

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 06 MAC 2014 (KHAMIS)**

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## Dry weather to return

By IDA NADIRAH  
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THE heavy showers in several areas in the Klang Valley on Monday and Tuesday is a short-lived blessing as the weather is expected to be hot and dry for the next two weeks.

The Meteorological Department said there would be less rain in the coming days due to strong winds blowing from the north-east.

"We are reaching the end of the north-east monsoon and so the weather is expected to remain hot with isolated showers for the next two weeks," said its central forecast division director Muhammad Helmi Abdullah.

He said there would be no more cloud seeding operations this week as the condition was not conducive for the formation of rain clouds.

However, Muhammad Helmi said the rainy season was expected to set in gradually from the third week of this month.

"There will be occasional hot days, but showers will start picking up from the third week due to the change from the north-eastern monsoon to the inter-monsoon season," he said.

Although the rain had improved the haze condition yesterday, Muhammad Helmi said it may only last for a few days.

"Slight haze might return, especially if open fires continue."

Selangor Water Management Board director Mohd Khairi Selamat said a meeting would be held with the Meteorological Department tomorrow to discuss the need to get private companies on board to assist in cloud seeding operations.

Mohd Khairi said the recent cloud seeding exercise was conducted with the help of the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

"We are looking at the possibility of carrying out additional operations with the help of other bodies," Mohd Khairi said.

"We will need to see the weather conditions for the next few weeks through the radar readings provided by the department and see what more we can do (to raise water levels at dams)."

On Tuesday, Mohd Khairi said the heavy rain from the cloud seeding activity did not affect the water levels of the dams.

The reserves at the Klang Gates and Sungai Selangor dams were at 52.84 and 44.51 per cent respectively.

# Dept: Heavy rain from March 21

## EQUINOX EVENT:

Inter-monsoon will cause huge change in weather patterns

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**T**HE Meteorological Department forecasts heavy rain from March 21.

Its commercial and corporate services division director, Dr Mohd Hisham Mohd Anip, said the inter-monsoon season would cause immense change in weather patterns.

Weather patterns, he said, were highly influenced by the position of the sun, especially during the inter-monsoon, where the sun was closer to the equator.

He said this phenomena, known as the equinox, would cause the atmosphere to be unstable and active.

"Presently, the sun is located in

the southern hemisphere, causing more weather changes and rain there," he said, adding that this bi-annual phenomena occurred in March and September.

The inter-monsoon season, which was expected to end in April, would produce between 200 and 300 millimetres of rain water per month.

Hisham said no heavy rain was expected until the end of this week and there would only be isolated showers nationwide.

He added that cloud seeding would be postponed till next week since the clouds as wind patterns were unsuitable.

"Strong winds up to 20 knots are expected to continue until the end of this week. This situation is not favourable for cloud seeding, in addition to the cloudless situation."



**DRY SPELL**

Drainage and Irrigation Department's Water Resources and Hydrology division director Datuk Hanapi Mohamad Noor confirmed that the amount of rainwater was sufficient to improve water levels at dams to normal.

He said as long as the amount of rainwater was above 200mm, it would enable the dams to supply

sufficient water and resolve the water crisis.

Water rationing in Selangor following the dry spell started on Feb 27, affecting more than 60,000 people in 71 areas in Hulu Langat, Kuala Langat and Sepang.

The disruption was said to be triggered by the closure of the Cheras Batu 11 and Bukit Tampoi water treatment plants due to ammonia pollution in Sungai Langat since Jan 28.

The second phase of a month-long water rationing started on March 2 affected some 2.2 million users in the Klang Valley.

The rationing was to reduce the release of water to 200 million litres per day in Sungai Selangor dam, and 30 million litres per day from the dam in Klang Gates, which saw water supply cuts on two-day intervals in Gombak, Kuala Lumpur, Petaling, Klang Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor and Hulu Selangor districts.

In Kluang, water scheduling was applied after the water level at the Sembrong Timur Water Treatment Plant plunged below average levels.

The water scheduling was introduced on Feb 18 and is expected to last until March 31.

CUACA kering dan panas  
luar biasa turut melanda  
ibu negara semalam.

# Panas padang pasir bakar Malaysia

Suhu pada pukul 1 hingga 2 petang di Subang, Selangor dan Alor Setar, Kedah cecah 38 darjah Celsius



FENOMENA kering dan panas luar biasa melanda negara semalam apabila suhu di beberapa buah bandar merekodkan tahap tertinggi sehingga mencecah 38 darjah Celsius antara pukul 1 hingga 2 petang.

Menariknya, keadaan panas yang dicatatkan itu mengatasi suhu panas yang dicatatkan di beberapa bandar di negara Arab seperti Mekah, Arab Saudi dan Baghdad, Iraq yang hanya merekodkan 34 dan 29 darjah Celsius pada masa yang sama semalam.

PELANCONG terpaksa mengguna payung kerana tidak tahan dengan cuaca panas yang melanda negara ini.

## BAHAYA SERANGAN STROK HABA



KERATAN muka depan Kosmo! Ahad 2 Mac 2014.

Pengarah Bahagian Sains Atmosfera dan Pembenihan Awan Jabatan Meteorologi, Azhar Ishak memberitahu, suhu tertinggi dengan bacaan 38 darjah Celsius dicatat di kawasan Subang, Selangor dan Alor Setar, Kedah, manakala 37 darjah Celsius di Lubok Merbau, Perak.

Beliau turut menegaskan, suhu panas itu diramal boleh mencapai tahap ekstrem sehingga 40 darjah Celsius sekiranya jumlah hujan masih berkurangan.

Berdasarkan rekod lepas, negara pernah dilanda suhu ekstrem iaitu 40.1 darjah Celsius di Chuping, Perlis dan 39.1 darjah Celsius di Alor Setar, Kedah pada bulan Mac tahun 1998.

# Panas luar biasa landa Malaysia

Oleh AQMAR ALLADAD  
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**KUALA LUMPUR** - Fenomena cuaca kering dan panas terik yang melanda negara sejak Januari lalu mencapai kemuncak apabila merekodkan suhu tertinggi mencecah 38 darjah Celsius antara pukul 1 hingga 2 petang semalam.

Menariknya, keadaan panas dengan suhu 38 darjah Celsius itu mengatasi suhu yang dicatatkan di beberapa bandar di Asia Barat seperti Mekah, Arab Saudi dan Baghdad, Iraq yang hanya merekodkan 34 dan 29 darjah Celsius pada masa yang sama semalam.

Pengarah Bahagian Sains Atmosfera dan Pembentukan Awan Jabatan Meteorologi, Azhar Ishak berkata, suhu 38 darjah Celsius itu dicatatkan di kawasan Subang, Selangor dan Alor Setar, Kedah diikuti Lubok Merbau, Perak dengan suhu 37 darjah Celsius.

Katanya, suhu panas itu diramal akan semakin meningkat sehingga mencapai tahap ekstrem iaitu 40 darjah Celsius sekiranya hujan masih berkurangan.

"Jumlah hujan bagi Januari dan Februari pada tahun ini kurang berbanding tempoh yang sama pada tahun lalu.

"Berdasarkan rekod lepas, negara pernah dilanda suhu ekstrem iaitu 40.1 darjah Celsius di Chuping, Perlis dan 39.1 darjah Celsius di Alor Setar, Kedah pada bulan Mac tahun 1998," katanya ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!* di sini semalam.

Menurut Azhar, hujan pada tahun ini berkurangan dan fenomena cuaca kering dijangka hanya akan berakhir pada pertengahan Mac apabila berlakunya musim peralihan antara angin Monsun Timur Laut kepada Monsun Barat Daya.

Beliau bagaimanapun memberitahu, keadaan panas ketika ini masih belum mencapai tahap mudarat kerana masih mendapat hujan termasuk daripada proses pembentukan awan.

"Kita akan meneruskan operasi pembentukan awan sebanyak dua kali lagi bergantung kepada keadaan atmosfera dan awan towering cumulus," jelasnya.

Mengulas lanjut, Azhar memberitahu, pada setiap tahun iaitu pada bulan Mac, kawasan utara Semenanjung seperti Ke-

## INFO Tiupan arah angin monsun



1. Angin Monsun Timur Laut (November hingga Mac) kini sudah sampai ke penghujung tidak membawa hujan sebelum beralih kepada musim tiupan angin Monsun Barat Daya.

2. Angin Monsun Barat Daya (Mei hingga September) akan mula bertiup pada Mei ini bakal membawa hujan.

dah, Perak dan Perlis akan berdepan dengan cuaca kering serta panas pada suhu yang tinggi.

Sementara itu, penerang Pusat Pengajian Sains Fizik, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Profesor Madya Chong Hon Yew berkata, keadaan cuaca kering dan panas yang berlaku ketika ini agak luar biasa dan edaran cuaca disifatkan tidak menentu berbanding sebelum ini.

Menurut Hon Yew, keadaan cuaca panas dan kering yang dialami ketika ini adalah disebabkan perubahan tiupan arah angin dari timur ke barat.

"Kedudukan matahari yang tepat di kawasan tropika juga menyebabkan suhu menjadi panas pada hari yang tiada hujan.

"Biasanya bulan Mac, kawasan pantai Timur seperti Terengganu dan Kelantan akan hujan tetapi berlaku sebaliknya apabila kedua-dua negeri itu turut dilanda



CUACA panas turut melanda ibu negara semalam.

## INFO Suhu tertinggi 5 Mac di beberapa lokasi seluruh negara

Subang, Selangor	- 38 darjah Celsius
Alor Setar, Kedah	- 38 darjah Celsius
Lubok Merbau, Perak	- 37 darjah Celsius
Johor Bharu, Johor	- 35 darjah Celsius
Kota Bharu, Kelantan	- 35 darjah Celsius
Putrajaya	- 34 darjah Celsius
Melaka	- 33 darjah Celsius
Kuantan, Pahang	- 32.9 darjah Celsius
Kuching, Sarawak	- 31.6 darjah Celsius
Kuala Terengganu	- 30.8 darjah Celsius
Bayan Lepas, P. Pinang	- 33.2 darjah Celsius
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	- 30.8 darjah Celsius

## Suhu tertinggi pernah dicatat di Malaysia

Chuping, Perlis	- 40.1 darjah Celsius pada 15 Mac 1998
Alor Setar, Kedah	- 39.5 darjah Celsius pada 27 Mac 1998
Subang, Selangor	- 36.8 darjah Celsius pada 26 Mac 1987

## Suhu bandar utama di negara-negara Arab utama pada 5 Mac

Mekah, Arab Saudi	- 34 darjah Celsius
Madinah, Arab Saudi	- 33 darjah Celsius
Kaherah, Mesir	- 30 darjah Celsius
Baghdad, Iraq	- 29 darjah Celsius
Doha, Qatar	- 29 darjah Celsius
Muscat, Oman	- 25 darjah Celsius
Sana, Yemen	- 24 darjah Celsius

## INFO Cara mencegah atau mengurangkan kesan terhadap kesihatan akibat cuaca panas melampau

- Minum air kosong dengan banyak tanpa mengira tahap aktiviti fizikal yang anda lakukan
- Jangan tunggu sehingga anda dahaga untuk minum
- Minum minuman isotonik kerana ia boleh menggantikan garam dan mineral yang hilang semasa berpeluh
- Anda perlu berada di dalam rumah atau bangunan
- Hadkan aktiviti luar
- Kerap berehat
- Mandi atau gunakan kipas angin untuk menyejukkan tubuh badan anda
- Pakai pakaian yang ringan, berwarna-terang dan longgar
- Pakai topi atau payung yang besar

Sumber: [www.infosihat.gov.my](http://www.infosihat.gov.my)



AZHAR

# We're in deep water over a lack of water

**SAFEGUARDS:** The time has come for a paradigm shift in the way the nation manages water resources

**W**ITHOUT water, we can stay alive for, at the most, only a few days. This is a scientific fact. This is also the reason why water is so crucial for our survival.

In fact, it is much more tolerable to go without electricity than to endure water cuts.

This explains why people often fight over water. Seldom over electricity. Water access can even be a matter of life and death to some.

We are fortunate here because water shortages appear only on rare occasions. However, we should not take this for granted.

The prediction is that as global warming intensifies, the occasional drought may become more regular and last longer.

We, therefore, need to be ready with safeguards if we are to cushion the pain that comes with water disruption.

The Academy of Sciences Malaysia, through its Water Committee, has been looking into scientific solutions to the water dilemma.

How can we better manage this important resource in a more sustainable manner?

Do we practise the preaching of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)?

It is supposed to be the reference bible for all water planners. The academy's studies have evaluated the supply-and-demand side of the water equation.

For example, why is it that a country blessed with plentiful rain can run short of water?

In fact, meteorologists often report the nation's weather on whether it is going to rain. Very seldom does our weather reporting touch on temperature changes.

This is understandable, since our temperatures do not change much. Unlike temperate countries, ours remain within a fairly constant

range.



**Dr Ahmad Ibrahim**  
Fellow, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

**SAMBUNGAN...**  
**NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT) : MUKA SURAT 14 & 15**  
**TARIKH : 06 MAC 2014 (KHAMIS)**

The studies have revealed a number of key issues and challenges for the nation. These require urgent attention.

On the supply side, we have yet to resolve the high percentage of losses because old piping have yet to be replaced.

Replacing them requires massive investment.

At the same time, such non-revenue water costs the country millions of ringgit.

Not to mention the impact on businesses and industries during droughts.

Many believe some wastage is a consequence of our water tariff, which is still comparatively low.

As they always say, when things are cheap, we tend to not value them much.

This is normal. There is no urgency to be more water efficient either.

Pollution of our water resources is the other factor affecting supply. This is especially true for the country's rivers.

Through the uncontrolled discharge of household and industrial wastes, our studies have confirmed that many of our rivers are seriously polluted. Rampant logging near water catchment areas is also to blame.

There is concern that when we discuss water issues in the country, the emphasis has always been on supply.

How do we create new supply sources?

How do we divert supply and

move water from one state to another?

Not much thought is given to how to better manage demand. If we can achieve better usage efficiency, maybe we need not worry so much about supply.

The studies at the academy have confirmed that there are steps to better manage demand.

Take agriculture, for example. Agriculture takes the largest share of the nation's water.

It has been estimated that agriculture accounts for more than 70 per cent of the nation's water demand.

Yet, the water accountability in agriculture is almost zero.

First, the amount used is not properly measured. Second, because it is free, the urgency to conserve is also zero. Such leakages need plugging.

The effort to conserve water is miniscule among households. This explains why we are among the highest per capita users of water in the world.

The time has come for a paradigm shift in the way we manage our water resources.

Water demand needs better monitoring. Water-use efficiencies need to be improved.

To achieve better water demand management, we also need to revisit the tariff structure. As it is, the urgency to conserve is almost nil.

As demonstrated in many developed economies, effectively managing water demand is one sure way to avert the water crisis.

BERITA ONLINE  
BERNAMA.COM  
TARIKH: 06 MAC 2014 (KHAMIS)



## Amaran Angin Kencang, Laut Bergelora

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Mac (Bernama) -- Angin kencang Timur Laut dan laut bergelora dijangka melanda perairan Sarawak (Miri), Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan dan Sabah (Pantai Barat dan Kudat) bermula Sabtu, 8 Mac hingga Rabu, 12 Mac.

**Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia** dalam kenyataan di sini hari ini berkata keadaan angin dengan kelajuan antara 40 hingga 50 kilometer sejam dan ombak melebihi 3.5m itu berbahaya kepada semua bot kecil, rekreasi laut dan aktiviti sukan laut.

Pada masa sama, keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora diramal turut melanda daerah Condore, Reef North, Layang-Layang dan Palawan.

Kenyataan itu menyebut amaran ketampakan rendah turut dilaporkan berlaku di perairan Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Selangor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan dan Selat Melaka disebabkan jerebu.

"Ketampakan rendah kurang dari lima kilometer dijangka berterusan sehingga Sabtu ini. Keadaan ini berbahaya kepada kapal-kapal yang tidak mempunyai navigasi pelayaran," menurut kenyataan itu.

-- BERNAMA



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BERNAMA.COM  
TARIKH: 06 MAC 2014 (KHAMIS)



## Angin Kencang Di Perairan Sarawak Sabtu Ini

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 Mac (Bernama) -- Angin kencang timur laut pada kelajuan 40-50 kilometer sejam dengan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 3.5 meter dijangka berlaku di perairan Sarawak, Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan, pantai barat Sabah dan Kudat pada Sabtu, 8 Mac hingga Rabu, 12 Mac.

Menurut kenyataan **Jabatan Meteorologi**, Rabu, keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora ini adalah berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, rekreasi dan sukan laut.

"Ketampakan rendah kurang dari lima kilometer di sekitar perairan Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Selangor, Melaka dan Negeri Sembilan disebabkan oleh jerebu. Keadaan ini dijangka berterusan sehingga Sabtu," katanya.

Keadaan ini adalah berbahaya kepada kapal-kapal yang tidak mempunyai alat navigasi pelayaran, tambah kenyataan itu.

--BERNAMA

# Report open burning

> We need to cooperate to help improve haze situation, says Palanivel

BY ANNIE FREEDA CRUEZ  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Call this toll free number, 1-800-88-2727, if you spot anyone conducting open burning, be it on a small or big scale.

In making this call, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel yesterday said people must ensure there is no open burning during this time when the nation is hit by the haze which has caused some parts of the country to record very unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings.

"It's only with public cooperation that we can contain the current situation, although sometimes it is beyond our control, such as the current dry spell which leads to bush fires," he said.

Commenting on yesterday's API readings, Palanivel said most parts of the country recorded healthy readings except for SK Jalan Pegoh in Ipoh (108), Banting and Shah Alam in Selangor (122 and 101 respectively) and Putrajaya (102).

He attributed the improving situation to rain the last two days.

"The cloud-seeding exercise seems to have improved the haze situation and I hope that, with public cooperation, it will improve further," he said.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department is closely monitoring the weather situation, including the wind directions from neighbouring countries which have reported cases of forest fires.

To those who are going out to sea, the department has sent out a warning that the northeast winds and rough seas are expected to hit the coastal areas of Miri in Sarawak, Labuan, and Kudat and west coast of Sabah from Saturday till next Wednesday.

It said winds at a speed ranging from 40 to 50kmph and waves exceeding 3.5m are dangerous to small vessels and sea recreational activities. Low visibility of less than 5km due to the haze is expected in the waters off Kedah, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Malacca and Negri Sembilan.

# Take fire prevention measures seriously

AS I write this, the API index in some parts of Selangor has reached an unhealthy level of 132 whereas in Nilai the API index also stands at an unhealthy 109.

We witnessed rain since Sunday where it poured at a few places around the nation. However, it is still not enough to bring down the API and the signs of haze are still clearly visible.

The current scenario is caused by the alarming number of forest and bush fires due to the prolonged dry spell. Fire-control activities use high amounts of water, causing even more water stress in the affected area.

Devastating forest/bush fires were seen in several parts of Penang, said to be the worst in the last 10 years. The fires at Penang Hill and Bukit Gambir were only put off after a few days of hard effort.

As of today, the drought code issued by the **Meteorological Department** mostly ranges from high to extreme for peninsular Malaysia. States like Perlis, Penang, Negri Sembilan, Selangor and Johor and the federal territory of Kuala Lumpur had



**BURNING ISSUE:** The fires on top of the hill between Paya Terubong and Bukit Gambir in Penang on Feb 10 were extinguished after a few days — FILEpic

been labelled with the “extreme” drought code.

As for the fine fuel moisture code (FFMC), the entire peninsula except for several parts of Terengganu and Pahang show the “red” (extreme) code. Both the codes are the measure of potential fire hazard. These indications show that we should look into fire prevention and fire control measures

more seriously.

Forest/bush fires not only threaten lives of people in the surrounding area, but also cause economic loss, air pollution and more than ever the concern now is on the water required.

The increase in demand for water is devastating to the already drying up water levels in dams.

The people play a significant role in curbing forest/bush fires. They should alert the Fire and Rescue Department immediately if they encounter fires.

Quick response by firefighting personnel is also vital. We should also refrain from open burning and should stay away from fire-causing behaviour such as discarding cigarette butts that are still lit.

KULAI

# Choked for 20 years



Saleng residents suffer from peat fires fuelled by illegal dumping

By DANIAL DZULKIFLY  
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MANY have been living with hazy conditions in recent days but it is nothing compared to what residents in Saleng have been going through for more than 20 years.

The town, some 30km north of Johor Baru, has been engulfed in toxic air for too long a time.

The resident attribute the poor air quality to a 20-acre illegal dumping ground in Jalan Kampung Baru Saleng.

It has turned worse as the Malaysian Meteorological Department said the town has not seen a single drop of rain for the past 24 days, as of yesterday, and the maximum temperature was 34 degrees.

The Malay Mail visited the

area yesterday only to find residents helping a handful of firemen to douse peat fires. While most rubbish is burnt, orr team spotted garbage ranging from household items to construction waste.

The land was gazetted by the Kulai Municipal Council as a dumping ground in 1990 but was shut down in 2001 because of repeated fires. However, it did not stop many from continuing to dump waste on the privately owned land.

Even more shocking is that a primary school — SJKC Saleng — is located nearby, raising concerns over the health of its pupils,

Resident Fook Zhe Aan, 54, is baffled as to why the matter had not been addressed.

"The situation has gone from bad to worse. It's been going

on since 1990. How long more do we have to suffer before this matter is taken seriously?" Fook, who lives in Kampung Baru Selang, asked.

Syed Aemir Syed Zuraimi, 45, said the poor air quality from the after-effects of the prolonged burnin often resulted in haze.

"Those living nearby would usually suffer from breathing difficulties and eye irritation. It's been going on for far too long but nothing has been done," he said.

Chan Mei Xing, 38, said she was forced to move to her brother's house in Tampoi because of the polluted air.

"The smell of methane gas is so strong. We all know that such gas is dangerous, not to mention toxic fumes from burned industrial and con-

struction waste dumped there," said Chan.

Mother of two Zulaiha Mohd Maseran, 42, remains concerned over her family's health.

"It is bad enough that we have to deal with the hot weather and now the strong smell and smoke originating from this dumping ground," she said.

"I am worried about my four-year-old twins. It has come to a point that we need to wear surgical masks at home."

Kamarudin Sujangi, 36, said the school's close proximity to the site was already a good reason for the authorities to act on the matter immediately.

"Even if the authorities closed the school, there are still children living around the area," he said.

"Something must be done now."