

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 19 SEPTEMBER 2015 (SABTU)**

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## 'Devolution to benefit Sabah and Sarawak'

**KOTA KINABALU:** The devolution of greater power to Sabah and Sarawak is bound to have teething problems, but its implementation will be for the greater good.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Madius Tangau said the decision announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was appropriate as it would benefit the two states.

Madius, who is also United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation acting president, said there would be issues that needed to be ironed out, and setting a mechanism on how to go about empowering the states.

He said things needed to be planned out accordingly, and this was where the joint federal, Sabah and Sarawak committee that was looking into the devolution process would play its role.

"Take for instance the policy of allowing the State Education Department to approve infrastructure projects up to RM5 million. The director is not able to form a technical committee because there are no clear directives on where the engineers should come from.

"On the move to fill up to 90 per cent of the teaching force with locals from Sabah and Sarawak, the state education departments should be given the power to decide on the candidates to be admitted into

teacher trainee colleges."

Meanwhile Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said the policy commitment to fill teaching posts with more locals would motivate more youths to take up teaching as a vocation in the two states.

Ongkili, who is also Parti Bersatu Sabah deputy president, said the party had long voiced out the issue along with the need to have more locals participate in government projects and fill senior posts in the federal service and government link corporations.

He said this when opening a new longhouse at Kg Mompilis in the sub-district of Matunggong here.

Ongkili, however, said there was justification to maintain some percentage, in this case at least 10 per cent, of teachers from other states to be posted to Sabah and Sarawak.

"This is because we believe in integration, and having postings in the peninsula for Sabahan teachers and vice versa would be good for integration. It will also encourage cultural exchange and understanding."

Of the 42,242 teachers in Sabah as of August this year, 77 per cent of them are Sabah-born while the rest are from Sarawak (2.3 per cent) or other states in the peninsula (20.7 per cent). In Sarawak there are 41,935 teachers of whom 31,268 or 76 per cent are locals.



**Datuk  
Madius  
Tangau**



# Air quality improves in Sarawak

**RESPITE:** Morning rain brings API reading down to 122 in Kuching

GOH PEI PEI  
AND BEATRICE NITA JAY  
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**H**EAVY rain has improved the situation in Sarawak which was blanketed by haze with the Air Pollutant Index (API) reading exceeding 200 on Thursday.

Heavy showers at Sam here washed away the haze and brought the API reading down to 122 at 7am.

The reading improved to 74 as of 4pm, giving city folk moderate air quality.

In Samarahan, unhealthy air quality was recorded in the morning at 133. Air quality improved to 85 in the afternoon.

Other divisions, such as Bintulu, Miri, Kapit, Sarikei, Sibul and Sri Aman, had moderate air quality.

Two days ago, Kuching and Samarahan were among the worst hit divisions when API readings exceeded 200, the highest in the past two weeks. It forced 463 schools to be closed, affecting more than 180,000 students.

Although the haze situation in the state has improved, schools remain closed until further notice.

Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah said despite the improvement in air quality and visibility, people were advised to stay indoors and, if they were outdoors, to use face masks as the situation could be temporary.

"The situation has improved and

is more comfortable compared with yesterday (Thursday). But, as long as the forest fires in Indonesia do not stop, the haze is expected to return. So, we advise the public, especially children and the elderly to stay at home," she said yesterday.

Kuching International Airport senior manager Mohd Nadzim Hashim said most of the flights departed and arrived on schedule.

Cloud-seeding operations carried out on Thursday afternoon in Sarawak have successfully produced rain in the affected areas.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said cloud-seeding operations were carried out in Santubong, Kuching, Simunjan, Tebekang, Samarahan and Batang Lupar in Sri Aman.

"We hope this will help control the haze situation in Sarawak and improve the air quality," he said yesterday.

He said although the cloud-seeding operations were scheduled to continue until Sept 25, it might be stopped sooner, depending on the atmospheric condition of the clouds and visibility.

"As for Peninsular Malaysia, the operations have been stopped as the air quality is showing improvement."

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that the overall haze situation in the



Most of the flights departed and arrived on schedule at Kuching International Airport yesterday with the improving haze situation. Pic by Radzi Bujang

country had improved yesterday as only eight areas nationwide had recorded unhealthy API readings, with Seberang Jaya 2 in Perai, Penang, recording the highest reading at 124.

The Department of Environment (DOE) website said as of 3pm, unhealthy air quality was recorded at

Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang (117), Bakar Arang in Sungai Petani (113), as well as Seri Manjung and Langkawi (both 112).

Unhealthy API readings were also recorded in Taiping (106), Perai (104) and Sri Aman (103).

Bernama also quoted Malaysia Airport Holdings Bhd Corporate

Communications Department as saying that operations at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport and Klia2 were normal with no flight delays or changes due to the haze.

The public can refer to the DOE website at <http://apims.doe.gov.my/v2/> for the latest API readings.



## Operasi Pembenihan Awan Di Sarawak Berhasil - Madius

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Sept (Bernama) -- Operasi pembenihan awan (OPA) di Sarawak hari ini berjaya menghasilkan hujan di beberapa tempat di Bahagian Sri Aman dan daerah Serian di Bahagian Samarahan, kata [Menteri Sains, Teknologi Dan Inovasi Datuk Madius Tangau](#).

Beliau berkata operasi itu, yang bermula pada 11.35 pagi dan berakhir pada 12.42 tengah hari, dijalankan di kawasan Santubong di Bahagian Kuching, Simunjan dan Tebekang di Bahagian Samarahan serta Batang Lupar di Bahagian Sri Aman.

"Kejayaan OPA ini diharap dapat mengurangkan tahap jerebu yang dihadapi oleh penduduk di Sarawak," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, Jumaat.

Beliau berkata operasi itu akan diteruskan sehingga 25 Sept ini di Sarawak namun, ia bergantung kepada kesesuaian awan dan jarak penglihatan yang dibenarkan.

Sementara itu, Madius berkata OPA di Semenanjung Malaysia ditamatkan memandangkan keadaan cuaca dan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) yang semakin baik.

Sehingga 7 malam tadi, hanya tujuh kawasan di Semenanjung menunjukkan bacaan IPU tidak sihat iaitu Bakar Arang, Sungai Petani (118) dan Langkawi di Kedah (122); Kampung Air Putih, Taiping (107) dan Seri Manjung di Perak (105); serta Perai (105), Seberang Jaya (122) dan Universiti Sains Malaysia (116) di Pulau Pinang.

Bacaan IPU di Sarawak pula menunjukkan tahap sederhana di semua kawasan di negeri itu.

-- BERNAMA



# Water warning irks Selangor govt

By RAZAK AHMAD and  
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## Syabas slammed for 'irresponsible statement'

**PETALING JAYA:** Klang Valley residents have been warned of possible water rationing if the current El Nino phenomenon of hot and dry weather worsens.

The warning, from Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas), has angered the Selangor government, which has accused the company of triggering a panic.

Syabas said the treated water supply situation in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya was becoming more acute due to the El Nino phenomenon, which the country was currently experiencing.

El Nino is an irregular weather phenomenon which causes sea temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean to rise, leading to un-

sually heavy rains in some parts of the world and drought in others.

"The El Nino phenomenon causes long droughts and shortages of raw water supply in river and dams, and simultaneously production of treated water will be lessened," Syabas said in a statement.

"If this situation takes place, consumers will face the possibility of water supply rationing, the same as the ones the Selangor state government and National Water Services Commission (SPAN) were forced to implement in 1998 and last year."

Selangor Environment Committee chairman Elizabeth Wong hit out at Syabas, saying water rationing had never been discussed with the state government.

She said she had no clue why Syabas issued the statement "out of the blue", without first discussing with the Selangor government or its subsidiary Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor).

Air Selangor is in the process of taking over Syabas under a water restructuring deal between the state and federal governments.

"The Syabas statement is irresponsible for causing alarm and panic."

"There is no plan or even any discussion on water rationing."

"People will panic and keep asking us when the rationing is going to take place."

"Syabas should have discussed and issued any statement on water

levels together with the state government."

She said the Meteorological Department was advising the Selangor government on the weather and had informed it that the El Nino phenomenon was still weak.

The Syabas statement said the water levels at Selangor's dams had already shown a downward trend.

The lowest level was at the Sungai Langat dam, which was at 38.92% capacity yesterday, down from 91.96% on March 15.

The dam supplies water to the Sungai Langat treatment plant that provides treated water to Hulu Langat and parts of Kuala Lumpur.

On Aug 24, Selangor bought 300 million litres of water per day (mld)

from Pahang. The water was to be channelled from Sungai Semantan in Pahang to Sungai Langat, but the transfer was stopped as Pahang also faced water issues.

Wong said cloud seeding to induce rain over the Sungai Langat dam was ongoing and that the river was also receiving 25 mld of water which naturally flows from the Pahang-Selangor Raw Water Transfer Project tunnel.

She said with the exception of the Sungai Langat dam, the water level at most of the state's other reservoirs was still "good". The Sungai Selangor dam, which provides 60% of treated water supply for the Klang Valley, was at 76.21% as at Thursday.

A Syabas spokesman said water rationing could only be implemented under instructions from the state government and SPAN.

# 'Change in wind direction expected to ease situation'

**PUTRAJAYA:** A change in wind direction from yesterday will have a positive effect on the transboundary haze in the country by Monday, based on data provided from the **Meteorological Department.**

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the overall decline in the Air Pollutant Index (API) readings around the country was a result of the change in wind direction, especially in the peninsula.

He said only areas such as Seberang Jaya in Penang, Sri Manjung in Perak as well Kota Samarahan and Sri Aman in Sarawak had unhealthy API readings exceeding 100.

"There is a possibility of thunderstorms and rain in the peninsula and Sarawak. Kota Samarahan and Kuching experienced rain on Thursday night.

"This change in weather is caused by the change in the direction of the wind from the southwest to the east until Monday.

"From this point until the end of September, you can expect a change in the direction of the wind, which will see the transboundary haze slowly disappearing," he said here yesterday.

However, Wan Junaidi said Malaysians would have to prepare for the annual flash floods, espe-

cially in the northern and east coast states.

Cloud-seeding operations would be carried out by the Met Dept and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) when API readings hit 150 and above, with haze continuing for 72 hours, said Wan Junaidi.

He said the ministry did not have information on the alleged Malaysian companies involved in the illegal agricultural fires in Indonesia that had engulfed Southeast Asia in haze.

He said companies or individuals involved in such activities in Indonesia should face the music, but the onus was on the Indonesian government to take action against such companies or individuals.

"It does not matter if they are Malaysian or Singaporean companies, the Indonesian government must take the necessary legal action.

"We have been informed that an investigation is being carried out on such companies to ensure the perpetrators face action," he said.

On comments by some quarters that Malaysia must shoulder equal blame for the transboundary haze, Wan Junaidi said it was not fair to blame the government here, as the companies and individuals were operating in Indonesia, and therefore

bound by the law and enforcement there.

It was reported that Hadi Daryanto, the secretary-general of Indonesia's Forestry Ministry said that Singapore and Malaysia should share part of the blame for causing the haze.

Hadi said Singaporean and Malaysian palm oil companies had used the "slash-and-burn" method of clearing land as it was cheap.

Wan Junaidi said the ministry had yet to set a date to meet its Indonesian counterpart to sign the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on haze, which lapsed in 2013.

With Indonesia having to cope with open fires and API readings reaching 1,000, he said it was understandable that the Indonesian minister was too busy to set a meeting and sign the MoU.

On another note, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 18 captured a satellite image that showed an increase in the number of fire hot spots with 18 in Sumatra and four in Kalimantan as of Sept 17.

Based on the report by the Asean Specialised Meteorological Centre in Singapore, the NOAA 18 was unable to obtain the total number of hot spots in Sumatra and Kalimantan on Thursday as there was cloud cover.





## Ketampakan Rendah Kurang Lima Kilometer Berterusan Hingga Ahad



*Ruang udara bertambah baik di Putrajaya*

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Sept (Bernama) -- Amaran ketampakan rendah kurang daripada lima kilometer di sekitar perairan Selat Melaka, Pahang dan Sarawak dijangka berterusan sehingga Ahad ini (20 Sept).

Keadaan ini adalah merbahaya kepada kapal-kapal yang tidak mempunyai sistem navigasi pelayaran, menurut Jabatan Meteorologi dalam satu kenyataan di sini Jumaat.

Kawasan lain yang turut menghadapi masalah ketampakan ialah sekitar perairan Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Pahang, dan Kuching, Rejang, Mukah, Bintulu dan Miri di Sarawak.

-- BERNAMA



## Jerebu Semakin Reda, Pembenhian Awan Tidak Perlu Dilakukan - Wan Junaidi



PUTRAJAYA, 18 Sept (Bernama) -- Pembenhian awan tidak perlu dilakukan memandangkan keadaan jerebu di negara ini semakin reda, kata Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

Beliau berkata tahap jerebu berkurangan berikutan perubahan tiupan angin di rantau ini yang bertukar dari barat daya ke timur bermula semalam dan dijangka berlarutan sehingga Isnin.

"Dengan perubahan tiupan angin, kualiti udara di beberapa kawasan di seluruh negara bertambah baik," katanya pada sidang media selepas mempengerusikan mesyuarat khas mengenai jerebu di Wisma Sumber Asli di sini, hari ini.

Turut hadir Timbalan Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) Dr Zulkifli Abdul Rahman.

Wan Junaidi berkata bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) pada 8 pagi ini menurun ke paras sederhana (di bawah 100) di kebanyakan kawasan kecuali di Manjung (Perak), Kuching, Samarahan dan Sri Aman (Sarawak), Seberang Jaya (Pulau Pinang).

Beliau menjelaskan pembenhian awan hanya dilakukan apabila IPU mencecah 150 dan berlarutan selama 72 jam.

"Daripada data (semasa), kita tidak perlu lakukan pembenhian awan. Tetapi terserah kepada MKN (Majlis Keselamatan Negara untuk putuskan jika ada keperluan)," katanya.

Operasi pembenhian awan di Semenanjung Malaysia yang dilakukan pada Selasa hingga Khamis melibatkan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dan Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM).



Wan Junaidi berkata operasi pembenihan awan di Sarawak bagaimanapun tidak dapat dilaksanakan mengikut jadual berikutan keadaan atmosfera kering dan stabil, yang tidak menggalakkan pertumbuhan awan.

Keadaan jerebu di seluruh negara dijangka reda selepas berakhirnya musim Monsun Barat Daya pada pertengahan bulan ini, diikuti Musim Peralihan Monsun sehingga November ini, katanya.

Semasa Musim Peralihan Monsun, negara akan mengalami keadaan yang lebih lembap berbanding sekarang terutamanya di negeri-negeri Pantai Barat Semenanjung dan Barat Sabah.

"Kita mungkin berdepan dengan banjir kilat di beberapa tempat di seluruh negara. Kini, banjir berlaku di bahagian utara Semenanjung. Ini akan berlaku dari sekarang hingga Oktober," katanya.

Mengenai perbincangan dengan rakan sejawatnya di Indonesia bagi mencari penyelesaian kepada masalah jerebu yang melanda kedua-dua negara, Wan Junaidi berkata mesyuarat itu, yang dijadualkan pada 25 Sept ini, sekali lagi ditangguhkan atas permintaan kerajaan Indonesia.

Menurutnya mesyuarat itu turut melibatkan rundingan bagi mempercepat proses memuktamadkan perjanjian persefahaman (MoU) dua hala mengenai program pencegahan pencemaran jerebu merentas sempadan antara Malaysia dan Indonesia.

Beliau berkata penangguhan itu dibuat berikutan Menteri Alam Sekitar dan Kehutanan Indonesia Siti Nurbaya Bakar perlu menangani keadaan darurat akibat jerebu di Sumatera dan Kalimantan.

Dalam pada itu, Wan Junaidi menyelar pihak yang menyalahkan Malaysia dan meminta kerajaan bertanggungjawab kerana syarikat-syarikat Malaysia melakukan pembakaran hutan di Indonesia sehingga menyebabkan jerebu di rantau ini.

"Anda tidak boleh menyalahkan Malaysia atau kementerian...salahkan syarikat atau individu yang berkenaan (berhubung masalah jerebu)," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, beliau berkata pihak berkuasa Indonesia harus membuat siasatan dan mengambil tindakan tegas terhadap syarikat yang melakukan pembakaran itu berdasarkan undang-undang republik berkenaan tanpa mengira sama ada ia syarikat Malaysia atau Indonesia.

-- BERNAMA

# 'Killers showed extraordinary cruelty'

**'BRUTAL':** There is no forgiveness for murderers, says slain DPP's brother

**HARIZ MOHD  
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**"I** HOPE they die in prison." A clearly, and understandably, bitter Datuk Richard Morais, the youngest brother of slain deputy public prosecutor Kevin Anthony Morais, said yesterday there would be no forgiveness for his brother's murderers, whom he described as cold-blooded killers with "extraordinary cruelty".

"I don't give a damn if this sounds cruel, because for me, I wish they will all die in jail. My brother was a nice person. But the way they did him, like he was some kind of... these people are b\*\*\*\*\*ds."

"Even if they were to shoot him dead at a roadside, I could have still accepted it."

"At least my brother wouldn't have endured such prolonged torture," he told the *New Straits Times*.

The businessman, when asked



about what he meant by saying that Kevin had endured torture, said he could only imagine what the killers had done to the DPP after seeing the remains.

"From the state of my brother's remains, I could only imagine what the killers did to him after the abduction."

Richard said the remains were in "very bad condition", so much so that his family would have to cremate Kevin instead of burying him.

"You tell me, what person can stand and be patient upon seeing such cruelty they did to him."

However, Richard did not elaborate on what he had seen during the identification process on Wednesday.

All he would say was: "You try to imagine, how could they put him inside a barrel and cement it. This was out of the ordinary brutality."

Richard and his elder brother

David yesterday went to the Kuala Lumpur Hospital Forensics Department to provide DNA samples that would be compared with DNA taken from the remains of the man found in the barrel.

The siblings entered the department's building at 8.15am and left about an hour later after giving their blood samples.

Richard said he was told by a doctor in charge that the DNA processing would take up to two weeks before it could be handed over to the **Chemistry Department** for further action.

Although he was upset over the lengthy process, as they would have to wait in agony before being able to carry out religious rites and put Kevin to rest, Richard said his family understood that the authorities had to follow procedure.

Before ending his interview, Richard left a message to his fallen brother's comrades in the justice system.

"Continue the transparency and keep up whatever you are doing positively (in upholding justice). This is the only way to remember the good job he did."

Meanwhile, police yesterday announced that they had arrested two more suspects on Thursday in connection with Kevin's abduction and murder.

City police Criminal Investigation



A special task force was sent to a river in Kuala Selangor yesterday where authorities believe the suspects had dumped evidence. Pic courtesy of PDRM

Department chief Datuk Zainuddin Ahmad said the men, aged 46 and 47, were nabbed at a car wash centre in Jinjang here at 3pm.

He said the men, who worked as a wiring contractor and a biomedical technician, respectively, were remanded for seven days to facilitate investigation under section 302 of the Penal Code for murder.

Zainuddin said investigators also seized evidence from a car workshop near where Kevin's remains were found in USJ 1, Subang Jaya.

It was learnt that police believe that the workshop had been used by the DPP's killers to stuff his remains inside a gunny sack, before putting the victim inside a barrel and filling it with cement.

Zainuddin said the special task force investigating the case had also been sent to a river in Kuala Selangor, where they believe the

suspects had dumped other evidence.

Kevin, who was the deputy head of the Appellate and Trial Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers, was reported missing after leaving his Menara Duta apartment for his workplace in Putrajaya on the morning of Sept 4.

The case was reclassified after police found closed-circuit television footage showing four men abducting the victim in Jalan Dutamas that morning.

Operations conducted following the lead saw four men arrested in Penang and the Klang Valley on Tuesday. The next day, these suspects, including a military pathologist whose corruption case was prosecuted by Kevin, led investigators to the location where they dumped his body at Jalan Subang 3 in Subang Mewah, USJ.





## Seminar Dedah Amalan Kendalian Terbaik Dalam Perkhidmatan Radiologi

KOTA KINABALU, 19 Sept (Bernama) -- Seminar Pengimejan Perubatan anjuran Agensi Nuklear Malaysia memberi pendedahan mengenai amalan kendalian terbaik dalam perkhidmatan radiologi kepada pengamal bidang itu di Sabah.

Bertemakan 'Safety, Quality and Reliability', seminar kali ke-42 itu dirasmikan Pengarah Kesihatan Sabah Dr Christina Rundi.

Sebanyak enam kertas kerja dibentangkan pada seminar sehari itu antara lain memberi penekanan terhadap kepentingan perlindungan sinaran kepada kakitangan, pesakit dan sekitarnya.

Bercakap kepada pemberita selepas itu, Christina berharap para peserta akan memanfaatkan seminar yang menjadi medan menyampaikan perkembangan terkini teknologi pengimejan serta aplikasi perubatan itu untuk menambah pengetahuan sedia.

Seminar tahunan Agensi Nuklear Malaysia itu turut mendapat sokongan Kementerian Kesihatan, Lembaga Perlesenan Tenaga Atom, Persatuan Perlindungan Sinaran Malaysia dan Persatuan Perubatan Nuklear Malaysia.

Turut hadir Pengarah Kanan Program Pengkomersilan dan Perancangan Teknologi, Agensi Nuklear Malaysia Mohd Sidek Othman.

-- BERNAMA



## **Seminar dedah amalan kendalian terbaik dalam perkhidmatan radiologi**

**KOTA KINABALU:** Seminar Pengimejan Perubatan anjuran Agensi Nuklear Malaysia memberi pendedahan mengenai amalan kendalian terbaik dalam perkhidmatan radiologi kepada pengamal bidang itu di Sabah.

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## MITI, Matrade, SIRIM Bekerjasama Anjur Program 'Export Groom Big'

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Sept (Bernama) -- Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) menjalin usaha sama dengan Perbadanan Pembangunan Perdagangan Luar Malaysia (Matrade) dan [SIRIM Bhd](#) bagi menganjurkan program 'Export Groom Big'.

Dalam satu kenyataan, MITI berkata program empat hari itu yang bermula Jumaat, dianjurkan sempena Ekspo ASEAN-China (CAEXPO) 2015 di Nanning, China.

"Sebanyak 19 syarikat dalam sektor makanan dan minuman menyertai CAEXPO 2015, yang merupakan platform bagi mempromosi dan membangunkan pasaran baharu di luar negara, peluang meluaskan rantaian perniagaan serta potensi jualan produk kepada pedagang di luar negara.

"Pembabitan syarikat tempatan pada pameran itu juga akan membantu menyumbang dalam bentuk jumlah eksport produk halal Malaysia yang kini bernilai RM32 bilion," katanya.

Antara syarikat yang menyertai CAEXPO 2015 ialah Hajjah Aminah Food Industries Sdn Bhd, Fikrisz (M) Sdn Bhd dan Lina Karmila Cookies Worldwide (M) Sdn Bhd.

-- BERNAMA

## 26 grads receive UniMAP's new degrees

**ARAU:** Universiti Malaysia Perlis' (UniMAP) 10th convocation saw 26 pioneer students of the Bachelor in Chemistry Engineering Technology (Biotechnology Industry) programme receiving their degrees.

The scrolls were presented by Raja Muda of Perlis Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, who is also UniMAP's chancellor, during the convocation at Dewan Ilmu in Pauh Putra main campus here yesterday.

Present was Raja Puan Muda of Perlis Tuanku Hajah Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khalil, the university's pro-chancellor.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kamarudin Hussin said there were 2,075 graduates this year.

"A survey on 1,942 graduates as at Sept 14 revealed that this year's graduate employability rate had reached 71 per cent before convocation.

"It shows an increase of seven per cent compared with last year's graduate employability rate.

The convocation also saw Northern Corridor Implementation Authority chief executive officer Datuk Redza Rafiq Abdul Razak, Astronautic Technology (M) Sdn Bhd managing director and Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Sabirin Arshad and Turkey's Karabuk University professor Dr Burhanettin Uysal being conferred honorary doctorates for their contributions to UniMAP's development.