

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)**

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Decision on schools today

Ministry to make announcement if temperatures stay above 39°C

KOTA BARU: The Education Ministry will announce today whether schools in certain areas of the country will be closed due to the hot weather, even as the haze level continues to rise in the Klang Valley.

Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said his ministry was monitoring the hot weather situation and on Saturday, it was found that Kedah and Perlis recorded temperatures as high as 39.2°C.

The ministry will decide whether schools in certain areas should be closed if the temperature continues to rise above 39°C without any sign of dropping.

Speaking to reporters after attending a gathering with princi-

pals and headmasters of schools in Kelantan yesterday, Mahdzir said a special committee at the ministry level chaired by Education director-general Datuk Seri Dr Khair Mohamad Yusof would make a decision on the closure of affected schools.

He said he had already issued a directive for all activities outside the classroom to be stopped due to the extremely hot weather.

Malaysia is now experiencing hot and dry weather caused by the El Nino phenomenon and the Malaysian Meteorological Department has predicted that the situation will only end in May or June.

Science, Technology and

Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau said the higher than usual temperatures were due to El Nino and not the March Equinox which occurred yesterday.

Yesterday's Equinox event occurred when the sun shone directly over the Equator.

Tangau also attributed the haze in the Klang Valley to the dry weather, open burning and local bush fires.

On another matter, concerning a solution to the issue of married teachers living away from their spouses, Mahdzir said the ministry was resolving this in stages.

He said the issue was resolved for 2,000 teachers last year, and 560

teachers up to this month.

The ministry has received 7,000 applications for transfers from teachers who wished to stay close to their spouses, he added.

On the ban on watches being taken into examination halls by candidates taking the *Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia* (STPM) 2016 and the Malaysian University English Test, Mahdzir said he would seek a report on the matter from Malaysian Examination Council chief executive Dr Jamil Adimin.

Yesterday, Dr Jamil was reported as saying that the prohibition on wristwatches in examination halls was aimed at preventing misconduct by candidates. — Bernama

KERATAN AKHBAR
MALAY MAIL (TOP NEWS) : MUKA SURAT 5
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)

Much ado over the equinox

By Nurul Huda Jamaluddin *
and Hannah Jonas
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PETALING JAYA — The equinox came and went without much fanfare yesterday, with the highest temperatures in Chuping and Alor Star at 38°C at 3pm.

The heatwave, combined with the occurrence of the equinox, was expected to cause the mercury to rise above 39°C from noon to 3.30pm.

In the Klang Valley, it even poured heavily for about 20 minutes at about 1.40pm and again in the evening.

Science, Technology and Innovation minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau said in a statement yesterday the hot and

dry weather in Perlis and Kedah were expected to be felt throughout Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and in Limbang and Miri, Sarawak.

Tangau said this was because the El Nino phenomenon was expected to cause a 20 to 60 per cent reduction in rainfall as well as an increase of about 0.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above normal temperatures.

"The public are advised to use water prudently and cut down on outdoor activities throughout this period," he said.

The Health Ministry downplayed the upshot of the scorching heat in the last two weeks, saying the heatwave had not caused any staggering increase of outpatients in government clinics.

Its director-general, Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, said the high temperatures also had not caused dehydration cases to be on the rise.

"According to reports from family medicine specialists (FMS) from all states, the recent heatwave has not caused an undue increase of outpatients in our clinics, nor have there been any significant increase of patients coming with signs of dehydration," he told *Malay Mail* yesterday.

He said all paramedics and FMS have been told to be on the alert.

Dr Noor Hisham said there had been no new cases reported to the ministry over the weekend.

There were 17 heat-related illnesses from March 1 to Friday, including three heatstroke cases, one of which ended in a fatality.

Azizan Ayob, 23, a police trainee, had fainted while undergoing training at Segamat Police training Centre and died soon after.

Temperature forecast today



Kota Baru
Max: 32°C
Kuala Terengganu
Max: 32°C
Kuantan
Max: 33°C
George Town
Max: 34°C
Ipoh
Max: 36°C
Alor Star
Max: 37°C
Chuping
Max: 35°C
Kangar
Max: 34°C
Putrajaya
Max: 34°C
Kuala Lumpur
Max: 35°C
Petaling Jaya
Max: 35°C
Seremban
Max: 34°C
Malacca
Max: 33°C
Johor Baru
Max: 34°C
Kuching
Max: 33°C
Kota Kinabalu
Max: 33°C
Labuan
Max: 33°C

Decision today on closure of schools in hot areas



Nurul Syafikah Ruslan (left) and Nur Aida Qistina Azmi, both 12, drink water at SK Haji Abu Bakar, Mukim Lepai in Alor Star, to avoid dehydration. — Picture by Bernama

KOTA BARU — The Education Ministry will decide today if schools in areas affected by extreme heat will be closed, its minister, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, said.

He said the ministry was monitoring the weather, and on Saturday, it was found that Kedah and Perlis recorded temperatures as high as 39.2 degrees Celsius.

"Today (Sunday), we will look at the temperature situation in Kedah and Perlis, and tomorrow we will decide whether schools in certain areas should be closed if the temperature continues to rise above 39 degrees Celsius," he told reporters after attending a gathering with principals and headmasters of schools in Kelantan.

Mahdzir said a special committee at the ministry level chaired by Director-



General of Education Datuk Seri Dr Khair Mohamad Yusof would make a decision concerning the closure of schools.

He said his ministry was also getting information from time to time on the hot weather from the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry.

Mahdzir said he had issued a directive for all activities outside the classroom to be stopped.

Malaysia is experiencing hot and dry weather caused by the El Nino phenomenon, which the Malaysian Meteorological Department predicted will only end in May or June.

In Terengganu, all schools are required to provide sufficient drinking water to students.

State Education Department director Shafruddin Ali Hussain said the school session that resumed yesterday went on smoothly.

"The department also recommends that schools provide students with sponges and water to wipe the body as athletes do to prevent dehydration," he said.

— Bernama

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 20
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)

Cuaca panas kesan El Nino bukan Ekuinoks

KUALA LUMPUR 20 Mac -

Keadaan cuaca panas yang melanda di beberapa tempat di negara ini pada masa ini tiada kaitan dengan fenomena Ekuinoks, sebaliknya merupakan kesan daripada fenomena El Nino yang kuat.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata, Ekuinoks berlaku apabila kedudukan matahari berada tepat di atas garisan Khatulistiwa iaitu dua kali setahun.

"Ekuinoks biasanya berlaku pada 20 atau 21 Mac dan 20 atau 22 September, tahun ini akan berlaku pada 20 Mac dan 22 September. Suhu tertinggi yang pernah dicatatkan di Malaysia adalah 40.1 darjah Celcius dan berlaku bukan semasa Ekuinoks.

"Rekod tertinggi bagi tempoh sehingga 19 Mac adalah 39.1 darjah Celcius di Alor Setar, Kedah; 39 darjah Celcius di Chuping, Perlis; 38.3 darjah Celsius di Lubok Merbau, Perak; 36.8 darjah Celsius di Ipoh, Perak, 37.9 darjah Celcius di Temerloh, Pahang dan 38 darjah Celsius di Batu Embun, Pahang," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini hari ini.

Sementara itu, Madius berkata kejadian jerebu yang melanda negara terutamanya kawasan Lembah Klang bersifat tempatan disebabkan keadaan cuaca panas, kering dan beberapa kejadian kebakaran terbuka seperti hutan dan belukar.

Sesi persekolahan ditutup jika suhu melebihi 39 darjah Celcius - Mahdzir

Cuaca panas: Kementerian buat keputusan hari ini

Oleh MOHD. HAFIZ ABD. MUTALIB
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■ KOTA BHARU 20 MAC

KEMENTERIAN Pendidikan akan memutuskan sama ada menutup atau meneruskan sesi persekolahan di kawasan-kawasan yang mengalami cuaca panas melampau esok.

Menteri Pendidikan, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid berkata, sekiranya kawasan terlibat khususnya di Kedah dan Perlis masih mencatatkan suhu melebihi 39 darjah Celcius sehingga esok, arahan menutup sesi sekolah akan dikuatkuasakan.

Beliau berkata, pada masa ini pihaknya bersama Jawatankuasa Khas memantau dengan terperinci perkembangan semasa bagi memastikan tiada kejadian tidak diingini berlaku.

"Kita akan lihat laporan dalam tempoh dua hari ini sehingga esok mengenai keadaan cuaca dan suhu. Semalam di kawasan Kedah dan Perlis mencatat suhu 39.2 darjah Celcius.

"Selepas esok, kita akan membuat keputusan (menutup sesi persekolahan). Kalau suhu masih 39 darjah Celcius dan tidak nampak tanda-tanda penurunan, kita terpaksa menutup sesi persekolahan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri Majlis Profesional Pengetua dan Guru Besar di Dewan Utama, Bahagian Teknologi Pendidikan (BTG), Pengkalan Chepa di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir Timbalan Menteri Kemajuan Luar Bandar dan Wilayah, Datuk Ahmad Jazlan Yaakub; Pengarah Jabatan Pendidikan negeri, Datuk Ab. Aziz Abdullah dan Ketua UMNO Bahagian Pengkalan Chepa, Datuk Zaluhi Sulaiman.

Semalam, Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi mencadangkan agar sesi persekolahan di Alor Setar, Kedah dan Chuping di Perlis ditutup berikutan cuaca panas melampau.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata, kawasan Alor Setar mencatatkan suhu 39.1 darjah Celcius iaitu tertinggi dalam tempoh 12 hari berturut-turut manakala Chuping 38.9 darjah Celcius.



MAHDZIR KHALID (tiga dari kanan) bersama Ab. Aziz Abdullah (dua dari kanan) beramah mesra dengan pelajar dalam Lawatan Kerja ke Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Panji, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, semalam. - UTUSAN/ROSNI MASRI

Cuaca panas melampau di Alor Setar, Chuping

Sekolah perlu ditutup

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■ KUALA LUMPUR 19 MAC

KEMENTERIAN Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi mencadangkan agar sesi persekolahan di Alor Setar, Kedah, dan Chuping di Perlis, ditutup bermula esok berikutan cuaca panas melampau.

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MADIUS TANGAU

"Berdasarkan Garis Panduan Pelan Tindakan Menangani Gelombang Haba maka sesi persekolahan di Alor Setar dan Chuping boleh dicadangkan ditutup bermula Ahad, 20 Mac 2016.

"Namun, pengumuman sama ada sekolah akan ditutup atau tidak akan diumumkan Menteri Pendidikan seperti yang diarahkan oleh kabinet," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini hari ini.

Dalam pada itu, Madius berkata, cuaca panas dan kering yang kini berlaku di kawasan ini akan sangat mengganggu persekolahan di kawasan yang suhunya melebihi 37 darjah Celcius perlu ditangguhkan.

Kawasan Alor Setar mencatatkan suhu 39.1 darjah Celcius iaitu tertinggi dalam tempoh 12 hari berturut-turut manakala Chuping 38.9 darjah Celcius."

MADIUS TANGAU
Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi

KERATAN Mingguan Malaysia semalam.

cius iaitu tertinggi dalam tempoh 12 hari berturut-turut manakala Chuping 38.9 darjah Celcius.

Cadangan itu katanya, selaras dengan Garis Panduan Pelan Tindakan Menangani Gelombang Haba yang dipersetujui Kabinet iaitu sesi

persekolahan di kawasan yang suhunya melebihi 37 darjah Celcius perlu ditangguhkan.

Tambah Mahdzir, pada masa ini pihaknya telah mengarahkan semua aktiviti di luar bilik darjah diberhentikan serta merta sehingga

galah keadaan cuaca kembali normal.

"Untuk sementara ini, semua aktiviti di luar bilik darjah diberhentikan atau tidak diadakan, pekililing mengenai perkara ini sudah dikeluarkan minggu lalu," katanya.

Sementara itu dalam perkembangan lain, Mahdzir berkata, pihaknya telah menerima sebanyak 7,000 permohonan pertukaran guru 'duka lara' sepanjang tahun lalu dengan Kelantan dan Kedah mencatatkan permohonan paling tinggi.

Katanya, daripada jumlah berkenaan, pihaknya sudah meluluskan lebih 1,800 pertukaran.

"Berdasarkan rekod, seramai 20,000 guru di seluruh negara yang berjauhan dengan keluarga, namun sehingga tahun lalu kami menerima 7,000 permohonan.

"Kementerian tidak melupakan masalah guru yang berjauhan dengan pasangan masing-masing dan kita berusaha menangani masalah berkenaan secara berperingkat," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (CUACA PANAS) : MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)



TEBING tasik Timah Tasoh, Kangar kelihatan merekah selepas air tasik itu surut akibat fenomena panas melampau yang melanda negara sejak awal tahun ini

Suhu di Perlis cecah 39.5 darjah Celsius

TUARAN - Cuaca panas melampau akibat fenomena El-Nino bertambah buruk apabila negara turut merasai tempas bahang Ekuinoks semalam dengan bacaan suhu di beberapa lokasi melebihi 37 darjah Celsius.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Madius Tangau berkata, berdasarkan bacaan yang direkodkan sehingga pukul 4 petang, Chuping di Perlis mencatat bacaan suhu paling tinggi iaitu 39.5 darjah Celsius diikuti Alor Setar, Kedah iaitu 39.1 darjah Celsius.

Turut mencatat bacaan suhu yang tinggi ialah Prai, Pulau Pinang (38 darjah Celsius), Ipoh, Perak (37.5 darjah Celsius) dan Temerloh, Pa-

Fenomena Ekuinoks punca panas terik



KERATAN Kosmo! semalam.

hang (37.4 darjah Celsius).

"Bacaan suhu ini sudah menghampiri 40 darjah Celsius iaitu bacaan suhu berbahaya dan boleh menyebabkan strok haba," katanya di sini semalam.

Ekuinoks merujuk kepada fenomena kedudukan matahari berada tepat di atas garisan Khatulistiwa ketika ia bergerak dari Hemisfera Utara.

Berdasarkan rekod, suhu paling tinggi dalam sejarah Malaysia ialah

40.1 darjah Celsius pada tahun 1998 yang dicatatkan di Stesen Meteorologi Chuping.

Sementara itu, di ibu negara, dalam tinjauan *Kosmo!* semalam, orang ramai mengakui bahang panas melampau menjejaskan kesihatan mereka.

Sekumpulan pelajar dari Management Science University (MSU) berkata, cuaca panas menyebabkan tiga orang rakan mereka mengalami demam panas selama seminggu.

Noor Aamalina Khalid, 24, yang mengambil jurusan Pendidikan Awal Kanak-Kanak di MSU memberitahu, pada awalnya dia dan rakan-rakannya mengalami sakit tekak yang teruk sebelum demam.

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT) : MUKA SURAT 21
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)

Utara paling panas

Kuala Lumpur: Suhu di Chuping dan Alor Setar kekal melebihi 38 darjah Celsius apabila bacaan semalam menunjukkan dua kawasan itu masing-masing merekodkan bacaan 38.2 dan 38.4 darjah Celsius.

Menurut Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia), suhu maksimum itu direkod pada jam 2 petang, ketika waktu puncak.

Selain dua kawasan itu, dua lagi lokasi di utara Semenanjung iaitu Prai dan Ipoh juga antara kawasan paling panas di negara ini dengan merekodkan suhu maksimum 36.1 hingga 36.2 darjah Celsius.

Di Pahang, Batu Embun, Jerantut tidak kurang panasnya apabila bacaan petang semalam mencatatkan suhu maksimum 36.7 darjah Celsius.

Satu lagi lokasi di negeri itu iaitu Temerloh juga adalah kawasan panas di negara ini apabila mencatatkan suhu 36 darjah Celsius.

Di Melaka, kawasan Lubuk Merbau merekodkan suhu tertinggi berbanding lokasi lain di negeri itu dengan catatan 36.3 darjah celsius manakala di kawasan lain termasuk sekitar Lembah Klang, kebanyakannya merekodkan suhu antara 32 hingga 35 darjah Celsius.

Jawatankuasa khas bincang pelan tindakan tangani gelombang haba

Kuala Lumpur: Jawatankuasa khas akan membincangkan tindakan dan pelan tambahan berhubung isu pengisytiharan Kecemasan Gelombang Haba pada hari ini.

Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, berkata mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Khas Bagi Menangani Gelombang Haba itu akan dipengerusikan Ketua Setiausahaanya, Datuk Seri Azizan Ahmad.

"Kita masih belum merangka pelan lanjut jika ia diisytiharkan, namun segala garis panduan yang ada akan diperhalusi supaya mudah untuk kita menghadapi sebarang kemungkinan.

"Pakar daripada semua agensi yang berada di bawah jawatankuasa ini akan berkumpul untuk berbincang sebelum keputusan dibuat di hadapan Kabinet nanti," katanya ketika dihubungi BH, semalam.

Bagi tahap amaran pertama iaitu suhu melebihi 37 darjah Celsius, **Jabatan Meteorologi** akan mengeluarkan amaran gelombang haba dan semua aktiviti pelajar di luar bangunan serta sukan akan ditangguhkan, selain orang ramai, terutama warga tua dan kanak-kanak mengehendak aktiviti luar.

Bagi tahap amaran kedua iaitu suhu melebihi 37 darjah Celsius selama lebih 72 jam dan peningkatan suhu berterusan, tindakan bagi amaran pertama akan diteruskan, selain menangguhkan sesi persekolahan serta menyelaras mesyuarat khas bagi membincangkan tindakan kecemasan untuk menangani cuaca panas melampau berpanjangan.

Wan Junaidi berkata, pihaknya juga meneruskan pemantauan di beberapa kawasan yang mencapai suhu melampau walaupun berlaku hujan di beberapa lokasi di Wilayah Persekutuan, Sabah dan Sarawak.

"Pemantauan yang dijalankan sudah masuk hari ketiga dan Kementerian Pendidikan berhak memutuskan untuk menangguhkan sesi persekolahan jika suhu melebihi 37 darjah Celsius selama lebih 72 jam dan peningkatan suhu berterusan.

"Bagaimanapun, jika sekolah itu mempunyai persekitaran yang sejuk dan kipas angin atau pendingin hawa mencukupi, besar kemungkinan tidak perlu penangguhan sesi persekolahan," katanya.

Tak jejas aktiviti hujung minggu

Sementara itu, fenomena El Nino dan ekuinoks yang 'bergabung' melanda negara semalam lang-



Cuaca panas melampau tidak menghalang orang ramai bercuti di Zoo Negara. Tinjauan menunjukkan orang ramai **membawa air, payung dan kain basah** bagi menangani cuaca panas.

[FOTO SURIANIE MOHD HANIE/BH]

sung tidak menjejaskan aktiviti hujung minggu orang ramai.

Guru, Muhamad Zahiruddin Abdul Wahab, 29, berkata tugasnya mengajar di kelas tuisyen tetap diteruskan walaupun cuaca panas membahang.

"Kelas yang saya kendalikan berjalan seperti biasa dalam bangunan sekolah. Tiada bantahan daripada ibu bapa kerana musim peperiksaan semakin hampir, namun saya menasihati pelajar banyak minum air dan menjaga kesihatan mereka," katanya.

Penganalisis makmal, Mazlan Md Nor, 27, berkata beliau mengurangkan aktiviti luar kerana intensiti cahaya matahari amat tinggi terutama pada waktu tengah hari.

"Saya berusaha menyelesaikan segala urusan pada awal pagi atau lewat petang bagi mengelak cuaca panas yang ekstrem ini. Waktu malam pula akan diisi dengan bersukan supaya saya kekal sihat dan cergas," katanya.

Di Alor Setar, pelajar sekolah terpaksa membataskan aktiviti mereka kerana cuaca panas me-

lampau iaitu 34 darjah Celsius pada jam 12 tengah hari semalam sebelum meningkat kepada 36 darjah Celsius pada jam 4 petang.

Pelajar merungut keletihan

Pesara kerajaan, Osman Jaafar, 63, berkata dua anaknya, Nur Syafiqah, 12, dan Nur Afifah, 8, merungut keletihan dan hilang selera makan.

"Mereka perlu meneruskan persekolahan supaya tidak ketinggalan dalam pelajaran. Pihak sekolah juga disaran mengagihkan air mineral kepada murid kerana bekalan sebotol air dari rumah tidak mencukupi," katanya.

Suri rumah, Norazian Abdullah, 40, berkata sepanjang musim cuaca panas ini, anaknya, Marsya Auni Irdina Rohizam, 11, dan Marissa Airis, 7, sering mengalami demam dan batuk.

"Saya akan memastikan mereka minum air secukupnya, selain makan vitamin supaya tahap kesihatan mereka dalam keadaan baik," katanya.

Decision on school closure today

ON ALERT: Kedah and Perlis record temperatures as high as 39.2°C

KOTA BARU

THE Education Ministry will decide today whether schools in certain areas will be closed due to the extremely hot weather.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, said his ministry was monitoring the situation and found that Kedah and Perlis recorded temperatures as high as 39.2°C yesterday.

"Today (yesterday), we will look at the temperatures in Kedah and Perlis. Tomorrow, we will decide whether schools in certain areas should be closed if the temperature

exceeds 39°C without any signs of dropping," he said after attending a gathering with school principals in Kelantan yesterday.

Mahdzir said a special committee chaired by Education director-general Datuk Seri Dr Khair Mohamad Yusof would study and decide if schools would be closed.

He said his ministry was getting information about the hot weather from the natural resources and environment and science, technology and innovation ministries.

Mahdzir said he had issued a directive for all activities outside the classroom to be stopped.



The country is experiencing hot and dry weather caused by the El Nino phenomenon.

The Meteorological Department predicted that the situation will end only in May or June, with the hottest weather recorded yesterday due to the equinox phenomenon. **Bernama**

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (NASIONAL) : MUKA SURAT 12
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)

Murid Sekolah Kebangsaan Tengku Bariah, Irfan Iskandar (kiri) dan Putera Muhammad Danish Haigall Ahmad Faizal, meletakkan beg sekolah di atas kepala mereka untuk berlindung daripada cuaca panas di Kuala Terengganu, semalam. [FOTO ASWADI ALIAS/BH]



Penutupan sekolah di Kedah, Perlis diputus hari ini

» Dua negeri catat suhu lebih 39 darjah Celsius

Oleh Nor Fazlina Abdul Rahim
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► Kota Bharu

Kementerian Pendidikan akan membuat keputusan hari ini sama ada sekolah di dua negeri iaitu Kedah dan Perlis akan ditutup berikutan cuaca panas melampau, selepas pemantauan dilakukan selama tiga hari.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, berkata dua negeri berkenaan kini mencatatkan suhu lebih 39 darjah Celsius dan keputusan akan dibuat selepas melihat suhu terbaharu hari ini.

"Buat masa sekarang, semua sekolah berjalan seperti biasa dan tiada sebarang aktiviti luar bilik darjah dibenarkan memandangkan cuaca panas.

"Seperti yang saya tegaskan, kita mempunyai Jawatankuasa Peringkat Kebangsaan dan kita perlu merujuk kepada mereka," katanya pada sidang

media selepas Majlis Profesionalisme Pengetua dan Guru Besar di Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Kelantan, semalam.

Akhbar semalam melaporkan, Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (JMM) meramalkan suhu di beberapa kawasan di Alor Setar, Kedah dan Chuping, Perlis dijangka terus meningkat berikutan fenomena El Nino.

Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Che Gayah Ismail, berkata setakat Sabtu lalu, Alor Setar mencatatkan bacaan suhu 39.1 darjah Celsius, manakala Chuping 38.9 darjah Celsius.

7,000 permohonan 'guru duka lara'

Sementara itu, Mahdzir berkata, kementerianya menerima 7,000 permohonan daripada 'guru duka lara' yang tinggal berjauhan daripada pasangan sepanjang tahun lalu dengan Kelantan dan Kedah mencatatkan permohonan paling tinggi.

Katanya, daripada jumlah berkenaan, lebih 2,000 permohonan sudah diluluskan dan pihaknya menjangka permohonan terus meningkat antara 2,000 hingga 4,000 menjelang akhir tahun ini.

"Berdasarkan rekod, seramai 20,000 guru di seluruh negara yang berjauhan dengan pasangan mereka. Kementerian

berusaha menangani masalah itu secara berperingkat dan tidak melupakan masalah guru yang berjauhan dengan pasangan masing-masing.

"Kita tidak mahu guru diganggu dengan bebanan berjauhan dengan keluarga yang

mungkin akan menjejaskan kualiti perkhidmatan mereka.

"Kita mahu yang terbaik untuk semua guru supaya mereka juga menghasilkan perkhidmatan terbaik untuk negara," katanya.



Final say with Education Ministry

By Vanessa Ee-Lyn Gomes
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PETALING JAYA — Any announcement or statement over the closure of schools because of the heatwave should be done by the Education Ministry after consultation with the relevant ministries.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid should have the final say on the closure of schools.

"As soon as Mahdzir receives information from the special heatwave taskforce, which is headed by me, or from the Meteorological Department, he will decide if he will close schools or not," he told *Malay Mail* yesterday.

Wan Junaidi was clearing the confusion over the final authority to order the closure of schools after Mahdzir and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau released conflicting statements on the matter.

On Saturday, Madius had recommended that schools in Alor Star and Chuping remain closed, but Mahdzir said otherwise.

Madius also said the final say was with Mahdzir, but Mahdzir said it was at the discretion of the taskforce.

Wan Junaidi said Madius should have spoken solely on the findings of the Meteorological Department.

"He should have referred the matter to Mahdzir after explaining the heatwave in Chuping and Alor Star," he said.

He used the statements released during the haze last year by his ministry as an example.

"During the haze, I never told the press that I would ask another minister to close schools," he said.

"I would call the minister or drop him a text message or WhatsApp message, so that part never got to the press."

He also said the taskforce was still new and adjusting to its job.

A SK Bakri Batu 2
pupil **fanning**
himself with an
exercise book in
Muar, Johor,
yesterday. Pic by
Syarafiq Abd Samad



'Equinox not the main cause'

KUALA LUMPUR: Alor Star recorded the highest temperature yesterday when the mercury hit 39°C, with an average temperature of 35°C recorded in Perlis, Penang, Kedah, Sabah and certain parts of Sarawak.

Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail told the *New Straits Times* yesterday that the abnormal heatwave experienced in these areas could be attributed to the presence of strong El Nino coupled with the ending of the northeast monsoon.

"Although El Nino is at a strong level, it is weakening, as it started forming in February last year and reached its peak last month.

"However, as the northeast monsoon is drawing to an end, the hot weather intensifies."

Che Gayah said the equinox phenomenon was not the main cause of the heatwave.

"We experience two equinox phenomena every year and it is a natural event. It is not the primary cause of the intensely hot weather."

She said the heatwave was expect-

ed to last until middle of the year, with normal weather expected after June.

Che Gayah said the El Nino this year was comparable with the one in 1997/1998.

"A few of our stations recorded the maximum temperature of 40.1°C in Chuping, Perlis, on April 9, 1998."

She said it resulted in the worst transboundary haze that year, which affected Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

Che Gayah said the recent haze here was local and not transboundary.

"The winds are preventing the Indonesian haze from getting here. Exhaust fumes from vehicles and factories in big cities, such as Kuala Lumpur, can result in smog if it doesn't rain for a few days."

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's climatology and physical oceanography expert Professor Fredolin Tangan said Sabah seemed to be experiencing the worst dry spell.

"The authorities need to help the people living in the interior, where

their water supply depends on rain and river or the gravity flow water system. It is shocking to discover that they are suffering from water shortage. The rivers are almost dry and their crops are affected.

"What we are experiencing in Sabah and northern Sarawak is similar to what we faced in early 1998. The situation in Sabah is expected to continue for another two months."

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the National Heatwave Committee would conduct its first meeting today.

"It will discuss school closure, emergency declaration if the temperature reaches a certain point and steps that should be taken if an area is affected by the heatwave."

"The details will be worked out tomorrow (Monday)," he told the NST.

Wan Junaidi said data revealed that the peninsula recorded an average temperature of 35°C, with some areas in Perlis, Penang and Kedah recording up to 39°C.

KERATAN AKHBAR
KOSMO (NEGARA) : MUKA SURAT 18
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)

Angkasa bimbang aktiviti pencerapan dan bidang astronomi negara terjejas

Pencemaran cahaya kian serius

KUALA LUMPUR – Agensi Angkasa Negara (Angkasa) sedang mengkaji untuk mencadangkan kerajaan mewujudkan Akta Pencemaran Cahaya bagi mengawal pencemaran cahaya agar tidak menjejaskan bidang astronomi negara.



NOORDIN

Ketua Pengarahnya, Dr. Noordin Ahmad berkata, pencemaran cahaya di negara ini memasuki tahap serius dan perlu ditangani segera.

"Aktiviti pencerapan di Planetarium Negara di sini kini turut terjejas ekoran pencemaran cahaya yang melampau di Kuala Lumpur.

"Kesannya ketara terutama kepada ahli astronomi apabila balai cerap di Planetarium Negara tidak boleh berfungsi sepenuhnya menyebabkan kami terpaksa membina satu lagi balai



MASALAH pencemaran cahaya berpunca daripada limpahan cahaya lampu dari bangunan-bangunan di Kuala Lumpur telah menyebabkan aktiviti pencerapan di Planetarium Negara terjejas. – Gambar hiasan

cerap di Pulau Langkawi, Kedah pada tahun 2006 bagi mengatasi masalah pencemaran cahaya," katanya kepada *Bernama* selepas menghadiri tayangan perdana filem *To Space and Back* dan

sambutan *Earth Hour* di Planetarium Negara di sini semalam.

Noordin berkata, pada masa ini Angkasa sedang menyediakan garis panduan berhubung pencemaran cahaya dengan ker-



BANGUNAN Planetarium Negara di Jalan Perdana, Tasik Perdana, Kuala Lumpur.

jasama beberapa pihak berkuasa tempatan.

"Kita memang memerlukan akta tersebut dan Angkasa sedang bekerjasama dengan Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya

(MPAJ), Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dan Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) kerana lampu bangunan dan lampu jalan di bawah seliaan agensi berkenaan," katanya.

Angkasa kaji wujudkan akta pencemaran cahaya

KUALA LUMPUR - Agensi Angkasa Negara (Angkasa) sedang mengkaji untuk mewujudkan Akta Pencemaran Cahaya bagi mengawal pencemaran cahaya di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarahnya Dr Noordin Ahmad berkata, Angkasa ketika ini sedang menyediakan garis panduan berhubung perkara itu dengan kerjasama pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) yang bertanggungjawab mengawal selia limpahan cahaya akibat daripada pembangunan bandar.

"Kita memang memerlukan akta ini dan pada masa ini, Angkasa sedang bekerjasama dengan Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ), Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dan Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) kerana lampu daripada bangunan dan lampu jalan sekarang ini di bawah seliaan mereka.

"Kami juga sedang memberi kesedaran kepada pihak berkenaan mengenai pen-

cemaran cahaya yang berpunca daripada cahaya lampu bangunan dan juga lampu jalan," katanya di sini, semalam.

Menurutnya, pencemaran cahaya di negara ini baru memasuki tahap serius dan jika tidak ditangani ia bakal menjejaskan bidang astronomi negara.

"Kerja pencerapan di balai cerap di Planetarium Negara kini turut terjejas ekoran pencemaran cahaya yang melampau di bandaraya Kuala Lumpur.

"Di Planetarium Negara, kesannya ketara terutama kepada ahli astronomi yang melibatkan balai cerap kami di sini tidak boleh berfungsi sepenuhnya menyebabkan kami terpaksa membina satu balai cerap di Pulau Langkawi pada 2006 bagi mengatasi masalah pencemaran cahaya," ujarnya.

Katanya, balai cerap dikenali sebagai Observatori Negara Langkawi (ONL) juga bakal terjejas jika tiada kawalan dari segi pengwujudan akta, ordinan atau garis panduan. - *Bernama*

Angkasa DG: Don't go heavy on lights

KUALA LUMPUR: A law to control light pollution in the country from affecting the field of astronomy is being looked into.

National Space Agency (Angkasa) director-general Dr Noordin Ahmad said it was considering the creation of a Light Pollution Act to regulate the spillover of light due to urban development.

"We certainly need this act and currently, Angkasa is collaborating with the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council, City Hall and the Public Works Department as building and street lights come under their supervision.

"We are also raising awareness on the light pollution caused by these lights," he said after attending the premiere screening of the film "To Space and Back" and the Earth Hour celebration at the National Planetarium yesterday.

Light pollution, said Noordin, had become a serious matter and if this was not curbed, it could affect the study of astronomy.

We are also raising awareness on the light pollution caused by these lights.

Dr Noordin Ahmad

"Observation work at the observatory in the planetarium is now affected due to the severe light pollution in Kuala Lumpur.

"The effect to the astronomers here is significant, resulting in our observatory not functioning fully," he said, adding that this led to the building of an observatory in Langkawi in 2006.

However, he said the observatory in Langkawi - the Langkawi National Observatory - could also be affected if no measure was taken to control light pollution via the formulation of the Act or guidelines. — Bernama

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT) : MUKA SURAT 18
TARIKH : 21 MAC 2016 (ISNIN)

Dedah ilmu sains

Kuala Lumpur: Angkasawan Negara Datuk Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor kagum dengan pelajar negara ini yang menunjukkan minat mendalam terhadap ilmu astronomi dan mereka begitu positif bertanyakan soalan berkaitan ilmu sains angkasa.

"Bagaimanapun, senario di Malaysia menunjukkan sebaliknya. Kita masih ketinggalan dalam memberi pendedahan ilmu sains angkasa kepada pelajar sekolah berbanding negara luar.

"Dalam hal ini, saya melihat Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) perlu memainkan peranan lebih proaktif kerana Malaysia sudah mempunyai Angkasawan Negara," katanya.

Tambah beliau, kerajaan seharusnya

membelanjakan sejumlah besar dalam pendidikan aeroangkasa sebagaimana dilakukan China.

"Kita kena sedar bahawa sesiapa yang menguasai ilmu angkasa, akan menguasai dunia. Sebab itu China kini menjadi barisan hadapan untuk aeroangkasa kerana mereka dapat melihat besarnya impak ke atas negara.

"Malah India, Iran dan Pakistan juga berlumba-lumba untuk menyumbangkan kos dalam industri aeroangkasa.

"Jadi, kita tidak sepatutnya ketinggalan jauh ke belakang," katanya.

Pada masa sama, bagi Dr Sheikh Muszaphar, menjadi angkasawan bukan setakat pergi ke angkasa, tetapi mencatat arah perjalanan baru dalam memberi sumbangan kepada negara.