

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 29 APRIL 2016 (JUMAAT)

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Hujan Di Empangan Durian, Sepri Dan Gemencheh Hasil Pembenihan Awan - Madius

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 April (Bernama) -- Operasi pembenihan awan yang dijalankan di Melaka dan Negeri Sembilan hari ini berjaya menghasilkan hujan di tiga kawasan di negeri berkenaan.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata kawasan berkenaan melibatkan Empangan Durian, Melaka serta Empangan Sepri dan Gemencheh di Negeri Sembilan.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata hanya Stesen Meteorologi Kuala Krai, Kelantan merekodkan bacaan tertinggi 38.4 darjah celcius setakat 4 petang tadi.

"Sebanyak tujuh kawasan masih mencatatkan bilangan hari tanpa hujan melebihi 10 hari berturut-turut iaitu di Kota Bharu, Machang, Pasir Mas, Besut, Mersing, Raub dan Kudat," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, malam ini.

Selain itu, Madius berkata bilangan titik panas yang dicerap di Semenanjung Malaysia meningkat daripada satu titik panas pada Selasa kepada tiga titik panas pada semalam iaitu dua dikesan di Rompin dan satu di Pekan, Pahang.

Tiada titik panas dikesan di Sabah dan Sarawak.

-- BERNAMA



Operasi Pembenihan Awan Perlukan Awan Kumulus Menara Untuk Hasilkan Hujan

KANGAR, 28 April (Bernama) -- Operasi pembenihan awan (OPA) hanya boleh dilakukan apabila terdapat awan 'towering cumulus' (kumulus menara) dalam udara atau atmosfera yang sesuai untuk menghasilkan hujan.

Timbalan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Datuk Dr Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah berkata sasaran utama sebelum pembenihan awan dilakukan ialah peluang kejayaan menghasilkan hujan mesti melebihi 95 peratus.

"Awan kumulus menara dan wap air di atmosfera yang sedikit kadangkala menyebabkan peluang pembenihan awan berjaya menghasilkan hujan adalah kurang.

"Kita tiada masalah melaksanakan OPA kerana Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia sentiasa memantau atmosfera. Jika keadaan sesuai, kita akan melaksanakan," katanya selepas meninjau Pameran dan Pertandingan Inovasi, Rekabentuk dan Artikulasi Antarabangsa ke-3 (i-IDeA) di Dewan 2020 di sini hari ini.

Beliau berkata kerajaan membelanjakan antara RM30,000 dan RM80,000 bagi setiap OPA menggunakan pesawat Cessna atau pesawat C-130H milik Tentera Udara Diraja Malaysia (TUDM).

Menurutnya penghasilan hujan dilakukan dengan dua kaedah iaitu pertama, menggunakan air garam yang disembur ke dalam awan kumulus menara untuk memberatkan awan agar hujan akan terhasil.

Kaedah kedua ialah 'hygroscopic flare' iaitu kaedah pembakaran garam higroskopik bersaiz zarah berspektrum besar ke dalam awan, kata Abu Bakar.

Sementara itu, paras air Empangan Timah Tasoh mencatatkan penurunan 0.01 meter hari ini. Paras pada pukul 5 petang ini ialah 26.16 meter berbanding 26.17 meter semalam.

-- BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI) : MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH : 29 APRIL 2016 (JUMAAT)



AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI bersalaman dengan ahli mesyuarat selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Tertinggi Pengurusan Bencana Pusat di Bangunan Perdana Putra, Putrajaya, semalam. - UTUSAN/ZAKI AMIRUDDIN

Bukit Merah, Timah Tasoh bukan kawasan bencana – Zahid

PUTRAJAYA 28 April - Kerajaan tidak akan mengisytiharkan Empangan Timah Tasoh, Perlis dan Bukit Merah, Perak sebagai kawasan bencana pada masa ini berikutan faktor kewangan dan perundangan.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata, dua faktor itu akan memberi implikasi terutama dari aspek pembayaran pampasan yang harus dilakukan kepada petani, selain isu perundangan yang merumitkan.

Walau bagaimanapun beliau berkata, kerajaan secara berterusan akan meneliti beberapa kaedah untuk mengatasi permasalahan itu dari semasa ke semasa.

Sebagai langkah segera, jelas beliau, kerajaan menerusi Jawatankuasa Teknikal Pengurusan Bencana Pusat telah mengambil tindakan memasang paip air di Empangan Bukit Merah dan mendalamkan Tasik Bukit Merah serta meninggikan tebatan di kawasan empangan yang kritikal.

“Kerajaan prihatin terhadap sa-

ranan pengisytiharan itu, namun ia bukan jalan penyelesaian kerana masih terdapat beberapa kaedah atau langkah lain yang boleh diambil.

“Pada masa sekarang, kerajaan bersetuju untuk memastikan kawasan kritikal terutama Bukit Merah dan Timah Tasoh mendapat bekalan air melalui pam-pam air yang bergerak dan pengagihan oleh Pakar Pengendalian Air Ke-60, Rejimen Askar Jurutera Diraja (RAJD) khususnya untuk kawasan penduduk,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang akhbar selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Tertinggi Pengurusan Bencana Pusat di Bangunan Perdana Putra di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim dan Ketua Pengarah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara, Datuk Zaitun Ab. Samah.

Bukit Merah dan Timah Tasoh sebelum ini dicadang diisytiharkan sebagai kawasan bencana disebabkan

kan cuaca panas serta kering akibat fenomena El Nino.

Ahmad Zahid memberitahu, sehingga semalam, paras semasa bekalan air di Empangan Timah Tasoh dicatatkan sebanyak 26.17 meter dan jumlah simpanan sebanyak 13.21 peratus, manakala paras semasa di Bukit Merah adalah sebanyak 6.16 meter dan jumlah simpanan sebanyak 13.66 peratus.

Beliau seterusnya berkata, jawatankuasa turut memutuskan perkembangan mengenai El Nino dan paras empangan hanya boleh dirujuk menerusi maklumat daripada **Jabatan Meteorologi**.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri berkata, setakat ini, sebanyak tujuh daripada 41 empangan dikategorikan sebagai sangat kritikal kerana bekalan air simpanan berada pada tahap yang membimbangkan.

“Empangan itu adalah Timah Tasoh, Bukit Merah, Gemencheh (Negeri Sembilan), Lebam, Congok, Layang dan Labong yang kesemuanya di Johor,” katanya.



Kerajaan Belum Putuskan Isytihar Bukit Merah Kawasan Bencana - Ahmad Zahid



PUTRAJAYA, 28 April (Bernama) -- Kerajaan belum memutuskan mengisytiharkan Bukit Merah, Perak, yang terjejas ekoran cuaca panas dan kering akibat El-Nino, sebagai kawasan bencana kerana perlu meneliti aspek perundangan dan kewangan berkaitan.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata kerajaan Persekutuan sudah menerima permohonan daripada kerajaan negeri Perak berhubung pengisytiharan kawasan Bukit Merah sebagai kawasan bencana.

Beliau berkata ia boleh memberi implikasi mendalam jika kawasan itu diumumkan sebagai bencana atau dalam keadaan darurat seperti implikasi kewangan terutamanya dari segi bayaran pampasan kepada petani.

"Tetapi, kerajaan Persekutuan tetap prihatin dan memikirkan beberapa langkah yang harus dilakukan terlebih dahulu bagi mengatasi masalah berkenaan dan bukannya hanya sekadar pengisytiharan," katanya kepada media selepas mempengerusikan mesyuarat Jawatankuasa tertinggi Pengurusan Bencana Pusat di sini, hari ini,

Ahmad Zahid berkata mesyuarat hari ini turut membincangkan langkah dan kaedah yang dicadangkan bagi mengatasi masalah di Bukit Merah termasuk pemasangan paip air ke tasik, mendalaman tasik dan meninggikan kawasan tambatan di kawasan tasik berkenaan.

Mesyuarat itu juga membincangkan permohonan kerajaan negeri Perak untuk segera menyelesaikan masalah di Kerian yang menghadapi kesulitan kekurangan air yang kritikal untuk kegunaan harian dan pertanian, katanya.

"Ini (cadangan-cadangan untuk atasi masalah) akan dibincangkan secara halus oleh Jawatankuasa Teknikal selepas ini...kita akan mengambil tindakan segera," katanya.

Menurutnya Jawatankuasa Teknikal itu akan dipengerusikan oleh Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

Ahmad Zahid berkata mesyuarat itu turut dimaklumkan bahawa tujuh daripada 41 empangan di seluruh negara berada pada tahap kritikal dengan jumlah simpanan air yang membimbangkan.

Empangan berkenaan ialah Gemencheh, Negeri Sembilan; Timah Tasoh, Perlis; Bukit Merah, Perak dan empat kawasan di Johor iaitu Lebam, Congok, Layang dan Labong.

"Beberapa langkah segera telah dilakukan termasuk bekalan air ke kawasan pengairan mesti dibantu segera oleh pam-pam bergerak dari sumber air seperti sungai, tasik, kolam dan air bawah tanah," katanya.

Ahmad Zahid yang juga Menteri Dalam Negeri berkata maklumat mengenai aras empangan daripada sistem amaran awal **Jabatan Meteorologi dan Agensi Remote Sensing** akan dikongsi oleh kesemua jabatan dan agensi yang terlibat dalam menangani masalah berkenaan.

Selain itu, anggota Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) digerakkan untuk penghantaran bekalan air menggunakan tangki bergerak sejak tiga hari lalu termasuk di Chini dan Pekan di Pahang serta Dengkil, Selangor.

Mengenai operasi pembenihan awan, beliau berkata aktiviti itu tetap diteruskan walaupun berlaku beberapa kegagalan penghasilan hujan akibat pergerakan awan di kawasan bukan tadahan hujan.

Mesyuarat itu turut membincangkan mengenai penubuhan Sistem Imbangan Air Negara (NAWABS) sebagai langkah jangka panjang untuk menambah baik sistem permintaan bekalan air negara.

--BERNAMA

7 dams may dry up

MITIGATION: Mobile water pumps will be use to supply water to affected areas, says Zahid

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SEVEN dams in the country are at a critical level due to the El Nino weather phenomenon.

They are Bukit Merah in Perak, Timah Tasoh in Perlis, Gemencheh in Negri Sembilan and four dams in Johor (Lebam, Congok, Layang and Labong).

There are 41 dams in the country.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who chaired the Cabinet Committee on Disasters yesterday, said the panel decided to adopt measures to mitigate the problem.

"Based on advice by the technical committee, it is decided that continuous water supply will be made available to the affected areas by using mobile water pumps, which will draw water from nearby rivers, lakes and underwater reservoirs.

"We will also adopt an early warning system used by the Meteorological Department and remote sensing to predict falling water levels in dams," he added.



Deputy Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi** speaking to Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Mohamad Hassan** (centre) before chairing the Cabinet Committee on Disasters meeting in Putrajaya yesterday. With him is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department **Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim** (left). Pic by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

Zahid said cloud seeding would continue although several efforts had failed due to the unpredictable cloud movements.

He added that the Armed Forces would deploy its special regiments to mobilise its tankers to supply water to people in affected areas.

The operations started three days ago in Chini, Pahang, and in Dengkil, he said.

"In Sabah, only one dam in Kudat is affected and the issue is being handled by the committee. The state government has requested that the Federal Government bear the transportation costs to supply water to affected areas.

"In Sarawak, El Nino has affected Limbang badly. Continuous monitoring will be carried out as the area has reported eight cholera cases."

Due to the heatwave, Zahid said, the Health Ministry had reported 212 cases — 125 for heat exhaustion, 53 heat cramp, 22 heatstroke and two deaths. He said long-term measures, like the National Water Balance System, would be taken.

On the water level at Bukit Merah Dam, he said the state was facing a water crisis, especially in Kerian.

"The government will look into the matter and implement the right measures as soon as possible."

When asked if Bukit Merah would

be declared a disaster area, Zahid said the government had decided not to do so after considering the financial and legal aspects.

"There are great implications involved if the National Disaster Management Agency were to declare those places as disaster areas.

"If the affected places are declared as disaster areas, the government must pay compensation to farmers. These are among the factors that must be considered."

He said the meeting instead had proposed the installation of pipes to Tasik Merah and the deepening of Tasik Merah to mitigate the water shortage.

Cooler days are here at last

By JOASH EE DE SILVA
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PETALING JAYA: Many Malaysians can breathe a sigh of relief. The worst of the heatwave is over and they can expect cool and clear weather in the coming weeks.

Malaysian Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail said that as of Wednesday, there were only three hotspots in the country – all along the coast of Pahang.

“There are some hotspots at and around Kuala Rompin and Pekan as the east coast has been a bit dry due to little or no rain,” she said.

“In the west coast, however, it has rained regularly.”

Che Gayah added that the situation has improved around the country because the rain has put out fires in recent days, and there has been a sharp drop in the number of hotspots in the peninsula from the 31 on April 20.

She pointed out that the haze over some places in the country was mostly from local

sources such as forest fires, smoke from vehicles and factories.

Che Gayah said that in the coming few days, there was not likely to be any trans-boundary haze as the wind was still not blowing from Sumatra.

“As of now, parts of Sumatra have received significant rainfall.

“A few hotspots were detected but the smoke will not blow into our country.”

On the heatwave, she said that only Kuala Krai recorded a heatwave, whereas in other areas, the inter-monsoon rains have lowered the temperatures.

According to the department, a “heatwave” is declared when the temperature of an area is over 35°C for five days in a row, or over 37°C for three days in a row.

She said Malaysia normally experienced high daily temperatures in March and early April. With the El Nino phenomenon, the temperature could increase by between 0.5°C and 3°C from the normal values.

“The heatwave will gradually weaken till it diminishes in May,” she said.

Govt prepares for the worst

By Jonathan Edward

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PUTRAJAYA — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said expediting special allocations for water related projects to ensure consumer and agricultural access was among measures taken by the government to reduce the impact of the El Nino phenomenon.

“Any projects aimed at providing consumers with water must be completed at the soonest possible time,” he said after chairing a high-level meeting on disaster management meeting yesterday.

This included pumping water from lakes, rivers and ground water to shore up reservoirs, and continuing cloud seeding and tube wells to irrigate agricultural land.

Zahid said the government was doing its best to mitigate the impact of El Nino on



consumers.

It would offset any loss of agricultural productivity and introduce price controls to ensure those preparing for Ramadan would not be affected.

He said coordinating water management efforts had proven to be a challenge as some of the issues were under the purview of state governments.

“This meeting is meant to improve efforts by the state and federal authorities in facing this problem,” he said.

The El Nino phenomenon searing

the country has seen the average daily temperature rise from 28°C to between 35 and 40°C.

Dam levels nationwide are alarmingly low and agricultural production has suffered especially in padi producing states of Perlis and Kedah.

Zahid also said Bukit Merah would not be declared a disaster zone yet but the government would continue to monitor developments.

The meeting was attended by several menteri besar, chief ministers and federal ministers whose ministries are engaged in mitigation efforts.

The key areas discussed were the status of available water nationwide, the hot and dry weather, the disaster warning system operated by the Meteorological Department, and remote sensing of natural disasters.

The meeting also discussed the threat of dengue and Zika virus.