

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 7 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

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PM: Streamline innovation bodies

PROPOSAL: Move to avoid duplication and ensure leaner structure, says Najib

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has proposed that some government agencies involved in the innovation sector be merged or streamlined to boost efficiency and avoid duplication.

Currently, he said, the government had a host of ministries and agencies in the sector, including the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry; Finance Ministry; Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry; Global Science Innovation Advisory Council; Economic Planning Unit; and Performance Management and Delivery Unit.

"At last count, government entities involved in innovation and technology include five departments under the Prime Minister's Department; three ministries with direct technology funding; six ministries with technology associations; three regulators; four councils that I chair; four other councils; three development corporations with funding; seven development agencies or corporations; one foundation; six research institutes; three industry associations; five mutual funds; five managed funds; and 11 funding agencies or bodies. This is a lot.

"With a myriad of entities with so many roles, there is a need for streamlining to avoid duplication.

"We need to amalgamate some agencies to have a leaner and more effective structure moving forward," he said when closing the 11th Khazanah Megatrends Forum here yesterday.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak with (from left) Khazanah Nasional deputy chairman Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and Khazanah Nasional managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar during the launch of the 'Reflections on a Decade' book at the 11th Khazanah Megatrends Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah

He said the government would continue to be invested in guiding and facilitating a knowledge-driven economy, including prioritising Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or STEM, and English language skills in education to cultivate future talent and develop a sustainable innovation ecosystem.

Najib said the need to have a good command of English was paramount despite the need to preserve the country's local identity, alluding to some quarters' resistance to improving their command of the language.

"In today's world, there are two forces working in opposite directions.

"The first is globalisation, which brings together people from all over

the world, while the second is a growing emphasis on local identity, where it is all about protecting one's own rules.

"This paradox is seen in countries, such as Spain and even Scotland, which, after many years, is asking for independence from the United Kingdom. This is a global phenomenon.

"Still, the need to be proficient in English is paramount. I feel we are not yet there. So, we need to push harder to enhance the level of (English) proficiency."

The government, he said, played a crucial role in innovation, having undertaken measures and policies to encourage the development of a knowledge-driven innovation economy.

Najib said these included the Multimedia Super Corridor, or MSC Malaysia, which has contributed more than RM275 billion in revenue and RM206 billion in investments, and created more than 147,000 jobs since its inception in 1996.

"These are the results that innovation-centred, government-driven initiatives can achieve."

Other initiatives include the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre and Agensi Inovasi Malaysia, which nurture entrepreneurial ambition and innovative thinking through the provision of education resources, platforms and networks.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, Khazanah Na-

sional managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar and Khazanah Nasional deputy chairman Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

National Professors' Council political cluster head Professor Datuk Mustafa Ishak lauded Najib's proposal to streamline the agencies.

He echoed Najib's sentiment, saying redundancy was commonplace in the sector, with a number of agencies doing the same things.

He said the sector needed synergy, and to streamline key players' efforts, a lead agency should be appointed to ensure the agencies put their heads together towards achieving the national innovation agenda.

"Collaborative efforts are important so that resources are not wasted and expertise can be tapped."

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 5
TARIKH : 7 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

Agensi kerajaan terlibat inovasi disusun semula

KUALA LUMPUR 6 Okt. - Agensi-agensi kerajaan yang terlibat dalam bidang inovasi dan teknologi akan disusun semula bagi mengelakkan berlakunya masalah pertindihan bidang tugas serta birokrasi yang akhirnya merugikan negara.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak berkata, ketika ini agensi yang bertanggungjawab menerokai bidang tersebut dianggap terlalu banyak sehingga melebihi 60 entiti, termasuk lima daripadanya berada di bawah Jabatan Perdana Menteri.

“Dengan jumlah entiti yang banyak, wujud risiko ruang perpecahan yang perlu dihadapi kerajaan. Kita perlu tekankan mengenai jumlah agensi bagi menentukan yang mana satu benar-benar penting, sekali gus mengurangkan kerenah birokrasi.

“Kita perlu kepada penjurusan dan penggabungan beberapa agensi supaya tugas dapat dilaksanakan

dengan lancar dan efektif,” katanya ketika berucap merasmikan majlis penutup Forum Megatrends Khazanah 2015 di sini, hari ini.

Menurut Perdana Menteri, proses penyusunan semula itu perlu kerana penglibatan kerajaan merupakan antara elemen terpenting yang menentukan kejayaan dalam sektor inovasi di mana-mana negara, termasuklah di Amerika Syarikat.

Katanya, atas tanggungjawab serta kesedaran itu, kerajaan mengambil pelbagai langkah yang tepat dalam memandu pembangunan ekonomi negara berasaskan sektor inovasi antaranya menubuhkan Koridor Raya Multimedia Malaysia (MSC).

Dalam perkembangan yang sama, Najib turut menekankan betapa pentingnya untuk rakyat Malaysia menguasai bahasa Inggeris jika mahu bersaing dalam arena global khususnya membabitkan inovasi selaku pemacu utama kemajuan negara.

Mosti denies using dangerous chemicals in cloud seeding



Hazy view at 10am yesterday around the Petronas Twin Tower and surrounding areas with API readings at 99.— Bernama photo

KUALA LUMPUR: **The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti)** has denied using dangerous chemicals in cloud seeding as spread on the social media yesterday.

Its minister, **Datuk Madius Tangau** said the substance used was natrium chloride which is normal cooking salt.

"This salt is safe and does not have any side-effects on human health or the environment," he said in a statement yesterday.

He added that the contents and quantity of the salt used was the same in each cloud seeding operation carried out and there were no additional chemicals as went viral on social media.

"In any cloud seeding operation, as much as 200 kilogrammes of salt are dissolved in 1,500 litres of water in a tank with a volume of 1,800 litres before it is sprayed into the clouds," he said.

A message in English on the use of dangerous chemicals was spread on the WhatsApp application and said: "Friends from TUDM (RMAF) just called to alert that they are using strong chemicals to make rain. This might affect the skin. So please stay away from the rain these few days and if (one comes) in contact, rinse promptly."

Meanwhile, **Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail** urged the public not to believe the false information or to spread it as it could cause confusion among the people about cloud seeding.

"Acid rain only occurs when pollutants in the haze react chemically with the rain," she told Bernama when asked to comment on the matter. She said cloud seeding was carried out at 2.30pm yesterday and focused on the Klang Valley area.

"Cloud seeding was carried out after taking into account the current cloud conditions, suitable and stable atmosphere and the humidity of the air in the area," she said. — Bernama

Malaysia targets RM9.5b GNI by 2020 via Internet of Things

AMIR HISYAM RASID

KUALA LUMPUR: The government aims to generate about RM9.5 billion for the country's national gross income (GNI) by 2020 and RM42.5 billion by 2025 through the Internet of Things (IOT).

IOT is defined as a computing concept that describes a future, where everyday physical objects will be connected to the Internet and will be able to identify themselves to other devices.

Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister **Datuk Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah** said the IOT had great potential to grow the nation's digital marketing and businesses by encouraging automation in the abilities and capabilities of enterprises to stay competitive.

"In the next five years, we can expect the amount of Internet-connected 'things' like coffee makers, watches and televisions to reach 50 billion globally and contribute US\$19 trillion (RM83.03 trillion) in profits and cost savings.

"In 2019, global companies will be shipping over 1.9 billion home devices and more than US\$490 billion in revenue. In today's world, 14.2 billion devices have been connected to the world of Internet.

"This will increase the number of connected devices up to 15.8 billion with the IOT to represent a US\$1.9 trillion component of the global economy."

Abu Bakar added that the IOT was predicted to lead an annual growth of 34.1 per cent by 2020 in the Asia-Pacific region alone.

"Malaysia aims to be a part of the always connected universe in ensuring new technologies will be able to connect with other existing technologies," he said.

Meanwhile, the two-day BIGIT Technology Show Malaysia 2015, which ends today, was aimed at reinforcing and bringing innovation to the field of technology advancement through forums and discussions.

The event, which features two concurrent conferences — Big Data World Show and the IOT World Show — centres on expert opinions, insights and case study presentation from world-class organisations, government bodies and industry experts.

Abu Bakar said the IOT World Show aimed to empower technological innovation through enhanced connectivity between "things" to



Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister **Datuk Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah** (left) and OLYGEN managing director **Alvin Yong** at the launch of BIGIT Technology Show Malaysia yesterday. Bernama pic

achieve the vision of a fully connected world.

More than 200 companies, 40 in-

dustry speakers and over 400 delegates from all around the world participated.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 5
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Operasi hanya menggunakan 150 sehingga 200 kilogram garam makanan

Pembenihan awan teknologi paling selamat

Oleh **ALIF FADLI MOHD. SORI**
pengarang@utusan.com.my

■ KUALA LUMPUR 6 OKT.

OPERASI pembenihan awan bagi mengurangkan jerebu yang melanda negara pada masa ini tidak membawa kemudahan malah merupakan satu-satunya teknologi yang ada di Malaysia bagi tujuan itu dan paling selamat.



ABU BAKAR

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata, operasi tersebut hanya

menggunakan 150 sehingga 200 kilogram garam makanan yang dilarutkan di dalam 1,500 liter air.

Katanya, teknologi itu tidak membawa sebarang tindak balas kimia kerana air garam tersebut akan disemur ke awan bagi tujuan memberatkan awan tersebut dan menghasilkan hujan.

"Operasi pembenihan tiada masalah. Air hujan yang turun selamat untuk hidupan tidak kira manusia, tumbuhan mahupun haiwan.

"Jadi, khabar angin yang tersebar di laman-laman sosial itu semuanya palsu. Itu garam biasa, garam masakan yang boleh dimakan," katanya kepada pemberita di sini hari ini.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas melawat Pameran Teknologi: Big IT yang berlangsung selama dua hari bermula hari ini.

Mengulas lanjut, Abu Bakar berkata, kementerian tidak mempunyai masalah untuk melakukan operasi pembenihan awan pada



JABATAN Meteorologi Malaysia turut membantu Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM) membancuh air garam bagi tujuan pembenihan awan untuk mengurangkan jerebu yang semakin teruk di Pengkalan TUDM Subang, Selangor, baru-baru ini.
- UTUSAN/MOHD. AZIM ABD. RAHMAN

bila-bila masa sekiranya keadaan memerlukan.

Menurutnya, kementerian mempunyai peralatan dan peruntukan yang mencukupi serta kapal terbang juga bersedia untuk melakukan operasi tersebut sekiranya keadaan memaksa.

"Proses ini perlu dilakukan kepada awan yang sesuai dan kebiasaannya jenis 'towering kumululus', atmosfera yang sesuai dan stabil serta udara lembab yang mempunyai kandungan wap air

yang tinggi," katanya.

Sementara itu, Abu Bakar berkata, pameran tersebut memberi pendedahan kepada orang ramai terutama golongan muda terhadap kepentingan data dalam kehidupan seharian yang kini saling berhubung menggunakan teknologi.

"Masyarakat akan datang tidak lagi bergantung kepada persepsi dan berita-berita yang tidak sah sebaliknya akan menganalisis data sebelum membuat sebarang keputusan," katanya.



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ABU BAKAR MOHAMAD DIAH
Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi

Sedia buat pembenihan awan setiap hari

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan sedia melakukan pembenihan awan setiap hari bagi mencetuskan hujan untuk mengurangkan je-
rebu kerana mempunyai pe-
runtukan yang cukup bagi tu-
juan itu.

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Tek-
nologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr
Abu Bakar Diah, berkata apa
yang diperlukan hanyalah je-
nis awan yang sesuai bagi
membolehkan kaedah itu di-
laksanakan.

Beliau berkata, kaedah ber-
kenaan memerlukan awan da-
ri jenis 'towering cumulus' ke-
rana mengandungi air yang di-
perlukan.

"Kita tak ada masalah. Kita
ada peruntukan dan pesawat
yang diperlukan untuk tujuan
itu.

"Cuma untuk pembenihan
awan, kita perlu pastikan awan
dari jenis 'towering cumulus'.
Kalau tak ada awan jenis itu,
tak guna juga kerana tiada air,"
katanya kepada pemberita di
sini, semalam.

Beliau menyatakan demi-
kian selepas merasmikan pem-
bukaan Lab Asia 2015 di Pusat
Dagangan Dunia Putra (PWTC)
di sini, semalam.

Selain Lab Asia, Abu Bakar



Abu Bakar memukul gong ketika merasmikan pembukaan **Lab Asia 2015** di Pusat Dagangan Dunia Putra (PWTC) di Kuala Lumpur, semalam. [FOTO YAZIT RAZALI/BH]

turut merasmikan pembuka-
an dua acara lain iaitu Kongres
Polimer Antarabangsa Ke-4
dan Simposium Pengurusan
Makmal Serantau Ke-7.

Sangkal dakwaan guna bahan kimia berbahaya

Abu Bakar turut menyangkal
dakwaan bahawa hujan yang
dihasilkan menerusi kaedah

pembenihan awan bahan ki-
mia berbahaya.

"Kita hanya menggunakan
air yang dicampur dengan ga-
ram. Tak betul (dakwaan) itu.
Saya amat berharap orang ra-
mai tidak terpengaruh dengan
dakwaan itu yang giat dise-
barkan menerusi media so-
sial," katanya.

Lab Asia 2015 menghimpun-

kan hampir 160 peserta dari 16
negara iaitu Australia, Austria,
Perancis, China, Jerman, In-
dia, Iran, Itali, Jepun, Singa-
pura, Switzerland, Turki, Thai-
land, United Kingdom dan tu-
an rumah, Malaysia.

Pameran tiga hari berakhir
esok itu dianjurkan bersama
oleh ECMI ITE Asia Sdn Bhd
dan Institut Kimia Malaysia.

Cloud seeding done daily



Clearing the air: A fast food restaurant worker at the Restoran Jejantas Sungai Buloh R&R looking out onto the North South Highway as he cleans the window.

Govt has resources to continue operations in haze hit areas

KUALA LUMPUR: Cloud seeding has been conducted almost every day in areas with sufficient cumulus clouds since the haze problem began early last month.

And the Government has enough resources to continue such operations in areas severely hit by the haze.

"So far, we have had no problem with funding and our equipment is always on standby.

"We can do it anytime and any place, scattered throughout the country when the situation needs it," said Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia Deputy

Minister Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the 4th Federation of Asian Polymer Societies and International Polymer Congress at Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

Abu Bakar dismissed allegations that the Ministry had used harmful chemicals in any of its cloud seeding operations.

"The matter used in cloud seeding is sodium chloride, which is regular salt used for daily cooking. When we mix salt and spray it on the clouds, the clouds will become

heavy and it will turn into rain.

"How is that harmful to the people?" he asked, urging the public not to believe rumours spread in social media.

Meanwhile, Langkawi recorded the highest air pollutant index (API) reading at 161 as of 2pm yesterday. It was among 17 locations which recorded unhealthy air levels.

The API reading for Langkawi taken at 11am was 168, according to the portal of the Department of Environment.

Others include Bakar Arang in Sungai Petani (Kedah) - with API readings of 102 - Kuala Selangor

(128); Port Klang (122), Shah Alam (113); Banting (106); Port Dickson (109); Malacca City and Bukit Rambai in Malacca (108).

An API reading of 0 to 50 indicates good air quality; 51 to 100, moderate; 101 to 200, unhealthy; 201 to 300, very unhealthy and 300 and above, hazardous.

The public can check the DoE portal at apims.doe.gov.my for the latest API readings in their areas.



Pembenihan awan teknologi paling selamat

Operasi hanya menggunakan 150 sehingga 200 kilogram garam makanan



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Antara terawal perkenal langkah pencegahan

Pekan: "Bacaan IPU (Indeks Pencemaran Udara) ini hanya untuk rujukan saja, apa yang penting adalah langkah pencegahan yang kita ambil demi kesihatan penduduk," kata Timbalan Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Datuk Hamim Samuri.

Beliau berkata, kerajaan masih mendahului negara lain dalam memperkenalkan langkah pencegahan awal terhadap kesan jerebu kepada kesihatan penduduk, termasuk menangguk-kan sesi persekolahan.

Hamim berkata, **Jabatan Meteorologi** menggunakan peralatan jenis PM10 untuk mengambil kiraan IPU, manakala Singapura menggunakan peralatan PM2.5.

"Walaupun kita guna

PM10 untuk mengambil kiraan IPU, ia masih berdasarkan protokol ditetapkan Agensi Perlindungan Alam Sekitar Amerika Syarikat (USEPA).

"Apa yang lebih penting langkah diambil untuk mencegah kesan (jerebu) terhadap kesihatan penduduk dan Malaysia sangat prihatin dan kalau kita lihat, kerajaan melalui Kementerian Pendidikan mengumumkan semua sekolah ditutup walaupun ketika itu ada kawasan yang bacaan IPU hanya 200 atau tidak mencecah 200," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang media selepas melakukan Lawatan Kerja ke Rancangan Tebatan Banjir (RTB) Pahang, di sini, semalam.



Makin pulih tapi...

Oleh Mohd Husni Mohd Noor
mhusni@hmetro.com.my
Putrajaya

Keadaan jerebu teruk yang melanda negara buat masa ini diramalkan berkurangan secara berperingkat bermula semalam sehingga Ahad ini berikutan berlaku perubahan tiupan angin.

Itu ramalan diberikan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia semalam selepas melihat ribut tropika (Mujigae) memasuki kawasan daratan dan kini berada 500 kilometer (km) ke arah barat Guangzhou, China.

Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar berkata, keadaan itu menyebabkan tiupan angin di kawasan serantau negara menjadi lemah dan bertutup dari pelbagai hala, sekali gus mengurangkan masalah jerebu yang melanda negara.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, jika kebakaran terbuka di Sumatera dan Kalimantan, Indonesia masih berterusan, kemungkinan asap jerebu kembali semula ke Malaysia.

"Malah, keadaan jerebu juga tertakluk kepada tiada ribut tropika yang baharu terbentuk," katanya selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Khas Membincangkan Keadaan Jerebu Yang Melanda Negara Bil. 3/2015 di sini, semalam.

Katanya, dalam tempoh sekarang hingga 11 Oktober, jerebu dijangka tiba di Sarawak bermula hari ini se-



Ribut tropika pengaruhi keadaan jerebu

DR Wan Junaidi melihat penunggang motosikal memakai topeng muka ketika mengedar kelengkapan berkenaan di MEX.

hingga Jumaat sebelum berkurangan pada Sabtu disebabkan perubahan tiupan angin.

Wan Junaidi berkata, beliau difahamkan, Indonesia tidak menjangka dapat menyelesaikan kebakaran terbuka itu sehingga akhir November depan, namun keadaan jerebu tetap bergantung pada perubahan tiupan angin.

Katanya, mesyuarat semalam bertujuan mendapatkan

status terkini keadaan jerebu daripada agensi berkaitan selain tindakan yang boleh diambil untuk mengurangkan kesan jerebu.

Wan Junaidi berkata, pencemaran jerebu merentas sempadan mula melanda negara 22 Ogos lalu dan masih berlanjutan sehingga ke hari ini, malah mencapai kemuncaknya 15 September lalu di mana 34 kawasan merekodkan status kualiti

udara tidak sihat hampir di seluruh negara.

Pada 4 Oktober lalu, Shah Alam, Selangor merekodkan bacaan Indeks Pencemar Udara (IPU) tertinggi iaitu 308 (berbahaya) sekitar jam 9 pagi dan 10 pagi.

Semalam, Wan Junaidi turut menyempurnakan program kesedaran awam di Plaza Tol Maju Expressway (MEX) Putrajaya dan mengedarkan penutup hidung

dan mulut kepada pengguna lebuh raya dan penunggang motosikal.

Program mengedarkan penutup hidung dan mulut itu simbolik kepentingan melindungi kesihatan dan pencemaran jerebu.

Wan Junaidi turut mengedarkan risalah berkaitan jerebu dan Larangan Melakukan Kebakaran Terbuka di terbitkan Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS).

FOTO: AHMAD SHAM MOHD NOOR

