

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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'Hot weather stressing out our chickens'

SUPPLY HIT: Their growth hampered, egg production down by 10 per cent, says minister

KUALA LUMPUR

IF you think you're stressed out by the searing hot weather, spare a thought then for the chickens.

According to Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, it is not only humans who were feeling the effects of the El Nino weather phenomenon, Bernama reported.

Chickens, he said, were under "stress", directly hampering their growth process.

"This can happen as some poultry farmers still use outdated concepts such as open coops. When temperatures soar, the chickens' stress level can increase.

"For example, it can take them 40 days instead of 38 days to attain a certain weight," he said during a question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara yesterday.

Shabery was responding to a question from Senator Engku Naimah Engku Taib who asked



whether the hot weather would affect the supply of chicken and beef, especially with the coming month of Ramadan.

He said the hot weather would lead to a five to 10 per cent reduction in chicken egg production.

"We are worried that the *rakyat* will become distressed when the supply of chicken goes down."

To solve the problem, he said poultry farmers must adopt new techniques, such as temperature-controlled closed coops.

"For the fasting month, we have the made necessary preparations. If the supply is not sufficient, the ministry is prepared to import chickens to ensure that the prices are stable."

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau was reported as saying that the El Nino weather phenomenon would end in June.

A laketown with no lake

El Nino taking a toll on Bukit Merah despite cloud seeding

By CHRISTOPHER TAN
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KERIAN: El Nino has claimed a 4,000ha dam here, which is also part of the tourist spot – the Bukit Merah Laketown Resort – even as planes continue to seed clouds to battle the drought in the northern region.

The Bukit Merah Dam has less than 6m of water at its deepest point and only has 14% left despite having a catchment area of 480 sq km.

More than two-thirds of what was once the lake's surface is now a desolate landscape of once-sunken tree stumps.

"It has been raining most evenings and nights recently from cloud seeding, but it did little to raise the dam level.

"The lake had lost too much water," said state Energy and Water Committee chairman Datuk Zainol Fadzi Paharudin yesterday.

Rain gauges on Wednesday night, he added, showed only a gain of 2mm.

Since April 11, the Royal Malaysian Air Force and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry had sent planes laden with fine salt to stimulate clouds over dams in Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak, Malacca and Negri Sembilan.

Meanwhile, padi farmers are incurring massive losses because what water was left can no longer reach the dam's release gates to irrigate their fields.

They are now appealing for financial subsistence from the Federal Government through Perak Farmers Organisation chairman Datuk Seri Dr Raja Ahmad Zainuddin Raja Omar, who said that they had lost at least RM8mil because of the stalled planting season.

Hundreds of arowana fish ponds, visible along the North-South Highway beside Bukit Merah Lake, are now holding their fish stocks worth hundreds of thousands of ringgit per farm in stagnant pools because they hardly have water to refresh their ponds.

Also suffering is Bukit Merah Laketown Resort. Though it is still operating, most of the lake activities have stopped.

Boatman Mohd Yusof Shamsuri, 58, said the Bukit Merah Orang Utan Island had been closed for two weeks.



Dam-pened spirits: An aerial view of the dried up lake in Bukit Merah Laketown Resort in Kerian. — Drone photography by Se Vena Networks

"Our passenger boats are just sitting on the lake's bed at the end of the jetty," he said.

Sungai Kurau, which pours into the lake from the west and exits again at the east, still manages a weak flow of muddy water.

But life for fishermen in Kampung Selamat, a village of 130 homes in the southern end of the lake, has come to a grinding halt because the water is completely gone.

Villager Shamsudin Mohammad, 66, said that the lake started drying up in December.

"We get a dry season yearly, but this is the worst I have seen since staying here in 1960.

"What used to be a perfect place to catch fish is now no more," he said.

Besides Bukit Merah dam, infoke-marau.water.gov.my also lists two other dams as being in the danger zone.

Bukit Kwong Dam in Kelantan has only 7.81% of its water left and Labong Dam in Johor has only 11.98%.

But the situation is different in the Klang Valley as the parks management are not worried about



Stumped: Dead trees that used to be underwater can be seen due to the drying Bukit Merah Dam in Kerian. — ASRI ABDUL GHANI/The Star

potential water shortage.

Desa Water Park manager David Wan said they had storage tanks to provide enough water for the park to run for at least two to three days during a water crisis.

Sunway Lagoon marketing director Michelle Gregory said there was no threat of water shortage as the park's water supply came directly from the lake and was not at all dependent on outside sources.

Dept: It's not as hot as it was in Perlis in 1998

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians may feel like the mercury has risen to record levels this year but that appears not to be the case, according to the Malaysian Meteorological Department.

A MetMalaysia spokesman said the current daily maximum temperatures had not surpassed the 40.1°C recorded in Chuping, Perlis, on April 1, 1998, during the last El Nino.

MetMalaysia, he added, had also not determined if the current spell was the longest period of dry and hot weather ever experienced by the country.

"We don't have those records," he said.

This came as the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration (NOAA) announced that last month was the hottest March in 137 years.

The combined average temperature over global land and ocean surfaces for last month was the highest for any March in the 1880-2016 record at 1.22°C above the 20th-century average of 12.7°C.

NOAA's National Centres for Environmental Information also reported that this surpassed the previous record set in 2015 by 0.32°C.

March 2016 also marked the 11th consecutive month a global temperature record was broken, the longest such streak in NOAA's 137 years of record-keeping.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry declared school closures

for today in Perlis as well as Jerantut and Temerloh districts in Pahang after daily maximum temperatures reached 37°C for three consecutive days.

"The closures are a precautionary measure to safeguard the students' health," the ministry said in a statement yesterday.

A total of 68 secondary and 191 primary schools will be closed for the day, involving 97,533 students, of whom 5,671 are preschoolers.

School administrative activities will continue as normal, with teachers and other staff members expected to perform their routine duties that do not involve students.

In a separate statement, the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry said water rationing

had started in Kota Tinggi and Mersing districts in Johor on Monday.

This involved 17,000 account holders who would get water for 24 hours every two days.

The ministry also stated that water treatment plants in five states - Pahang, Kedah, Perlis, Johor and Sabah - have had to reduce the production of raw water due to the current dry and hot spell.

This affected 27,000 account holders in peninsular Malaysia and 1,200 others in Sabah.

Among measures taken by water companies in those states include sending water tankers to affected areas, the placement of static tanks and installation of purified water package plant in Sabah.



Asap Kebakaran, Cuaca Panas Serta Kering Punca Jerebu Di Lembah Klang

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 April (Bernama) -- Jerebu yang melanda Lembah Klang sejak semalam berpunca daripada asap kebakaran di beberapa kawasan di Semenanjung termasuk kebakaran hutan tanah gambut di Kuala Langat dan Sepang, Selangor.

Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar berkata keadaan itu diburukkan lagi dengan cuaca panas dan kering sekali gus menyebabkan pencemar udara terapung di udara.

"Pada masa ini, tiada pengaruh jerebu merentas sempadan kerana negara masih berada dalam musim peralihan monsun yang dijangkakan sehingga pertengahan Mei ini.

"Kes-kes kebakaran sedang giat dipadamkan oleh Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat dan ia adalah terkawal," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, malam ini.

Dalam pada itu, Wan Junaidi berkata bacaan Indeks Pencemaran Udara (IPU) pada 3 petang tadi menunjukkan status kualiti udara tidak sihat iaitu bacaan melebihi 100 di beberapa kawasan di Lembah Klang disebabkan pencemar ozon aras bumi.

Wan Junaidi berkata keadaan cuaca panas terik dan peningkatan pencemar oksid-oksida nitrogen (NOx) dan Sebatian Organik Meruap (VOC) telah menyumbang kepada peningkatan IPU itu.

"Berdasarkan laporan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia sehingga semalam, daerah Klang dan Kuala Selangor tidak mengalami hujan selama lapan hari berturut-turut," katanya.

Sementara itu, laman sesawang jabatan itu menunjukkan beberapa kawasan yang dilanda jerebu di Lembah Klang mencatatkan bacaan IPU sederhana setakat 9 malam ini berbanding bacaan IPU tidak sihat petang tadi.

Antara kawasan terlibat ialah Shah Alam daripada bacaan IPU 122 kepada 86, Batu Muda (106 kepada 77), Cheras (131 kepada 78) dan Petaling Jaya (103 kepada 73).

Bacaan IPU antara 0 dan 50 dikategori sebagai baik, 51 hingga 100 (sederhana), 101 hingga 200 (tidak sihat), 201 hingga 300 (sangat tidak sihat) dan 300 ke atas (bahaya).

Orang ramai boleh merujuk portal <http://apims.doe.gov.my> untuk mengetahui bacaan IPU semasa.

-- BERNAMA



El Nino: 1,700 Pam, 281 Telaga Tiub Disedia Di Kawasan Pertanian

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 April (Bernama) -- Sebanyak 1,700 buah pam dan 281 telaga tiub disediakan di kawasan pertanian di negeri yang terkesan akibat fenomena El Nino.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani, Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek berkata ia adalah antara langkah proaktif bagi menghadapi kemungkinan tanaman padi, buah dan sayuran terjejas akibat cuaca panas yang dijangka berterusan sehingga bulan Jun ini.

"Selain itu, kita juga menjadualkan semula tanaman di beberapa kawasan subsektor yang terkesan kerana kita menjangkakan impak akibat cuaca panas kepada pesawah dan petani sebulan akan datang.

"Pam-pam disediakan untuk mengepam air ke sawah, manakala telaga tiub untuk kegunaan tanaman buah dan sayuran," katanya di Dewan Negara.

Beliau menjawab soalan senator Engku Naimah Engku Taib mengenai kesan fenomena El Nino yang melanda negara dan langkah kerajaan bagi menangani fenomena itu agar tidak menjejaskan pengeluaran hasil pertanian negara.

Menjawab soalan tambahan Engku Naimah sama ada bekalan ayam dan daging terjejas akibat cuaca panas terutama menjelang bulan Ramadan, Ahmad Shabery berkata pihak kementerian telah melakukan persediaan menghadapi keadaan itu.

"Untuk menghadapi bulan puasa, semua keperluan telah diatur yang bermula sekarang kadar penetasan ayam telah ditambah kerana akibat El Nino, lima hingga 10 peratus pengeluaran ayam akan berkurangan.

"Jika tidak mencukupi kita akan bersedia dengan langkah lain termasuk mengimport agar harga sentiasa dapat distabilkan," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Ahmad Shabery berkata kementerian melihat perlunya kerjasama dengan pihak berkaitan untuk persediaan meramal sebarang bencana termasuk peningkatan suhu akibat El Nino.

Katanya kerjasama dengan [Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia](#) dan Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran adalah perlu bagi berkongsi maklumat untuk berdepan dengan perubahan cuaca yang akan memberi impak kepada pengeluaran hasil pertanian negara.

"Ini tanggungjawab kita sebagai kerajaan. Ada bencana yang sukar kita ramal seperti banjir dan gempa bumi, tetapi El Nino boleh diramal.

"Oleh itu sudah tentu kerjasama ini penting bagi membolehkan kementerian merancang mekanisme tertentu bagi menghadapi kesan cuaca ini terhadap hasil pertanian negara," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT) : MUKA SURAT 48
TARIKH : 22 APRIL 2016 (JUMAAT)

BAHANG EL NINO

**Bomba lawan kebakaran
paya gambut sejak Ahad lalu**

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Mersing

Selain menyiasat punca yang mencetuskan api, Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) Negeri Johor, turut bertungkus lumus memadam kebakaran kawasan paya gambut seluas 100 hektar di Hutan Simpan Gunung Arang, di sini, sejak petang Ahad lalu.

Ini berikutan, menurut sumber yang enggan dikenali, terdapat saksi yang melihat sekumpulan kanak-kanak tergesa-gesa meninggalkan kawasan berkenaan sebelum api merebak dan berlarutan sehingga semalam.

Bagaimanapun, kesahihan maklumat itu sedang dalam siasatan pihak berkenaan yang kini memupuk usaha mengawal kebakaran daripada terus merebak berikutan faktor cuaca panas kering yang melanda sekarang.

Komander Operasi yang juga Peta

nolong Pengarah Bahagian Operasi Kebomhaan dan Penyelamat Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat negeri Mohd Rizal Buang berkata, cuaca panas sekitar 34 darjah Celsius, tiupan angin yang agak kuat selain sumber air yang terhad menjadi cabaran utama anggota yang bertugas.

Ibnu berkata, pihaknya optimis kebakaran itu dapat dikawal sepenuhnya apabila lebih 60 hektar kawasan terjejas benjaya dipadamkan dengan bantuan kira-kira 80 petugas membabitkan pelbagai agensi kerajaan dan swasta.

"Lebih 20 jentera dan kenderaan utiliti termasuk tiga lori tangki masing-masing membawa muatan 20,000 liter air dari Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat Bandar Penawar Kota Tinggi, Mersing dan Taman Universiti Johor Bahru terlibat dalam operasi berkenaan.

"Pihak bomba menghadapi kesukaran untuk memadamkan kebakaran kerana kawasan ini adalah paya gambut.

Lebih 20 jentera dan kenderaan utiliti termasuk tiga lori tangki masing-masing membawa muatan 20,000 liter air"

Mohd Rizal Buang

bekalan air yang terhad selain keadaan berangin kerana monsun barat daya seperti dilaporkan Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia.

"Kami menggunakan kaedah 'fire break' dan 'direct attack' untuk mencegah kebakaran merebak dan jentera pengorek membuat parit atau jalan bagi menghalang api merebak.

"Operasi dijalankan bermula seawal jam 8 pagi dan berjalan berterusan bagi memastikan api dapat dipadam sepenuhnya selain kami bersedia berdepan kemungkinan kebakaran beruslang berikutan fenomena El Nino ketika ini," katanya ketika ditemui di lokasi kebakaran di sini semalam.

Katanya, agensi kerajaan dan swasta yang terlibat termasuk Jabatan Perhutanan, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam, Jabatan Kerja Raya dan Pejabat Daerah Mersing dan Jabatan Mineral dan Geosains.

"Sumber air kami diperolehi dari pili bomba berdekatan sebuah sekolah di Kampung Tanjung Resang yang terletak kira-kira lima kilometer dari lokasi kebakaran.

"Pada sebelah malam, kita mendapat bantuan daripada polis dan Jabatan Sukarelawan Malaysia (RELA) untuk memantau aspek keselamatan di lokasi kejadian," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pegawai Hutan Daerah Johor Timur Mersing, Shohaimi Md. Sani berkata, kejadian itu mengulangi peristiwa pada 2011 apabila seluas 20 hektar kawasan hutan musnah akibat cuaca panas melampau. "Kawasan Hutan Simpan Gunung Arang ini berkeluasan lebih kurang 19,000 hektar dan pada operasi kali ini, seramai 20 renjer hutan ditugaskan mengenal pasti laluan bagi merundahkan anggota bomba bergerak ke kawasan titik kebakaran.

HUTAN Simpan Gunung Arang, Tanjung Resang Mersing Johor, yang terbakar sejak petang Ahad lalu

PUTRAJAYA
IPU 77
8 PAGI



JAMBATAN
PULAU
PINANG
IPU 50



SHAH ALAM
IPU 99
5 PETANG



SEBAHAGIAN anggota bomba memeriksa kebakaran tanah gambut di Hutan Simpan Keroh.



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Empangan Bukit Kwong, Kelantan sudah dihentikan operasi manakala lima empangan utama di tiga negeri terus merekodkan bacaan paras air membimbangkan apabila sebahagiannya hanya mampu menampung bekalan air bagi permintaan domestik untuk tempoh 30 hari.

Empangan itu ialah Timah Tasoh di Perlis, Bukit Merah (Perak) dan Padang Saga, Muda serta Beris (Kedah).

Timbalan Pengarah Kanan Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran (JPS) Siti Azura Mat Daud berkata, Empangan Bukit Kwong kini memiliki stok air hanya 7.81 peratus.

Katanya, empangan itu dihentikan operasi selipada menyalurkan air pada 15 April lalu selepas tidak dapat menampung permintaan untuk tempoh lebih lama.

"Kelima lima empangan itu memiliki baki takungan kurang 50 peratus.

"Selain itu, kita dapat empangan Labong di Johor pula mampu bertahan untuk empat bulan," katanya.

Siti Azura berkata, Syarikat Air Perlis sudah menjalankan catuan air bagi Parlimen Padang Besar dan Kangar pada 16 April lalu.

"Catuan ini mengurangkan 15 peratus pelepasan air dari Empangan Timah Tasoh.

"Bagaimanapun, Perlis masih menerima air dari Empangan Muda, Empangan Ahning dan Empangan Pedu," katanya.

Menurut Siti Azura, empangan akan terus

mengalami kemerosotan air sehingga Juni dan
Juli diperkirakan hujan tidak turun di kawasan
empangan.

"Bagaimanapun, operasi bekalan air masih diteruskan seperti biasa.

"Didapati semua empangan masih menerima hujan, tetapi kadar hujan yang diterima adalah sedikit dan tidak mencukupi untuk meningkatkan aras air di empangan."

"Bagi mengatasi kekurangan itu, operasi pembenihan awan sedang giat dijalankan. malah orang ramai dinasihatkan supaya merancang penggunaan air supaya tidak berlaku pembaziran," katanya.

Menurutnya, operasi pembenihan awan oleh Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia sudah bermula pada 12 April lalu membabitkan empangan di Perak, Perlis, Pulau Pinang dan Kedah.

Berdasarkan rekod kedudukan baki paras air di empangan utama di seluruh negara dikeluarkan JPS, kelmarin, Empangan Timah Tasoh merekodkan baki simpanan 27.84 peratus iaitu di bawah 50 peratus.

Empangan lain merekodkan bacaan di bawah 50 peratus ialah Beris (38.42 peratus), Labong (10.35 peratus), Bukit Merah (12.31 peratus), Padang Saga (37.49 peratus) dan Muda (40.12 peratus).

Bacaan paras air di empangan utama di Lembah Klang masih mencatatkan bacaan sempurna iaitu 60 peratus ke atas semua empangan kecuali Semenyih (58.93 peratus).

la termasuk di Empangan Tasik Subang (100 peratus), Klang Gates (70.43 peratus), Langat (65.33 peratus) dan Sungai Selangor (71.63 peratus).

Stok air
Empangan Bukit
Kwong

Catuan lepasan air
dari Empangan
Timah Tasoh

Bacaan paras
air di empangan
Lembah Klang

■ Empat empangan lain hanya mampu tampung bekalan air bagi permintaan domestik untuk tempoh 30 hari



'Use only genuine chargers'

MOBILE PHONES:

Don't use fake ones or use phone while charging, warns regulatory agency

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THE Energy Commission (ST) has advised mobile phone users to use genuine phone chargers to prevent untoward incidents. In a statement, ST said the safety of fake mobile phone chargers cannot be guaranteed.

"Consumers are advised to adhere to the product's safety man-

ual, which comes with the purchase of the mobile phone from the original manufacturer.

"Consumers are urged not to use their mobile phones whilst it is charging, due to the danger and harm it could pose should the charger be faulty. This could result in electricity leakages," it said.

The commission also warned manufacturers, importers, suppliers and vendors to market only genuine chargers bearing the label **Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (Sirim-ST)**, or the original charger supplied with mobile phones that have the label "Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission".

On Sunday, a housewife was killed at her house in Cheras when using a mobile phone while it was being charged. She was using a non-genuine charger.

Terima banyak tempahan daripada pelancong negara Islam

Hotel patuh syariah PNB

■ TAPAH 21 APRIL

OPERASI rangkaian hotel milik Permodalan Nasional Bhd. (PNB) yang kini memenuhi

keperluan patuh syariah semakin mendapat perhatian pelawat dalam dan luar negara.

Pengurus Besar PNB Darby Park, **Ismail Hisham** berkata, malah sejak hotel-hotel tersebut mempraktikkan amalan patuh syariah, pihaknya menerima banyak tempahan daripada pelancong asing terutama negara-negara Islam.

Katanya, malah ada antara pengunjung hotel PNB Darby Park yang menghabiskan masa menginap di hotel tersebut sehingga enam bulan kerana yakin dengan tahap keselamatan yang ditawarkan.

"Bila kita sebut hotel patuh syariah, ia secara tidak langsung mencipta satu persekitaran selamat kepada pengunjung hotel.

"Ini adalah satu daripada faktor mengapa kita amat mengutamakan pematuhan syariah

dalam pengurusan rangkaian hotel milik firma pelaburan ini," katanya ketika ditemui pada pameran Minggu Saham Amanah Malaysia 2016 (MSAM 2016) di sini hari ini.



Bila kita sebut hotel patuh syariah, ia secara tidak langsung mencipta satu persekitaran selamat kepada pengunjung hotel."

ISMAIL HISHAM
Pengurus Besar PNB Darby Park

Selain itu, katanya, kesemua hotel PNB termasuk Lanjut Golden Beach & Golf Resort di Endau-Rompin dan Hotel Sri Petaling di Petaling Jaya yang diuruskan oleh anak syarikatnya, PNB Commercial juga mempunyai persijilan halal Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (Jakim) dan **Sirih**.

MSAM 2015 yang bermula 20 April dirasmikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Sepanjang sembilan hari acara tersebut berlangsung sehingga 28 April, pelbagai aktiviti pendidikan dan pameran yang

disertai 50 peserta terdiri daripada syarikat Kumpulan PNB, ejen-ejen



Wartawan
NABILA YASMIN RAZIB
Jurugambar **RIDUAN RIZAL AHMAD, AMIN FARIJ HASAN dan ABDUL RAZAK LATIF**

ASN, badan kawal selia serta agensi kerajaan dan swasta.

Sepanjang MSAM itu juga, rangkaian hotel PNB menyediakan pakej menarik khusus buat pengunjung ke pameran tersebut.

Setiap pakej istimewa tersebut sah selama setahun daripada tempoh pembelian.

Selain PNB Darby Park, terdapat dua lagi hotel di bawah PNB Management Services Sdn. Bhd. iaitu Hotel Perdana Kota Bharu (Hotel Perdana) dan PNB Ilham Resort.

Sementara itu, Pengurus Besar Hotel Perdana, **Muhammad Taha Zainal** berkata, sempena Ramadan yang bakal tiba, Hotel Perdana turut menawarkan Bufet Ramadan pada harga promosi RM60 seorang.

"Setiap RM1 daripada bufet Ramadan akan disalurkan kepada anak-anak yatim," katanya.