

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 8 OKTOBER 2015 (KHAMIS)**

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Komersialkan ciptaan tempatan

Pasir Gudang: Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi menasarkankan untuk mengkomersialkan lebih banyak produk ciptaan anak tempatan menerusi geran inovasi sosial RM30 juta mulai tahun depan.

Timbalan Menteri, Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata, dana itu mampu memperkenalkan produk tempatan, terutama ciptaan penduduk desa.

Beliau berkata, menerusi geran RM13 juta yang diterima sebelum ini, kementerian berkenaan suh membelanjakan RM9.4 juta membabitkan 94 projek hingga Ogos lalu.

Menurutnya, bukan seta-

kat bantuan dana, ia juga membabitkan jalinan kerjasama antara pengasas produk bersama agensi berkaitan bagi memantapkan pengeluaran hingga ke pemasaran.

Katanya, dana diberikan secara geran kepada pemohon yang mahu mengkomersialkan produk inovasi iaitu dengan jumlah maksimum RM100,000.

"Kementerian memperkenalkan program Inovasi Sosial sebagai usaha mempergiatkan pengkomersialan produk inovasi di peringkat akar umbi. Ia juga membolehkan kementerian mencaip sasaran untuk mengkomersialkan kira-kira 360

produk inovasi hingga 2020.

"Sebanyak 60 produk inovasi berjaya dikomersialkan pada tahun ini," katanya kepada pemberita selepas menyempurnakan Majlis Perasmian Penutupan Karnival Inovasi, Kerjaya dan Keusahawanan 2015 Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan (PIS), di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Pengarah Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan Mohd Hatta Zainal.

Abu Bakar berkata, hingga 31 Ogos lalu di bawah Rancangan Malaysia Ke-10 (RMK-10), kerajaan membelanjakan RM980 juta bagi tujuan kajian dan penyelidikan untuk mencipta produk inovasi.



DR Abu Bakar (tengah) menyampaikan piala kejuaraan kepada wakil Jabatan Pelancongan dan Hospitaliti, Nur Hanim Mohamad Nor diperhatikan Mohd Hatta (dua dari kiri).



Mosti Komited Bantu Pengusaha Desa Komersilkan Produk Inovasi

JOHOR BAHRU, 7 Okt (Bernama) -- Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (Mosti) komited membantu pengusaha desa untuk mengkomersilkan produk inovasi mereka menerusi Program Inovasi Sosial.

Timbalan Menteri berkenaan Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata kementerian menerima peruntukan RM30 juta daripada kerajaan bagi mengembangkan Program Inovasi Sosial dan sebanyak RM13 juta telah dibelanjakan tahun ini.

"Ramai pengusaha desa menghasilkan produk inovasi, namun mereka berdepan halangan termasuk kewangan untuk mengkomersilkannya.

"Sehubungan itu, Mosti bantu mereka dengan memberi geran maksimum RM100,000 seorang. Menerusi geran itu, kita akan bantu mereka dari awal termasuk pensijilan, ujian produk, pembungkusan sehingga produk yang dihasilkan itu masuk ke pasaran, sekali gus menjadikan mereka usahawan," katanya.

Abu Bakar berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas merasmikan majlis penutup Karnival Inovasi, Kerjaya dan Keusahawanan 2015 Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan (PIS) di sini, hari ini.

Menerusi Program Inovasi Sosial itu, Mosti berharap dapat mencapai sasaran 360 produk dikomersilkan Mosti menjelang 2020 seperti yang ditetapkan kerajaan.

"Kita berharap dengan adanya dana berkenaan, kita dapat meningkatkan jumlah produk inovasi yang dikomersilkan terutamanya dalam industri kecil, sekali gus meningkatkan bilangan usahawan yang mampu bersaing di peringkat lebih tinggi," katanya.

-- BERNAMA

More attractions at National Planetarium

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Planetarium has launched an Exhibition Gallery Development Project to upgrade its space exhibitions to attract more visitors and foster interest in the field.

National Space Agency (Angkasa) director-general Dr Noordin Ahmad said: "The current space exhibition gallery is static, which is why we upgraded the facilities, in the hope that visitors can learn about astronomy and space through an interactive space simulation.

"We want the public to have a great space experience when they visit the planetarium. By introducing new methods and new technologies, we hope to make space fun and interesting for all ages," said Noordin during the soft launch here yesterday.

The upgraded gallery will feature two space simulators

with a mission to Mars; an Aurora show which demonstrates the natural phenomenon that occurs in the North and South Poles; and an augmented reality view of the solar system.

The National Planetarium hopes that through the upgrading of the exhibition gallery, it will see a 20 per cent increase of out of 200,000 visitors annually.

The project is expected to start in December and will continue until August next year, where it will be open to the public free of charge.

Before the ceremony, astrophysicist Mazlan Othman gave an in-depth talk on Mars and space exploration, following an announcement on the discovery of water on the red planet by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration last week.



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BAUXITE CONTAMINATION

**DANGER
CONFIRMED**

FOLLOWING the NST's expose on the effects of unregulated mining of bauxite in Pahang, the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry and other agencies carried out their own investigations. The results are equally startling. Aside from heavy metal contamination, they also reveal that residents have been breathing in hazardous compounds. While this is enough to cause serious health complications, the menteri besar is still waiting for that one result from the Atomic Energy Licensing Board — for radiation — before taking action.

NEW LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED TO ALLOW MORE POWER FOR FEDERAL GOVT TO REGULATE

→ REPORTS BY FARRAH NAZ KARIM & ALIZA SHAH ON PAGE 6

NST SPECIAL
EXPPOSE
PROBES TEAM

Depts confirm contamination

BAUXITE MINING:

Tests corroborate NST report that samples contain excess of heavy metals

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AS Pahang waits to hear from the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) on possibly hazardous and potentially radioactive contents in samples taken from its many bauxite mines, revelations that the state government simply cannot ignore have emerged.

Following the *New Straits Times*' Special Probes Team's exclusive series on contamination from uncontrolled bauxite mining almost two months ago, agencies responsible for ensuring a sustainable environment and public health, such as the Fisheries and Chemistry Departments, carried out their own investigations at several areas, including where the team had extracted samples — Sungai Pengorak and Pantan Pengorak in Kuantan — and sent for laboratory testing.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar told the NST that results from several laboratory analyses conducted by the Pahang Department of Environment confirmed that bauxite-mining activities in the state had led to various environmental contamination.

Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, in reacting to the expose, had said the state government would only decide on its next course of action in about a month, once the AELB, which carries out tests only for the presence of radiation in the mining sites' samples, concluded its report.

This was on Aug 17. Authorities have suggested that bauxite mining would only start scaling down more than a year from now as the resource in the state was abundant.

AELB does not carry out tests to determine the presence of heavy metals or air pollution, be it on the



samples or for public health.

The undisputable results from these agencies, which studied samples taken five times between May 15 and Aug 3 at the two water sources, confirmed the NST's report that they contained heavy metals that exceeded allowable limits.

Wan Junaidi disclosed that the level of aluminium, silver, cadmium, iron (ferum), lead, chromium and mangan in Sungai Pengorak exceeded the limits of Class III of the National River Water Quality Standards. This means that water in the river is of the same class as water in irrigation.

The sampling by these federal agencies also revealed that in Pantan Pengorak, the level of lead, chromium, copper and zinc exceeded allowable limits and was worse than the quality in mangrove estuarine; the worst that it can be under the Marine Water Quality Criteria and Standards.

In the same reading, these authorities, independent of the state government, found high concentrations of mercury, so much so that it exceeded the lowest class possible of the water quality guideline.

Exposure to mercury, even small amounts, could cause serious health problems, and is a threat to the development of unborn children and early in life.

Mercury can have toxic effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on the lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.

Mercury is considered by the World Health Organisation as one of the top 10 chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern.

People are usually exposed to mercury when eating fish and shellfish that contain the compound, which is a naturally occurring el-

ement found in bauxite.

Wan Junaidi also said that the Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) in Kuantan Port was far above the maximum level set in the Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guidelines (maximum: 260 micrograms (ug) per cubic metre (m3)).

These samples were taken weeks before the current haze first hit the country.

Wan Junaidi said readings of Particulate Matters (PM10) carried out between Aug 17 and Sept 3 showed unhealthy readings of up to 478 ug/m3 (this reading is three times more than the 150 ug/m3 standard limit for PM10 under the Malaysia Ambient Air Quality Guidelines).

The Health Ministry, following the expose, had also said that mining of bauxite in the state should be halted as it would be the most effective solution to the worsening health and environmental situation due to bauxite contamination.

The ministry had said the increase in bauxite-mining activities in recent times in Pahang had contributed to an increase in the number of health complications, such as respiratory and allergy problems, and that the long-term worry was cancer.

The ministry said findings from the testing of numerous samples, including of fish and vegetables, were similar to those highlighted by the NST, as traces of heavy metals and arsenic were present.

Adnan said a shutdown order could not be issued as "issues, like loss of income for landowners, mining workers, including lorry drivers, needed to be considered, too".

He pointed out that the state government had earned at least RM37 million from the five per cent royalties imposed on revenue from bauxite mining.

To the Federal Government, the economic returns could never make up for the adverse effects posed by poorly regulated bauxite mining.

Only about RM1 billion from bauxite mining had gone into the national coffers since 2013.

"The returns are not big but the environmental impact is massive.

"So, the state government must make a decision whether or not it plans to stop or better regulate its mining activities," Wan Junaidi said.



Datuk Seri Dr
Wan Junaidi
Tuanku
Jaafar

The Kuantan landscape changed by aggressive bauxite mining



KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH : 8 OKTOBER 2015 (KHAMIS)



DARI kiri, Mark Rozario, Biruntha Mooruthi, Johan Mahmood Merican, Norhalim Yunus; moderator, Cynthia Ng dan Ahmad Fauzi Ismail sewaktu rakaman program bual bicara meja bulat Anugerah Merdeka Ke-11 di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.
- UTUSAN/AIZZUL A. MAJID

RMA hubungkan industri, universiti

KUALA LUMPUR 7 Okt. - Agensi Penyelidikan (RMA) yang akan ditubuhkan oleh Unit Perancangan Ekonomi (EPU) pada awal 2016 dilihat mampu mengukuhkan lagi hubungan di antara pemain industri dan universiti.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM), Mark Rozario berkata, ia merupakan sebuah agensi sedia ada yang distrukturkan semula untuk mengurus inisiatif penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) dengan lebih berkesan.

Katanya, agensi berkenaan yang berupaya memperkukuh mekanisme tadbir urus sekali gus memperluaskan lagi penggunaan portal 1Dana yang dibangunkan AIM.

Ujar beliau, pelajar institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT) mempunyai potensi besar dalam menghasilkan sesuatu produk atau inovasi tetapi kebanyakan mereka tidak begitu pasti akan keperluan industri.

"Begitu juga dengan pemain industri yang tidak memanfaatkan bakat di peringkat universiti sedia ada, justeru kedua-dua pihak ini perlu dihubungkan menerusi medium bersesuaian.

"RMA merupakan inisiatif ideal selain aktiviti usaha sama dan sesi taklimat yang biasa dilakukan sebelum ini," katanya kepada pemberita selepas sesi rakaman program bual bicara meja bulat Anugerah Merdeka Ke-11 di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Perbadanan Pembangunan Teknologi Malaysia (MTDC), Datuk Nurhalim Yunus; Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif TalentCorp, Jo-



Begitu juga dengan pemain industri yang tidak memanfaatkan bakat di peringkat universiti sedia ada, justeru kedua pihak ini perlu dihubungkan menerusi medium bersesuaian."

MARK ROZARIO
Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif
Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM)

han Mahmood Merican; Naib Presiden PlaTCOM Ventures Sdn. Bhd., Biruntha Mooruthi dan Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi) UTM, Profesor Dr. Ahmad Fauzi Ismail.

RMA berperanan menggalakkan penyelidikan antara bidang dan penglibatan pelbagai agensi bagi membolehkan mobiliti penyelidikan serta pembangunan R&D yang berdaya saing dilaksanakan secara kerjasama.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Anugerah Merdeka bertujuan mengiktiraf warganegara Malaysia dan bukan warganegara yang memberi sumbangan cemerlang serta berpanjangan kepada masyarakat dan negara.

Anugerah berkenaan yang diusahakan secara bersama oleh Petronas, ExxonMobil dan Shell dilancarkan pada 27 Ogos 2007.



Jerebu: Tiada Kawasan Direkod Tidak Sihat Setakat 8 Malam

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Okt (Bernama) -- Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) di seluruh negara mencatatkan perkembangan positif apabila tiada lagi kawasan yang direkodkan tidak sihat setakat 8 malam ini.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Datuk Che Gayah Ismail berkata berdasarkan tinjauan jabatan itu sehingga 13 Okt, keadaan jerebu yang melanda negara akan pulih sepenuhnya tidak lama lagi.

"Kualiti udara akan pulih sepenuhnya sekiranya tiada lagi pembentukan ribut tropika baharu yang memberi kesan terhadap arah tiupan angin yang dibawa ke rantau ini.

"Malaysia dijangka mengalami musim tengkujuh bermula awal November sehingga awal Mac dan cuaca menjadi lembap serta angin timur laut akan memastikan negara bebas daripada jerebu," katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama hari ini.

Dalam pada itu, menurut portal Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS), sebanyak 38 kawasan mencatatkan bacaan sederhana dengan Port Dickson (94), Bandaraya Melaka (83), Bukit Rambai (81), Seremban (79), Banting (78), Pelabuhan Kelang (77), Nilai (76), Kuala Terengganu (75), Shah Alam (74), Batu Muda, Kuala Lumpur (73), SMK Tanjung Chat, Kota Baharu (72), Pasir Gudang dan Larkin Lama, Johor (71).

Kawasan lain ialah Seri Manjung, Perak dan Seberang Jaya 2, Perai (70), Langkawi, Putrajaya dan Cheras, Kuala Lumpur (68), Tanah Merah, Kelantan (67), Petaling Jaya, Kangar, Balok Baru, Kuantan (66), Kemaman (65) dan Bakar Arang Sungai Petani (64), Muar, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang dan SK Jalan Pegoh, Ipoh (63) dan Alor Setar (62).

Kg Air Putih, Taiping dan Kuala Selangor (59), Kota Tinggi (58), Perai, Pulau Pinang dan Jalan Tasek, Ipoh (57), Indera Mahkota, Kuantan dan Paka (56), Tanjung Malim dan Jerantut (55) serta Bintulu (51).

Selain itu, 14 kawasan terutama di bahagian Sabah dan Sarawak merekodkan bacaan IPU sihat antara 26 dan 50.

IPU antara 0 hingga 50 adalah baik, 51 hingga 100 (sederhana), 101 hingga 200 (tidak sihat), 201 hingga 300 (sangat tidak sihat) dan 301 ke atas (berbahaya).

Orang ramai boleh merujuk portal apims.doe.gov.my untuk mengetahui bacaan IPU semasa.

-- BERNAMA

Keadaan jerebu semakin pulih

KUALALUMPUR - Keadaan jerebu di seluruh negara semakin pulih dengan tiada kawasan mencatatkan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) tidak sihat, sebaliknya hanya bacaan IPU sederhana direkodkan setakat 2 petang semalam.

Menurut portal Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS), sejumlah 38 kawasan mencatatkan bacaan IPU sederhana antaranya Port Dickson (99); Bandaraya Melaka (92); Bukit Rambai (91); Cheras, Kuala Lumpur (90); Banting (86); Pelabuhan Klang, Seremban, Seri Manjung dan Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang (83).

Beberapa kawasan lain yang mencatatkan IPU dalam kategori sama ialah Pasir Gudang dan Larkin Lama (80); Langkawi, Nilai, Kuala Terengganu dan Putrajaya (79).

Sementara itu, 14 kawasan terutama di bahagian Sabah dan Sarawak merekodkan bacaan IPU sihat antara 26 dan 50.

Dalam pada itu, jarak penglihatan kurang daripada tiga kilometer dilaporkan di perairan Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Pahang dan Sarawak dijangka terus berlaku sehingga hari ini.

Keadaan itu berbahaya kepada kapal-kapal yang tidak dilengkapi peralatan pemanduan arah, kata Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Keadaan yang sama juga dilaporkan di perairan Selat Melaka, Tioman, Bunguran, Kuching dan Reef South.

Orang ramai boleh merujuk portal apims.doe.gov.my untuk mengetahui bacaan IPU semasa. - Bernama

Haze situation shows general improvement

PETALING JAYA: Sabah and Sarawak are expected to have clearer skies while the south and west of peninsula Malaysia are likely to experience haze over the next few days.

This, said the **Meteorological Department**, was due to the south-easterly winds that were expected to remain.

"Sabah and Sarawak, however, are expected to be free of transboundary haze during the period," said the department's director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail yesterday.

He said the situation over the country had improved in general, as the majority of the Meteorological Department's stations recorded visibility of more than 3km as of yesterday afternoon.

However, areas such as Kluang, Langkawi, Batu Embun in Pahang and Petaling Jaya recorded visibility of between 1.5km and 2.5km.

"As of noon, all stations in Sabah and most stations in Sarawak, except Kuching and Limbang, recorded visibility of more than 10km," said Che Gayah.

Kuching and Limbang recorded visibility of 8km and 9km respectively.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said Malaysia is also expected to encounter weak winds from various directions until Oct 12 with the end of the tropical storm Mujigae in the north of Vietnam.

He said in a statement that based on satellite images, there were three hotspots in Kalimantan and 121 hotspots in Sumatera.

"Only one hotspot was discovered in Pahang," said the minister.

As of 1pm yesterday, Port Dickson, was the only area that recorded unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) reading of 101. The readings became moderate after 2pm.

As of 4pm, 14 areas recorded good API readings while 38 areas recorded moderate API readings.

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.

In Langkawi, the API reading was 75 at 4pm after it recorded unhealthy readings in the early hours of the morning until 9am.

After the schools reopened in Penang yesterday and a downpour the day before, the readings in the state dropped to moderate levels.

Relief as monsoon winds blow haze away

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians breathed easier yesterday as Air Pollutant Index readings showed moderate to good air quality throughout the country.

The improvement was due to the transition from the southwest monsoon to the northeast monsoon, said the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, said the intermonsoon season usually occurred during the first week of October.

"However, the presence of two tropical storms, Mujigae and Dujuan, caused air pressure that dis-

rupted the intermonsoon. These tropical storms had blown the haze from Sumatra and Kalimantan to Malaysia," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail said light and variable winds, as well as wetter weather, blew the haze away, especially on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

"Malaysia would not face any more haze if no new tropical storms develop near our region to affect the wind pattern," she said.

However, Che Gayah said three or four tropical storms usually devel-

oped this month, and if the storms were close enough, they could change the wind pattern from light and variable, to strong southeasterly and southwesterly. This would bring the haze from the open burning in Sumatra and Kalimantan to Malaysia and Singapore.

Available National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 18 satellite imagery on Tuesday showed one hotspot in Pahang, three in Kalimantan and 121 in Sumatra.

The number of hotspots in Kalimantan could not be determined due to incomprehensive satellite observation.

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (NASIONAL) : MUKA SURAT 15 A
TARIKH:08 OKTOBER 2015 (KHAMIS)

Operasi pembenihan awan ditangguhkan

Operasi pembenihan awan ditangguhkan, semalam selepas tiada kawasan di negara ini mencatatkan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) tidak sihat bagi tempoh 72 jam berturut-turut.

Pengarah Bahagian Sains

Atmosfera dan Pembenihan Awan, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) Maznorizan Mohamad berkata, jabatan itu akan melakukan operasi pembenihan jika keadaan jerebu mencatatkan bacaan IPU tidak sihat mele-

bihi 101 dalam tempoh 72 jam atau 3 hari berturut-turut.

Kali terakhir operasi pembenihan awan dilakukan kelmarin di Lembah Klang katanya ketika dihubungi, semalam.

- BERNAMA



Operasi Pembenihan Awan Ditangguhkan Hari Ini - MetMalaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Okt (Bernama) -- Operasi pembenihan awan ditangguhkan hari ini selepas tiada kawasan di negara ini mencatatkan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) tidak sihat bagi tempoh 72 jam berturut-turut.

Pengarah Bahagian Sains Atmosfera dan Pembenihan Awan, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) Maznorizan Mohamad berkata jabatan itu akan melakukan operasi pembenihan jika keadaan jerebu mencatatkan bacaan IPU tidak sihat melebihi 101 dalam tempoh 72 jam atau 3 hari berturut-turut.

Kali terakhir operasi pembenihan awan dilakukan kelmarin di Lembah Klang, katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama hari ini.

Operasi pembenihan awan biasanya dilakukan dengan mengambil kira faktor keadaan awan, atmosfera yang sesuai dan stabil selain udara lembap di kawasan yang dilanda jerebu.

Sementara itu, keadaan jerebu di seluruh negara semakin reda dengan tiada kawasan mencatatkan IPU tidak sihat, sebaliknya 38 kawasan merekodkan tahap IPU sederhana setakat 4 petang ini.

-- BERNAMA



Jarak Penglihatan Kurang Daripada 3 Km Di Perairan Beberapa Negeri Sehingga Rabu

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Okt (Bernama) -- Jarak penglihatan kurang daripada tiga kilometer yang dilaporkan di perairan Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Pahang dan Sarawak dijangka terus berlaku sehingga Khamis.

Keadaan itu berbahaya kepada kapal-kapal yang tidak dilengkapi peralatan pemanduan arah, kata [Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#) dalam satu kenyataan Rabu.

Keadaan yang sama juga dilaporkan di perairan Selat Melaka, Tioman, Bunguran, Kuching dan Reef South.

-- BERNAMA