deputy vice-chancellor (development), Professor Dr Azlan Abdul Rahman.

Hamrah said as Act 304 was more than 30 years old, the law should be up-to-date with global development and the requirements of IAEA.

"The act now focuses more on the safety aspect of the use of atomic energy.

"The amendment will give us a more precise look into the security and safeguards, which have become more important," he said.

He said under the act, those who committed an offence was liable to be jailed up to 10 years or fined up to RM100,000, or both, upon conviction.

He said the technical aspect of the amendment had been completed and it was being drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers.

"If everything goes according to plan, we hope the amended law will be passed this year," he said, adding that the review of Act 304 began in 2011, but had taken some time to be

HOW IRIIDIUM IS USEFUL TO TERRORISTS



The Islamic State was linked to a case where radioactive material was found dumped in the southern Iraqi town of Zubair about a year ago. The material included some 10g of Iridium-192, a standard supply found within medical and industrial devices utilising radiography. The incident highlighted the IS' capacity as Iridium-192, a radioactive isotope of iridium, can be attached to conventional explosives and used as dirty bombs, which would cause radioactive pollution if set off.

Iridium 101



Iridium is a chemical element with symbol Ir and atomic number 77.



Iridium-192 is an unstable isotope and emits both electrons and gamma rays (highly energetic packets of light) which later decay into osmium isotopes and platinum isotopes, which are more stable and less dangerous.



It is defined as a category-2 radioactive substance — meaning that the substance can permanently injure a person who handles the radioactive material for minutes to hours, and it can kill people in close proximity within hours to days.



Iridium-192 does not occur naturally. Instead, scientists must put Iridium-191 in a nuclear reactor and bombard it with neutrons. Iridium-191 then takes up an extra neutron to become Iridium-192, which is later regulated and used for industrial applications, despite its hazardous nature to humans.



Silvery-white with a slight yellowish cast in appearance, it is the most corrosion-resistant element and is generally credited with being the second densest element (after osmium).



Because it resists corrosion, as well as being hard and brittle with a very high melting point, it is used to set standards in weights and measures, make devices needed for high temperatures such as thermocouple, as sheet material in electrical contacts and alloying component to harden platinum.

INFOGRAPHIC NST

completed as it involved various agencies.

He said there were about 2,000 licence holders who were authorised to use and deal in nuclear and ra-

dioactive materials in Malaysia.

"These materials are mostly used in the industrial sector, such as in the manufacturing, electronics and oil and gas industries," he said.

