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TARIKH: 25 JULAI 2014 (JUMAAT)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (RENCANA) : MUKA SURAT 15
TARIKH : 25 JULAI 2014 (JUMAAT)

Perkukuh, perluaskan jaringan bioteknologi

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SEJAK Pelan Transformasi Bioteknologi (BTP) negara diperkenalkan pada 2012, mereka yang terlibat dalam bidang berkenaan giat mencari peluang menerusi pelbagai aspek dalam usaha untuk mengukuhkan lagi industri itu di Malaysia. Malah, sehingga hari ini pihak tersebut terus berusaha memperhebatkan industri terbabit bagi merealisasikan hasrat menjadikan Malaysia sebagai salah satu pusat kecemerlangan dunia dalam bidang bioteknologi menjelang tahun 2020.

Tidak hanya duduk diam, satu demi satu aktiviti digerakkan dari menjayakan pelbagai program berkaitan selain mempertingkatkan usaha untuk menarik pelabur berpotensi ke Malaysia sekali gus menjalinkan kerjasama bersama.

Industri berasaskan bioteknologi menerusi pelbagai penghasilan produk seperti menerusi bidang pertanian dan perindustrian juga dilaporkan dijangka mampu menyumbang sebanyak RM150 bilion kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) menjelang tahun 2020. Jumlah ini jelas menunjukkan bidang bioteknologi turut memainkan peranan penting dalam menyumbang kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi negara sekali gus pelbagai perancangan perlu dibuat bagi menjayakan usaha tersebut.

Johor juga tidak ketinggalan untuk merebut peluang dalam industri bioteknologi menerusi Perbadanan Bioteknologi & Biodiversiti Negeri Johor (J-Biotech) yang kini sedang rancang merancang pelbagai seminar, program dan kerjasama. Memilih Taiwan sebagai destinasi antarabangsa pertama untuk memastikan bidang bioteknologi dapat terus diperhebat di Malaysia khususnya di Johor, Seminar Kerjasama Johor : Ekonomi Bioteknologi Malaysia-Taiwan dianjurkan.

Bertempat di Hotel Grand Hyatt yang terletak berhadapan Menara Taipei 101 atau dikenali sebagai Pusat Keunggulan Taipei di Taiwan, merupakan menara kedua tertinggi di dunia dengan menasarkankan pemain industri itu di republik berkenaan.

Taiwan dipilih kerana mempunyai satu struktur dan ekosistem dalam bidang bioteknologi yang boleh dicontohi Malaysia amnya dan negeri Johor khususnya, malah turut disokong dengan pelbagai insentif oleh kerajaan Taiwan.

Seminar tersebut turut disertai **Malaysia Biotechnology Corporation Sdn. Bhd. (Biotech Corp)**, Lembaga Pembangunan Pelaburan Malaysia (MIDA), Pusat Pelaburan Negeri Johor (JSIC), Tourism Malaysia Johor dan agensi kerajaan lain. Turut menyertai program tersebut adalah Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pelancongan, Perdagangan dan Kepenggunaan Johor, Datuk Tee Siew Kieng.

Mengulas mengenai seminar tersebut, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Wan Amir Jeffery Wan Abdul Majid berkata, ia dianjurkan bagi mewujudkan satu penglibatan yang aktif antara mereka yang terlibat selain menjalin kerjasama yang baik.

Ia juga katanya, satu usaha meningkatkan persaingan sektor ekonomi bioteknologi yang kini sedang pesat berkembang dan membangun di Malaysia sekali gus menasarkankan untuk menarik pelaburan berkaitan ke negara.

"Kita juga mahu menguar-uarkan lagi kewujudan Malaysia amnya dan Johor khususnya sebagai negara yang berpotensi untuk menawarkan peluang pelaburan yang terbaik dalam bidang perniagaan berasaskan bioteknologi.

"Negara kita mempunyai beberapa tarikan yang boleh membantu menarik pelabur dari Taiwan seperti di Johor yang kini menjadi tumpuan pelabur kerana disifatkan sebagai satu lokasi strategik dan berbaloi untuk pelaburan.

Justeru, beliau mengharapkan seminar itu mampu menjadi platform kepada pihak berkaitan untuk mewujudkan kerjasama dan memperluaskan jaringan antara kedua-dua negara di masa akan datang.

Malaysia tambah pakar bantu kenal pasti mangsa

» Belanda beri kepercayaan bagi percepat proses pengecaman



Malaysia terus meraih kepercayaan Belanda apabila diminta menambah bilangan pakar bagi membantu proses mengenal pasti identiti mangsa nahas pesawat MH17 yang dijalankan di kem tentera Hilversum, kira-kira 45 kilometer dari Amsterdam.

Ketika ini, 28 pakar forensik dan penyiasat perubatan Malaysia membantu pasukan Pengecaman Mangsa Bencana (DVI) yang diketuai oleh Belanda.

Menteri Pengangkutan, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, berkata pertambahan berikutnya

membabitkan 11 pakar yang ketika ini masih berada di Kharkiv, Ukraine bagi urusan penghantaran mayat mangsa, menjadikan jumlahnya 39 orang dengan pasukan DVI Malaysia diketuai Dr Mohd Shah Mahmud.

"Kumpulan ini membabitkan pakar daripada Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM), Jabatan Kimia dan Kementerian Kesihatan.

"Pertambahan bilangan ini adalah permintaan Kerajaan Belanda yang memahami pentingnya urusan mengenal pasti identiti dan pengecaman dilakukan dengan secepat mungkin.

Proses ikut prosedur

"Pada masa sama, prosesnya perlu mengikut prosedur ditetapkan tanpa kompromi dalam mana-mana aspek kerana kita mahu memulangkan jasad yang betul kepada ahli keluarga dan waris mangsa," katanya kepada media Malaysia di sini, semalam.

Tiong Lai berkata, operasi pasukan Malaysia yang membantu urusan penghantaran



mayat di Kharkiv ditutup berikutan ketibaan kumpulan terakhir di Eindhoven.

Kelmarin, 40 keranda mayat mangsa dihantar menerusi penerbangan khas pesawat Hercules C-130 milik Tentera Udara Diraja Belanda dan C-17 Globemaster Tentera Udara Diraja Australia ke pangkalan penerbangan tentera Eindhoven.

Ia diikuti 80 mayat mangsa yang dihantar semalam dan bakinya dijadual tiba hari ini dengan semuanya menerima penghormatan penuh adat istiadat ketenteraan.

Mengulas dakwaan 40 mayat yang tiba kelmarin turut membabitkan rakyat Malaysia, Tiong Lai berkata, belum

ada pengesahan diterima dan saya akan menjadi orang pertama dihubungi pasukan DVI kita di Hilversum sebaik ada rakyat kita dikenal pasti.

Pemeriksaan berulang

Katanya, Malaysia turut meminta kerjasama Kerajaan Ukraine melakukan pemeriksaan berulang di lokasi nahas di Donetsk bagi memastikan tiada aspek yang terlepas pandang, termasuk cebisan anggota badan mangsa.

"Pakar berupaya mengesan dan mengenal pasti punca sebenar kejadian menerusi bukti yang diperoleh pada mayat atau fragmen ditemui," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, Tiong Lai meminta semua pihak terutama keluarga mangsa memberi ruang secukupnya bagi pasukan pakar teknikal mengenal pasti mayat memandangkan tragedi MH17 adalah jenayah antarabangsa.

Tegasnya, komitmen Malaysia dalam menangani isu nahas MH17 tidak berubah sejak hari pertama dan cabaran pertama iaitu membawa keluar mayat dilepasi dengan baik.

Bodies may hold vital clues

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Forensic teams working round the clock to perform post-mortem

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INVESTIGATORS are hopeful that the bodies of the victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 now undergoing post-mortem in Hilversum, the Netherlands, would provide them clues as to what happened to the Boeing 777-200 jetliner.

At this point of the investigation, this has become one of the most promising sources of information, considering the fact that the wreckage of the aircraft has not been recovered from where it crashed in Grabovo in Donetsk, Ukraine, after it was blown out of the sky last Thursday.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai told the Malaysian press here that Kuala Lumpur had asked Ukraine to grant the investigating team full access to the crash site.

He said the access currently provided was "very limited".

This, he said, was critical if the international investigating team was to get their hands on what's left of the aircraft, and to put together the pieces of this huge puzzle.

However, a source said a large portion of the twin jet was destroyed on impact and if investigators did manage to reconstruct the fuselage, it would likely only be just a quarter of the jetliner.

They are also concerned with visuals showing those at the site sawing through parts of the aircraft that were lying scattered soon after the crash.

"The edges of the parts of the aircraft lying there can tell a lot about the incident. If the parts have been severely compromised... it will be a problem," said the source.

As of yesterday, the three teams of Malaysian investigators, who were among the first to arrive and comb the site for clues, were still there gathering evidence.

A forensics expert with the Malaysian delegation said investigators only had photos of the wreckage to work with.

"The Dutch-led team needs to be able to take the wreckage out as it is crucial to the probe. As it is, the elements, could have, to a great extent, compromised the evidence."

The wreckage had been in the open for a week now.

Liow said the Netherlands had asked for a reinforcement of Malaysian experts.

Eleven of them would join the 28-man Malaysian forensics team already holed up at the Hilversum military medical facility since more than 24 hours ago, working round the clock on the bodies alongside their international counterparts.

The reinforcements include officers from the **Chemistry Department**, the military, police and the Health Ministry.

They will come with DNA samples of the victims' families.

The Disaster Victim Investigation (DVI) team is currently working on five operation



Workers using a forklift to load caskets containing the remains of victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 onto a Dutch transport military aircraft before its departure for the Netherlands, at Kharkiv Airport in Ukraine yesterday. Reuters pic

lines, focused on five bodies at a time.

As at 2pm local time yesterday, they had not concluded any of the post-mortems.

The first 40 bodies were brought there on Wednesday and at least 70 more were brought in yesterday.

The 24-member Malaysian SmartTeam's base in Kharkiv will wrap up their operations today after the remaining bodies are flown to the Netherlands.

"Aside from identifying the bodies, the post-mortem can also shed some light on areas the investigators are probing," the forensics expert said.

He said among the things that forensics could establish was whether there was shrapnel on the bodies.

This would establish whether the aircraft sustained a direct missile hit or whether the projectile exploded before it hit the plane.

Traces of molten metal on the bodies if any, would determine if it was indeed a missile that blew up the aircraft.

Putting the investigating process in perspective, the expert said, based on the passengers' manifest, their seats and the matching of DNA and the condition of their bodies, investigators would be able to pinpoint where the plane was hit.

Meanwhile, Malaysian chef-de-mission Khairil Hilmi Mokhtar, who is from the National Security Council, said once the post-mortem on each body was concluded, the body would be immediately sent back on the next MAS flight out of the Netherlands.

"No, there is no need to wait for the post-mortem on all the bodies to be concluded."

On whether it had been established how many of the bodies flown in to Eindhoven were Malaysians, Hilmi said, only the DVI teams would know for sure, as once the bodies were put in body bags at the site, they had remained unopened until they reached Hilversum.

He said the bodies were, however, scanned before they were flown to the Netherlands from Kharkiv in Ukraine.

'Remains won't arrive before Raya'

DELAY: Legal and technical issues to be resolved, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR

THE remains of Malaysian victims of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 will unlikely make it back home before Hari Raya Aidilfitri, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said this was because of the technicalities involved in the DNA verification and legal issues that must be resolved.

"There are technicalities and legal requirements that cannot be avoided, therefore, it is highly unlikely for the remains to be brought back soon," Najib said after signing a condolence book at the residence of the Dutch ambassador here yesterday.

In his condolences, Najib wrote: "On behalf of the government and the people of Malaysia, let me express our deepest condolences to all the families in the Netherlands who have lost their loved ones in the tragic incident of MH17.

"We feel for the families and our hearts go out to them."

Najib, who had pushed for the remains of Malaysians who died in the crash last Thursday to be returned to their families by the end of the fasting month, said he would

hold talks with the Ukrainian authorities for international investigators to gain full access to the crash site.

Present were Dutch ambassador to Malaysia Harry Molenaar and his wife, Dr Loes Nas.

Forty-three Malaysians, including 15 crew members and two infants, and 193 Dutch nationals were among the 298 passengers on the flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur.

Some of the bodies had been flown to the Netherlands on Wednesday. Experts will now work to identify them based on DNA samples collected from relatives, a process which could take a long time to complete, before the remains could be returned to their next of kin.

In **Putrajaya**, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the ministry had handed over to the Netherlands the DNA profiles of family members of Malaysians who had died in the crash to facilitate identification of bodies.

"However, their remains might not arrive soon as the bodies may have to remain there longer for a post-mortem to determine the elements of criminality.

"There is strong suspicion that the plane was shot down, and as such, leaving the bodies with elements of criminality. There is a possibility that countries affected may want to seek justice for their citizens," he said at the Health Ministry yesterday.

Dr Subramaniam said building a criminal case required data and evidence, which would be time-consuming to obtain.

"Taking the extent of the investigation into consideration, it might take some time before the remains can be repatriated."

Dr Subramaniam said six teams from the Serdang and Putrajaya hospitals were on standby to handle the remains once they were repatriated from the Netherlands.

The ministry has also activated a special team to handle the MH17 crisis locally, together with the 22-member team sent to Ukraine.

"We have activated the Mental Health and Psychosocial Response and forensics team to help our crisis response team. The 22-member team has been sent to Kharkiv, Ukraine, joining 17 others from the police and **Chemistry Department**," Dr Subramaniam said.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 05
TARIKH: 25 JULAI 2014 (JUMAAT)

Personnel to help with identification and post-mortem of victims

FROM
AMSTERDAM

Isabelle Lai

AMSTERDAM: A total of 40 Malaysian disaster victim identification (DVI) personnel will be helping to carry out identification and post-mortem of the MH17 victims brought to the Hilversum medical military base, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

He said there were 28 personnel on site now, 10 of whom arrived from Kiev today, and 12 from Kharkiv due to head over here soon.

The personnel include those from the police force, the Armed Forces, the Health Ministry and the **Department of Chemistry.**

They are all forensic and medical experts, he told reporters here.

Liow said that although the identification process had commenced, he had not received any new information on whether there were any Malaysian victim amongst the first batch of 40 bodies that arrived at Eindhoven air base on Wednesday.

He said the second batch arriving later today would be carrying 70 bodies, adding that the final batch was due to arrive tomorrow.



Working together: Liow and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman having a discussion with King Willem-Alexander.

He said once all the bodies had been transported out of Kharkiv, the operations there would be completed.

"But we will continue combing the crash site in Torez for human remains. Our experts there say the smell of decomposition is still there," he said.

Regarding the black box currently undergoing expert analysis in Britain, Liow said the cockpit voice recording was downloaded on Wednesday and the flight data

recorder was analysed yesterday.

He said experts had determined that the black box belonged to MH17 and had suffered no major external damage as well as displayed no signs of tampering.

"We will leave the announcement of any findings to the international investigation team headed by the Netherlands. I hope we will be informed as soon as possible, he said.

He added that the team would also decide whether there was a

need to make the contents of the black box public.

Liow said that the three-man expert team in Torez, comprising Azahari Dahlan, Capt Philip Joseph Selvaraju and Mohd Naemy Fahimy Mustapa, had collected a lot of data to aid with their investigation.

The data will eventually be sent back to the investigation base in Kiev, he said.

Liow thanked the Netherlands government for according such respect to the remains of the victims that were brought here, describing the ceremony as very solemn and dignified.

The arrival of the first batch of bodies on Wednesday marked the first national day of mourning for the Netherlands since the death of wartime Queen Wilhelmina in 1962.

"We thank them for giving this respect to the victims. They have done a good job in giving the deceased victims of MH17 a dignified arrival," he said.

Out of the 298 killed, 193 were Dutch and 43 were Malaysians.

Liow also urged grieving families of Malaysian victims to be patient and give space to the technical team in Hilversum, stressing that the investigation must not be compromised although all efforts were being made to expedite the repatriation process.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 05
TARIKH: 25 JULAI 2014 (JUMAAT)

**DNA samples
taken from families**

PUTRAJAYA: DNA samples have been taken from the families of 47 people who were on board Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17. The 47 comprised 43 Malaysians and four others who were living overseas but had blood ties with Malaysians in this country, according to ministry officials. A 16-member forensic team from the ministry, police and **Chemistry Department** collected the data.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 30
TARIKH : 25 JULAI 2014 (JUMAAT)

**Planetarium
Negara tutup
empat hari**

KUALA LUMPUR 24
Julai - Planetarium
Negara di Jalan Perdana
di sini akan ditutup
selama empat hari
bersempena sambutan
Aidilfitri yang dijangka
pada Isnin ini.

Planetarium
Negara dalam satu
kenyataannya berkata,
penutupan operasi itu
dibuat bermula Ahad
hingga Rabu ini.

“Orang ramai boleh
menghubungi 03-
22734303/5484 atau
melayari laman web
[www.angkasa.gov.my/
planetarium](http://www.angkasa.gov.my/planetarium) untuk
maklumat lanjut,”
katanya di sini hari ini.

Hot and dry days for next two months

PETALING JAYA: There will be hot and dry days over the next two months, with limited rainfall across the country till September.

The meteorological department says the isolated rainfall in certain parts of the country now was no indication of milder weather to come.

A department spokesman said the hot dry spell was due to the south-west monsoon winds which began in the middle of May, indicating drier weather than normal with less rainfall and cloud formation.

"We expect the hot and dry weather to continue with limited isolated rain across the country," he said.

On the El Nino phenomenon - the prolonged warming of surface temperatures that happens over the eastern Pacific Ocean every two to seven years for six months - the

department had yet to establish that it had started, but noted many prediction centres around the world expected it to develop within the next few months.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment portal showed 11 areas with good quality readings while 41 areas recorded moderate readings as at 4pm yesterday.

An Air Pollutant Index (API) of up to 50 is considered good; 51 to 100, moderate; 101 to 200, unhealthy; 201 to 300, very unhealthy; and 301 and above hazardous.

Bakar Arang and Sungai Petani in Kedah had the highest API reading of 99, followed by Seberang Jaya 2 and Prai in Penang, which recorded an API of 98.

Various areas in the Klang Valley recorded moderate API readings from 53 (Putrajaya) to 66 (Kuala Lumpur).

Schools **ready** to face haze

> Surgical masks distributed as API breaches unhealthy mark

BY **BERNARD CHEAH, EDMUND LEE AND TAMARAI CHELVI**
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PENANG: The state government distributed 100,000 face masks to schools after the Air Pollutant Index (API) breached the unhealthy mark on Wednesday.

State Environment Committee chairman Phee Boon Poh said the masks were given free to students and urged those experiencing respiratory difficulties to seek medical

attention.

The haze situation generally has improved in many states with Meteorological Department saying that visibility was now more than 10km, although in some states such as Kedah, Perak, Penang and a few places in Klang Valley still reporting low visibility.



Joko ... urged to help

The hazy situation, especially over northwestern Peninsula and Klang Valley is expected to continue until early next week due to several hotspots in Sumatra.

Meanwhile, the DAP has called on the newly elected Indonesian president Joko Widodo to take measures to stop the annual haze that affects Malaysia.

Its secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said the immediate consideration was for Widodo to adopt effective and concrete measures to stop the haze coming in from Indonesia as a result of illegal forest burnings in Sumatra

and Kalimantan.

He added the party hoped a keen environmentalist like Widodo, who is fondly known as Jokowi, could finally break the stalemate and end the annual haze problem. This success would bring Indonesia and Malaysian relations to a whole new level, he said in a statement congratulating Widodo on his win.

**DEATH ROW MAN
TAKES 2 HOURS TO
DIE - PAGE 09**