

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 23 JUN 2016 (KHAMIS)

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1	Humidity a threat to landslide areas	The Star
2	267 syarikat terima status BioNexus	Utusan Malaysia
3	GLT mahu kutip dana tampung kos operasi	Berita Harian
4	Special squads all set to ensure water flows freely	The Star
5	Sitting on a rocky slope	The Star

Humidity a threat to landslide areas

PETALING JAYA: Landslide-prone slopes could turn out to be disaster zones in the humid atmosphere and the authorities are zooming in on locations that need urgent attention.

As the weather is beyond control, the Public Works Department (PWD) is watching landslide-prone areas under its jurisdiction.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Madius Tangau said the weather had remained humid since last weekend, although it should be dry during the current south-west monsoon season.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia), which is under the ministry, affirmed that the humid weather was caused by low air pressure over the South China Sea close to Malaysia.

The low pressure led to a build-up of clouds, bringing persistent rain.

"This humid climate is expected until mid-week. At the same time, there has been an increase in the intensity of rain," Tangau said.

A MetMalaysia spokesman said the occurrence of La Nina could only be confirmed after October.

However, most climate models predict that La Nina would most probably occur by the end of the year, she said.

267 syarikat terima status BioNexus

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■ KUALA LUMPUR 21 JUN

MALAYSIAN Bioeconomy Development Corporation (Bioeconomy Corporation) telah menganugerahkan status BioNexus kepada 267 buah syarikat setakat bulan ini, selepas hampir 10 tahun program itu dimulakan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Datuk Dr. Mohd. Nazlee Kamal berkata, syarikat-syarikat berstatus BioNexus itu telah mula menjadi enjin ekonomi domestik terutama di dalam sektor-sektor baharu, sekali gus mengukuhkan lagi kedudukan ekonomi Malaysia.

Namun katanya, isu utama yang sering dihadapi oleh syarikat-syarikat permulaan di dalam industri bio adalah modal perniagaan.

Katanya, pendekatan dana runcit atau *crowdfunding* merupakan satu alternatif penting yang dilihat boleh membantu perkembangan industri bio termasuk dalam kalangan syarikat-syarikat

BioNexus.

"*Crowdfunding* telah dilaksanakan di Eropah dan boleh dikatakan kaedah pembiayaan itu telah membantu perkembangan sektor bioteknologi di Perancis dan United Kingdom (UK). Saya harap kelebihan ini mencapai kejayaan yang sama di Malaysia," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam majlis pengenalan syarikat biogas, Green Lagoon Technology Sdn. Bhd. (GLT) kepada pelabur-pelabur di sini hari ini.

Teks ucapan beliau dibacakan oleh Naib Presiden Kanan, Pejabat Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Bioeconomy Corporation, Adnan Baharum.

Dalam majlis memperkenalkan syarikat itu, GLT didaftarkan di laman web pencarian *crowdfunding* iaitu *CrowdPlus.Asia*, untuk mendapatkan suntikan dana sehingga RM800,000 bagi membayai aktiviti pembelian tambahan kepentingan di dalam dua kilang



MOHD. NAZLEE KAMAL

biogas di Pahang.

Menurut Mohd. Nazlee, kaedah *crowdfunding* itu diharap dijadikan landasan untuk menghasilkan lebih banyak syarikat-syarikat bio tempatan yang menjadi pemain utama industri antarabangsa.

"Hal ini selari dengan inisiatif Going Global di dalam Dasar Bioteknologi Kebang-

saan 2016-2020 untuk melahirkan sekurang-kurangnya 20 syarikat global berasaskan perniagaan bio," katanya.

Bilangan syarikat berstatus BioNexus setakat bulan ini juga menyaksikan peningkatan daripada 253 syarikat yang dicatatkan setakat awal tahun lalu dengan 86 daripadanya syarikat milik bumiputera.

Mohd. Nazlee berkata, pihaknya akan memberi fokus untuk melahirkan lebih banyak syarikat bumiputera berstatus BioNexus dengan tumpuan pembangunan di peringkat negeri.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT B6
TARIKH: 23 JUN 2016 (KHAMIS)



(Dari kiri), Sow Keong, Chung, Adnan dan Cheah melancarkan tawaran pengumpulan dana masyarakat berasaskan ekuiti CrowdPlus.asia di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

GLT mahu kutip dana tampung kos operasi

➔ Syarikat
guna platform
pengumpulan
dana
masyarakat
berasaskan ekuiti

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Green Lagoon Technology Sdn Bhd (GLT), syarikat penjana tenaga bebas (IPP) menggunakan sisa sawit, menyasar untuk mengumpul dana bagi menampung kos operasinya seiring dengan perkembangan syarikat.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Chan Sow Keong, berkata GLT adalah syarikat teknologi hijau pertama di ASEAN yang merancang untuk mengumpul dana menerusi platform pengumpulan dana masyarakat (crowdfunding) berasaskan ekuiti.

Katanya, dana berkenaan akan digunakan untuk mem-

bangunkan kemudahan menguruskan pelepasan bio gas daan sisa air di kilang sawit syarikat bagi menjana aliran pendapatan yang boleh diperbaharui.

"Kami sedang berusaha untuk meraih dana berkenaan dengan menawarkan pegangan kepentingan sebanyak 6.5 peratus bagi tujuan pelaksanaan opsyen pilihan dalam dua loji bio gas 1 MegaWatt (MW) yang sedia ada di Pahang, masing-masing kepada 40 peratus berbanding 20 peratus pada masa ini," katanya.

Suntik dana RM800,000

Beliau berkata demikian selepas pelancaran tawaran pengumpulan dana masyarakat berasaskan ekuiti CrowdPlus.asia di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Naib Presiden Kanan Bio Economy Corp, Adnan Baharum; Ketua Pegawai Operasi GLT, Raymond Cheah dan Ketua Pegawai Operasi CrowdPlus Sdn Bhd, Bryan Chung.

GLT akan didaftarkan dalam CrowdPlus.asia merancang untuk mendapatkan suntikan dana berjumlah RM800,000.

Sementara itu, bagi peran-

Info

Green Lagoon Technology

➔ GLT adalah penyedia penyelesaian sehati

yang menjadikan effluen kilang sawit kepada tenaga boleh diperbaharui, khusus dalam memerangkap bio gas, penuaian, penyimpanan, rawatan dan penggunaan.

➔ GLT menyasarkan pendapatan RM29 juta

tahun ini dan setakat separuh pertama tahun ini, ia sudah meraih pendapatan RM20 juta.

➔ GLT merancang untuk disenaraikan di pasaran saham luar negara sama ada London, Australia atau Hong Kong bagi tujuan meraih dana antara RM300 juta hingga RM400 juta.

cangan masa depan syarikat, Raymond berkata, GLT merancang untuk disenaraikan di pasaran saham luar negara sama ada London, Australia atau Hong Kong bagi tujuan meraih dana antara RM300 juta hingga RM400 juta.

Katanya, pemilihan tawaran awam permulaan (IPO) di luar negara dibuat kerana negara berkenaan seperti Hong Kong umpamanya, mampu menawarkan sumber modal lebih banyak berbanding di Malaysia.

"Selain itu, ia juga menawarkan lebih banyak kemahiran pelabur dalam industri teknologi hijau. Pengumpulan dana berkenaan adalah sasaran terbesar syarikat untuk jangka sederhana dan panjang, seiring perkembangan syarikat," katanya.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya sudah mengadakan perbincangan dengan pengatur pasaran bagi tujuan penyenaraian itu.

"Syarikat kini berpotensi untuk mendapatkan kira-kira 20 projek perniagaan berkaitan teknologi hijau menjelang tahun 2020, termasuk menggunakan sisa sawit atau khidmat nasihat tenaga boleh diperbaharui," katanya.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (NATION) : MUKA SURAT 4
TARIKH: 23 JUN 2016 (KHAMIS)

Special squads all set to ensure water flows freely

By TAN SIN CHOW
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GEORGE TOWN: Special squads from local authorities and the state Drainage and Irrigation Department have been monitoring rubbish traps and pump houses in view of the coming La Nina season.

"We will ensure that rubbish is cleared to prevent flash floods since the wet spell is coming," said

Penang Local Government, Traffic Management and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow.

He identified several flood-prone areas such as Bayan Lepas, Teluk Kumbar and the fringe areas in Sungai Pinang such as Kampung Makam, Kampung Masjid and Jalan P. Ramlee.

Chow said Transfer Road was another hotspot as the construction

of drainage was still ongoing.

"Some areas are subjected to the tidal effect as there will be flash floods even when there is no rain.

"It could be worse if heavy rain is accompanied by high tide," he said.

On the mainland, the flood-prone areas are Alma, Permatang Rawa, Padang Lalang, Permatang Tok Subuh, Taman Bagan, Taman

Cantek and low-lying areas in Jawi.

According to the Malaysian Meteorological Department website, Penang will be experiencing rains and isolated thunderstorms for the next five days starting today.

Penang Fire and Rescue Department director Azmi Tamat said his men were ready to face the possibility of floods.

Each of the 17 fire stations in the state has at least one boat to be uti-

lised during an emergency.

Azmi said only 10% of the 760-strong workforce in the state was allowed to go on leave during Ramadan and the Raya season.

He also advised the public to keep important documents in sealed packages and place them on higher ground during the wet spell.

"They should also check their electric cables to avoid being electrocuted," he said.

Sitting on a rocky slope



Close brush with death: An avalanche of granite boulders at this spot in Penang on May 28 nearly killed passing motorists.

Boulders and loose earth a likely problem when La Nina hits

By SIRA HABIBU and ARNOLD LOH
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PETALING JAYA: Granite boulders half-buried in hillslopes along roads around the country and slippery, loose earth at the slopes could prove to be a major problem with the onset of La Nina, which is likely to bring heavy rains.

On Penang island, the Public Works Department is facing a major headache.

Engineers have pulled out many loose boulders along Jalan Tun Sardon, a road that climbs the Penang Hill range from Paya Terubong to Balik Pulau and Bayan Lepas, said state department director Salleh Awang.

"The challenge is that many of the boulders farther uphill are on private land.

"The earthwork necessary to extract the boulders could damage the terrain or even the durian trees up there.

"We have told some of the land-

owners to keep an eye on landslide risks during wet weather," he said.

An avalanche of granite boulders along the road on May 28 almost killed passing motorists while a boulder – estimated at 20 tonnes and as tall as a man – crushed the left side of a car, trapping the vehicle.

Salleh said his engineers had investigated the rockslide and found that it was a natural incident caused by heavy rain loosening the soil that had lost its protective plant growth during the drought earlier this year.

Slope experts conducted an inspection of Penang's roads on June 7 and warned of landslide and water hazards along Jalan Teluk Bahang between Balik Pulau and Batu Ferringhi.

"Around the sharp bends on this stretch, water will gather during exceptionally heavy rain. Cars need to go slow there.

"We have sent men to clear all the

drains and make sure rainwater runs off smoothly but the steep slopes and fallen foliage can clog the drains quickly in a storm," Salleh said.

Around the country, PWD has identified 2,576 dangerous slopes on a map of landslide-prone sites along federal roads.

Of the number, 992 have been tagged as the most dangerous and required strengthening jobs, said Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said.

Besides Penang, the slopes are located in Cameron Highlands, Lojing, Hulu Terengganu, Hulu Perak, Ampang (Selangor), Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur, Kundasang and Sandakan in Sabah, as well as Kapit and Miri in Sarawak.

To monitor and repair dangerous slopes, JKR has been carrying out surveys across federal roads, excluding tolled highways.

"However, there are still many high-risk slopes elsewhere," Fadillah said.

It would cost billions to repair and strengthen all the dangerous slopes, he added.

"We are implementing the slope-strengthening programme in phases according to priority and availability of funds," he said.

The budget for JKR is only to secure the safety of slopes along federal roads.

"For roads under the purview of states and local councils, the cost is borne by the state government while JKR provides technical assistance."

Fadillah said the Inter-Agency Slope Management committee comprising the Urban Well-being, Housing and Local Government Ministry, Mineral and Geosciences Department, Meteorology Department, highway concessionaires and local governments, among others, was formed five years ago.

Apart from local councils, he said landowners should also bear responsibility in securing the safety of slopes.