

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)**

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	MOSTI nafi tawar geran RM100j	Harian Metro
2	Tubuh jabatan baharu bantu komersilkan produk	Sinar Harian
3	UTM tubuh makmal ujian kebakaran	Harian Metro
4	UTM bangunkan makmal uji tiang dalam suhu tinggi	Bernamea.com
5	UTP dapat geran MOSTI bernilai RM1.13 juta untuk kajian melawan kebakaran	Bernamea.com
6	Bantu petani kenal pasti peta rawatan baja	Kosmo
7	Pengkomersialan gamat akuakultur positif	Kosmo
8	Gelombang kedua musim panas melanda Malaysia mulai Mei	Kosmo
9	Selangor bakal teroka lombong	Sinar Harian
10	Little change in Sungai Selangor dam water level despite rain	The Star
11	Water rationing may go beyond April, says MB	The Malay Mail
12	Gempa bumi sederhana melanda Luzon di Filipina	Bernamea.com
13	Putrajaya handed out RM100m grant for non—viable project, claims Rafizi	Malay Mail Online
14	PM tidak mempunyai kepentingan dalam geran MOSTI	Free Malaysia Today
15	Rafizi dedah bukti campur tangan Najib dalam pemberian RM100 juta geran MOSTI	The Malaysian Insider
16	Putrajaya awarded RM100 million to company rejected by banks, says PKR	The Malaysian Insider
17	Rafizi: PM abused power by asking minister to consider RM100m grant	fz.com

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 21
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)

MOSTI nafi tawar geran RM100j

Melaka: Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) menafikan ada membuat tawaran geran Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan (R&D) bernilai RM100 juta seperti didakwa Pengerah Strategi Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Rafizi Ramli.

Timbalan Menteri Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata, ini kerana kementerian terbabit menawarkan geran maksimum RM3 juta kepada syarikat yang layak berdasarkan keputusan dibuat jawatankuasa khas penilai dianggotai beberapa pakar dalam bidang R&D dilantik MOSTI.

"Mana ada geran MOSTI

RM100 juta. Geran maksimum MOSTI RM3 juta saja. Mungkin dia (Rafizi) tak faham. Saya tidak mahu buat kenyataan spesifik, biar menteri (Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin) jawab secara rasmi.

"Apa yang jelas setiap geran daripada MOSTI perlu dinilai jawatankuasa penilai terdiri daripada pakar luar dilantik MOSTI. Kuasa di tangan mereka," katanya ketika ditemui selepas membentangkan kertas kerja sempena Seminar Antarabangsa, Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi di Kalangan Anggota

Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam (DMDI) di Rumah Media Melaka, di sini semalam.

Beliau diminta mengulas dakwaan Rafizi kelmarin, kononnya menedahkan satu daripada geran terbesar pernah diberikan di bawah skim geran R&D MOSTI kepada NSE Resources Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd hasil campur tangan Perdana Menteri sendiri yang membayangkan ia tidak mengikuti prosedur.

Dakwanya lagi, pemberian geran kepada syarikat terbabit

FAKTA
MOSTI hanya tawar geran maksimum RM3 juta



DR Abu Bakar

bagi projek komersil membatik dana awam RM100 juta dan diberikan kepada satu syarikat saja. Ini bertentangan dengan prosedur dan tatacara biasa pemberian geran R&D di bawah MOSTI.

Tubuh jabatan baharu bantu komersilkan produk

■ NORDIANA JOHARI

DUNIA Melayu Dunia Islam (DMDI) akan menubuhkan satu jabatan berperanan membantu usahawan dalam negara anggota untuk mengkomersilkan produk dihasilkan.

Presidennya, Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam berkata, kira-kira 1,000 usahawan menyambut baik usaha berkenaan untuk membantu mereka memperluaskan perniagaan di seluruh negara anggota DMDI.

Beliau berkata, jabatan bakal beroperasi di Kota Cemerlang itu mampu jadi pemangkin terhadap usahawan kecil.

"Jabatan ini akan mengumpul dan menjadi penghubung antara mereka selain sentiasa aktif seperti mencari rakan kongsi untuk perniagaan dijalankan.

"Ia akan menjadi rangkaian produktif pada masa depan untuk komersilkan produk," katanya kepada media pada Seminar Antarabangsa Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi DMDI.

Program dirasmikan Ketua Menteri Melaka, Datuk Seri Idris



Peserta yang hadir ke Seminar Antarabangsa Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi DMDI di Auditorium Rumah Media Melaka, semalam.

Haron di Auditorium Rumah Media Melaka, di Ayer Keroh, semalam. Hadir sama, Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Prof Abu Bakar Mohd Diah.

Sementara itu, Idris berkata, seminar yang mempertingkatkan rantaian antarabangsa dalam pembangunan sains, teknologi

dan inovasi itu bakal memberi impak besar kepada pembangunan ummah di seluruh dunia.

"Peranan DMDI, sudah tentu setiap masalah melanda umat Melayu Islam hari ini boleh ditukar menjadi peluang," katanya.

Sebanyak dua pembentangan kertas kerja bertajuk Pengkomersilan dan

Inovasi Dalam Keusahawanan Pemasaran melibatkan empat panel; antaranya, Naib Presiden Jamiyah Singapura, Dr Mohd Isa Hassan; Felo Akademi Sains Malaysia, Prof Dr Ahmad Fauzi Ismail dan Pengarah University of Malaya Centre of Innovation and Commercialization, Prof Dr Rofina Yasmin Othman.

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 41
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)



DR Abu Bakar (tiga dari kiri) merasmikan makmal ujian kebakaran.

UTM tubuh makmal ujian kebakaran

Johor Bahru: Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Skudai, di sini, dinobatkan organisasi pertama menubuhkan makmal ujian kebakaran di Asia Tenggara.

Pembinaan makmal terletak di Technovation Park itu membabitkan kos RM2.5 juta yang dibangunkan bagi menguji tiang kepanasan tinggi.

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata, pihaknya teruja dengan kepakaran penyelidik UTM yang berusaha mengangkat bidang teknologi ke tahap lebih tinggi.

“Selama ini, pihak industri cenderung melakukan ujian terhadap dinding bangunan yang dilakukan pada suhu rendah.

“Tanpa kita sedari, ketahanan tiang juga amat penting bagi memastikan bangunan atau kediaman itu

selamat diduduki.

“Dengan penubuhan makmal ini, ia bertepatan kerana bukan hanya dapat menguji tiang dalam suhu tinggi menjangkau 1,700 darjah celsius tetapi berupaya menanggung beban hingga 100 tan,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas merasmikan makmal berkenaan di Technovation Park, semalam.

Hadir sama Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi) Prof Dr Mohd Azraai Kassim.

Menurut Abu Bakar, pihaknya yakin kemudahan itu dapat membantu lebih ramai pihak khususnya penyelidik untuk menjalankan kajian mereka.

Katanya, makmal itu juga boleh dijadikan tempat untuk pihak industri mendapatkan khidmat nasihat dan menguji kekuatan struktur bangunan mereka.



UTM Bangunkan Makmal Uji Tiang Dalam Suhu Tinggi

JOHOR BAHRU, 22 April (Bernama) -- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) membangunkan sebuah makmal ujian kebakaran yang pertama seumpamanya di negara ini, malah di Asia Tenggara.

Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi) UTM Prof Ir Dr Mohd Azraai Kassim berkata makmal berharga RM2.5 juta yang siap dibina tahun lepas itu memberi manfaat kepada pelbagai pihak terutama pelajar dan penyelidik.

Makmal terletak di Technovation Park universiti berkenaan.

"Fungsi utamanya ialah untuk menguji tiang dalam suhu yang tinggi dan beban sehingga 100 tan dengan maksimum suhu yang boleh dicapai sehingga 1,700 darjah celsius," katanya ketika berucap pada majlis perasmian makmal berkenaan, di sini hari Selasa.

Perasmian dilakukan Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah.

Mohd Azraai berkata makmal tersebut juga terbuka kepada pihak luar dan industri yang ingin mendapatkan nasihat atau rundingan.

Sementara itu, Abu Bakar berkata penubuhan makmal itu melakar kejayaan baru UTM dan membuktikan komitmen universiti itu dalam meningkatkan perkembangan teknologi.

"Antara syarat pembinaan adalah dikehendaki membuat ujian kebakaran. Jadi, UTM memandangi ke hadapan kerana kita tahu ujian kebakaran tiang amat penting dalam reka binaan bangunan," katanya.

-- BERNAMA



UTP Dapat Geran Mosti Bernilai RM1.13 Juta Untuk Kajian Melawan Kebakaran

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 April (Bernama) -- Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) menerima geran Dana Teknologi (TechnoFund) bernilai RM1.13 juta daripada [Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi \(MOSTI\)](#), untuk projek penyelidikan melawan kebakaran.

Universiti itu dalam satu kenyataan berkata hari ini, projek 'Sistem Pengawasan Rescue-I' yang diketuai Dekan Fakulti Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Dr Ahmad Kamil Mahmood, terdiri daripada monitor fisiologi, alat penghantar-terima, pemancar peringkat pernafasan dan unit kawalan mudah alih.

Ia merupakan sistem bersepadu baharu pertama seumpamanya di Malaysia dan Asean, katanya.

Projek perkongsian pintar antara kumpulan penyelidik UTP dan Semarak Motivasi Sdn Bhd itu, disokong oleh Jabatan Bomba dan penyelamat Perak.

UTP menjalankan penyelidikan meluas dalam pemulihan minyak yang dipertingkatkan, pengurusan karbon dioksida, teknologi laut dalam dan nanoteknologi melalui kerjasama Petronas dan lain-lain institusi tempatan, antarabangsa serta pihak industri.

TechnoFund merupakan skim geran yang dibentuk untuk merangsang pertumbuhan dan inovasi yang berjaya daripada syarikat-syarikat Malaysia. Ia menyediakan pembiayaan untuk pembangunan teknologi terbabit sehingga ke peringkat prakomersil yang memiliki potensi komersil untuk mewujudkan perniagaan baharu serta menjana kekayaan ekonomi negara.

MOSTI juga meluluskan dana berjumlah RM2.82 juta kepada lima penerima lain iaitu Aquatech Bio Resources Sdn Bhd, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, SIFT Center Sdn Bhd dan Mohammad Rizvi Othman.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (INFINITI) : MUKA SURAT 31
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)

Bantu petani kenal pasti peta rawatan baja

KECANGGIHAN teknologi Pesawat Udara Tanpa Juruterbang (UAV) tidak terhad kepada penggunaan komersial atau keselamatan negara sahaja malah ia keberkesannya dalam memajukan industri pertanian negara juga dikaji.

Hampir semua perkara yang boleh difikirkan manusia mampu direalisasikan oleh UAV sekali gus menjadikannya objek terbang pelbagai guna.

Penyelidik dari Institut Penyelidikan dan Kemajuan Pertanian Malaysia (MARDI), Dr. Teoh Chin Chuang berkata, pihaknya menggunakan UAV dalam penyelidikan pengeluaran padi pada tapak kajian di Yan, Kedah.

"Buat masa ini, petani masih lagi menabur baja di sawah padi menggunakan kaedah tradisional tanpa mengetahui keperluan sebenar padi tersebut.

"Setiap tumbuhan mempunyai keperluan baja yang berbeza. Jika baja



DR. TEOH



PESAWAT Udara Tanpa Juruterbang sangat penting untuk taburan baja yang sekata di sawah padi. – Gambar hiasan

digunakan secara berlebihan, ia akan mengakibatkan tanah berasid dan memudaratkan alam sekitar. UAV digunakan untuk memudahkan kerja bagi mengenal pasti peta rawatan baja.

"Ini bermakna, UAV dapat memberikan imej udara bagi menentukan kawasan yang perlu dibaja dan ka-

wasan yang tidak perlu. Teknik ini lebih menjimatkan kos dan mesra alam," jelasnya yang sudah dua tahun menjalankan penyelidikan tersebut melalui dana sains yang disediakan oleh Kementerian Sains, Teknologi Dan Inovasi (MOSTI).

Selain itu, imej yang diproses da-

ripada kaedah tersebut membolehkan pasukan penyelidik memantau kadar pertumbuhan dan populasi padi yang berkeluasan 60 hektar. Masa yang diambil untuk merakamkan imej bagi keseluruhan kawasan tapak kajian selama 15 minit untuk satu sesi penerbangan.

Sekiranya imej yang dirakam menunjukkan tanda-tanda kerosakan berlaku pada tanaman, pihaknya akan memaklumkan kepada petani untuk melakukan proses pemindahan tanaman.

Ia bertujuan untuk menyeragamkan kawasan tanaman agar tumbuh dengan subur dan sekata.

Kos keseluruhan bagi dana sains tersebut menelan belanja sebanyak RM424,000 termasuk kos pembajaan yang diberikan kepada petani.

"Kami bekerjasama dengan petani-petani dan menyewa blok sawah mereka untuk menjalankan kajian. Kos baja pula ditanggung oleh MARDI menggunakan dana projek.

"Namun, petani harus menanam padi mengikut kehendak MARDI. Mereka akan diajar cara melakukan pembajaan mengikut langkah demi langkah supaya tidak berlaku pembaziran," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (RENCANA UTAMA) : MUKA SURAT 23
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)

Pengkomersialan gamat akuakultur positif

KEBOLEHAN gamat spesies *Holothuria Scabra* untuk membiak di perairan Langkawi bakal menjadi petanda positif terhadap usaha pelbagai pihak bagi mewujudkan industri pengkomersialan gamat dalam sektor akuakultur.

Ketua penyelidik bagi program penternakan spesies gamat itu di Kota Marudu, Sabah, Prof Dr. Ridzwan Hashim menjelaskan, jika fasa awal pembiakan gamat tersebut berjalan lancar, ia akan memudahkan nelayan di sekitar perairan Semenanjung Malaysia.

Ridzwan yang menjalankan

program di bawah geran Technofund Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi mendedahkan, nelayan tempatan tidak perlu mengeluarkan kos diesel untuk kapal dan bot memandangkan penternakan gamat boleh dijalankan di pesisir pantai.

"Mereka hanya perlu berbelanja untuk menyediakan makanan ketika gamat di peringkat juvenil. Apabila mencapai saiz matang, ia boleh dikandangan di laut tanpa sebarang



RIDZWAN

kos makanan," ujar Ridzwan yang juga profesor di Jabatan Bioperubatan Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM) cawangan Kuantan, Pahang.

Projek membiak *Holothuria Scabra* telah dilaksanakan banyak negara seperti Australia, Maldives, Amerika Syarikat, Filipina dan Indonesia. Namun, bekalannya masih tidak mencukupi bagi memenuhi permintaan tinggi antarabangsa khususnya dari China.

Harganya yang mahal pula menjadikannya spesies gamat yang lebih diutamakan berbanding spesies lain termasuk gamat emas. Populasi gamat emas di Langkawi juga berkurangan ekoran kemusnahan habitat.

"Gamat emas suka duduk di bawah karang tanduk rusa. Apabila nelayan mengambil gamat, mereka mengangkat karang ini dengan kasar sehingga ia patah dan kesannya, gamat-gamat juvenil terancam kepada pemangsa akibat tiada tempat persembunyian," terang Ridzwan ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!*

**KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (NEGARA) : MUKA SURAT 03
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)**

Gelombang kedua musim panas melanda Malaysia mulai Mei

KUALA LUMPUR - **Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia** mengesahkan cuaca panas bakal melanda negara sekali lagi mulai Mei ini hingga September depan berikutan peralihan monsun barat daya

yang menyebabkan taburan hujan berkurangan.

Ketua Pengarahnya, **Datuk Che Gayah Ismail** berkata, perubahan cuaca akan dapat dirasai oleh penduduk paling awal pada ming-

gu pertama atau kedua pada bulan Mei.

"Kawasan utara Semenanjung akan mengalami musim panas yang lebih ketara kerana ia mengalami iklim tropika yang ku-

rang lembap berbanding kawasan selatan.

"Cuaca panas juga akan berlaku pada bulan yang sama di kawasan Sabah dan Sarawak," katanya ketika dihubungi *Kosmo!*

semalam.

Che Gayah berkata, anggaran suhu purata yang akan dicatatkan di seluruh Semenanjung Malaysia adalah antara 32 sehingga 34 darjah Celsius.

Selangor bakal teroka lombong

■ JANATUL FIRDAUS YAACOB

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan Selangor menggunakan pendekatan baharu bagi menaikkan paras simpanan air mentah terutama di Empangan Sungai Selangor yang membekalkan 60 peratus keperluan air ke Lembah Klang, sebagai persediaan menghadapi musim kering yang dijangka lebih teruk pada Mei hingga akhir September depan.

Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim berkata, Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (Luas) dengan kerjasama Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd (KKSBS) giat meneroka kolam-kolam bekas lombong di kawasan Lembangan Sungai Selangor untuk mengepam air mentah ke Sungai Selangor.

"Dengan cara ini, pelepasan air dari Empangan Sungai Selangor dapat dikurangkan dan air di empangan mampu bertahan lama," katanya selepas Majlis Perasmian Jom Baca 10 Minit 2014, di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, setakat 20 April, paras Empangan Sungai



Pendekatan baharu itu diyakini mampu membantu menamatkan krisis bekalan air di Selangor.

Selangor terus menurun kepada paras 89.29 juta meter padu atau 38.82 peratus berbanding 235.32 juta meter padu jika empangan penuh.

Katanya, Luas dan Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) menjalankan aktiviti mengepam air sungai hasil hujan lebat di hilir untuk ditakungkan

ke kolam-kolam sekitar Sungai Selangor bagi kegunaan musim kering.

"Kita telah tempah pam-pam berkeupayaan melakukan kerja pengepaman berbanding menyewa pam daripada pihak luar. Ini lebih jimat.

"Kerajaan negeri kaji untuk teroka air bawah tanah yang

berpotensi menghasilkan air mentah antara 300 hingga 400 juta liter sehari (JLH), sementara tunggu projek Horas siap Julai 2015," katanya.

Sementara itu katanya, Luas diarah menghubungi Kerajaan Thailand untuk mengguna teknologi pembenihan awan yang dikenali

sebagai *The Royal Rainmaking Technology*.

"Teknologi ini bertujuan mendapatkan hujan sekurang-kurangnya tiga kali seminggu di kawasan empangan, selain memastikan mengapa usaha pembenihan awan yang dijalankan gagal menghasilkan hujan di kawasan yang dikehendaki terutamanya di Empangan Sungai Selangor.

"Keputusan dibuat selepas mesyuarat kelmarin, bersama Luas, JPS, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia, Kementerian Tenaga, Teknologi Hijau dan Air (Kettha), Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (Span) dan empat syarikat konsesi," katanya.

Abdul Khalid menjangkakan usaha itu menghasilkan kira-kira 1,000 JLH air mentah dan jika petunjuk pelaksanaan positif dalam tempoh seminggu, pihaknya bersedia mengkaji catuan air.

"Kalau strategi kita berkesan pada hari Jumaat minggu depan, saya akan umumkan sama ada catuan tidak lagi dikenakan atau berapa lama

lagi catuan dikenakan. Namun, kita jangkakan catuan dihentikan dan dapat bertahan dalam tempoh enam bulan supaya pada bulan puasa dan raya, rakyat akan disalurkan air secukupnya tanpa catuan.

"Buat masa ini, kita terpaksa meneruskan catuan kerana paras air di empangan utama iaitu Empangan Sungai Selangor masih di bawah paras kritikal dan air yang ada sekarang hanya mampu bertahan 29 hari jika catuan tidak dilakukan," katanya.

Abdul Khalid turut menolak dakwaan 'sombong' oleh Menteri Besar Negeri Sembilan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan berkaitan tawaran jualan 20 juta gelen air sehari kepada Selangor.

Selain kos tinggi, tawaran itu dikatakan tidak membantu menamatkan krisis air.

Sebelum ini, Mohamad yang menawarkan jualan air kepada Kerajaan Selangor mendakwa Abdul Khalid 'sombong' kerana menolak cadangannya membantu rakyat negeri ini.

**KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)**

Little change in Sungai Selangor dam water level despite rain

PETALING JAYA: Yes, it has been raining. But no, it has not helped raise the water level at the Sungai Selangor dam – the largest in the state and the main supplier in the Klang Valley.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department said unsuitable atmospheric conditions were partly the reason water levels at dams had not increased much despite cloud seeding.

Its atmospheric science and cloud-seeding division director Azhar Ishak

said the department would continue to conduct cloud seeding in water catchment areas until the dams were at safe levels.

Explaining some of the problems the department faced, Azhar said: "We identify the areas for cloud seeding based on our observations but sometimes, by the time we get to these water catchment areas, the atmospheric conditions have changed and may not be suitable.

"When this happens, we go to the areas nearby and conduct the exer-

cise. There has been rain in the water catchment areas, including Sungai Selangor. However, the amount of rainfall there is still insufficient."

Sungai Selangor supplies water to 60% of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Selangor.

However, the dam has been below 40% for the past few months. The water level is deemed critical if it dips below 30%.

According to the Selangor Water Management Authority website,

water level at Sungai Selangor stood at 38.9% as of 8am yesterday.

Azhar admitted the present technology for cloud seeding was "old".

He said the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry, in collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia, would carry out research to improve it.

The ministry approved a two-year grant worth RM870,000 last week for the purpose.

As for the Thai "Royal Rainmaking Technology" which the Selangor

government is planning to use to help ease the water crisis in the state, Azhar said: "We heard about the proposal but have not received any instructions yet. Our responsibility at the moment is to ensure the water level in dams increases so we will continue with cloud seeding."

Water rationing may go beyond April, says MB

By **Ida Nadirah and Alexander Winifred**
mmnews@mmail.com.my

PETALING JAYA — Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim said water rationing could extend beyond April as reserves at the Sungai Selangor dam — which provides 60 per cent of Klang Valley's water supply — remain low.

Reserves at the dam yesterday were at 38.9 per cent. The critical level is 30 per cent.

“At this level, water in the dam will only last 29 days if rationing is discontinued,” said Khalid.

He said the state government were looking into alternative water sources including pumping groundwater and exploring former mining pools near Sungai Selangor dam.

Khalid said tapping underground water could generate 300 to 400 million litres of raw water daily and it would be stored underground to protect it from the hot spell.

This proposal comes two months after the first water rationing exercise. The Selangor government had then remained bullish

water levels at dams in Selangor would increase, promising adequate supply for the 6.7 million consumers in Klang Valley.

Earlier this month, the state government targeted the Sungai Selangor dam to reach 55 per cent by end-April and to stop water rationing. There was no talk of a back-up plan then.

The use of groundwater and exploring former mining pools is not new. Lembaga Urus Air Selangor director Mohd Khairi Selamat told *Malay Mail* they were looking into alternative sources to improve water levels.

He said groundwater was pumped from Bestari Jaya and directed to the river which flows to the Sungai Selangor dam. The exercise had been carried out for a week.

Previous studies showed water levels had to be above 45 per cent to sustain throughout the dry season between June and September.

Water concessionaire Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) said it expected water rationing to end this month.

However, Syabas said the decision was in the hands of the state government and the National Water Services Commission (SPAN).

In March, the state government launched the Hybrid Off River Augmentation System project to reduce the state's dependence on dams and rivers.

The RM405 million project will be built on a former tin mining pool in Kampung Sungai Darah, Batang Berjuntai. The first phase is expected to be completed by July next year, and will be able to hold 600 million litres. The water will be pumped into a nearby water treatment plant.

Upon completion in 2020, the system will be able to store to 3,000 to 5,000 million

litres of water and provide 600 to 700 million litres of clean water daily.

Khalid said a meeting was held with the **Meteorological Department**, Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry and SPAN on Monday to find out why cloud seeding had failed to produce the desired amount of rain.

“We have contacted Thai government to use its ‘Royal Rainmaking Technology’ cloud seeding technique. Hopefully, we will achieve desired rainfall at least three times a week.”

BERITA ONLINE
BERNAMA.COM
TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)



Gempa Bumi Sederhana Melanda Luzon Di Filipina

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 April (Bernama) -- Gempa bumi sederhana berukuran 5.9 pada Skala Richter melanda Luzon, Filipina pada 4.45 pagi tadi, menurut [Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#).

Garis pusat gempa ialah 39km barat daya Bandaraya Vigan, Filipina dan 1,221 km timur laut Kudat, Sabah, menurut kenyataan itu.

Gempa bumi itu tidak mendatangkan ancaman tsunami.

-- BERNAMA

**BERITA ONLINE
THE MALAY MAIL ONLINE**

<http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/putrajaya-handed-out-rm100m-grant-for-non-viable-project-claims-rafizi>

TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)

malaymailonline

PUTRAJAYA HANDED OUT RM100M GRANT FOR NON-VIABLE PROJECT, CLAIMS RAFIZI

BY JOSEPH SIPALAN
APRIL 22, 2014
UPDATED: APR 22, 2014



PKR's Rafizi Ramli says Putrajaya handed out a RM100 million research and development grant to a private company to prop up its capital as it could not secure a bank loan. —
Picture by Choo Choy May

PETALING JAYA, April 22 — Putrajaya gave a RM100 million research and development grant to a private company for a project that had been refused funding by commercial banks, PKR MP Rafizi Ramli claimed today.

The company's failure to get commercial funding for a gasifier steam boiler plant in Kerteh, Terengganu, raises doubts about the viability of the project as well as the government's decision making process, the opposition lawmaker charged.

"In fact this is worse than a bailout because it's free money," Rafizi told reports as he questioned the use of the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry's (MOSTI) RM1.152 billion R&D fund.

The company, NSE Resources Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd, had asked for the money to prop up its capital as it could not secure a bank loan, Rafizi said, citing a letter he had obtained from a whistleblower.

"If it is commercially viable with the right profit margin, any bank would have given its backing. The fact that the owner of this company clearly stated that his project did not get support of financial institutions is already a red flag.

"It (the company) is already saying that the project is not going to generate the right income, and whatever (funds) you plunge into this project would be difficult to recover," he said.

Rafizi, previously a project manager with national oil company Petronas, said steam boiler technology is commonly used in the petrochemical industry to generate power, raising questions the project's suitability for a R&D grant.

The technology to produce steam from wood sources, solid waste or biomass is neither new nor unique to Malaysia, he said.

"Even if it is a good industry, it does not qualify to get RM100 million in funds as a grant, as if it is a new technology.

"To get such funds, it must be a top-notch niche technology that will raise Malaysia's name in the world... I do not dispute that it is an industry on its own, but it certainly is not a niche technology advancement," he said.

Citing the letter in his possession, Rafizi said NSE Resources Corporation had entered a deal to supply a Korean and French joint-venture petrochemical company with 1.19 million tonnes of steam annually for power generation.

The project had a short statement of support by the prime minister, Rafizi added, still citing the letter.

Yesterday, Rafizi disclosed a letter purportedly from MOSTI dated January 21, allegedly approving the RM100 million grant to NSERC to set up a steam plant using "sustainable woodchip biomass".

He noted that the RM100 million payout was by far the largest recorded grant under MOSTI's R&D fund.

On Sunday, MOSTI denied an allegation that its research grants had been abused.

Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah said the ministry adheres to tight procedures that include expert and professional evaluation before any grant is made.

Rafizi claims that the RM1.152 billion spent by MOSTI between 2009 and 2013 was not commensurate with the results, producing just 20 commercialised products.



PM TIDAK MEMPUNYAI KEPENTINGAN DALAM GERAN MOSTI

Adam Abu Bakar

April 22, 2014

Mengapa Rafizi tidak berani mempersoalkan mungkin terdapat campur tangan Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang dalam sesuatu projek pembangunan.



PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Syed Ali Al Habshee (*gambar*) menangkis dakwaan Pengarah Strategi PKR, Rafizi Ramli yang mendakwa terdapat campur tangan oleh Perdana Menteri dalam pemberian geran penyelidikan (R&D) kepada Kementerian Sains, Teknologi & Inovasi (Mosti) sebanyak RM100 juta untuk sebuah projek komersil sebagai tidak berasas.

Ketua Umno Bahagian Cheras itu berkata, Datuk Seri Najib Razak tidak mempunyai sebarang keperluan untuk campur tangan dalam mana-mana kementerian berhubung perkara tersebut.

“Tuduhan tersebut karut dan hanya cubaan untuk memfitnah Najib serta tidak mungkin berlaku campur tangan kerana sesebuah kementerian itu telah diwakili oleh menteri terbabit,” tegasnya.

Tambah beliau, kerajaan pimpinan perdana menteri mengamalkan sikap telus dan bertanggungjawab serta tidak pernah berahsia dengan rakyat dalam apa juga perkara.

Beliau menjelaskan, kemungkinan Najib hanya akan meminitkan atau menyatakan sokongan terhadap cadangan sesuatu projek atau permohonan yang dikemukakan.

"Tetapi minit yang dicatatkan bukan bermakna kelulusan 100 peratus oleh perdana menteri," ujarnya di dalam posting blognya yang terbaru www.umnobahagiancheras.blogspot.com

Katanya, sebagai ketua kerajaan bukan menjadi satu kesalahan untuk beliau meminitkan sokongan atau sebaliknya kerana itu bukan bermakna satu arahan.

'Lumrah dan lazim berlaku'

"Samalah jika Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang atau Menteri Besar Selangor meminitkan sokongan terhadap sesuatu permohonan, ianya perkara lumrah dan lazimnya berlaku," katanya.

Ujar Syed Ali lagi, untuk berlaku adil terhadap dakwaan tersebut, beliau juga ingin Rafizi mempersoalkan Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang, Lim Guan Eng berhubung kelulusan beberapa projek di Pulau Pinang.

"Mengapa Rafizi tidak berani untuk mempersoalkan dan mendakwa bahawa mungkin terdapat campur tangan Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang dalam sesuatu projek pembangunan," jelasnya.

Sehubungan itu, soal Perdana Menteri atau ketua kerajaan negeri meminitkan sesuatu permohonan bukan perkara yang perlu diperbesarkan dan dijadikan isu politik.

Syed Ali turut menyifatkan Rafizi sebagai ahli politik yang tidak ada kerja untuk dilakukan bagi mendatangkan manfaat kepada rakyat.

"Dia tidak ada kerja yang boleh mendatangkan manfaat, hanya suka mengkritik dan mencari kesalahan orang lain tanpa ada fakta yang munasabah dan kadangkala dakwaan beliau tidak masuk akal dan bersifat kebudak-budakkan," ujarnya.

Katanya lagi, PKR tidak pernah memberi input yang boleh membangunkan negara sebaliknya hanya sarat dengan tohmahan jahat.



RAFIZI DEDAH BUKTI CAMPUR TANGAN NAJIB DALAM PEMBERIAN RM100 JUTA GERAN MOSTI

OLEH DIYANA IBRAHIM

April 22, 2014



Pengarah Strategi PKR Rafizi Ramli mendedahkan bukti campur tangan Datuk Seri Najib Razak dalam pemberian geran penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) oleh Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (Mosti) dan meminta beliau menjawab tentangnya kerana banyak lagi dokumen yang akan didedahkan. – Gambar The Malaysian Insider, 22 April, 2014.

Pengarah Strategi PKR Rafizi Ramli mendedahkan bukti campur tangan Datuk Seri Najib Razak dalam pemberian geran penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) oleh Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (Mosti) dengan mengemukakan satu salinan sepucuk surat yang dipercayai arahan daripada perdana menteri.

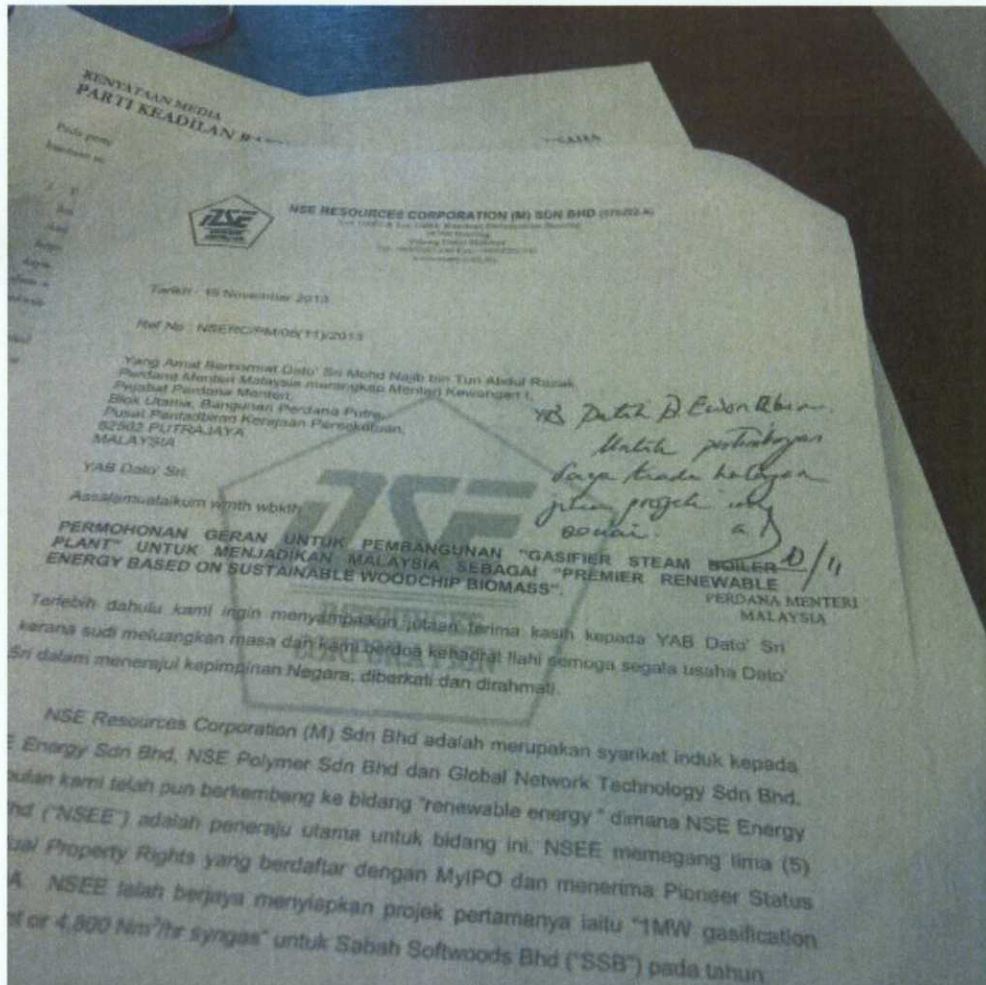
Beliau berkata surat geran bernilai RM100 juta yang diberikan kepada sebuah syarikat swasta itu bagi tujuan projek komersil mempunyai nota tertera ditujukan kepada menteri terlibat.

"YB Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin. Untuk pertimbangan. Saya tiada halangan jika projek itu sesuai," tulis surat seperti didedahkan oleh Rafizi pada sidang media di Ibu Pejabat PKR di Petaling Jaya hari ini.

Rafizi berkata dalam surat tersebut, menyatakan syarikat NSE Resources secara jelas mengatakan bahawa projek komersil tersebut tidak mendapat sokongan daripada institusi kewangan.

"Syarikat itu menghadapi kesukaran mendapatkan pinjaman bank. Ini sepatutnya secara serta merta menimbulkan kebimbangan di pihak Najib dan kerajaan kerana ia tidak melepasi saringan kewangan.

"Secara tidak langsung wujudnya risiko bahawa tidak mungkin adanya pulangan daripada projek itu untuk membayar balik sebarang dana yang disuntik kerajaan," katanya.



Dokumen yang didedahkan Rafizi Ramli tentang geran Mosti yang melibatkan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Najib Razak. – Gambar The Malaysian Insider oleh Diyana Ibrahim, 22 April, 2014.

Ahli Parlimen Pandan itu turut membacakan perenggan ketujuh surat tersebut yang menyatakan, "NSERC memohon jasa baik YAB, dapat memberi sokongan terhadap permohonan geran sebanyak RM100 juta melalui Mosti. Ini adalah membantu kewangan NSERC kerana kesukaran mendapatkan pinjaman daripada pihak bank." Rafizi berkata sewajarnya Najib tidak mengambil sikap campur tangan dan berhati-hati kerana ia melibatkan dana awam sebanyak RM100 juta.

"Ini adalah satu salahguna dana rakyat secara terang," katanya.

Oleh demikian, beliau menggesa Najib untuk memberi penjelasan mengenai perkara tersebut kerana masih terdapat banyak lagi dokumen yang akan didedahkan

"Najib tidak boleh terus lari daripada persoalan penyelewengan sebegini atau hanya menyertai larian anti rasuah, beliau perlu beri penjelasan," katanya. – 22 April, 2014.

**BERITA ONLINE
THE MALAYSIAN INSIDER**

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/putrajaya-awarded-rm100-million-to-company-rejected-by-banks-says-pkr>

TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)



PUTRAJAYA AWARDED RM100 MILLION TO COMPANY REJECTED BY BANKS, SAYS PKR

By **LEE SHI-IAN**

April 22, 2014

UPDATED: Apr 22, 2014 05:37 pm



PKR's Rafizi says the company being turned down by banks is a clear red flag that Putrajaya should have taken heed of before giving the award. - The Malaysian Insider pic, April 22, 2014.

PKR today questioned how Putrajaya awarded a RM100 million research and development grant to a company, which had been refused financing by banks. PKR's strategy director Rafizi Ramli said the failure of the company, NSE Resources Corporation (NSERC) Malaysia Sdn Bhd, to get commercial funding for a gasifier steam boiler plant in Kerteh, Terengganu, raises doubts about the viability of the project as well as the government's decision-making process.

"In fact this is worse than a bailout because it's free money," Rafizi told reporters as he questioned the use of the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry's (Mosti) RM1.152 billion R&D fund.

Rafizi said if the project was commercially viable with the right profit margin, any bank would have given its backing.

"The fact that the owner of this company clearly stated that his project did not get the support of financial institutions is already a red flag.

"It was already saying that the project is not going to generate the right income, and whatever (funds) you plunge into this project would be difficult to recover," the Pandan MP said.

Yesterday Rafizi had alleged that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had lent his support to NSERC's application for a grant.

In its letter to Najib, NSE said it was the parent company of NSE Energy Sdn Bhd, NSE Polymer Sdn Bhd and Global Technology Sdn Bhd.

The group had expanded its business scope to the renewable energy industry led by NSE Energy, which also held five intellectual property rights registered with MyIPO.

NSE Energy had also been awarded pioneer status by the Malaysian Industries Development Authority.

The company claimed that it had signed a memorandum of understanding with a South Korean conglomerate (CJ Cheiljedang Corporation) and a French public listed company (Arkema S.A.).

The MoU was to jointly build the world's first bio-methionine plant in Malaysia worth RM2 billion.

The plant is scheduled to be built at the Kerteh Biopolymer Park in Terengganu and will create 500 jobs.

NSE Energy also said it was planning to supply renewable energy in Gebeng, Pahang and this project would create 400 jobs.

However, due to difficulties in obtaining financial assistance from banks, NSERC applied for a grant from Mosti to ensure it had sufficient cash flow.

The application letter was signed by NSERC managing director Azhar Anuar.

On the first page of the letter, Najib had allegedly scribbled a note for Mosti Minister Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin and there was also the premier's rubberstamp.

Rafizi claimed that after studying NSERC's letter, there was no doubt that Najib had given personal instructions via minutes in order to have the RM100 million grant considered by Mosti.

"The project managed by NSERC is for the purpose of supplying steam to a factory which is being built in Kerteh."

"The contract to supply steam at RM55 per tonne is a private contract involving NSERC and other private factory owners."

"Therefore, if it does not involve any government-linked companies, all profits will be owned by NSERC," Rafizi said.

He said the seventh paragraph in the letter from NSERC clearly showed that the commercial project had not obtained the backing from any financial institutions or banks.

"Should this point not raise any concerns with Najib or Putrajaya as this commercial project failed the financial vetting carried out by financial institutions?"

"There is a high probability that the company's cash flow or financial status is unhealthy," Rafizi said.

"Therefore, there is a high risk probability that the returns from this project might be insufficient to repay any financial assistance which is injected into the venture."

Rafizi said that Najib should be more careful and cautious instead of recklessly venturing into projects which involved public funds of RM100 million.

"Moreover, the Mosti grants are supposed to be used for research and development, not commercial projects," Rafizi added.

Rafizi also stressed that he believed the commercial project did not meet the requirements for a grant or such a big injection of public funds.

"I am sure that the RM100 million grant did not undergo the technological vetting process by Mosti-appointed R&D specialists."

Rafizi said Najib could not continue running away from such daylight embezzlement issues and participate in anti-graft runs.

"Najib should come forward and give the rakyat an explanation," Rafizi said, warning he still had other documents which he had yet to make public. – April 22, 2014.

BERITA ONLINE

fz.com

<http://www.fz.com/content/rafizi-pm-abused-power-asking-minister-consider-rm100m-grant>TARIKH: 22 APRIL 2014

TARIKH: 23 APRIL 2014 (RABU)



Rafizi: PM abused power by asking minister to consider RM100m grant

Nation

by Chen Shaua Fui

PETALING JAYA (April 22): PKR alleges that the prime minister abused his power by ordering the **Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti)** to consider an application of a RM100 million grant to a company that could not obtain a bank loan for its project.

PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has given an order directly through a meeting minutes that an application for a RM100 million research and development (R&D) grant be given to a renewable energy company NSE Resources Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd (NSERC).

He called upon the premier to provide an explanation to the public on the matter.

"He can bury his head in the sand but he can't run away from giving a direct answer to the people," he said.

Rafizi furnished a letter purportedly from the company to Najib dated Nov 15, 2013 and a letter by PM's secret secretary Tan Sri Ab Aziz Kasim dated Nov 21, 2013 to **Mosti Minister Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin** to state his case.

He claimed that Najib had signed with a stamp of "Prime Minister Malaysia" and wrote a short note in Malay which translates, "YB Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin, for your consideration. I have no obstruction if this project is appropriate" on the NSERC's letter to the PM.

"People will say said that this is only to ask the minister to consider, but in our political culture, with the signature of the PM and statement that 'I have no obstruction' means instruction," Rafizi told a press conference at PKR headquarters today.

In the letter, NSERC's managing director Azhar Anuar requested the support of the prime minister on the grant application to relieve the company's financial constraints as it was difficult to obtain loan from the bank.

This would help the company to realise its involvement in the Gebeng Industrial Estate project to provide energy to five foreign companies, said Azhar in the letter.

"It is obvious that the commercial project did not get any support from the finance institution as it failed to obtain a bank loan.

"This should immediately raise concerns for the PM and the government, as the project did not pass the financial screening, to imagine that its cash flow and financial position is weak," Rafizi said.

Apart from this project, the company's subsidiary NSE Energy Sdn Bhd (NSEE) will cooperate with South Korea's CJ Cheiljedang Corp and France's Arkema S.A. to build a RM2 billion worth of bio-methionine plant and a biomass gasification steam boiler plant on a piece of 69.22 ha land in Kerteh Bio Polymer Park, Terengganu.

The project which provides steam with RM55 per tonne was a private contract involving NSERC and other companies without any involvement of the government; therefore all the revenue would only be enjoyed by NSERC.

Rafizi pointed out that the project did not use any innovative technology that deserved the R&D grant as this is not niche technology that would propel Malaysia's name, "unless you are making a flying car."

He also pointed out that Petronas had build a Centralised Utilities Facilities in Kerteh Industrial Area to generate about 6.3 million tonnes of syngas a year, which is six fold of the plant owned by CJ Arkema.

"The prime minister should have taken the non-interference attitude and cautious as this involve RM100 million of public fund that should be channelled for R&D. His call for the Mosti minister to consider the application is an abuse of power," he said.

Rafizi also pointed out that many researchers had informed him that they had to go through strict screening to obtain a small sum of RM100,000 to RM200,000 for a project spanning for two to three years.

"They are extremely unhappy with this," he added.