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TARIKH: 12 MEI 2016 (KHAMIS)

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Expect more rain, says minister

By Jerry Choong and Lavinia Louis
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PETALING JAYA — After several months of prolonged heat, rainfall is set to bring relief to the nation.

Science, Innovation and Technology Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau said rainfall due to the inter-monsoon season, was expected to continue until next week.

Madius said rain and thunderstorms would occur in the late afternoon, at a more even spread in the peninsula's west coast, Sabah's east coast, as well as Sarawak's western coast and central areas.

He said rain will only be concentrated in certain areas.

"It has not rained in Kota Baru for 37 consecutive days, whereas Mersing and Besut have experienced 24 days of dry weather," he said.

"We will continue to carry out cloud seeding operations to assist dams recording critical water levels, whenever the atmospheric conditions around them are suitable," he said.

A Meteorological Department spokesman said the current season would lead to the Southwest monsoon later on.

"We expect it to be slightly drier than other seasons, except for the northern states and Sabah, which will have comparatively more rainfall than the other states," he said.

Rain also sparked flash floods in several areas in the Klang Valley yesterday.

As at 8.30pm yesterday, 132 people from 35 families in seven villages in Sepang have been evacuated to the Taman Sri Gemilang community hall up from 17 people from five families on Tuesday night.

Twenty families from Kampung Sungai Serai, Hulu Langat, were also affected.

Their houses and a mosque in the area were inundated following a downpour yesterday, Bernama reported.

Fifteen flood victims in Kapar were also temporarily evacuated to a relief centre on Tuesday night following flash floods in the area.

Meanwhile, dengue cases are expected to rise as the rainy season begins.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the ministry was expecting to see a rise in the number of cases by July.



Jalan Reko in Kajang was flooded following a downpour yesterday. — Picture by Twitter user @Ehjanah

"We hope the number of cases will not be as what it was before the hot season," he said.

As of Tuesday, 46,236 cases were reported with the death toll standing at 105. On Tuesday, 229 new cases were reported and Selangor recorded the highest number at 146 cases.

"People should continue to eradicate breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes," Dr Subramaniam said.

"We are also working with various non-governmental associations to have major cleanups in hotspot areas. It will be an ongoing exercise," he said.

Dr Subramaniam also said the ministry was testing out new technologies to help combat the deadly virus.

"We are working with universities on this and we will call for a briefing when it is ready," he said.

Temperature forecast today

Kota Baru

34°C

Kuala Terengganu

34°C

Kuantan

34°C

George Town

32°C

Ipoh

33°C

Alor Star

34°C

Chuping

35°C

Kangar

35°C

Putrajaya

34°C

Kuala Lumpur

34°C

Petaling Jaya

34°C

Seremban

33°C

Malacca

33°C

Johor Baru

33°C

Kuching

33°C

Kota Kinabalu

35°C



Kit Rumah Kurangkan 49 Peratus Kes Denggi Di Selangor, KL Dan Johor - Mosti

KUALA LUMPUR, 11 Mei (Bernama) -- Kit Rumah Perlindungan Lengkap Denggi yang diedarkan di Selangor, Kuala Lumpur dan Johor tahun lalu dilihat berupaya mengurangkan 49 peratus kes denggi berbanding sebelum program itu dilaksanakan.

Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (Mosti) Prof Madya Dr Ramzah Dambul berkata pemberian 100,000 kit denggi secara percuma kepada tiga negeri terpilih tahun lalu, dilihat mencapai sasaran mengurangkan kes denggi dalam tempoh setahun.

"Berdasarkan laporan program setahun melibatkan 30 komuniti terpilih, 20,000 isi rumah dan kira-kira 76,000 penduduk, kami mendapati pengurangan sebanyak 49 peratus dalam situasi ini, berbanding sebelum pelaksanaan program kesedaran.

"Dalam komuniti ini, kami menyediakan Kit Pencegahan denggi, melatih dan memberi ilmu pengetahuan mengenai cara mencegah kawasan jiran tetangga daripada wabak denggi," katanya selepas merasmikan forum 'Dengue360: Innovations in dengue prevention' di sini, hari ini.

Dr Ramzah berkata hasil daripada pendedahan dan ajaran yang diberikan Mosti kepada masyarakat, penduduk dilihat sudah mula bergerak dengan sendiri.

"Orang ramai semakin berjaga-jaga dan menggunakan kaedah yang diberikan dengan sebaik mungkin.

"Dengan langkah ini, ia membolehkan masalah denggi di negara ini dikurangkan.

Kit berkenaan berjaya mengurangkan kes denggi di tiga buah negeri itu sudah mula berada di pasaran sejak bulan lepas dengan harga RM45.90, katanya.

Kit rumah itu mengandungi 'biolarvicide mousticide' yang dapat membunuh larva nyamuk, losyen penghalang nyamuk dan perangkap Ovi Larva Aedes itu, direka khas untuk membunuh sistem pembiakan nyamuk.

-- BERNAMA

Aedes-busters on sale

> Kits helped halve incidence of dengue cases in test areas

BY **LEE CHOON FAI**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Aedes-busting kits, which have helped reduce the incidence of dengue cases by half in test areas are now sold in supermarkets.

Science, Technology, and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) deputy secretary-general Prof Dr Ramzah Dambul said the kits were the result of a collaboration between the public and private sector to fight dengue.

Dubbed the "Dengue-Free Community" (KBD) kits, Ramzah said the kits managed to reduce dengue cases by 49% in areas where it was distributed for a study.

"This is a very promising sign to our efforts, although we know this is just the beginning," Ramzah said during his keynote address at the inaugural Innovations on Dengue Prevention Conference (Dengue 360).

He said innovative ideas proven in labs and controlled environments often had difficulties in practical, large-scale application due to lack of funds, and the same applied to combating dengue.

For that reason, Ramzah said the government urged the private sector to participate and help commercialise

innovative ideas that could contribute to the public well-being.

He thanked EntoGenex Industries Sdn Bhd and Inno Biologics Sdn Bhd for their collaboration in developing the RM36 million KBD programme, fully funded by Mosti.

EntoGenex communication director V. Nantha Kumar said 100,000 KBD kits had been distributed to 30 selected hotspot communities in Selangor, Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur, and Johor as a pilot project.

The project, emphasising community intervention, spanned over a year and

involved 76,000 residents from 20,000 households who were educated about dengue and trained to use the KBD kits.

"Residents were given 12 weeks of training, after which they received the KBD kits," said Nantha.

The KBD kit contains an ovitrap to trap larvae, Mousticide to kill said larvae both in the ovitrap and other water catchment areas, and a mosquito repellent.

Nantha said the kit was made with organic and biodegradable ingredients and could last up to six months.

Smaller kits are now sold in supermarkets such as Giant for RM49.90.

NEW STRAITS TIMES ONLINE

Innovative solutions needed to combat dengue

BY THARANYA ARUMUGAM - 11 MAY 2016 @ 3:27 PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: An innovative solution is badly needed to tackle dengue, however the public needs a change in mindset in accepting the new innovations.

Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti) deputy secretary-general Prof Dr Ramzah Dambul said innovation is the way forward as it is the key value that could change the course of the nation for the better.

He said experts, researchers and scientists face many challenges in transferring the knowledge and research in the laboratory to be implemented at the grassroots level.

"There are many things that should be taken into consideration when we transfer our lab scale experiments to the public. It must be effective and pose no side effects when implemented on a large scale.

"Dengue is not the only problem that we are facing... there are many other societal issues that need to be addressed.

"Hence, we are encouraging industries to come forward and help us come up with any innovation that deals with societal problems," he told a press conference here today after launching the Dengue 360 Innovation in Dengue Prevention Forum 2016.

Ramzah said dengue is a serious matter and in efforts to combat the increasing number of cases, Mosti had introduced the Komuniti Bebas Denggi Program, or KBD in short.

The one year programme, involving 20,000 households and some 76,000 residents, had seen a reduction of 49 per cent in the number of dengue cases in selected areas in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya and Johor.

Cyber999 terima sembilan aduan kecurian data

Serdang: Pusat Bantuan Cyber999 CyberSecurity Malaysia menerima sembilan aduan kecurian data sehingga Mac lalu membabitkan individu dan syarikat.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif CyberSecurity Malaysia Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab berkata, jumlah yang sama turut direkodkan pada tahun lalu.

“Kita percaya data ini dicuri untuk dijual pada nilai tertentu di pasaran gelap, Dark Web atau Darknett yang terdapat di dalam Deep Web.”

“Aktiviti di Dark Web ini sebenarnya lebih besar berbanding laman web yang biasa kita gunakan malah perniagaan mereka juga sukar dikesan kerana menggunakan Bitcoins,” katanya.

Menurutnya, antara contoh data yang dijual di Dark Web ialah data peribadi pelajar, ahli perniagaan termasuk pesakit.

“Nilai sesuatu maklumat yang dibeli menggunakan Bitcoins akan semakin meningkat bergantung kepada profil individu atau syarikat.

“Sehubungan itu, di Cyber999, kami sentiasa bekerjasama dengan polis khususnya Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Komersial (JSJK) untuk memantau aktiviti ini,” katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE STAR (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH : 12 MEI 2016 (KHAMIS)

Cheaper mangoes passed off as iconic Harumanis

By ROYCE TAN

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PETALING JAYA: The heatwave since early this year has taken a toll on the fruiting of Perlis' iconic Harumanis mango, causing a drop of almost 40%.

While this has not only caused a hike in the prices and a lower supply of Harumanis, certain traders and sellers have exploited the situation to pass off cheaper mangoes as Harumanis, making at least thrice what they are worth.

Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development (MARDI) Arau station manager Othman Ismail said the so-called Harumanis flooding the market were actually tong dam, sala and arumanis mangoes, most of which were from Thailand.

"The skin and the size is about the same but it's not Harumanis."

"Harumanis at its maximum size is around 600g per fruit but for other mangoes such as sala, each fruit can go up to between 750g and 1kg."

He also said that the real Harumanis has a slight curve at the bottom and sometimes an odd shape, unlike other mangoes.

Othman said the current market price for Harumanis is between RM35 and RM40 per kilo while the distributor price from the orchard was around RM25 per kilo.

The sala and arumanis mangoes were only sold around RM8 per kilo while the tong dam mangoes were sold between RM5 and RM10 per kilo.

Harumanis orchardist and distributor Dr Bidin Yatim shared tips

on how to differentiate the real Harumanis from other similar looking mangoes.

"While the latter will look more appealing to consumers, it is not as sweet and aromatic as the green ones," said Dr Bidin.

He said other mangoes were passed off as Harumanis since two years ago when its prices started to pick up.

"We are very concerned because it will bring a bad name to Perlis' iconic fruit."

On Tuesday, Bernama reported that the Perlis government has requested Sirim (Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia) to create a special label for the Harumanis to preserve the interest of the entrepreneurs of the state's icon.



Making their purchase: Visitors choosing from the iconic mangoes displayed for sale at a stall in Perlis.