

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN  
TARIKH: 23 DISEMBER 2014 (SELASA)**

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## There's hope for science with Najib in office

### TRUE LEADERSHIP:

He wants to revive interest in the field

**M**ALAYSIA is lucky to have Datuk Seri Najib Razak as prime minister. He is no ordinary leader. We have seen evidence of this ever since he took office.

He came at a time when the nation had to make tough decisions on a number of issues. Top of the list is how to escape the middle-income trap.

As the country's chief executive officer, the prime minister is in the best position to introduce change.

He used transformation as a weapon of change. Government transformation. Economic trans-

formation. Political transformation. And now, scientific transformation.

There has been overwhelming support for his transformation agenda. Despite uneasiness among a minority, he has been relentless in pursuing and championing change. One sign of true leadership.

The science fraternity welcomes Najib's many initiatives to bring about change in science.

For some years now, science has had difficulty attracting public discourse. Policymakers have not devoted much attention to deliberate on scientific issues. Not until lately.

At Parliament, very few questions related to science have raised eyebrows.

The only exception was when Lynas and its rare earth controversy were hotly debated. Student interest in science has also seen much decline.

The industry is also concerned



**Dr Ahmad Ibrahim** is fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** receiving the **Fellowship Award** from Academy of Sciences Malaysia president **Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali** in Kuala Lumpur this month. Bernama pic

about the declining number of human talent in science.

Many paint a bleak future for science.

This is especially true for those whose businesses thrive on technology. One example is the growing demand for talent in integrated circuit (IC) design.

At a recent roundtable arranged by the academy's Top Research Scientists Malaysia group, the head of an IC design company based in Penang echoed such concerns.

The roundtable discussed whether science in the country had truly delivered value to the nation.

The data shared was not conclusive. One panel member produced fairly credible evidence that scientists, as a whole, had not delivered value for money.

There are exceptions, of course. But the assessment by another panellist said otherwise.

Both produced equally justifiable evidence. This is where an

independent assessment by a neutral body like the academy can help resolve the disagreement.

The prime minister, on the other hand, has taken such feedback seriously.

This explains why many initiatives to invigorate science and innovation have been put into action.

The re-establishment of the office of science adviser was an important rejuvenation for science in

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## *Initiatives herald new dawn for science in nation*

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the country. Then, Najib created a special agency to focus on driving innovation. This was the Malaysia Innovation Agency (AIM), which was placed under the Prime Minister's Department.

This was an important step for the nation's innovation agenda, since innovation cuts across many ministries.

The Malaysian Industry-Government Group in High Technology (Might), another institution that caters to many industrial sectors, was also moved under the Prime Minister's Department.

Later, the Global Science and Innovation Advisory Council (GSIAC) was formalised. This was done to bring in an international dimension to the nation's strategic deliberation on science.

Ever since then, initiatives to improve the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects have gained strong support from the prime minister.

This was closely followed by the Science to Action (S2A) programme, anchored by Might. With the right action plans, S2A would prove to be a key instrument in transforming science in the country.

Recently, Najib announced a slew of initiatives, including the Public-Private Research Network, anchored by the Education Ministry; Steinbeisch Foundation for technology brokering under AIM; and, the re-branding of Sirim in partnership with Fraunhofer Germany to start a national network of industrial research centres for the country.

Najib has also strongly endorsed the academy's initiative under the MegaScience framework of studies, which undertakes a risk opportunity assessment of Malaysia come 2050.

I am sure that there are many other science-related initiatives that escaped my attention.

But one message is clear. The prime minister has demonstrated a strong determination to revive waning interest in science.

As the country pursues innovation and sustainability, science is a critical enabler.

The country is fortunate that the prime minister himself has shown strong leadership in championing the science agenda.

Congratulations to the prime minister for the Fellowship Award. There is now hope for science.

## Hujan lebat, 'palung' tidak bergerak

**KOTA BHARU** – Pantai Timur terutamanya Kelantan boleh berdepan banjir yang lebih besar apabila ka-



wasan penumpuan angin atau 'palung' yang sepatutnya sudah berada di Selatan Semenanjung penghujung Disember.

Ia menyebabkan wap air terus berkumpul di situ dan hujan lebih banyak bertumpu di kawasan yang sama sedangkan ia sepatutnya bergerak ke arah Johor.

Pegawai Meteorologi Kanan Pusat Cuaca Nasional, Dr. Mohd. Hisham Mohd. Anip (**gambar kecil**) berkata, keadaan banjir boleh diburukkan lagi dengan fenomena air pasang besar di perairan Pantai Timur yang menyebabkan air sungai serta air banjir sukar untuk mengalir keluar ke pantai.

"Mengapa palung itu tidak bergerak, itu perlukan lebih kajian tetapi kebiasaannya ia bersangkutan dengan tekanan tinggi rendah secara global.

"Mengenai air pasang besar, ia disumbang oleh faktor graviti bulan, oleh itu kita jangka hujan lebat akan berterusan di kawasan Pantai Timur sehingga 24 Disember (esok)," katanya ketika

dihubungi *Kosmo!* di sini semalam.

Beliau diminta mengulas mengenai keadaan banjir di Pantai Timur kini terutamanya Kelantan yang dilanda banjir besar pada gelombang kedua banjir tahun ini yang merupakan terburuk dalam tempoh 10 tahun lalu.

Mohd. Hisham juga menjangkakan, hujan lebat seterusnya akan berlangsung bermula Ahad ini berikutan angin sejuk dari arah China yang akan bergerak ke sini.

"Selepas 24 Disember, episod hujan lebat yang lain pula dijangka diramalkan akan berlaku pada 28 Disember ini. Sama ada ia akan memberikan kesan yang lebih besar dari gelombang kedua, ia bergantung kepada kecepatan banjir gelombang kedua surut," katanya.

Ditanya mengenai keadaan banjir yang luar biasa di Kelantan berbanding beberapa tahun lalu, Mohd. Hisham berkata, ia disebabkan angin kuat yang bertiup dari Barat Lautan Pasifik



**KEADAAN banjir di bandar lama Gua Musang semalam.**

dan China yang berterusan sejak awal bulan lalu.

"Tahun ini berbeza, angin itu berterusan datang. Sebelum ini ia ada berhenti sekejap-sekejap.

"Sebenarnya, Kelantan boleh banjir besar lebih awal lagi tetapi selamat kerana ditampar oleh ribut tropika yang menyeberangi Laut China Selatan ke Vietnam," katanya lagi.

# Fenomena air pasang besar, hujan sehingga Rabu

**KUALA TERENGGANU-** Fenomena air pasang besar dan hujan berterusan menyebabkan berlakunya kenaikan air di kebanyakan daerah di Terengganu yang bermula kelmarin dijangka berterusan sehingga 24 Disember, dengan ketinggian aras laut mencecah 2.18 meter.

Pengarah Pejabat Meteorologi Kelantan/Terengganu, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (JMM) Jenuwa Husin berkata, episod ketiga hujan lebat yang bermula dari 21 Disember juga, dijangka berterusan sehingga esok (hari ini).

Menurutnya, nasihat hujan lebat peringkat kuning telah dikeluarkan pada 19 Disember lalu dan nasihat ini kemudiannya telah ditingkatkan kepada amaran hujan lebat peringkat jingga pada 21 Disember.

"Pada episod ini, angin kencang Timur Laut turut berlaku dengan kelajuan dari 60 kmsj dengan laut bergelora dan ketinggian ombak sehingga 5.5 meter di kawasan perairan Terengganu dan dijangka berterusan sehingga Rabu.

"Keadaan angin kencang dan laut bergelora ini berbahaya kepada semua aktiviti pantai dan perkapalan

STESEN	21/12/2014	22/12/2014 (sehingga 3 petang)
Mardi Air Putih, Kemaman	293.6 mm	44.1 mm
Felda Bukit Bading, Hulu Terengganu	98.4 mm	42.1 mm
Mardi Jerangau, Dungun	97.7 mm	61.5 mm
Felda Belera, Kuala Terengganu	96.9 mm	7.4 mm

Jadual menunjukkan jumlah hujan di beberapa stesen meteorologi.

termasuk pekerja di pelantar minyak," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Selain itu kata Jenuwa, kawasan pantai Terengganu juga terdedah kepada kejadian kenaikan paras laut sehingga Rabu ini.

Jelasnya, jumlah hujan setakat ini adalah 422.2 mm sehingga jam 3 petang semalam dan purata hujan Disember pula sebanyak 543.6 mm.

Berdasarkan kepada jumlah itu, ia masih tidak melebihi purata bulanan.

Oleh itu katanya, episod hujan kali ini tidak seburuk tahun lepas, tetapi berikutan berlakunya fenomena air pasang besar dan hujan berterusan menyebabkan berlakunya kenaikan air di kebanyakan daerah.

"Pihak Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia akan sentiasa menjalankan pemantauan rapi dan berterusan selain segera mengeluarkan nasihat serta amaran hujan lebat kepada pihak yang berkenaan sekiranya perlu.

"Tetapi kita nasihatkan orang ramai agar mengambil langkah perlu, seperti sentiasa mengikuti arahan pihak berkuasa jika diberi arahan dan sentiasa peka kepada sumber yang sah dari masa ke masa," katanya.

Sehubungan itu beliau turut menasihatkan agar pengguna jalan raya tidak memandu ke kawasan banjir dan jauhi daripada melalui jambatan yang tidak kukuh serta jalan yang sering dinaiki air.

**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**SINAR HARIAN (BANJIR) : MUKA SURAT 7**  
**TARIKH : 23 DISEMBER 2014 (SELASA)**

## Angin kencang, laut bergelora

**KUALA LUMPUR** - Beberapa kawasan perairan negara diramal dilanda angin kencang dan laut bergelora selama tiga hari sejak semalam sehingga esok.

Menurut kenyataan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (JMM), amaran angin kencang Timur Laut dan laut bergelora (kategori ketiga) berkelajuan 60 kilometer (km) sejam serta ombak berketinggian 5.5 meter, dijangka melanda kawasan perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor Timur, Sarawak, Sabah (Pedalaman, pantai Barat dan Kudat)

serta Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan.

Menurut kenyataan itu, kawasan pantai di Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang dan Johor Timur terdedah kenaikan paras air laut.

JMM turut mengeluarkan amaran angin kencang Timur Laut dan laut bergelora (kategori ketiga) berkelajuan 60 km sejam dengan ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 5.5 meter di perairan Samui, Tioman, Condore, Bunguran, Reef North, Reef South, Kuching, Layang-Layang, Labuan dan Palawan. - Bernama



**Waist deep:** A family wading through the floodwaters in Kubang Kerian, Kota Baru. — Bernama



**Getting to safety:** Taman Tas firefighters evacuating villagers from Kampung Pandan, Kuantan. — Bernama

# No let-up in flood woes for now

Water levels expected to remain high due to sporadic bouts of rainfall

**KUANTAN:** The flood woes in Pahang are expected to continue at least until later today due to intermittent rain, while major rivers in Kelantan have remained at dangerous levels despite a drop in the number of evacuees to 16,347 people.

Several other rivers in Terengganu have also seen an increase in their water levels as residents around the riverbanks braced for the worst.

The Meteorological Department yesterday issued a red level warning for Pahang, saying that intermittent rain would continue to fall in areas like Kuantan, Jerantut, Maran, Pekan and Rompin.

A spokesman from the Kuantan district police headquarters' flood operations room said that 657 people had moved out of their homes as of yesterday afternoon and were taking shelter at 11 relief centres, compared to 318 people at eight centres earlier in the morning.

He added that three new relief centres were opened yesterday at Wisma Belia Indera Mahkota, Panching low-cost public housing hall and Kampung Sungai Soi community hall.

"Eight other relief centres in the state are SMK Pandan, Sungai Lembing police station, Kampung Seri Damai community hall, SK Cherating, SK Sungai Ular, Kampung Chendor community hall, Kampung Semangat community hall and SK Kempadang," he said.

A state police contingent headquarters' flood operations room spokesman confirmed that there were no flood victims in other districts.

The Drainage and Irrigation



**Water, water everywhere:** Residents trudging through the floodwaters in Sungai Lembing, Pahang.

Department website showed that three rivers in Pahang had breached the warning level.

For instance, the water levels of Sungai Pahang in Sungai Yap rose to 50.17m surpassing the warning level of 50m, Sungai Kuantan in Pasir Kemudi at 6.54m surpassing the 6.40m mark and Sungai Kuantan at the Kuantan Bypass at 3.23m exceeding the 3.15m mark.

In Kelantan, the situation improved as the number of flood

victims dropped to 16,347 at 59 relief centres yesterday evening, compared to 18,012 at 56 relief centres in the morning.

Pasir Mas still had the most number of victims with 10,575 at 32 relief centres.

Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang remained at dangerous levels, while Sungai Galas in Dabong, Gua Musang, Sungai Lebir in Tualang, Kuala Krai, and Sungai Kelantan in Tangga Krai, Kuala Krai, were also at

dangerous levels.

Four people have died since the second wave of floods hit Kelantan starting Dec 16.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said there had been no water-borne diseases reported in any of the relief centres.

He also said that 4,018 flood victims had been treated and from the examinations carried out, 625 patients with contagious non-water-borne diseases such as acute respira-

tory infections, skin infections and fever had been identified and duly treated.

"Although there were 28 diarrhoea cases identified out of the 625 cases, they were not water-borne," he told reporters after launching Kelantan's World Diabetes Day celebrations.

He said only one clinic, the Desa Keroh Clinic in Kuala Krai, had been submerged in water, which had damaged its equipment.

Gua Musang police chief Supt Saiful Bahri Abdullah said that Jalan Besar and Jalan Pekan Lama in Gua Musa were reported to be badly submerged by floodwaters and not passable to any vehicles due to the overflowing Sungai Chinda.

"Other roads closed to traffic are Jalan Chiku-Aring, Jalan Kampung Batu Papan, Jalan Pekan Lama and Jalan Kampung Kerinting," Supt Saiful said.

In Terengganu, state National Security Council acting secretary Roslina Ngah said the siren installed at rivers would go off automatically when the water level exceeded the warning level.

"Residents staying close to rivers are used to the siren but maybe for outsiders, it is something strange. It is only a normal reminder for surrounding residents to be alert," she said.

As of 2pm yesterday, Sungai Chalok at the Chalok Bridge and Sungai Setiu at the Permaisuri Bridge exceeded the warning levels, while Sungai Marang at Pengkalan Berangan and Sungai Cherul at the Ban Ho Bridge in Kemaman surpassed the alert level. — Bernama



## Jumlah Mangsa Banjir Di Kelantan Menurun, Di Terengganu Bertambah

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 Dis (Bernama) -- Jumlah mangsa banjir di tujuh jajahan di Kelantan didapati menurun sementara di Terengganu bertambah pada tengah hari, begitu juga di Pahang.

Di Kelantan, ia bertambah kepada 16,181 orang berbanding 18,012 orang pada sebelah pagi.

Menurut portal banjir kerajaan negeri, kesemua mangsa kini ditempatkan di 53 buah pusat pemindahan berbanding 56 pusat pagi tadi.

Jumlah keluarga yang terlibat juga menurun kepada 5,376 keluarga berbanding 5,995 keluarga pada sebelah pagi.

Di Pasir Mas, jumlah mangsa menurun kepada 10,264 orang berbanding 11,930 orang pagi tadi di 31 buah pusat.

Di Tumpat, jumlah mangsa berkurang kepada 4,634 orang berbanding 4,712 orang di tujuh pusat pemindahan.

Namun jumlah mangsa di Kuala Krai meningkat sedikit kepada 417 orang berbanding 350 orang pagi tadi yang ditempatkan di empat pusat pemindahan. Di Pasir Puteh (556 orang/empat pusat pemindahan), Tanah Merah (251 orang/lima pusat pemindahan), Machang (19 orang/satu buah pusat pemindahan) dan Kota Bharu (40 orang/satu pusat pemindahan).

Paras air di sungai-sungai utama dilaporkan terus surut namun bacaan paras air di Sungai Golok, Rantau Panjang masih melepasi paras bahaya 9 meter iaitu 10.42 meter.

Keadaan cuaca adalah mendung.

Di TERENGGANU, jumlah mangsa bertambah hampir 520 orang iaitu 5,205 pada tengah hari berbanding 4,687 pada sebelah pagi.

Menurut portal Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) Terengganu, peningkatan berlaku di Daerah Dungun iaitu seramai 213 orang, Kemaman (289) dan Kuala Terengganu (14) orang.

Dungun mencatat paling banyak mangsa iaitu 2,242 orang, diikuti Kemaman (1,466 orang), Kuala Terengganu (909 orang), Besut (319 orang), Hulu Terengganu (211 orang), Marang (36 orang) dan Setiu (22 orang).



Sebanyak 41 pusat masih beroperasi iaitu tiga masing-masing di Besut dan Hulu Terengganu, Dungun (18), Kemaman (16), Kuala Terengganu (5), Marang (1) dan Setiu (2).

Di PAHANG, jumlah mangsa di Kuantan khususnya bertambah kepada 318 orang daripada 85 keluarga pada tengah hari berbanding 141 orang daripada 33 keluarga pagi tadi.

Jurucakap Bilik Gerakan Banjir Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah Kuantan berkata, tiga pusat pemindahan yang ditutup Sabtu lepas kembali beroperasi iaitu Dewan Orang Ramai Kampung Seri Damai yang menempatkan 22 mangsa daripada enam keluarga, Dewan Orang Ramai Kampung Semangat (lima mangsa daripada dua keluarga) dan Sekolah Kebangsaan Pandan (tujuh mangsa daripada dua keluarga) yang dibuka pada 9 pagi dan 10.30 pagi tadi.

Lima lagi pusat pemindahan yang beroperasi ialah Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Pandan (157 mangsa daripada 42 keluarga), Balai Polis Sungai Lembing (53 mangsa daripada 14 keluarga), Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Cherating (31 mangsa daripada lapan keluarga), SK Sungai Ular (24 mangsa daripada enam keluarga) dan Balai Raya Kampung Chendor (19 mangsa daripada lima keluarga).

Tiga jalan utama di Kilometer 34 Jalan Kuantan-Maran, Kilometer 24 Jalan Kuantan-Sungai Lembing dan Jalan Bandar Sungai Lembing ditutup kepada semua kenderaan.

Sementara itu Jurucakap Bilik Gerakan Banjir Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen Pahang mengesahkan tiada daerah lain yang merekodkan pemindahan mangsa banjir.

Laman web **Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia** mengeluarkan amaran hujan lebat (peringkat jingga) yang dikemaskini tengah malam tadi kini ditingkatkan kepada amaran peringkat merah.

Hujan sederhana kadang kala lebat dilapor di daerah Kuantan, Jerantut, Maran, Pekan dan Rompin yang dijangka berterusan sehingga esok.

-- BERNAMA

# Lapan sektor baru

■ MDV peruntuk RM200 juta biaya projek berimpak tinggi kepada ekonomi

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**M**alaysia Debt Ventures Bhd (MDV) memperuntukkan RM200 juta bagi membiayai projek dalam sektor baru yang dikenal pasti mempunyai kesan tinggi kepada ekonomi negara.

Lapan sektor berkenaan ialah nanoteknologi, bahan termaju, robotik dan kepin-taran tiruan, elektrik dan elektronik, penerbangan dan aeroangkasa, penyelenggara-an, pembaikan dan baik pulih (MRO), minyak dan gas serta pengangkutan.

Pengerusinya Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar berkata, peruntukan pembiayaan itu akan membantu lebih ramai syarikat dalam perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) mengembangkan perniagaan mereka dalam sektor berkenaan sekali gus memberi kesan kepada kemajuan ekonomi negara.

Beliau berkata, MDV sudah berjaya membantu



AHMAD Maslan (dua dari kiri) bersama Zubir Anzori (kiri), Zarinah dan Ahli Lembaga Pengarah MDV Berhad Tan Sri Husin Abdul Hamid (kanan) pada pelancaran Strategi Korporat Baru MDV di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

syarikat tempatan mengembangkan perniagaan mereka sejak 12 tahun lalu yang dalam tempoh berkenaan sejumlah RM8.8 bilion sudah disalurkan kepada 700 projek teknologi dilaksanakan oleh PKS.

"Kami melihat ini adalah usaha untuk menggalakkan lebih banyak syarikat PKS atau syarikat swasta men-

jalankan perniagaan di bawah 12 Bidang Ekonomi Utama Negara (NKEA) dan tanggungjawab kami untuk menyediakan peluang berkenaan menerusi pembiayaan.

"Ini kerana bidang teknologi tinggi mempunyai pasaran yang besar dalam pasaran," katanya pada pelancaran Strategi Korporat Baru

MDV di sini, baru-baru ini.

Hadir sama, Timbalan Menteri Kewangan Kedua, Datuk Ahmad Maslan yang turut merasmikan pelancaran itu dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera (TERAJU), Husni Salleh dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MDV, Datuk Md Zubir Anzori Yahaya.

“ Kami melihat ini adalah usaha untuk menggalakkan lebih banyak syarikat PKS atau syarikat swasta menjalankan perniagaan di bawah 12 Bidang Ekonomi Utama Negara”

Zarinah Anwar

Dalam strategi korporat itu, MDV akan berkerjasama dengan Teraju bagi menjayakan Program Skim Permulaan Bumiputera (Superb) dan Pusat Inovasi Global dan Kreatif Malaysia (MAGIC) bagi menjayakan projek Cerebro.

Zarinah berkata, dalam perjanjian MDV bersama Teraju, usahawan di bawah bimbingan MDV yang menyertai Superb akan menerima geran pembiayaan Teraju berjumlah RM500 juta.

KERATAN AKHBAR  
KOSMO: MUKA SURAT 16  
TARIKH: 23 DISEMBER 2014 (SELASA)

**Harapan tahun 2015**



SEMOGA segala usaha Angkasa dalam merakyatkan bidang sains dan teknologi angkasa dapat dirasai oleh masyarakat dengan lebih cemerlang dan untuk negara pula, kami berharap projek-projek besar seperti RazakSAT-2 yang akan dimulakan tahun hadapan dapat membawa nama negara ke persada dunia.

**DR. NOORDIN AHMAD**  
Ketua Pengarah Agensi Angkasa Negara