

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 21 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

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YIM bantu Perak bangunkan pusat komersial inovasi

IPOH 20 Okt. - Kerajaan negeri menerusi Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) dan Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia (YIM) hari ini memeterai memorandum persefahaman (MoU) bagi membantu Perak membangunkan pusat pembangunan dan pengkomersialan inovasi inklusif di negeri ini.

Pusat yang juga dikenali sebagai I2D2 itu dijangka menyelaraskan dan melaksanakan program-program yang berupaya membantu memperkasakan komuniti yang terpinggir melalui penggunaan inovasi tempatan.

Pengarah Program Berimpak Tinggi 6 (HIP 6) YIM, Abdul Razak Ahmad berkata, kedua-dua pihak akan bekerjasama bagi merealisasikan matlamat kerajaan negeri mencapai pertumbuhan inklusif mampan terutamanya menggunakan inovasi tempatan.

"Melalui kerjasama dengan IDR, YIM berharap dapat membantu negeri ini meletakkan ekosistem penting yang diperlukan bagi membantu perekacipta dan pengkomersialan inovasi mereka," katanya selepas menghadiri majlis menandatangani MoU itu yang berlangsung dalam Dialog Pembangunan Antarabangsa Pangkor (PIDD) di sini hari ini.

Terdahulu, Menteri Besar Perak, Datuk Seri Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir menyaksikan majlis menandatangani MoU tersebut yang ditandatangani Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif YIM, Muhammad Aziph Datuk Mustapha dengan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR), Dr. Mazalan Kamis.

Tambah Abdul Razak, pihaknya menasaskan untuk melengkapkan fasa pertama pada akhir 2016 dan kemudiannya akan memulakan fasa kedua pada tahun 2017.

"Fasa kedua itu akan memberi tumpuan pada peringkat pengkomersialan," katanya.

Majlis Pembangunan PKS Kebangsaan yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak telah melantik YIM sebagai peneraju dalam usaha memotivasi, mengenal pasti, menyasat, menerima pakai, menaik taraf, mengembangkan dan menyediakan program-program inovasi inklusif secara berterusan.

Objektif YIM adalah untuk menangani jurang dalam kalangan penduduk Malaysia dari segi pendapatan dan akses kepada keperluan asas seperti pendidikan, kesihatan, sumber kewangan dan banyak lagi.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (BISNES): MUKA SURAT B4
TARIKH : 21 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

MIMOS harap ada peruntukan bangunkan ICT

MIMOS Bhd berharap Bajet 2016 yang akan dibentangkan Jumaat ini akan memberi tumpuan dalam pembangunan syarikat teknologi tempatan, khususnya dalam bidang pengkomersialan.

Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah, berkata MIMOS sebagai agensi strategik di bawah Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) bertanggungjawab dalam memacu industri ICT di negara ini ke peringkat lebih tinggi dengan tumpuan kepada pengkomersialan teknologi.

"Kita faham peruntukan adalah terhad, namun diharapkan akan ada peruntukan diberikan ke arah membangunkan industri teknologi tempatan," katanya ketika ditemui di Kuala Lumpur, baru-baru ini.

Tingkat inovasi

Beliau berkata, peruntukan diperlukan untuk meningkatkan inovasi dalam kalangan syarikat teknologi tempatan yang mana menerusinya akan memberi nilai tambah yang tinggi kepada negara.



Abdul Wahab

Katanya, inovasi juga akan membantu syarikat perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) tempatan untuk terus berkembang dan menjadi lebih berdaya saing.

"Malah, inovasi juga membolehkan PKS mengeksport produk mereka ke luar negara dan bersedia untuk bersaing dengan syarikat asing lain," katanya.

Sedia bekerjasama

Sementara itu, Wahab berkata, MIMOS bersedia untuk bekerjasama dengan PKS di negara ini dalam menggalakkan perkem-

bangnan teknologi tempatan.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya mempunyai kemudahan penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) untuk ICT yang boleh digunakan PKS untuk membangunkan teknologi.

MIMOS yang ditubuhkan pada 1985 di bawah Jabatan Perdana Menteri melesenkan platform teknologinya kepada syarikat ICT yang layak untuk memantapkan kemampuan mereka bersaing di peringkat global dan mengangkat industri ICT Malaysia ke peringkat lebih tinggi.

Pembenihan awan setiap hari

KUALA LUMPUR 20 Okt. - **Jabatan Meteorologi** bersama-sama Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM) mempergiatkan operasi pembenihan awan setiap hari bagi membantu mengurangkan keadaan jerebu yang semakin teruk melanda negara ketika ini.

Timbalan Setiausaha Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN), Ogu Salim Omar berkata, sejak dilaksanakan pada Mac lalu, sebanyak 65 operasi pembenihan awan telah dilakukan di beberapa negeri termasuk Sabah dan Sarawak.

Katanya, operasi itu dijalankan secara berterusan oleh kedua-dua agensi itu bagi memastikan kualiti udara di negara ini kembali seperti sediakala.

"Arahan telah dikeluarkan kepada agensi berkenaan bagi melaksanakan operasi pembenihan awan

secara kerap setiap hari tetapi bergantung kepada keadaan cuaca untuk penerbangan serta kewujudan awan yang bersesuaian.

"Operasi ini dilakukan bergantung kepada keadaan cuaca untuk penerbangan serta kewujudan awan kumulonimbus. Pembenihan awan akan diteruskan sehingga keadaan jerebu kembali pulih seperti sediakala," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang akhbar selepas menghadiri majlis menyambut kepulangan pesawat Bombardier CL-415 MP dan helikopter AS 365 N3 Dauphin milik Agensi Penguatkuasaan Mar-



OGU SALIM OMAR

itim Malaysia (Maritim Malaysia) yang terlibat dalam misi memadam kebakaran di Sumatera Selatan di sini hari ini.

Keadaan jerebu yang melanda negara bermula Ogos lalu bertambah serius sejak tiga hari lalu sehingga menyebabkan sesi persekolahan di beberapa negeri terpaksa ditutup, selain turut menjejaskan sektor lain termasuk industri penerbangan.

Masalah tersebut berpunca daripada pembakaran terbuka di Sumatera dan Kalimantan, Indonesia sehingga memberi kesan terhadap rakyat negara ini yang terpaksa berdepan dengan pelbagai masalah termasuk kesihatan dan sebagainya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH : 21 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

PELANCONG dari Los Angeles, Joey Ventura merakam selfie berhadapan Menara Berkembar Kuala Lumpur di Persiaran KLCC.

GRADUAN Kolej Universiti Insaniah (KUII) bergambar berlatar belakang pemandangan yang kelihatan kabur di Baling, Kedah.

ORANG awam berjalan di sekitar Kuching.



TIADA JEREBU KUNING

■ Gambar viral di WhatsApp dipercayai berlaku di Indonesia



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Penyebaran gambar 'jerebu kuning' yang menjadi viral menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp dipercayai berlaku di Indonesia dan bukan di negara ini.

Perkara itu disahkan oleh Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar ketika dihubungi Harian Metro, semalam bagi mendapatkan penjelasan berhubung viral yang menimbulkan pelbagai dakwaan orang ramai termasuk mendakwa jabatan Alam Sekitar me-

nyembunyikan fakta sebenar mengenai Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) semasa.

Menurut Wan Junaidi, pihaknya tidak menerima sebarang maklumat rasmi daripada JAS mahupun Jabatan Meteorologi berhubung jerebu dimaksudkan.

"Tidak ada maklumat berita sama ada jerebu kuning atau jerebu merah. Saya sendiri berbincang dan bertanya dengan JAS dan dimaklumkan oleh Ketua Pengarahnya (Datuk Halimah Hassan) mengenainya.

"Saya difahamkan, jerebu atau asap kuning itu dari Palangka Raya, Kalimantan, Indonesia, namun tiada pengesahan rasmi mengenainya dari Indonesia," katanya ketika dihubungi, semalam.

Bagaimanapun, beliau mengarahkan JAS memantau perkembangan termasuk kemungkinan perubahan

komposisi jerebu di negara ini terutama di Pelabuhan Klang, Shah Alam dan Sunway.

Dalam perkembangan lain, beliau berkata, pihaknya dihubungi Menteri Luar Indonesia memohon supaya pesawat jenis Bombardier CL 415 MP Agensi Penguatkuasaan Maritim Malaysia (APMM) yang membantu memadamkan kebakaran di Kalimantan dan Sumatera dikekalkan.

"Pada masa sama pesawat terbabit perlu dibawa balik ke Malaysia untuk penyelenggaraan. Saya sudah maklumkan kepada Majlis Keselamatan Negara dan Kementerian Luar untuk meneliti perkara ini," katanya.

Sementara itu, dalam kenyataannya, JAS memberitahu IPU adalah petunjuk status kualiti udara semasa sama ada baik, sederhana, tidak sihat, sangat tidak sihat atau ber-

bahaya dengan mengambil kira tempoh pendedahan pencemar udara kepada kesihatan awam.

Katanya, di Malaysia, IPU adalah pengukuran kesan kepekatan lima pencemar udara utama (habuk halus bersaiz kurang daripada 10 mikrometer (PM10), CO, sulfur dioksida (SO₂), nitrogen dioksida (NO₂) dan ozon di permukaan bumi (O₃) terhadap kesihatan manusia yang normal dan dalam jangka masa pendedahan tertentu.

"Hasil pemantauan oleh JAS sepanjang jerebu ini, bacaan kepekatan karbon monoksida (CO) adalah rendah dan kurang daripada 'Recommended Malaysia Air Quality Guidelines' iaitu di bawah 30 ppm (1 jam) atau 35 mikrogram per meter padu (1 jam).

"Oleh itu, ia tidak menyebabkan fenomena jerebu berwarna kuning," katanya.

WANITA kaum Cina memakai topeng muka ketika melakukan senaman Qigong di Taman Tasik Shah Alam.



DUA wanita bersefif di hadapan Stadium Shah Alam ketika jerebu.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (JEREBU): MUKA SURAT 10
TARIKH : 21 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

Jerebu kuning mampu ancam kesihatan pesakit kronik

MELAKA - Orang ramai khususnya mereka yang menghidapi penyakit kronik diminta mengurangkan aktiviti luar rumah ekoran jerebu kuning melanda negara.

Fenomena jerebu kuning yang menyelubungi beberapa kawasan di Lembah Klang dikhuatiri mengandungi asap yang berbahaya kepada kesihatan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr. Subramaniam berkata, golongan yang berisiko



SUBRAMANIAM



CHE GAYAH

tinggi ialah warga tua dan mereka yang menghidap penyakit penafasan serta pesakit jantung.

"Elakkan keluar dari rumah

atau pejabat tetapi kalau perlu keluar, orang ramai dinasihatkan memakai topeng hidung dan mulut," katanya selepas Konvensyen Khas Badan Perhubungan MIC Melaka di Dewan Hang Tuah di sini semalam.

Jelasnya, sekiranya terdapat simptom masalah pernafasan, orang ramai diminta supaya segera mendapatkan rawatan dari klinik berhampiran.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi

Malaysia, Datuk Che Gayah Ismail memberitahu, Malaysia dijangka tidak akan mengalami jerebu rentas sempadan yang berterusan walaupun keadaan jerebu di Indonesia dikatakan berlarutan sehingga Mac tahun depan.

Menurutnya, keadaan jerebu akan mula berkurangan berikutan negara bakal mengalami peralihan Monsun Timur Laut bermula November ini dan dijangka berakhir pada hujung Mac.

"Walaupun kebakaran hutan di Indonesia dijangka berlanjutan sehingga Mac tahun depan, namun negara tidak lagi mengalami jerebu rentas sempadan berikutan musim tengkujuh bakal menjelang awal November ini manakala tiupan angin mula berkurangan pada musim tersebut.

"Angin yang bertiup dari arah Timur Laut iaitu dari Laut China Selatan tidak akan membawa asap jerebu ke negara ini," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 06
TARIKH: 21 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

'Jerebu kuning' tidak benar

KUALA LUMPUR 20 Okt. - Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) menegaskan, maklumat berhubung berlakunya fenomena 'jerebu kuning' melanda negara yang tersebar di laman sosial hari ini adalah tidak benar.

Jabatan tersebut dalam satu kenyataan memberitahu, hasil pemantauan sebaliknya menunjukkan bacaan kepekatan karbon monoksida (CO) adalah rendah dan kurang daripada Panduan Kualiti Udara Disyorkan di Malaysia.

Jelas JAS, bacaan itu sekadar mencatatkan tahap di bawah 30 bahagian per juta (PPM) atau 35 mikrogram per meter padu setiap satu jam sekali gus menunjukkan kualiti udara tidak menyebabkan fenomena jerebu berwarna kuning.

"Semasa jerebu, kepekatan pencemar yang paling tinggi adalah habuk halus dan bacaan habuk halus ini yang memberikan bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) ketika jerebu.

"Selain habuk halus, kandungan pencemar utama yang berkemungkinan adalah CO disebabkan pembakaran tidak lengkap terhasil daripada kebakaran

tanah dan hutan yang berpanjangan," kata kenyataan itu di sini.

IPU di Malaysia menurut jabatan itu, merupakan pengukuran kesan kepekatan lima pencemar udara utama iaitu habuk halus bersaiz kurang dari 10 mikrometer, CO, sulfur dioksida (SO₂), nitrogen dioksida (NO₂) dan ozon di permukaan bumi (O₃) terhadap kesihatan manusia yang normal dan dalam jangka masa pendedahan tertentu.

"Sehingga pukul 5 petang ini, terdapat 25 kawasan yang mencatatkan status kualiti udara pada tahap tidak sihat. Walau bagaimanapun, bacaan IPU di 25 buah kawasan tersebut masih berada di bawah paras 200, dengan Pelabuhan Klang mencatatkan bacaan IPU tertinggi iaitu 178," kata kenyataan itu.

Dalam pada itu, Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi, Datuk Che Gayah Ismail ketika dihubungi berkata, warna jerebu yang bertukar kekuningan berkemungkinan berpunca daripada penambahan kepekatan asap hasil pembakaran hutan di Indonesia.

Haze may end when monsoon starts

By PATRICK LEE
and WANI MUTHIAH
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PETALING JAYA: Even if Indonesian fires burn well into 2016, the haze in Malaysia is likely to end with the coming of the north-east monsoon, which starts next month.

The Meteorological Department said winds from the South China Sea heading here then could push the smoke away to the west.

"By early November, we expect to be free from the transboundary haze. We're going to have the north-east monsoon from the South China Sea," said director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail.

Referring to a Reuters report that the haze could go on until March, she said that irrespective of burning in

Indonesia, Malaysia would not be affected.

She said the haze here, which saw the air pollutant index reading climb to 178 in Port Klang at 5pm yesterday, was expected to improve with Typhoon Koppu now in the Philippines weakening by Oct 26.

In Klang, the town was seriously under assault yesterday.

Visibility was so bad that speedboat operators plying from Port Klang jetty to Pulau Ketam had to depend on their global positioning system (GPS) to find their way about.

Speedboat United Pulau Ketam-Port Klang chairman Lim Hack Tong said it was difficult to navigate the speedboats towards the island without GPS help due to the heavy smog.

He said speedboat operators were finding it difficult to make a living

since the haze hit Klang.

He added that speedboat operators mostly depended on tourists and locals visiting Pulau Ketam during the weekends but the numbers had dropped drastically in recent times.

The thick haze has also prompted some schools to take precautionary measures such as directing students to wear masks in the classroom.

Chung Hua Independent High School board of trustees member Datuk Teh Meng Huat said students had to attend classes as they needed to prepare for the Unified Examination Certificate exam, which starts today.

"Although the haze is bad, we cannot close our school due to the examination, so we have asked the students to wear masks during classes," said Teh.

Typhoons will affect rainfall in Malaysia

> Haze not expected to last until March

BY CHOONG BOON SIEW
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PETALING JAYA: The haze affecting the country will not last till March, as claimed by certain parties.

"The current haze situation is caused by

Typhoon Champi and Typhoon Koppu in the east of the Philippines, and when these typhoons make landfall, the winds will change and the haze situation will take a turn for the better after Oct 26," said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau in a statement yesterday.

Madius said the coming northeast monsoon season from November will see a change in wind direction and will no longer

carry over haze from Indonesia to Malaysia, although the Indonesian forest fires are expected to last until March.

Meanwhile, rainfall is expected to decrease nationwide due to Koppu, thus making the haze situation even worse.

According to the Meteorological Department's (MetMalaysia) weather outlook, Koppu is currently 1,187km north-east of Kudat, Sabah. It will eventually head north-west towards Taiwan.

In addition, Champi located 2,942km north-east of Kudat is slowly heading north.

The presence of both typhoons has affected the wind patterns across the country as a result, especially rainfall due to the moderate south-westerly winds.

Separately, the Department of Environment recorded 3,534 cases of open burning detected nationwide, from the start of the year to Monday.

As of 7pm yesterday, a total of 27 areas recorded unhealthy Air Pollutant Index (API) readings, with Port Klang with the highest at 180, followed by Shah Alam at 169, and Kuala Selangor at 141.

API READINGS

Top 10 Air Pollutant Index Readings (as of 11pm yesterday)

01. Shah Alam	187
02. Port Klang	184
03. Petaling Jaya	163
04. Banting	158
05. Putrajaya	151
06. Kuala Selangor	145
07. Batu Muda in Kuala Lumpur	140
08. Seri Manjung	132
09. S K Jalan Pegoh, Ipoh	131
10. Bakar Arang, Sg. Petani	130

and not a reason for the phenomena.

"The reading on the carbon monoxide concentration is less than the Recommended Malaysia Air Quality Guidelines, that is below 30 ppm (1 hour) or 35 microgrammes per cubic metre (1 hour).



MASRY CHE ANI/
THESUN

A commuter train leaving Bukit Mertajam station in the midst of smog shrouding the scene.

2,528 schools to close today

PUTRAJAYA: THE Education Ministry has ordered 2,528 schools in areas where the air quality falls under the unhealthy category in the API to be closed today.

The schools are in Selangor; Putrajaya; Kuala Lumpur; Kuching, Padawan, Bau, Lundu, Serian, Samarahan, Simunjan and Lubok Antu (Sarawak); Kinta Utara, Kinta Selatan, Manjung and Tanjung Malim (Perak); and Kuala Muda and Yan (Kedah).

The ministry said in a statement that 1,734,668 students would be affected by the

closure. Meanwhile, schools in Malacca; Negri Sembilan; Tawau, Lahad Datu, Semporna, Kunak (Sabah); Muar, Ledang, Segamat (Johor) which were closed yesterday due to the haze will reopen today.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Environment (DOE) has denied the existence of the "yellow haze" phenomena that is being spread on social media.

DOE said in a statement that its monitoring of the haze situation found the concentration of carbon monoxide to be low

Northeast monsoon to end the haze?

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) does not see the haze prolonging till March as the northeast monsoon season, beginning next month, would bring heavy rainfall.

Its director-general, Datuk Che Gayah Ismail, said the northeast monsoon season would also cause the wind to blow away from the peninsula and Sabah and Sarawak.

"The wind during this monsoon season will blow from the sea.

"We are certain that no matter how bad the burning is in Indonesia, it will not come Malaysia's way," Che Gayah told the *New Straits Times* yesterday, adding that Malaysia could expect some reprieve from the haze on Monday.

"The haze is due to the inter-monsoon season, which is blowing the smog this way."

The Natural Resources and Environment Ministry said the haze was due to the effects of cyclones caused by the El Nino phenomenon, and if the northeast monsoon season came on time, the change in wind patterns might bring some reprieve by mid-November.

The ministry yesterday also issued a statement to dismiss fake viral Air Pollutant Index (API) readings and news on a "yellow haze" phenomenon circulating via WhatsApp and social media.

It said throughout the period, the Department of Environment (DoE) monitored the haze and the expo-

sure of carbon monoxide had been below the Recommended Malaysia Air Quality Guidelines, which is less than 30 parts per million (ppm) per hour or 35 microgram per meter.

"The readings of the carbon monoxide were below the Recommended Malaysia Air Quality Guidelines, and it does not cause the "yellow haze" phenomenon."

As of 5pm yesterday, 25 areas recorded unhealthy API readings, but all the readings were below 200 with Port Klang recording the highest API reading at 178.

Environmental Health and Research fellow from the United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health, Professor Dr Jamal Hisham Hashim, in explain-

ing the seemingly "yellowish" haze, said it was possibly due to light absorption from other particles, which accumulated in the current stagnant air.

Besides the haze, he said, the air was filled with nitrogen oxide, which comes from local air pollutants such as motor vehicles' fumes.

"The nitrogen oxide can block blue and violet lights from the visible light spectrum, allowing only yellow and red colours through.

"The air is stagnant and whatever we produce will accumulate in the air," he said adding that the "yellowish haze was unlikely to be toxic as it was only a light phenomenon".

Additional reporting by Tasnim Lokman and Beatrice Nita Jay



MKN Tingkatkan Pengurusan SOP Banjir

PETALING JAYA, 20 Okt (Bernama) -- Majlis Keselamatan Negara (MKN) membuat persediaan rapi untuk menghadapi musim tengkujuh, antaranya meningkatkan kualiti pengurusan komuniti ketika membantu mangsa banjir.

Persiapan yang dilakukan turut merangkumi aspek penyediaan stor simpanan makanan dan pusat perpindahan di negeri berpotensi banjir.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim berkata persediaan itu dibuat lebih awal selaras dengan usaha menambah baik prosedur operasi standard dalam membantu mangsa banjir.

"Kita akan buat stor simpanan makanan serta-merta yang jika berlaku kecemasan seperti banjir, mangsa dapat diberi makanan secepat mungkin.

"Apa yang penting adalah pengurusan di peringkat komuniti berjalan dengan lancar tanpa kesulitan seperti yang berlaku pada banjir tahun lepas," katanya pada sidang media selepas menyambut kepulangan pasukan misi bantuan Agensi Penguatkuasaan Maritim Malaysia (APMM) yang memadamkan kebakaran di Sumatera Selatan, Indonesia, di Stesen Udara APMM Subang di sini hari ini.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Timbalan Setiausaha MKN Ogu Salim berkata sebuah pesawat sememangnya diletakkan dalam keadaan sedia di Subang untuk tujuan operasi pembenihan awan bagi mengurangkan jerebu.

Menurutnya, arahan telah dikeluarkan kepada [Jabatan Meteorologi](#) untuk melakukan pembenihan awan dengan kerjasama Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia.

"Cumanya sekarang ia dibuat bergantung kepada fisibiliti penerbangan dan kewujudan awan yang sesuai memandangkan keadaan jerebu yang teruk," katanya.

Beliau berkata pembenihan awan dibuat 65 kali sejak Mac lalu.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS): MUKA SURAT B5
TARIKH : 21 OKTOBER 2015 (RABU)

INCORPORATING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

ZARINA ZAKARIAH

THE private sector should adopt the benchmark of having 30 per cent women's participation in leadership roles as a business strategy rather than a socio-economic responsibility.

Malaysia Debt Ventures (MDV) chairman Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar said the private sector has less than a year to incorporate women at its top management tier.

The government targets to see 30 per cent women's participation in leadership roles by next year.

Currently, public-listed companies only have 10.7 per cent women at their top leadership, compared to government-linked firms, which have higher participation, at 14 per cent.

"Fifty-five per cent of university graduates are women, but this does not translate into a bigger pool of women in top leadership roles. We need to be able to capture this number and retain them to move forward."

"The private sector still has a long way to go to catch up with the public sector and there is a lot of work that needs to be done in seeking women candidates," Zarinah told Business Times last week.

Emphasising on the importance of having diversified leadership teams in every company, she said it should be viewed as a business issue, rather than a gender issue.

"We are not talking about replacing men with women. We are talking about having diversity so that there is more

Malaysia Debt Ventures chairman **Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar** says **diversity in an organisation will result in more robust decisions.**



challenge and debate during the decision-making process.

"This will enable leaders to come up with more robust decisions, taking into account all the views representing the

many stakeholders.

"Gender diversity is a business issue and not a women issue. If a company can recognise and accept that, then they will be much more willing to

take steps to diversify their composition of their leadership teams."

Zarinah added that it is crucial that the whole talent pool is optimised in order to sustain human capital in moving into the future.

"We also need to be aware of the psychological traverse that might cause bias arising from gender stereotyping and the association that we make from character traits of men and women."

"We need to be aware of the perceived ability or inability of a leadership position (where gender is concerned). These are the things that we have grown up with and it is no different now."

"Parents also have to be aware of psychological drivers that permeate into career choices and leadership roles of their children later in life," she added.

On the need of having targets and incorporating them into key performance indicators, Zarinah said targets are needed for a company to strive towards achieving its final objective.

"Targets are what get it rolling for actions to be implemented. With this, we can create a level playing field for both men and women to be promoted based on merit."

"Women all over the world are still trying to find the balance between work and life as most of the domestic issues usually fall on their shoulders. This is a common problem."

"That is one of the major reasons why women drop out from 'the race'. With this (government initiative) in place, we hope to change not only how we think but also how we raise our

children, which has also patterned our family and work balance," Zarinah said, adding that younger families are seen to be more invested parents, regardless of gender.

"We hope we can try to change our social as well as economic perspectives to emerge as a developed country that is well-diversified in its human capital utilisation," she added.

Zarinah is the chairman of MDV and a board member of Petrolim Nasional Bhd. She served as chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) for six years.

She also chaired the Malaysian Venture Capital Development Council, which was established to assist the development of the venture capital industry and act as a conduit between policymakers and practitioners in developing the industry.

Zarinah was also chairman of the Capital Market Development Fund, a statutory fund to facilitate the development of an internationally competitive Malaysian capital market, and a Member of the Financial Reporting Foundation Malaysia, the Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre and the board of directors of the Malaysian Institute of Integrity.

Prior to joining the SC, Zarinah had spent 22 years with Shell Group, serving in various capacities across the oil giant's diverse businesses in Malaysia. She was the deputy chairman of Shell Malaysia before leaving for the SC.

Last, but not least, she is also one of the three founding chairs of 30% Club Malaysia.