

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN**  
**TARIKH: 14 FEBRUARI 2017 (SELASA)**

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# INOVASI PACU EKONOMI

Negara tidak lagi boleh bergantung kepada pertanian untuk terus maju



MADIUS Tangau

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Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) diberi mandat untuk memacu ekonomi baru yang tidak lagi bergantung kepada komoditi tapi pengetahuan berasaskan inovasi.

Sebagai peneraju sains, teknologi dan inovasi (STI), kementerian tidak boleh lagi bergantung kepada pertanian sebagai sumber ekonomi.

Ini kerana aset utamanya adalah tanah memandangkan kawasan tanah negara terhad dan mungkin kehabisan sumber ini pada masa akan datang.

Era ekonomi kini memerlukan kreativiti dan inovasi yang menjadi pemangkin kepada daya saing pada masa hadapan. Justeru, ekosistem STI negara bakal diperkukuhkan dalam mendepani 'The

fourth industrial revolution'. Menteri, Datuk Seri Madius Tangau berkata, ia bakal mengubah landskap ekonomi dunia secara keseluruhan sekiranya inovasi ini diperhebatkan.

Beliau berkata, negara ekonomi utama dunia seperti Jerman, Belanda dan Jepun bermula dengan ekonomi berasaskan pertanian serta sumber semula jadi.

"Tetapi kini kekuatan dan kesinambungan ekonomi negara mereka beralih kepada pengetahuan, inovasi, kemahiran dan kepakaran yang tinggi.

"Bagi Malaysia mara ke hadapan, sudah tiba masanya kita terus menjadikan inovasi sebagai pelonjak utama yang mampu memacu ekonomi negara terutama dengan mengembangkan inovasi dalam sains dan teknologi.

"Kegagalan untuk menjadikan STI agenda utama

negara ataupun jika Malaysia mahu melepaskan diri daripada 'perangkap pendapatan sederhana,' kita mesti beralih arah," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas merasmikan majlis penutup Pameran Anugerah Inovasi Negara (AIN) 2016 di NU Sentral, Kuala Lumpur, baru-baru ini.

Madius berkata, Malaysia perlu beralih daripada negara yang bergantung kepada sumber asli dan industri intensif buruh kepada ekonomi yang berasaskan sains, teknologi serta industri.

Terdapat banyak peluang untuk STI di Malaysia maju ke hadapan dan memacu pembangunan ekonomi negara selaras dengan Dasar Sains dan Teknologi Negara.

"Ia bertujuan menggalakkan penggunaan sains dan teknologi sebagai satu alat untuk pembangunan ekonomi negara, sekali gus

mencapai hasrat Malaysia bergelar sebuah negara maju," katanya.

Menurutnya, Malaysia masih mempunyai ruang yang luas untuk tenaga kerja muda berkeaktiviti dan melakukan inovasi dalam segenap bidang.

"Misalnya menjelang 2020, dianggarkan sebanyak 26 bilion peranti disambungkan ke Internet of Things (IoT). Teknologi ini bakal membantu memacu inovasi pada kadar yang lebih pantas.

"Ia dijangka menjana peluang ekonomi bernilai RM890 bilion di peringkat global menjelang 2020. Kebanyakan negara maju sudah menggerakkan usaha meningkatkan keupayaan masing-masing.

"Negara terbabit meneroka dan mengeksplorasi teknologi IoT, mengurus data dan menjamin keselamatan ruang siber," katanya.

**KERATAN AKHBAR**  
**HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT) : MUKA SURAT 22**  
**TARIKH: 14 FEBRUARI 2017 (SELASA)**

**Johor Bahru**

**LPTA tunggu proses pinda akta**

Lembaga Perlesenan Tenaga Atom (LPTA) dalam proses meminda Akta Perlesenan Tenaga Atom 1984 (Akta 304) kepada Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Tenaga Atom baru dengan skop lebih jelas merangkumi bidang keselamatan, sekuriti dan kawalgunaan.

Ketua Pengarahnya Hamrah Mohd Ali berkata, pindaan akta baru itu berikutan ia tidak dikaji semula selama 35 tahun, malah draf sudah diserahkan kepada Jabatan Peguam Negara untuk dimuktamadkan tahun ini.

"Kami berada pada peringkat terakhir Akta 304 (akta lama atom) dan akta baru itu dimuktamadkan Jabatan Peguam Negara sebelum dibawa ke Parlimen,

manakala peringkat teknikal mengenainya selesai.

"Walaupun Akta 304 sekarang tidak begitu jelas dan membabitkan isu keselamatan, namun tragedi 11 September menyebabkan ia ditambah baik," katanya pada sidang media di Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Skudai di sini, semalam.

Terdahulu, Hamrah mewakili LPTA menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) bersama UTM bagi program pertukaran maklumat teknikal dan kerjasama dalam keselamatan nuklear dan sinaran, sekuriti bahan radioaktif dan bahan nuklear serta kawalselia bahan nuklear.



**HAMRAH**



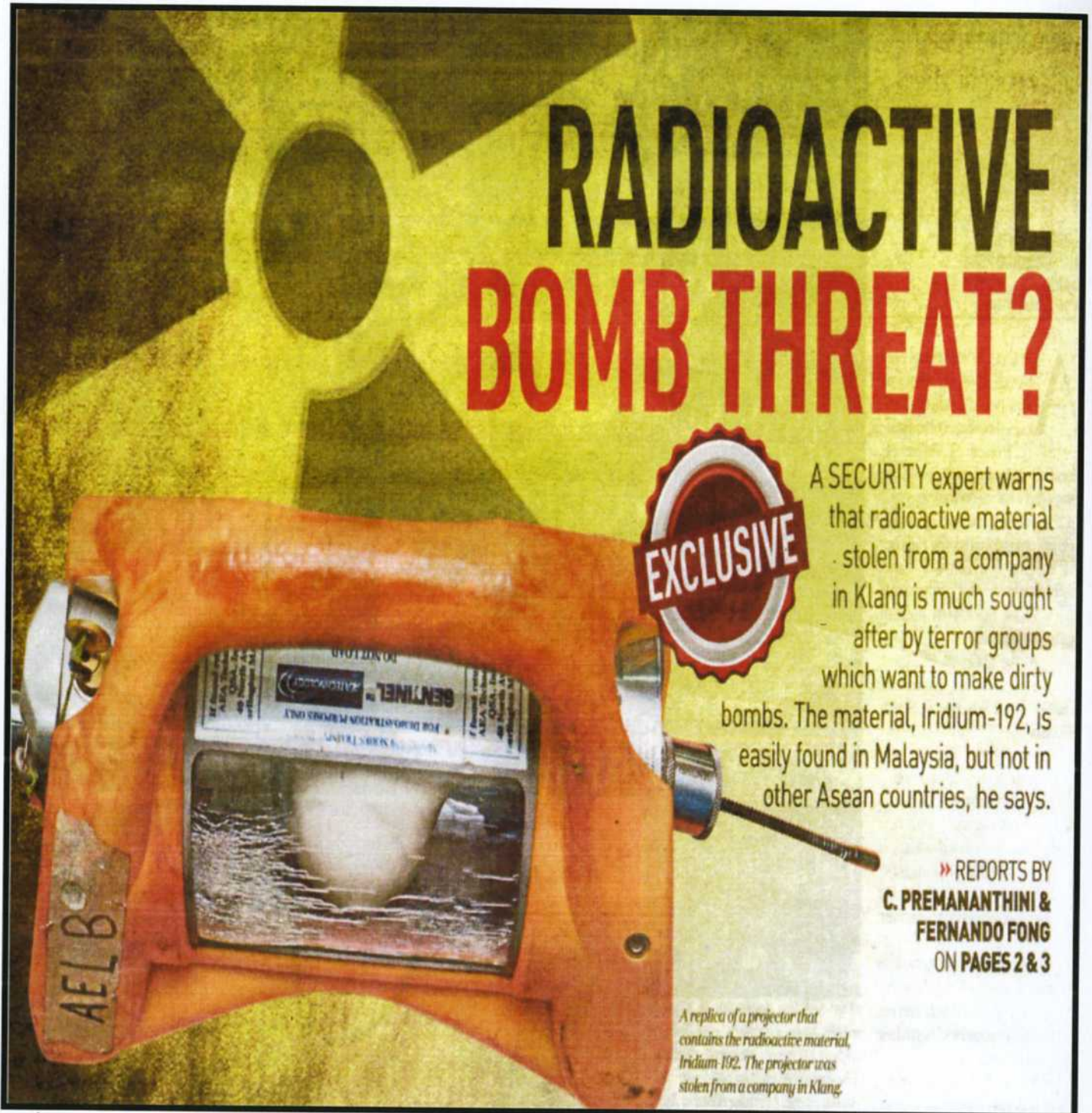
# RADIOACTIVE BOMB THREAT?

**EXCLUSIVE**

A SECURITY expert warns that radioactive material stolen from a company in Klang is much sought after by terror groups which want to make dirty bombs. The material, Iridium-192, is easily found in Malaysia, but not in other Asean countries, he says.

» REPORTS BY  
**C. PREMANANTHINI &  
FERNANDO FONG**  
ON PAGES 2 & 3

*A replica of a projector that contains the radioactive material, Iridium-192. The projector was stolen from a company in Klang.*





## 'IRIDIUM-192 THEFT A WAKE-UP CALL'

Radioactive material highly sought after by IS to make dirty bombs, says expert

C. PREMANANTHINI  
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A SECURITY expert has cautioned that the theft of equipment, which contained canisters of radioactive material from an oil and gas exploration company here, could be more than what meets the eye.

Counterterrorism specialist Andrin Raj said yesterday the radioactive material — Iridium 192 — was highly sought after by terror groups such as Islamic State, which use it to make dirty bombs.

He said the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNe) threat was new in South-east Asia.

"For some years, there was only talk of the threat in Southeast Asia."

"This (CBRNe) threat is (now) the region's new threat."

"The Iridium 192 found in Klang is a worrying sign that Malaysia is becoming a major transit point and base for religious and violent extremists."

"This discovery by the authorities is a wake-up call for Malaysia as Iridium 192 is easily found here and not in other Asian countries," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Residents of Seri Era Apartment, where materials containing Iridium 192 were found on Saturday, have been advised to seek medical attention.

Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) Radiation Regulatory Division director Hasmadi Hassan said residents should contact the board so that blood tests could be run on them.

"We want to make sure residents are safe and not in danger."

"If anyone had been exposed (to radiation), it could cause health problems."

"Also, I would like to inform them (residents) that if any of them is experiencing nausea or dizziness, or she should immediately call our centre at 03-89225888."

"We will bring them to our centre in Bangi and run tests," he said at the Klang Selatan police headquarters yesterday.

The scare came after two stolen



(Top) Seri Era Apartment in Klang, where some canisters containing Iridium 192 were recovered. (Right) The equipment used by police and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board to find the radioactive material. PIX BY FAIZ ANJUR AND MUHAMMAD SULAIMAN



projectors were found dismantled in the area. AELB is concerned that radioactive material inside the projectors could have leaked out.

Hasmadi, who is also AELB's Nuclear Emergency Team chairman, said the board would conduct investigations into the standard operating procedure (SOP) of the oil and gas exploration company from which the projectors were stolen.

He said the company had been operating for 10 years and this was the first time such an incident had occurred.

"We want to look into the company's SOP and see if there was any negligence on the part of its employees. Even though we have found the projectors with the help of the police,

we still need to take the matter seriously."

Klang Selatan police chief Assistant Commissioner Alzafty Ahmad advised Seri Era Apartment residents to contact the board to have blood tests carried out.

He said police were not sure when and where the projectors, containing Iridium 192, were dismantled.

Alzafty said he had instructed his men, who had been involved in the investigation, to have blood tests run

on them.

He said police had arrested eight people in connection with the theft of the projectors.

Alzafty said the suspects, aged between 26 and 37, were detained on Friday and Saturday.

He said four of them were employees of the oil and gas exploration company from which the projectors were stolen, while the others were arrested in Jalan Samarinda and Seri Era Apartment.

"If sold, the projectors could fetch about RM80,000."

Alzafty said the suspects used the company's van to transport the projectors, returning it an hour later.

On Saturday, police and AELB raided Seri Era Apartment and a scrap metal yard, where they found canisters containing Iridium 192.

It was learnt that the authorities used a special detector brought in by AELB to find the radioactive material.



Andrin Raj



RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS

# GOVERNMENT TO AMEND ACT 304

The move is to  
improve safety in  
atomic energy use

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**T**HE government will improve the safety, security and safeguards of radioactive material with a proposed amendment to the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304).

Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) director-general Hamrah Mohd Ali said it was high time Malaysia updated its law on the safe and peaceful use of atomic energy.

"Malaysia is among the countries that are up to date in terms of knowledge in atomic energy and our experts have been tasked by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help in missions around the globe," he said yesterday.

He said this after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between AELB and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) for the exchange

of technical, information and cooperation in nuclear and radiation safety and the security and safeguards of radioactive and nuclear materials.

Hamrah represented AELB while UTM was represented by its deputy vice-chancellor (development), Professor Dr Azlan Abdul Rahman.

Hamrah said as Act 304 was more than 30 years old, the law should be up-to-date with global development and the requirements of IAEA.

"The act now focuses more on the safety aspect of the use of atomic energy.

"The amendment will give us a more precise look into the security and safeguards, which have become more important," he said.

He said under the act, those who committed an offence was liable to be jailed up to 10 years or fined up to RM100,000, or both, upon conviction.

He said the technical aspect of the amendment had been completed and it was being drafted by the Attorney General's Chambers.

"If everything goes according to plan, we hope the amended law will be passed this year," he said, adding that the review of Act 304 began in 2011, but had taken some time to be

## HOW IRIIDIUM IS USEFUL TO TERRORISTS



The Islamic State was linked to a case where radioactive material was found dumped in the southern Iraqi town of Zubair about a year ago. The material included some 10g of Iridium-192, a standard supply found within medical and industrial devices utilising radiography. The incident highlighted the IS' capacity as Iridium-192, a radioactive isotope of iridium, can be attached to conventional explosives and used as dirty bombs, which would cause radioactive pollution if set off.

### Iridium 101



Iridium is a chemical element with symbol Ir and atomic number 77.



Iridium-192 is an unstable isotope and emits both electrons and gamma rays (highly energetic packets of light) which later decay into osmium isotopes and platinum isotopes, which are more stable and less dangerous.



It is defined as a category-2 radioactive substance — meaning that the substance can permanently injure a person who handles the radioactive material for minutes to hours, and it can kill people in close proximity within hours to days.



Iridium-192 does not occur naturally. Instead, scientists must put Iridium-191 in a nuclear reactor and bombard it with neutrons. Iridium-191 then takes up an extra neutron to become Iridium-192, which is later regulated and used for industrial applications, despite its hazardous nature to humans.



Silvery-white with a slight yellowish cast in appearance, it is the most corrosion-resistant element and is generally credited with being the second densest element (after osmium).



Because it resists corrosion, as well as being hard and brittle with a very high melting point, it is used to set standards in weights and measures, make devices needed for high temperatures such as thermocouple, as sheet material in electrical contacts and alloying component to harden platinum.

INFOGRAPHIC NST

completed as it involved various agencies.

He said there were about 2,000 licence holders who were authorised to use and deal in nuclear and ra-

dioactive materials in Malaysia.

"These materials are mostly used in the industrial sector, such as in the manufacturing, electronics and oil and gas industries," he said.



# Thieves dump radioactive tools

## Irresponsible act causes radioactivity around apartment area

By WANI MUTHIAH  
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**KLANG:** The area around an apartment in Shah Alam near here may have been exposed to radiation after thieves dumped parts of two radioactive inspection tools there.

Residents who had passed by the area could also have been exposed, according to the Atomic Energy Licensing Board's (AELB) radioactive regulatory division director Hasmadi Hassan.

The radioactive parts of two Delta 880 industrial radiography projectors were dumped in a rubbish bin at the Rukun Tetangga room in Era Apartments in Desa Latania, Shah Alam.

"They had disposed of the inner

casings made of depleted uranium as well as the inner rods containing iridium-192 which emanates gamma ray," said Hasmadi.

He added that the board was now finding out when the thieves had cut open the casings of the equipment, to determine the duration of the exposure.

Those who passed the area between the wee hours of Feb 9 right up to 6pm on Feb 11 and are worried about likely exposure to radiation should call 03-8922 5888 or 1800-88-7999.

South Klang OCPD Asst Comm Alzafny Ahmad said yesterday AELB had informed the police that two radiography projectors were stolen early on Feb 9.

"They were taken between 3am

and 4am from a car parked outside a company in Kampung Sungai Kandis, which carries out the service and maintenance of pipes for oil and gas companies," he said.

(The radiography projectors are used to detect leaks in soldered pipe joints.)

ACP Alzafny said AELB informed police that the stolen items were hazardous and could cause death if handled wrongly.

"We set up a special team and managed to trace the outer casing to a junkyard in Batu 3, Kampung Jawa here, 37 hours later.

"We found the inner casings which contained iridium-192 at 6pm on Feb 11," said ACP Alzafny.

Following the discovery, eight people aged between 26 and 37 have

been arrested over the theft as well as the buying of stolen items.

Among them were the company's employees, the junkyard owner as well as workers. The case is being investigated under Section 379 of the Penal Code for theft.

ACP Alzafny said investigations revealed that the alleged theft was solely motivated by profit.

"Our initial investigations also indicated that those arrested did not know they had taken items which were radioactive," he said.

He also did not know how many in his 16-member team had been exposed to radiation.

"Blood tests will be taken from all the policemen involved as well as the suspects to determine that," he added.



# Eight arrested over stolen radioactive canisters

By Kenneth Tee  
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KLANG — Police arrested eight people over the theft of two radioactive canisters recovered at the Seri Era Apartment block in Shah Alam on Saturday.

The canisters, containing Iridium-192, are components of two projectors stolen from a car parked outside a company producing parts for the oil and gas industry on Thursday.

The company was licensed to handle hazardous materials.

Those picked up since Friday in Klang and Shah Alam were four workers of the company, three scrap metal dealers, and the suspected thief in Shah Alam and Klang.

"Two canisters were found opened and discarded in a rubbish bin inside the neighbourhood watch room of the apartment later on Saturday," South Klang police chief Assistant Commissioner Alzafny Ahmad told reporters yesterday.

Initial investigations suggest the motive was to sell the metal at a nearby scrapyards. All suspects were found not to be involved with any criminal groups.

He said police discovered broken pieces of the projectors at a scrap metal dealer in Kampung Jawa, about 1km from the apartment, after a special team was formed to track down the items.

Also present were Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) nuclear energy team director Hasmadi Hassan.

Alzafny advised those who may have passed by the area between 4am on Thursday and 6pm on Saturday to contact AELB at 03-8922588 or 1-800-88-799 to get checked for possible radioactive gamma ray exposure.

"Gamma ray from the canisters may lead to various symptoms such as nausea and dizziness. The radioactive material was reported to have emitted rays up to 300 millisievert an hour while a human body can only take 20 millisievert a year," he said.

All those arrested are under remand until



The opened radioactive canisters containing Iridium-192 was found in a rubbish bin on Saturday. Inset: Sandhi claims she was asked by the suspect to hold on to the item temporarily on Saturday morning. — Pictures by Mukhriz Hazim

today and the case was being investigated under the Penal Code for theft.

A 50-year-old janitor, who only wanted to be known as Sandhi, and stays in a room next to where the radioactive material was disposed of, said she was not aware she had been exposed to the hazardous material.

"I thought it was just regular trash so I handled it as usual. I am afraid now of the side effects," she said.

She said she was instructed by the suspect to hold on to the item temporarily as she was leaving her room on Saturday morning.

Sandhi said she had not had any symptoms, but would be visiting Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah with the help of the village chief today.

Village chief R. Ramasamy, 46, said he only found out about the incident on Saturday night after a large police presence was seen at the compound.

"I did not know it was radioactive until a policeman told me," he said.

"It was good they found the material so quickly as it may lead to further harm for all the residents here," he said.

Ramasamy said he was told the suspect had sold the protective casing for the canisters for a mere RM80.

He said about 320 units in three blocks were temporarily evacuated following the discovery of the radioactive material.

He said all residents were reportedly healthy as of now with only one person reported to have unprotected contact.

Storekeeper Kalsom, 70, said when she arrived on Saturday to open her mini-market located opposite the site, she was told by police it was not allowed.

"My business was disrupted for a while, but I'm grateful for police's quick action," she said.



Kalsom, who does not experience any exposure symptoms, said it was the first time something this big had happened at the apartment.

"I've been living here for almost 10 years and I've never come across something like this, radioactive material being discarded so carelessly," she said.



## Act to ensure nuclear security

BY **LOW SOCK KEN**  
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**JOHOR BARU:** Amendments to the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304) will be finalised by this year to ensure better security measures and control.

**Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB)** Malaysia director-general Hamrah Mohd Ali said the amendments to the Act was to step up the issues of security, control and safety of radioactive and nuclear material usage.

Speaking to reporters after the signing a memorandum of understanding between University Technology Malaysia (UTM) and AELB at UTM yesterday, he said the amendments to the technical aspects have been completed and submitted to the Attorney-General's Chambers.

He said nuclear technologies have developed rapidly, and the AELB has issued about 2,000 licences to various industry players so far.

He said the AELB will monitor radioactive and nuclear material usage in the field of agriculture, industry and research, while its usage in medicine was still under the Ministry of Health.





## Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 will be finalised by this year: AELB



**JOHOR BARU:** The amendments to the Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984 (Act 304) will be finalised by this year, said Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) Malaysia director-general, Hamrah Mohd Ali.

He said the amendments to the act was to step up the issue of security and the safeguard of radioactive and nuclear materials control and its safety usage.

Speaking to reporters after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between University Technology Malaysia (UTM) and AELB at UTM today, he said, the amendments to the technical aspects have been completed and submitted to the Attorney-General of Chambers.

He said nuclear technologies have developed rapidly, and the AELB has issued about 2,000 licenses to various industry players so far.

The AELB will monitor the radioactive and nuclear material usages in the field of agriculture, industry and research, while the usages on medicine was still under the Ministry of Health.

Apart from Kuala Lumpur headquarters, AELB branches in Kulai, Kemaman, Penang, and Bintulu are providing services as well as monitoring the safety of workers involved in the field of radiation.

On enforcement, Hamrah said, the effective control of nuclear technologies are also in the hands of top management and leaders in the industries concerned.



On the MoU, he said, it is on the exchange of technical information and cooperation in nuclear and radiation safety, security of radioactive and nuclear materials besides the safeguard of nuclear materials.

UTM vice chancellor (Development) professor Dr Azlan Abdul Rahman said there will be more teachings, learnings, joint researches, seminars, publications, internships on radiation and nuclear technologies with the signing of the MoU.





## Radioactive canisters found at apartment, residents advised to go for health checks



Picture for representational purpose only. — AFP

**KLANG:** Residents at the Seri Era Apartment, Jalan Naga Sari, Shah Alam near here, have been advised to go for health checks following the discovery of two radioactive canisters at the premises last Saturday.

South Klang district police chief ACP Alzafny Ahmad said the reason being that the canisters, which were part of the components from a radioactive scanning device, were found with the seal open.

He said the gamma rays from the canisters, if exposed to the public, could cause various health problems.

According to the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB), the canister has the gamma ray capacity of up to 300 millisievert per hour and is dangerous to human body which is capable of receiving only 20 millisievert gamma ray a year, he said.

As such, he advised residents of the apartment, especially those who had been nearby the Rukun Tetangga Room between 4am last Thursday and 6pm last Saturday to contact AELB at 03-8922588 or 1-800-88-799 for advice, he told a media conference here today.

Also present was AELB director (Ray Regulatory Division) Hasmadi Hassan.

Among the symptoms suffered by those who are exposed to the gamma ray are dizziness, nausea and vomiting.

In an incident last Thursday, two radioactive scanners belonging to an oil and gas company were reported stolen from a car.

Following which, a special team was set up to investigate the matter and this led to the arrest of eight people in Klang and Shah Alam.

According to Alzafny, the team made a breakthrough last Friday when it found several pieces of the scanners at a scrap metal shop in Kampung Jawa here and arrested three suspects.

The arrest of the suspects led the police to the apartment where they found the two canisters last Saturday. A suspect was also arrested there.

Alzafny said four employees of the oil and gas company were also arrested last Friday to assist investigation. — *Bernama*



# Penemuan kanister bahan radioaktif di Seri Era

Penghuni apartmen dinasihat jalani rawatan kesihatan, ambil langkah sewajarnya

KLANG - Penduduk Apartmen Seri Era, Jalan Naga Sari, Shah Alam dekat sini dinasihatkan membuat pemeriksaan kesihatan susulan penemuan dua kanister beradioaktif di Bilik Rukun Tetangga apartmen itu Sabtu lepas.

Ketua Polis Daerah Klang Selatan, Asisten Komisioner Alzafry Ahmad berkata, ini kerana kanister berkenaan yang merupakan salah satu komponen dari alat pengimbas beradioaktif dijumpai dalam keadaan terbuka.

Menurutnya, sinar gamma dari kanister berkenaan sekiranya terdedah kepada orang ramai boleh menyebabkan pelbagai masalah kesihatan.

"Petugas Lembaga Perlesenan Tenaga Atom Malaysia (AELB) memberitahu kanister itu mempunyai kuasa sinar gamma sehingga 300 milisievert sejam dan berbahaya kepada badan manusia yang hanya mampu menerima sinar gamma 20 milisievert setahun.

"Penduduk apartmen ini yang ada melalui bilik Rukun Tetangga pada pukul empat pagi Khamis lepas sehingga Sabtu lalu, jam enam petang dinasihatkan menghubungi AELB bagi tujuan pemeriksaan kesihatan di talian 03-8922588 atau 1-800-88-799 supaya langkah sewajarnya dapat diambil," katanya.

Tambah Alzafry, anggotanya yang terlibat dalam serbuan turut diminta mem-



Alzafry (tengah) pada sidang media, semalam

**INFO** • Sinar gamma sehingga 300 milisievert sejam  
• Dua alat pengimbas beradioaktif dicuri

buat pemeriksaan kesihatan.

Dalam kejadian awal pagi Khamis lepas, dua alat pengimbas beradioaktif milik sebuah syarikat minyak dan gas yang diletakkan dalam sebuah kereta milik syarikat dilaporkan telah dicuri.

Menurut Alzafry, pada Jumaat lepas pasukan berkenaan telah berjaya mengesan beberapa serpihan alat pengimbas itu di sebuah kedai barangan lusuh di Kampung

Jawa di sini dan telah menahan tiga suspek.

Katanya, soal siasat terhadap suspek membawa kepada penemuan dua kanister berkenaan di bilik rukun tetangga di apartmen itu pada Sabtu, dan polis turut menahan seorang lagi individu yang berada dalam bilik tersebut.

Alzafry berkata empat pekerja syarikat minyak dan gas itu juga ditahan pada Jumaat lalu bagi membantu siasatan, kesemua mereka di-reman sehingga Rabu ini.

"Siasatan awal mendapati mereka tiada kaitan dengan mana-mana kumpulan penjenayah dan pihak kami percaya alat berkenaan dicuri hanya untuk dijual sebagai barangan lusuh. - Bernama





## RUU Tenaga Atom bersesuaian perkembangan semasa



*Hamrah (dua,kiri) bertukar dokumen MoU dengan Azlan (dua,kanan).*

JOHOR BAHRU - **Lembaga Perlesenan Tenaga Atom (AELB)** yakin penggubalan Akta Perlesenan Tenaga Atom 1984 (Akta 304) kepada Rang Undang-Undang (RUU) Tenaga Atom bersesuaian dengan perkembangan semasa berikutan peningkatan pemegang lesennya.

**Ketua Pengarahnya, Hamrah Mohd Ali**, berkata, berikutan itu, pindaan pada rang undang-undang itu yang mula dilaksanakan sejak enam tahun lalu dengan mengambil kira beberapa faktor termasuk aspek keselamatan dan kawal gunaan tenaga atom dijangka akan dimuktamadkan pada tahun ini.



Menurutnya, AELB juga telah menjalankan kajian secara menyeluruh dan terperinci mengenai pindaan undang-undang itu, sebelum menyerahkannya kepada Jabatan Peguam Negara

"Penggunaan teknologi nuklear di Malaysia juga semakin meningkat mengikut kepada bilangan pemegang lesen, jadi sudah sampai masa akta berkenaan (Akta 304) yang sudah hampir 35 tahun itu dipinda dan pindaan ini juga adalah seiring dengan perkembangan semasa serta mengikut piawaian antarabangsa.

"Di peringkat AELB, kita sudah pun berbincang dengan pelbagai pihak berkepentingan mengenai pindaan ini dan menyerahkan draf berkenaan kepada Jabatan Peguam Negara. Kita berharap pindaan yang dilakukan itu dapat dimuktamadkan pada tahun ini selepas diteliti oleh pihak Jabatan Peguam Negara," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada media selepas majlis menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) antara AELB dan Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) di Dewan Senat UTM, di sini, hari ini.

Pada majlis berkenaan AELB diwakili Hamrah dan UTM diwakili Timbalan Naib Canselor (Pembangunan)nya, Prof Dr Azlan Abdul Rahman.

MoU itu bertujuan sebagai penukaran maklumat teknikal dan kerjasama dalam bidang keselamatan nuklear dan sinaran, sekuriti bahan radioaktif dan bahan nuklear serta kawal selia bahan nuklear melibatkan aktiviti pendidikan dan penyelidikan.

Hamrah berkata, pindaan itu juga bertujuan untuk mengawal undang-undang tenaga atom secara selamat bagi keamanan di negara ini.

"Ini kerana, sehingga kini terdapat kira-kira 2,000 pemegang lesen AELB yang aktif dalam pelbagai industri termasuk bidang penyelidikan, gas dan minyak, elektronik serta pembuatan dan sebagainya," katanya.