

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 31 OKTOBER 2015 (SABTU)

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KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (PRIME NEWS): MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH : 31 OKTOBER 2015 (SABTU)

Malaysia eyes Unesco seat for new term

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia has a strong opportunity of being appointed to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) executive board for the 2015-2019 term.

This was in light of the country's active involvement in the organisation, said Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid yesterday.

The education minister, who is leading a delegation to Unesco's 38th general conference next week, said Malaysia, which had been a member of the United Nations' agency since 1958, had a wealth of experience in working with it, having sat on the board five times, most recently for the 2007-2011 term.

"From the beginning, we have been very active in learning from and sharing our knowledge with Unesco and other member countries, especially on issues such as education," he said here.

Mahdzir said Malaysia would be competing against eight countries

for one of six vacancies on the executive board when the general conference convened in Paris, France, from Nov 3 to Nov 18.

The other countries bidding for seats in the Asia-Pacific group are Afghanistan, Pakistan, Samoa, South Korea, Iran, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Malaysia's delegation will include representatives from the Education Ministry, the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, the Communications and Multimedia Ministry, and the Tourism and Culture Ministry.

On Nov 3, the delegation will be hosting a Gallery Walk Malaysia and Unesco reception event to showcase the country's education transformation plan through the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025, and its cooperation with Unesco in other fields such as science, social sciences, culture and communication.

On Nov 5, Malaysia will host a re-

ception event for African countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are beneficiaries of the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme and the Malaysia Unesco Cooperation Programme (MUCP).

Mahdzir will hold bilateral talks with other Asean member states and attend a meeting at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to discuss opportunities for cooperation in education.

He is also expected to visit schools and the La main à la pâte office in Paris to study best practices in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics learning.

Malaysia will host another event on Nov 9 to showcase its achievements in the MUCP Malaysia Funds-in-Trust, an initiative involving 20 capacity-development programmes to strengthen Malaysia's relationship with Least-Developed Countries, SIDS and African states.

On a separate matter, Mahdzir gave his assurance that the recently



Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid will lead a delegation to Unesco's 38th general conference next week. Pic by Abd Rahim Rahmat

announced Dual Language Programme pilot project involving 300 schools would not affect the status of Bahasa Malaysia in the country's education system.

"It's a pilot project, not a national policy. Only schools that have

signed up for the programme and have obtained consent from parents will be carrying it out."

Mahdzir said the programme would affect three subjects — Mathematics, Science, and Information and Communications Technology.



Asteroid 'Spooky' Lintasi Bumi Malam Esok

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Okt (Bernama) -- Malam esok, sebuah asteroid 'Spooky' bersaiz lebar antara 290 hingga 650 meter dijangka melintasi berhampiran Bumi pada jarak 1.3 kali jarak Bumi ke Bulan.

Asteroid Spooky dengan nama rasmi 2015 TB145, yang ditemukan ahli astronomi NASA daripada Program Objek Terdekat Bumi pada 10 Okt lepas, bergerak pada kelajuan 35km sesaat iaitu 29 kali lebih laju dari sebutir peluru.

Agensi Angkasa Negara (Angkasa) berkata ia dijangka tidak akan berlanggar dengan Bumi sebaliknya hanya akan melintasi orbir Bulan pada jarak 48,000km dari Bumi.

"Pada kedudukan paling hampir dengan Bumi, ia akan mencapai tahap kecerahan sekitar 10 magnitud dan boleh dilihat menggunakan teleskop," kata Angkasa dalam kenyataan di sini, malam ini.

Jika cuaca mengizinkan, Angkasa melalui Observatori Negara Langkawi (ONL) merancang melakukan pencerapan dan penyelidikan terhadap asteroid itu untuk berkongsi maklumat dengan badan-badan astronomi antarabangsa.

Untuk pertanyaan lanjut orang ramai boleh menghubungi ONL di talian 04-9668870 atau Planetarium Negara di talian 03-2273 4303.

Orang ramai juga boleh melayari laman sesawang Angkasa di www.angkasa.gov.my atau laman media sosial Facebook dan Twitter Angkasa Malaysia untuk mendapatkan maklumat terkini berkenaan fenomena-fenomena dan program Angkasa.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT): MUKA SURAT 14
TARIKH : 31 OKTOBER 2015 (SABTU)

Avoid apathy, despite agreeable
forecast in anticipation of El Nino

Get ready for the worst

THE floods are just round the corner, again. November will see the beginning of the deluge that has caused havoc over the east coast of the Malaysian peninsula every year and then, later it goes east to Sabah and Sarawak. According to the Meteorological Department, the east coast states of Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan will have heavy rainfall from November through to January and the states of east Malaysia take their turn in January and February. However, the El Nino weather phenomenon, that is causing the drought and forest fires in Indonesia currently, may alleviate the impact of the monsoon season somewhat. If that is then the case, there would be some respite for the authorities who have yet to re-house victims of the last flooding who are still living in their devastated houses.

While that is the hope, already Typhoon Soudelar took 24 lives in Taiwan and mainland China last August. Heavy rains destroyed houses and caused mudslides. An assumption that El Nino might ameliorate the impact of the monsoons could, therefore, be misleading and dangerous if it leads to a lackadaisical attitude. Climate change has a way of causing quite unexpected weather movements and the unexpected could arrive instead. Therefore, irrespective of what is expected, it is best to prepare for the worst because, as the saying goes "it's better to be safe than sorry".

This, after all, is an annual affair that cannot be avoided. From time immemorial, this country has been dealing with the monsoons and the topography of inundation by flood waters is well known. If the promised early warning system is in place, then it can be assumed that rescue efforts will be rolled out early to prevent loss of lives by anticipating evacuation needs. Furthermore, while it must be accepted that the National Security Council (NSC) has shown its mettle over the years and over time has improved the coordination of rescue efforts, also due to last year's experience, there is a need to prepare for the worst case scenario every time. The unexpected severity of the 2014 floods left many stranded over many days without shelter and supplies in extremely bad weather that hampered rescue, even by helicopters.

Already, flash floods are occurring in Perak, forcing the evacuation of 118 villagers and giving a taste of things to come. A home was reported destroyed by a falling tree and the flood exacerbated by water from a nearby hill flowing into homes. In short, between nature's wrath caused by the destruction of the ecology and man's apathy, things can go really wrong. While the authorities are expected to do more than their best, those used to being victims also must act with vigilance, ready on the spur of the moment to obey evacuation orders while leaving as much of their home safe from the ravages of the floods. Could not the Housing and Local Government Ministry come up with proposals that might end this yearly onslaught? If the Dutch can keep out the Atlantic Ocean, why cannot Malaysia design flood-proof houses?

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Terengganu all ready to face the big floods

EARLY PREPARATIONS: From state down to village level, officers and leaders have made sure all is in place to assist victims

THERE can never be perfection when dealing with the flood situation no matter how prepared those directly involved in search and rescue missions, volunteering at evacuation centres or those handling supplies at forward bases.

But the uncertainties, as proven in previous floods in Terengganu, push the limits of human intervention in efforts to minimise casualties and damage, and at the height of the disaster gained invaluable experience.

The gravity of the floods in Terengganu had worsened from year to year since 2013. Last year was the worst in decades, displacing more than 100,000 people from their homes and damaging properties with quantum value still undetermined.

At its best, Terengganu is prepared for the floods this year. In the next couple of months, the seriousness of the problem will be experienced by those involved, including the police, Fire and Rescue Depart-

ment, armed forces, Health Department and the victims who need to cooperate to make things easier for everybody.

The village security and development committees (JKKK) and Rela were the unsung heroes. They were the first to evacuate victims before others arrived to help. The JKKK as they are known, are the guardians of the villages.

They made sure assets were deployed to evacuate victims by exactly pinpointing flooded houses, a crucial first aid that could prevent loss of life. This year they were asked to provide inputs such as the best location for drop zones and helicopter landing areas.

"We want to be better prepared this year. We don't want food supplies to be cut off and we want evacuation of sick victims to be swift," said Abdul Rahman Abu Bakar, chairman of Kampung Pelong, Setiu Village Security and Development Committee.

Kampung Pelong, with a popula-



**ROSLI
ZAKARIA**

tion of 470 people, is a flood-prone area and the floods were caused by the swelling of Sungai Pelong that runs adjacent to the main road in the village.

Evacuations were well organised in the past but this year Abdul Rahman said the village has identified a helicopter landing area to enable swift replenishment of food supplies and other needs of the victims.

"We are expecting another big flood this year and all villagers will be briefed soon on preparations in case they need to evacuate their homes," he added.

However, despite all the preparation, one aspect that needs to be addressed at the evacuation centre is tantrums among first-time flood victims.

Evidently last year, some first time victims, claimed they were poorly treated especially in the provision of meals.

"Obviously some victims were a pampered lot. The flood had caused them a bit of hardship. They complained of eating sardines and bread every day, and wanted tents or cubicles just for their family members.

"These ingrates affected the spirit of volunteers who prepared food for them," recalled Hidayati Baharudin, a businesswoman who was also a victim when floodwaters hit her home up to the first floor of her house in Chukai, Kemaman.

Overall, Terengganu has made early preparations to face the flood. The Terengganu Civil Defence Department (JPAM) in Kuala Nerus has trained about 3,000 men, including volunteers this year.

All seven district offices that would be the operation centres have stocked blankets, boats, outboard engines and life jackets to support rescue and evacuations, and so are the police, Rela, non-governmental organisations such as the Red Crescent and Red Cross.

The State Fire and Rescue Department has also started rescue exercises in Tasik Kenyir to prepare for a worst case scenario to prevent loss of life of their men and also the victims.

In Kemaman, the worst flood-hit district last year, two flood drills have been conducted to familiarise those who would be involved in evacuation of victims with standard operating procedures.

Other mitigation measures in Kemaman include the deepening and straightening of Sungai Kemaman and identifying access routes to flooded areas.

"We hope that the monsoon will not be as bad as last year. Otherwise we will have to spend most of our time cleaning the mud and throwing away newly-bought furniture, repairing our submerged cars and washing clothes soaked by flood," said Hidayati.

The Meteorological Department expects the monsoon season to start next month with a monthly rainfall to reach a maximum of 600 millimetres, which would be half the strength of last year's rainfall which peaked to more than 1,000 millimetres in December.

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KERATAN AKHBAR
NEW STRAITS TIMES (COMMENT): MUKA SURAT 12
TARIKH : 31 OKTOBER 2015 (SABTU)



TEMPORARY SHELTER

Victims of previous floods **still living in their makeshift tents** in **Bandar Utama, Gua Musang**, yesterday. The **Meteorological Department** has forecast that heavy rain will pound the east coast during the monsoon season. **Pic by Syamsi Suhaimi**

Monsoon season is putting fisherman out of work



Out of work: A fisherman walking between rows of boats anchored at the fisherman's jetty in Cendering during heavy rain.

By SHARANPAL SINGH RANDHAWA
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KUALA TERENGGANU: The monsoon season, marked by continuous rain and thunderstorms, has kept thousands of coastal fishermen idle due to weather warnings and rough sea conditions.

North Kuala Terengganu Fishermen Association chairman Jaafar @ A. Rahman Abu Bakar said fishermen were not able to go to sea since the start of the monsoon season because the waves were big and dangerous.

"The monsoon season is already here with heavy rain and thunderstorms. It will be too dangerous for the fishermen to go to sea.

"Most of the coastal fishermen's boats are not equipped with compass or navigation systems to guide them home.

"To avoid any untoward incident, they will

spend this time mending their nets, fixing and oiling their boats, repairing their homes and tending to jobs they often ignore during the other months," he said.

There are about 1,000 fishing boats belonging to coastal fishermen in North Kuala Terengganu, while there are a total of more than 10,000 fishermen in the state, with 8,000 registered with the state Fisheries Department.

The state is currently experiencing continuous rain and thunderstorms, with the Meteorology Department warning of strong winds of up to 50kph and waves as high as 3.5m.

The weather is not much different in South Kuala Terengganu.

According to its fishermen's association chairman, Hasan Ismail, some 1,200 coastal fishermen had stopped going to sea as the weather has turned for the worse.

BERITA ONLINE
BERNAMA.COM
TARIKH: 31 OKTOBER 2015 (SABTU)



Ribut Petir Diramal Berterusan Hingga Awal Malam

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Okt (Bernama) -- Kejadian ribut petir di perairan Kedah, Johor, Pahang, Kelantan dan Terengganu diramalkan berterusan hingga awam malam, hari ini.

Menurut kenyataan [Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#), keadaan itu boleh mencetuskan angin kencang hingga 50ksj dan laut bergelora dengan ombak setinggi 3.5 meter yang membahayakan bot-bot kecil.

-- BERNAMA



Amaran Angin Kencang Dan Laut Bergelora - Meteorologi

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Okt (Bernama) -- Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia hari ini mengeluarkan amaran angin kencang dan laut bergelora kategori satu serta amaran ribut petir menyeluruh di perairan Pahang, Kelantan, Terengganu dan Sarawak (Kuching) sehingga lewat petang ini.

Sementara amaran angin kencang timur laut dengan kelajuan antara 40 hingga 50 kilometer sejam serta ombak mencapai ketinggian sehingga 3.5 meter dijangka berlaku di perairan Condore sehingga Selasa ini.

Keadaan ini adalah berbahaya kepada bot-bot kecil, aktiviti rekreasi laut dan sukan laut, kata kenyataan jabatan itu.

Keadaan sama dijangka berlaku di perairan Selat Melaka, Samui, Condore, Reef North, Layang-Layang, Kuching dan Reef South sehingga lewat petang ini.

-- BERNAMA



Agensi Keselamatan Siap Sedia Hadapi 'Bah Kuning'

Oleh Muhammad Afiq Muhammad Asri dan Mohd Ashraf Syafiq Mazlan

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Okt (Bernama) -- Agensi keselamatan kini bersiap sedia lebih awal bagi menghadapi sebarang kemungkinan berlakunya banjir luar biasa di pantai timur sepertimana penghujung tahun lepas.

Pada penghujung 2014, jajahan Kuala Krai, Kelantan menjadi jajahan paling teruk dilanda 'bah kuning' yang menyebabkan 1,927 rumah musnah dihanyut arus deras bah kuning.

Taburan hujan tertinggi yang direkodkan iaitu 1,295 mm selama tiga hari berturut-turut di Gua Musang, Kelantan dan ia bersamaan dengan taburan hujan untuk 64 hari.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Datuk Che Gayah Ismail berkata empat episod hujan lebat yang menyeluruh dijangka berlanjutan selama tiga hingga lima hari bermula November ini.

"Episod hujan pertama dijangka berlaku pada 1 Nov dan nasihat hujan lebat bagi negeri Kelantan dan Terengganu telah dikeluarkan.

"Amaran seterusnya akan kita maklumkan dalam tempoh antara 45 hingga 72 jam berdasarkan pemantauan cuaca," katanya ketika dihubungi Bernama.

Berikutan itu, Che Gayah berkata pada bulan November hingga Disember negeri di pantai timur dijangka menerima hujan melebihi 500 mm yang melebihi 20 hingga 40 peratus daripada paras normal.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (JPAM) Datuk Zaitun Ab Samad berkata pihaknya telah mengeluarkan arahan pembekuan cuti kepada anggota dan pegawai JPAM di seluruh negara secara berperingkat.

Zaitun yang juga Setiausaha Pengurusan Bencana Pusat berkata dari aspek logistik JPAM mempunyai lori pelbagai muatan, bot pelbagai guna dan jumlah keanggotaan kira-kira 855,000 di seluruh negara yang mencukupi bagi menghadapi musim itu.

"Walaupun JPAM tidak mempunyai helikopter tetapi kami bekerjasama dengan agensi keselamatan lain seperti polis yang mempunyai pesawat itu ketika operasi mencari dan menyelamatkan mangsa banjir," katanya.

Selain itu, Zaitun berkata JPAM juga akan menempatkan anggotanya bertugas di pusat pemindahan banjir untuk menyelaras aktiviti memasak bagi mangsa banjir serta mengendalikan aktiviti untuk kanak-kanak.

"Di pusat pemindahan banjir nanti JPAM akan bertugas mengikut shif yang ditetapkan dan mengagihkan makanan yang dibantu oleh agensi keselamatan lain," katanya.

Beliau berkata ketua komuniti seperti penghulu juga diminta membuat satu profil komuniti di kawasan mereka.

"Untuk kawasan berisiko banjir, ketua komuniti ambil peranan buat satu profil siapa penduduk di kawasan mereka, anggaran umur berapa untuk memudahkan urusan ketika banjir nanti," katanya.

Sementara itu Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Datuk Wan Mohd Nor Ibrahim berkata pihaknya mempertingkatkan latihan dan persiapan dalam usaha menghadapi kemungkinan bah kuning hujung tahun ini khususnya di negeri pantai timur.

Oleh itu, beliau berkata tempat simpanan aset menyelamatkan di Wakaf Tapai, Terengganu akan dijadikan sebagai pusat gerakan logistik untuk kegunaan negeri di Pantai Timur.

"JBPM mempunyai aset yang mencukupi seperti bot aluminium sebanyak 608 buah, bot Fiber (63), bot kevlar (16) dan bot amfibia (11) di seluruh negara dan bomba akan gerakkan aset berkenaan ke negeri-negeri lain sekiranya keadaan memerlukan," katanya.

Selain itu, Wan Mohd Nor berkata antara latihan yang diberi tumpuan ialah cara menyelamatkan di dalam air, mengendalikan bot dengan betul serta memberi pertolongan cemas yang secara tidak langsung akan menilai ketahanan diri dan keupayaan anggota menghadapi situasi yang sukar.

-- BERNAMA