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MOSTI develops new standard for detecting porcine DNA

PUTRAJAYA, March — **The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)** has developed a new standard for testing and detecting porcine deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).

Its minister Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau said the standard developed by the Department of Standards Malaysia was known as MS 2627: 2017 Detection of porcine DNA — Test method — Food and food products.

He said the standard would give more confidence to the people on the laboratory tests carried out to ensure the product was free from pig DNA and could be used without any misgivings.

"The standard was developed to standardise the methods of testing pig DNA which was previously done using different analytical methods, equipment and analysts in each lab," he said in a statement, here today.

In this regard, Madius said the new standard would help agencies like the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim) in providing clear guidelines to laboratories that conduct DNA analyses such as the Department of Chemistry, Public Health Laboratory, Halal Products Research Institute, universities, private laboratories and food manufacturers. — Bernama

- See more at: <http://www.themalaymailonline.com/malaysia/article/mosti-develops-new-standard-for-detecting-porcine-dna#sthash.vOBpVbey.dpuf>



TNB, Meteorological Dept Sign MoU To Enhance Risk Management

KUALA LUMPUR, March (Bernama) -- Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), in a move to enhance the management of its assets' exposure to natural disaster risk, will collaborate with the **Malaysian Meteorological Department** to conduct research and development in the fields of meteorology, climatology and geophysics.

In a statement today, TNB said, both parties signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) during the World Meteorological Day celebration in Ipoh last Thursday.

TNB was represented by its Chief Corporate Officer Datuk Wira Roslan Ab. Rahman and Meteorological Department by its Director-General Datuk Che Gayah Ismail, it said.

It said the MOU will see both parties jointly conduct training, seminars, workshops and conferences on meteorology, climatology and geophysics.

There will also be exchange of experts through attachment or training as well as sharing of technical expertise on geophysics and any other forms of cooperation in similar fields to be mutually agreed upon by both parties, it said.

-- BERNAMA



Penduduk Kunak, Semporna Rasai Gegeran Gempa Di Lahad Datu

SEMPORNA, Mac (Bernama) -- Gempa bumi lemah bermagnitud 4.2 pada skala Richter yang melanda Lahad Datu, petang tadi turut mengakibatkan beberapa kawasan di daerah Kunak dan Semporna merasai gegarannya.

Seorang guru, Aslina Ali, 30, berkata beliau dapat merasakan gegaran hampir seminit ketika berada di rumahnya di perumahan Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tagasan, di sini.

"Saya sedang mengemas rumah kerana baru balik dari kampung setelah seminggu cuti persekolahan sebelum gegaran itu dirasai kira-kira pukul 5.30 petang.

"Setelah itu saya berlari keluar rumah sehingga gegaran berhenti," katanya kepada Bernama.

Sementara itu, seorang penduduk di Kampung Airport, Kunak, Dian Awang berkata beliau turut merasai gegaran kecil selama 10 saat.

"Pada mulanya saya ingatkan adik-adik yang berlari di atas rumah, tetapi apabila tidak melihat sesiapa yang berlari, saya keluar untuk melihat keadaan sekitar tetapi tidak ada apa-apa berlaku.

"Saya hanya sedar ketika membaca berita di Facebook menyatakan ada gempa bumi lemah di daerah Lahad Datu lewat petang tadi," katanya.

Jabatan Meteorologi dalam satu kenyataan berkata, pusat gempa itu terletak pada 4.8 darjah utara dan 118.6 darjah timur, iaitu 38 kilometer timur laut Kunak dengan gegaran turut dirasai di Tawau dan Sandakan pada pukul 5.30 petang.

-- BERNAMA



Ministry To Compensate Family For Wrongly Giving Away Body

BALIK PULAU, March (Bernama) -- The Health Ministry will pay an ex-gratia to the family of Fong Meng Tuck whose dead body was wrongly handed over to another family by Penang Hospital's Forensic Department in November last year.

Its Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Dr Hilmi Yahaya said the matter had been brought to ministry level and it is discussing the amount of compensation to be paid to Fong's family.

"We regret the error and admitted our mistake at the hospital. Police had made a statement on the matter that the cremated body belonged to the Fong family.

"We accepted the police statement and we are negotiating on an ex-gratia compensation with the family," he said in a press conference after closing the 1Malaysia Health Expedition (KS1M) here today.

The HPP Forensic Department was earlier reported to have wrongly handed over the body of Fong to another family who also came to claim the body of a 73-year-old man who died of a heart attack at about 12 noon in November last year.

They later took the body for a cremation ceremony before collecting the ash.

Fong's son who went to claim his father's body at about 2pm was shocked to be informed the body was no longer at HPP.

Police later confirmed the body wrongly given out was Fong after the results of DNA tests on blood samples of his three sons by the Chemistry Department was found having a 99.9 per cent match with Fong.

Asked on the allegations of the Fong family that the ministry had yet to reply on the matter, Dr Hilmi said the ministry would be resolving the matter soon.

-- BERNAMA

Teachers told to show cause for promoting Opposition

By Anith Adilah
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KUALA LUMPUR — Disciplinary action has been initiated against five teachers for actively promoting the Opposition and speaking out against the government, Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said.

He said show cause letters had been issued and all five were required to give an explanation in two weeks' time.

"Difference in political ideologies is acceptable but for civil servants to go on stage to strongly promote the Opposition and bash the government is just too much," he said at the launch of the "Use 100 per cent recycled paper" campaign at a hotel here yesterday.

"At least one of them holds a high position in an opposition party."

Mahdzir said their actions were against the General Orders and failure to provide a reasonable explanation would result in an intervention by a disciplinary committee.

"We hope it does not come to that," he said, without revealing the details of the teachers.

At the launch, Mahdzir said all school textbooks and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka reading material would be printed on 100 per cent recycled paper by 2022.

"It is time to shift from conventional paper to recycled paper. The implementation is set to be done in stages within the next five years for all five million students in the country," he said.

"This change will be under the jurisdiction of the ministry's textbook division. We will hold a meeting to further discuss the details of the implementation."

Mahdzir said the ministry, after much deliberation, had decided to partner with



Mahdzir admires a bonsai tree as MNI acting chief executive officer Wong Pek Yee (left) and Hong Leong Industries president Datuk Kwek Leng San look on. — Picture by Firdaus Latif

the Malaysia Newsprint Industries (MNI) Sdn Bhd as the supplier and manufacturer of the recycled paper. The company has more than 20 years of experience in the industry.

"With the latest technology, MNI has managed to produce high quality 100 per cent recycled paper," he said.

"The ministry fully supports this as MNI's recycled paper has received the Eco Label from the Scientific and Industrial Research

Institute of Malaysia (Sirim), the ISO 14001 Environment Management System (EMS) standard, among others."

Mahdzir acknowledged that the move would be a difficult one as it involved the parents' and students' perception on the quality of 100 per cent recycled paper.

"Psychologically, parents might be hesitant to buy books printed on recycled paper as the paper tends to be slightly

yellowish or has specks of black dots on it, which may be attributed with being low quality, when it is not," he said.

Mahdzir said going green was an initiative he personally endorsed seeing as he had held a portfolio as the deputy minister in the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry from 2013 to 2015.

"This initiative has my full support as it is an issue close to my heart," he said.