KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 28 FEBRUARI 2015 (SABTU)

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	100 paip khas tangani kebakaran tanah gambut	Berita Harian
2	River confluence caused worst floods	The Star

KERATAN AKHABAR TEMPATAN
BERITA HARIAN (NASIONAL) : MUKA SURAT 17
TARIKH: 28 FEBRUARI 2015 (SABTU)

100 paip khas tangani kebakaran tanah gambut

» *Nozzle puncher mampu padam api bawah tanah*

Oleh Syafiq Aznan
bhshahalam@bh.com.my

▸ Shah Alam

Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Selangor menyediakan 100 set paip khusus untuk menyerapkan air ke bawah tanah, dinamakan *nozzle puncher* sebagai langkah persediaan menghadapi kebakaran hutan dan tanah gambut.

Pengarahnya, Othman Abdullah (**gambar**), berkata kebakaran tanah gambut sukar dikawal dan dipadamkan kerana apinya marak di bawah permukaan tanah dan punca kebakaran sukar dikesan untuk dipadamkan.

"Biasanya, anggota bomba terpaksa mengorek tanah gambut dan membuat laluan air terlebih dahulu sebelum boleh mengalirkan air untuk memadam api.

"Bagaimanapun, dengan *nozzle puncher*, kebakaran di dalam tanah dapat dipadamkan kerana air dapat dipam terus kepada kawasan terbakar," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika ditemui pada Majlis Anugerah Cemerlang 2014 JBPM Selangor di sini, semalam.

Seramai 117 anggota dan kakitangan menerima anugerah berdasarkan prestasi cemerlang yang ditunjukkan dalam menaikkan nama JBPM tahun lalu.

Othman berkata, peralatan memadam kebakaran itu terbukti berkesan dalam mengawal dan memadam kebakaran kawasan tanah gambut secara berterusan tanpa tenaga kerja yang ramai.

"Kami sudah menggunakan 10 peralatan ini ketika memadam kebakaran hutan dan jenis gambut tahun lalu.

Tambah alatan

"Atas sebab ini, kami menambah lagi peralatan berkenaan sebagai persediaan menghadapi kebakaran jenis gambut.

"Penggunaan kaedah ini terbukti mudah dan menjimatkan tenaga selain turut menjimatkan penggunaan air kerana punca kebakaran terus ditangani membolehkan proses pemadaman dilakukan lebih cepat," katanya.

Sementara itu, Othman berkata, sebanyak 470 kes kebakaran membabitkan kebakaran hutan, gambut dan semak dilaporkan sepanjang tempoh Januari sehingga 25 Februari lalu.

"Kebakaran hutan dan gambut di negeri ini masih terkawal, namun kami tetap bersedia dengan segala kemungkinan menjelang cuaca panas melampau seperti dilaporkan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia," katanya.

INFO

Nozzle Puncher

- **Berbentuk** batang paip sepanjang 4.5 meter dengan dua penyembur air di hujungnya.
- **Bahagian penyembur** air dimasukkan ke dalam tanah gambut dan bahagian lagi satu ke punca air.
- **Menggunakan tekanan**, air dipam memasuki bawah tanah gambut untuk memadamkan api.

KERATAN AKHABAR TEMPATAN
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 8
TARIKH: 28 FEBRUARI 2015 (SABTU)

River confluence caused worst floods

Most of badly hit Kelantan towns were located in valleys where rivers meet, says expert

By PATRICK LEE
patrick.lee@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Many of the towns worst hit by floods last year such as Kuala Krai in Kelantan are located in valley areas where rivers meet.

Dr Edlic Sathiamurthy of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu said these towns saw flood waters come from two bodies into one, swamping people there.

"Dabong, Temerloh and Kuala Krai, these are in areas of river confluence.

"These are areas where usually two water bodies meet, bringing an accumulation of flood flow," he said at a workshop on the floods yesterday.

Some areas such as Kuala Krai, he said, also had depressed topographies (or lower landscapes), making them prone to floods.

Referring to Kelantan's past rainfall data, he warned that massive floods may happen again, adding that there was a "pattern".

In 1967, 38 people died and 537,000 people were displaced in Kelantan's massive floods then.

He said China and the United States destroyed their levees (or embankments) at less "sensitive" areas in dealing with floods, so waters could overflow there instead of hitting the towns.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's Prof Dr Zulkifli Yusop said the Drainage and Irrigation Department had done a study to look into building a dam upstream of Dabong.

"This is a flood mitigation dam but it must have a multi-purpose function for water resources, aquaculture and floods," he said.

Meteorological Department spokesman Dr Hisham Mohd Anip confirmed there was a "blind spot" in weather detection over Cameron Highlands and Gua Musang.

Although there were already six radars covering the peninsula, he mooted the idea of building another one for this region.

He also revealed that Typhoon Hagupit (Dec 1 to Dec 12), the worst cyclone to hit the Philippines last year, helped to reduce the massive rainfall over Malaysia then.

This was because the typhoon drew a portion of the cold air from the north of the world away from the monsoon storms here, he said.

"If there was no Hagupit, we would have had (heavy) rain for more than three weeks instead of two (over December)," he said.

He said the department was trying to update its forecasting models.

He admitted that some years might be needed before they were properly equipped to forecast, adding that even the United States had similar problems in getting things accurate.

National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia senior researcher Marini Ideris said land use contributed to the floods in Kelantan.

Later, when asked to elaborate, she said that the findings were still preliminary and needed more research.

Though many factors led to the floods last year, it is widely agreed that an extreme rainfall of over 1,500mm in December last year led to many areas being submerged under several metres of water.