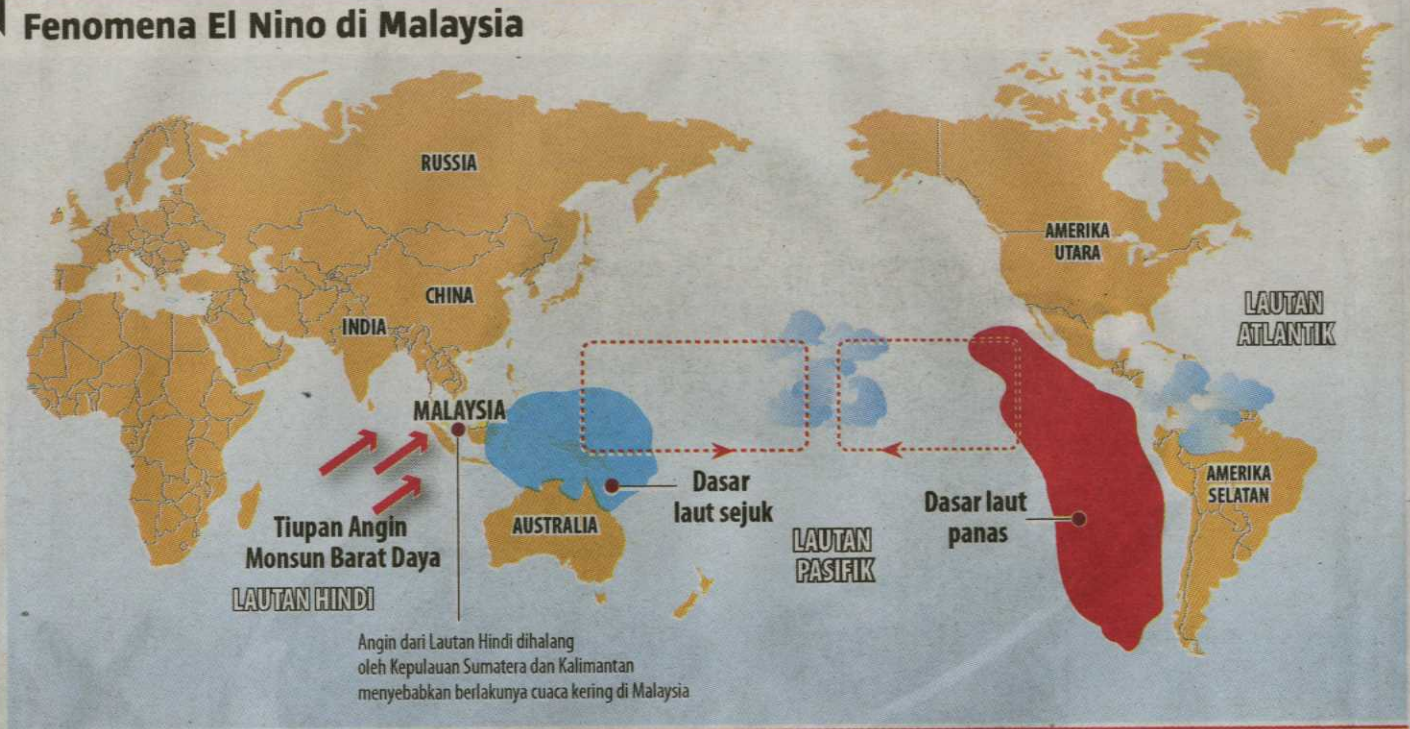


**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 14 JUN 2014 (SABTU)**

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	3 kategori tahap El Nino	Berita Harian
2	Air lombong selamat diminum	Harian Metro
3	'Water from former mining pools safe to use'	New Straits Times
4	Bring back the glory days of IMR	New Straits Times

INFO

Fenomena El Nino di Malaysia



3 kategori tahap El Nino

» Purata suhu tempat masih kekal pada paras normal

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Cuaca panas sejak beberapa hari lalu adalah sebahagian proses pembentukan fenomena El Nino yang dijangka melanda negara akhir bulan ini sehingga September depan.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia), Datuk Che Gayah Ismail, berkata walaupun cuaca panas, purata suhu di kebanyakan tempat masih kekal pada paras normal, dengan tertinggi mencecah 35 darjah Celsius.

Katanya, Monsun Barat Da-

INFO

Ukuran tahap kekuatan El Nino

Anomali suhu air permukaan laut	Kategori El Nino
0.5° - 1.0° C	Lemah
1.0° C - 1.5° C	Sederhana
Melebihi 1.5° C	Kuat

ya yang bermula sejak 15 Mei lalu, turut menyumbang kepada peningkatan suhu.

"El Nino terjadi apabila berlaku peningkatan lebih tinggi daripada biasa suhu air di permukaan Lautan Pasifik berdekatan Garisan Khatulistiwa, iaitu melebihi 0.5 darjah Celsius.

"Malaysia kini sedang mengalami musim kering disebabkan Monsun Barat Daya. Ini bukan faktor berlakunya El Nino kerana peningkatan suhu dan musim kering memang akan berlaku pada musim ini, sama ada berlaku El Nino atau tidak.

"Dalam tempoh ini, tabu-

ran hujan berkurangan secara mendadak dan ini menyebabkan cuaca menjadi panas," katanya ketika dihubungi BH, semalam.

Che Gayah berkata, kesan El Nino boleh diukur mengikut kategori, iaitu lemah, sederhana dan kuat, dengan setiap kategori ditentukan berdasarkan tahap kenaikan suhu air di Lautan Pasifik.

Beliau juga memberi amaran peningkatan suhu yang menyebabkan kekeringan melampau, boleh membawa kepada ancaman jerebu.

"Kebiasaannya, musim Monsun Barat Daya akan menyebabkan berlakunya keba-

karan hutan di Sumatera dan Semenanjung Malaysia, sekaligus akan menyebabkan berlakunya jerebu.

"Keadaan akan menjadi buruk sekiranya negara dilanda El Nino dalam kategori kuat yang boleh menyebabkan jerebu teruk dan tebal. Ini akan memberi kesan terutama kepada kesihatan, sektor pertanian, sektor penerbangan dan aktiviti luar," katanya.

Beliau berkata, MetMalaysia akan terus memantau peningkatan suhu sepanjang masa dan akan mengambil tindakan termasuk melakukan pembenihan awan sekiranya keadaan memerlukan.

Malaysia pernah dilanda El Nino sebanyak 12 kali sebelum ini, dengan yang terburuk pada tahun 1982, 1983, 1997 dan 1998.

Cuaca paling panas yang pernah direkodkan di negara ini ialah 40.1 darjah Celsius iaitu ketika El Nino pada tahun 9 April 1998 di Chuping, Perlis.

Air lombong selamat

SELCAT bakal keluar laporan penuh untuk dibentang di DUN Selangor



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Tahap keselamatan air lombong yang dipam sebagai alternatif sumber air tambahan di Selangor tidak tercemar dan masih boleh digunakan untuk kegunaan penduduk di Lembah Klang.

Menjelaz perkara itu, Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor, Hannah Yeoh berkata jaminan itu berdasarkan ujian mingguan dijalankan oleh Jabatan Kimia Malaysia, Lembaga Urus Air Se-

langor (LUAS) dan Jabatan Kesihatan Daerah Petaling.

Sehubungan itu, kenyataan penuh mengenai tahap keselamatan air dari bekas lombong akan dikeluarkan Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Mengenai Keupayaan, Kebertanggungjawaban dan Ketelusan Selangor (SELCAT) untuk dibentangkan dalam Sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor bagi memberi maklumat penuh menge-

nai pemeriksaan air bekas lombong berkenaan.

“SELCAT sudah memanggil empat saksi iaitu Pengerah LUAS, Md Khairi Selamat, EXCO Selangor, Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi, Ahli Parlimen Kelana Jaya, Wong Chen, dan Ahli Parlimen Klang, Charles Santiago untuk mendengar penjelasan daripada Jabatan Kimia dan Jabatan Kesihatan mengenai tahap kebersihan

FAKTA
Jaminan itu berdasarkan ujian mingguan dijalankan oleh Jabatan Kimia, Lembaga Urus Air Selangor dan Jabatan Kesihatan Daerah Petaling

air bekas lombong berkenaan.

“Melalui penjelasan daripada Jabatan Kimia dan Jabatan Kesihatan selama dua jam itu, air bekas lombong yang dipam disahkan bersih dan boleh digunakan.

“Bagaimanapun, kenyataan penuh masih dalam proses penyiapan dan akan diumumkan melalui kerajaan Negeri,” katanya, semalam.

Charles, dalam satu sidang media yang diadakan di lobi Parlimen kelmarin, mempersoalkan tahap keselamatan air yang dipam dari bekas lombong di negeri itu dan meminta penjelasan mengennainya dibuat.

'Water from former mining pools safe to use'

ALLAYING PUBLIC FEAR: Selangor select committee makes conclusion after officials testify

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SELANGOR's Select Committee of Competency, Accountability and Transparency (Selcat) yesterday concluded that water pumped from former mining ponds is safe for public consumption.

State assembly Speaker Hannah Yeoh, who is Selcat chairman, said

Selcat came to the conclusion after hearing statements from officials on the safety of water from disused mining ponds in a closed door hearing on Tuesday.

The key official, Selangor Water Management Board (Luas) director Md Khairi Selamat, presented two representatives from the **Chemistry and Health Department**, who had testified that the water pumped into Sungai Selangor was safe, based on the result of the weekly tests conducted.

"Selcat summoned four officials, Khairi, state executive councillor in charge of youth, sports, infrastructure and public amenities Dr Ahmad Yunus Hairi, Kelana Jaya member of parliament Wong Chen, and Klang MP Charles Santiago to hear the explanations from the Chemistry and Health Departments on the safety of water in former mining ponds.

"Based on the explanations from the departments' representatives in the two-hour meeting, the water pumped was confirmed to be safe for public use.

"However, we are preparing the full report.

"The findings will be tabled during the Selangor state assembly," said Yeoh, here, yesterday.

When asked why the closed door hearing was held in a rush unlike other Selcat hearings which were open to the public, Yeoh said it had to be held before the state assembly convened next week.

"The committee had to rush because of the state assembly next week.

"We were also concerned by the allegations made by the members of parliament on the lack of information disseminated on the issue.

"We hope the questions raised by the members of parliament can

be better dealt with by the state government, and hopefully, the details can be released soon."

Santiago, in a press conference at Parliament on Thursday, had questioned the safety of the water pumped from disused mining ponds and had threatened to sue the state government if full disclosure on the chemicals was not revealed.

Santiago cited two Universiti Malaya studies on the Bestari Jaya pond, which showed that it was contaminated with heavy metals and had insisted that water from abandoned mining ponds were a health hazard if consumed and could also pollute the river.

The Pakatan-led Selangor government has had to allay public fears on the safety of water from mining ponds after the state resorted to pumping it into Sungai Selangor to end its water crisis.



Bring back the glory days of IMR

LOSS OF SCIENTIFIC GLITTER: With the emergence of new diseases, we need to restore Institute for Medical Research's reputation for research in tropical diseases

AT one time in the not too distant past, Malaysia was known and respected worldwide for its high quality scientific research.

The Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM), for example, enjoyed world prominence in building the science of natural rubber. Scientists at the RRIM made many impressive breakthroughs transforming natural rubber from the backwaters of Brazil into the limelight of the international business.

Experts from all over the world would often descend on Kuala Lumpur to personally engage scientists at the RRIM on the latest published findings on natural rubber. RRIM became the centre of the global network of rubber scientists. Those were the days.

The other research centre which enjoyed global reputation and respect was the Institute for Medical

Research (IMR). During those glory days, IMR was known worldwide as one of the major centres for prolific research in the diseases of the tropics.

Many of IMR's scientists were literally the who and who of the global scientific fraternity of research on tropical diseases. Not unlike their natural rubber counterparts, IMR scientists were often sought after for their views and analysis of tropical ailments. There was active research, not only on developing the therapy for tropical diseases, but also formulating preventive protocols which eventually became standard practice in other countries.

Many scientific experts emerged from the rubric of IMR. One such personality, who has since made an international name for himself in the field of tropical diseases, particularly

studies on the mosquito-borne filariasis, is Datuk C.P. Ramachandran. As a Senior Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, he recently unveiled his biography which details his struggles to pursue prominence in his field.

Attended by many of his past colleagues from IMR, the launch showcased his groundbreaking research which eventually gained international recognition. He had his beginnings at the IMR during its heyday. But, as a result of his impactful research, he soon landed in a senior position at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva, where he spent 17 years of his working life.

Another IMR luminary, Tan Sri Dr M. Jegathesan, read out the citation on Datuk C.P. as he is affectionately known. At an age when many would have called it quits, he remains active in many of the country's scientific bodies, including the Academy.

Admittedly, all such individuals are now a rare breed. The IMR of today has unfortunately lost much of the scientific glitter that used to be its signature. What has gone wrong?

Can we revive the glory of the early

*We need to **reinvigorate medical research** in the country. It is time to give new life to the Institute for Medical Research and return it to its former glory.*

years? A chat with many of his ex-IMR colleagues during the launch provided some answers to the query.

One glaring reason offered by those who have been following the story of IMR for the unfortunate decline in reputation is the structural decimation of the institute itself. It now has less autonomy.

Even in the recruitment of talents, the institute does not have much say. Add to that, the gradual withdrawal of the much needed funding, one can understand why the IMR is now reduced to mainly providing laboratory support for the Health Ministry. Research work is now at a minimum.

It is a real pity that IMR has come to this. Not because of its own doing. But more because a decision was taken years ago to change its role.

It is not too late to reverse that decision. In fact it has become even more urgent now to revisit the decision. This is because in recent years, evidence has surfaced on the fact that some of the diseases which we have earlier declared being totally eradicated are making a comeback.

And, this has come about because of a number of factors. One relates to the growing movement of people from still infected regions as a result of economically-driven migration. The other is attributed to the development of resistance by disease carrying microbes to present drugs.

We need the constant search for solutions if we are to effectively deal with the challenges. And there are new scientific tools available. We need to reinvigorate medical research in the country. It is time to give new life to IMR and return it to its former glory.



Dr Ahmad Ibrahim is fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia