

**KEMENTERIAN TENAGA, SAINS, TEKNOLOGI, ALAM SEKITAR DAN PERUBAHAN IKLIM**

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
1.	<u>Kualiti udara di Pasir Gudang semakin pulih - JAS</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
2.	<u>Bau District to have 97 pct electricity coverage next year</u>	The Borneo Post	Klik pada tajuk berita
3.	<u>Pencemaran kimia: 119 pesakit dibenar pulang</u>	Malaysiakini	Klik pada tajuk berita
4.	<u>Kawasan ternakan Pasir Gudang tidak terjejas</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
5.	<u>Tong dipercayai berisi sisa kimia ditemui di Sungai Masai pula</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
6.	<u>'Nyawa pesakit lagi penting'</u>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
7.	<u>Air quality in Pasir Gudang improving</u>	New Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita
8.	<u>Chemical pollution: 119 patients discharged from HSA, HSI</u>	The Sun Daily	Klik pada tajuk berita
9.	<u>Kualiti udara di Pasir Gudang semakin pulih</u>	Harian Metro	Klik pada tajuk berita
10.	<u>Another illegal dumping site found in Pasir Gudang, 15 barrels of suspected chemical waste removed</u>	Malay Mail	Klik pada tajuk berita
11.	<u>The case for a 'better safe than sorry' policy</u>	New Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk



			lampiran 1
12.	<u>More waste dump sites found near Johor chemical spill</u>	The Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita
13.	<u>Pencemaran: Kualiti udara di Pasir Gudang semakin pulih</u>	Kosmo	Klik pada tajuk berita
14.	<u>Pencemaran: JAS diminta siasat segera kes pembuangan sisa kimia</u>	Kosmo	Klik pada tajuk berita
15.	<u>JAS sudah diarah siasat: MB</u>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
16.	<u>JAS diminta siasat segera lagi kes pembuangan sisa kimia</u>	Astro Awani	Klik pada tajuk berita
17.	<u>JAS diarah siasat lokasi baharu pembuangan sisa kimia - MB Johor</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
18.	<u>Sungai Kim Kim: Jawatankuasa Khas pantau sampel ikan, kualiti air</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
19.	<u>Rompin catat bacaan IPU kurang sihat</u>	Kosmo	Klik pada tajuk berita
20.	<u>Misteri 'tong biru', penduduk mahukan penjelasan</u>	Harian Metro	Klik pada tajuk berita
21.	<u>Misteri tong biru</u>	Harian Metro	Klik pada tajuk berita
22.	<u>Penduduk jumpa 7 tong bau macam cuka / Tujuh tong biru berbau cuka</u>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk lampiran 2
23.	<u>9 petualang Sungai Kim Kim ditahan</u>	Kosmo	Rujuk lampiran 3
24.	<u>Pencemaran: Jumpa tujuh tong disyaki mengandungi bahan kimia / Penduduk</u>	Kosmo	Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk lampiran



	<u>jumpa 7 tong bahan kimia</u>		4
25.	<u>Penemuan tong biru gemparkan penduduk Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort</u>	Astro Awani	Klik pada tajuk berita
26.	<u>Penduduk gempar jumpa tong biru dikhuatiri berisi sisa kimia</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
27.	<u>Air parit busuk, meloyakan!</u>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
28.	<u>Bomba Pahang aktif Bilik Gerakan Jerebu</u>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
29.	<u>Kerja pembersihan sisa minyak selesai</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
30.	<u>Bencana Kim Kim: 119 pesakit dibenar pulang setelah dapat rawatan di HSA, HSI</u>	Astro Awani	Klik pada tajuk berita
31.	<u>Temperatures set to hit 40 degrees Celsius in Kedah as heatwave grips Malaysia</u>	Channel News Asia	Klik pada tajuk berita
32.	<u>Another illegal dumping site found in Pasir Gudang; 15 barrels of suspected chemical waste removed</u>	todayonline.com	Klik pada tajuk berita
33.	<u>APAC Electric Charging Station Market With Focus On Growth Analysis, Production, Consumption, Revenue, Analysis By 2026</u>	TechZiffy	Klik pada tajuk berita
34.	<u>Sultan Ibrahim batal 2 program sempena hari keputeraan</u>	Malaysia Kini	Klik pada tajuk berita
35.	<u>Cleaning up of 1.5km-stretch of Sungai Kim Kim over</u>	EdgeProp	Klik pada tajuk berita
36.	<u>Sarawak to host 11th Global CSR Summit & Awards and The Global Good Governance on 4-5 April 2019</u>	Eco-business.com	Klik pada tajuk berita



37.	<u>Shock Discovery of Blue Barrels Near Pasir Gudang</u>	The Sun	Rujuk Lampiran 5
38.	<u>Pentadbir boleh tutup sekolah jika jerebu semakin teruk</u>	Kosmo	Rujuk Lampiran 6
39.	<u>Anatomy of a disaster</u>	The Star	Rujuk Lampiran 7
40.	<u>Rompin, Banting Api at Unhealthy Levels</u>	New Straits Times	Rujuk Lampiran 8
41.	<u>2 more river dump sites in Pasir Gudang</u>	New Straits Times	Rujuk Lampiran 9
42.	<u>Environs gone wrong</u>	The Star	Rujuk Lampiran 10
43.	<u>Pantau Sungai Kim Kim 6 bulan</u>	Utusan Malaysia	Rujuk lampiran 11
44.	<u>Pencemaran toksik: Bacaan kualiti udara 42 sekolah normal / Hampir semua sekolah kualiti udara normal</u>	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk lampiran 12
45.	<u>Victims of toxic fumes leave hospital</u>	The Sun	Rujuk lampiran 13

TEMPATAN

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
46.	<u>Nine arrested over dumping of chemical waste</u>	The Sun	Rujuk lampiran 14
47.	<u>Sultan mahu hukuman berat ke atas pesalah cemarkan sungai</u>	Malaysia kini	Klik pada tajuk berita
48.	<u>Gangguan bekalan air di tiga daerah</u>	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita



49.	<u>Bekalan air terjejas akibat gangguan elektrik di Seri Kembangan</u>	Astro Awani	Klik pada tajuk berita
50.	<u>Bekalan air di Petaling, Hulu Langat dan Sepang terganggu</u>	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita
51.	<u>Sekolah di Pasir Gudang ditutup hingga Sabtu minggu depan</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
52.	<u>Air Quality in Selangor Worsens, These 9 States Will Experience Heatwave Until March 20</u>	world of buzz	Klik pada tajuk berita
53.	<u>Buang sisa industri di Klang, pemandu lori ditahan</u>	Astro Awani	Klik pada tajuk berita
54.	<u>Nestle perkenal kiosk aiskrim berkuasa solar pertama di dunia</u>	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
55.	<u>Toyota dedah rekaan kenderaan jelajah Bulan JAXA</u>	Kosmo	Rujuk Lampiran 15
56.	<u>Impacting change in spurring STEM</u>	The Sun	Rujuk Lampiran 16
57.	<u>Choked by inaction</u>	The Star	Rujuk Lampiran 17
58.	<u>9 suspek ditahan</u>	Harian Metro	Rujuk Lampiran 18
59.	<u>Beri peringatan dulu</u>	Harian Metro	Rujuk Lampiran 19
60.	<u>Kebakaran punca jerebu</u>	Sinar Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 20
61.	<u>Pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim</u>	Sinar Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 21
62.	<u>Sukar terima hakikat ibu terkorban</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 22



63.	<u>Pencemaran di Pasir Gudang: 2 ditangkap di Johor, 7 di negeri lain</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 23
64.	<u>Penduduk jumpa tong biru dipercayai berisi bahan kimia</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 24
65.	<u>Pembersihan sisa minyak di Taman Eng Ann selesai</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 25
66.	<u>Kawasan ternakan tidak terjejas</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 26
67.	<u>Selangor tunggu laporan LUAS</u>	Berita Harian	Rujuk Lampiran 27

ANTARABANGSA

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
68.	<u>40kg of Plastic Found in Whale</u>	The Sun	Rujuk Lampiran 28
69.	<u>Cyclone caused 90% damage</u>	The Sun	Rujuk Lampiran 29
70.	<u>Dead whale in Philippines had 40kg of plastic in stomach</u>	The Star	Rujuk Lampiran 30



ALIZAN MAHADI

RESTORING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

THE CASE FOR A 'BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY' POLICY

The right to a clean and healthy environment must be enshrined in our Constitution so that polluters can be held responsible and accountable for their actions

LAST week, environment ministers from around the world met at the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, with one of its agenda being to agree an implementation plan towards a pollution-free planet. At the same time, almost 4,000 people were reportedly treated for inhaling toxic fumes due to the dumping of hazardous wastes into Sungai Kim Kim in Johor.

In recent times, environmental issues have become mainstream, evidenced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being agreed to in 2015 as the overarching international development agenda at the United Nations. In Malaysia, environmental policies have evolved from addressing pollution since the 1970s, towards grander aspirations to achieve green growth.

At the implementation level, however, the reality is that we are still stuck in the first hurdle in grappling with the most basic environmental protection issues.

History tells us that we should not dismiss this as a one-off event. The Bukit Merah rare earth radioactive disposal led to at least eight leukaemia cases and several cases of physical defects in newborns.

In 2017, the Department of Statistics revealed that 90 of 140 rivers monitored for levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) were classed as polluted. Air pollution continues to plague the region, with an Air Pollutant Index (API) reading of 143 recorded in Kota Kinabalu on Saturday.

The incident at Pasir Gudang is a stark reminder that environmental issues should not be confined to a small group of environmentalists but should concern us all.

Sampling of Sungai Kim Kim identified chemicals that are hazardous to our health at high levels of exposure. While the focus now



The Fire and Rescue Department hazardous materials (Hazmat) team cleaning up the chemically-polluted Sungai Kim Kim in Pasir Gudang, Johor, recently. PIC BY ADI SAFRI

is to treat victims that suffer from acute illnesses, such as respiratory problems and skin irritation, what is worrying is that the pollutants can result in chronic illnesses. Some of the chemicals are carcinogenic — which can cause cancer — as well as affect internal organs such as causing liver damage.

History tells us that we should not dismiss this as a one-off event. The Bukit Merah rare earth radioactive disposal led to at least eight leukaemia cases and several cases of physical defects in newborns.

More recently, bauxite mining in Kuantan led to complaints about air and water pollution, including contamination of water treatment plants. Sungai Kim Kim itself was already known to be polluted.

According to water quality and modelling specialist Dr Zaki Zainudin, who has been monitoring the river for nearly 10 years, "it was an open secret that the river had been turned into a dumping site since 2012". Its long-term impact on the health of those affected is still poorly understood.

And what about the cases in different localities that we are still unaware of? As the remedial actions continue, we should not

lose sight of the need to not only prevent such disasters from occurring, but to also restore our environmental health as a whole.

To reorient ourselves towards this path, we should align our policies to principles that are enshrined in international environmental law.

FIRST, is the precautionary principle, where scientific uncertainty should not be used as a reason not to take any action. The potential impact in the form of chronic illnesses is a point in case where despite it requiring further research to establish causality, a "better safe than sorry" policy should proceed.

In parallel, efforts by the scientific community and government to monitor and understand these phenomena should be intensified.

The consolidation of data from various agencies announced by the Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin is a promising step.

SECOND, is the prevention principle, where the focus is eliminating or reducing pollution from being released into the environment at source, before the recycling, treatment or disposal processes. The Pollution Prevention Act of the United States es-

tablished an Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention that facilitates tools and processes for companies to implement prevention at source.

THIRD, is the polluter pays principle, which includes both direct and indirect costs. The initial cost of the clean-up of 1.5km of Sungai Kim Kim alone is reported to be RM6.4 million.

If you add the potential costs of further clean-up, hospital treatment, monitoring and business closures that will have to be borne by the government, businesses, individuals and society at large, it multiplies further.

Moving forward, these principles should be enshrined within our domestic policies and law. Under the Environmental Quality Act 1974, the maximum fine is RM500,000. In addition, the practice of granting contravention licences to industries provides a disincentive to install pollution control equipment as the cost of the licences is often cheaper. From an individual rights perspective, attempts to sue the responsible companies are made more difficult due to the fact that the right to a clean and healthy environment is not enshrined in our Constitution.

As the saying goes, prevention is better than cure, and while the firefighting approach is needed to solve the crisis in Johor, a longer term strategy is needed to protect our citizens. This requires strengthening or replacing existing laws and policies to address environmental pollution.

Ultimately though, the effectiveness of any policy lies in its implementation. Where it hits the bottom line, in any part of the world, it is only natural to expect vested interests to attempt to influence the enforcement process. However, in the New Malaysia, hopefully this practice is consigned to the past, especially in relation to issues that impact our ability to pursue a long and meaningful life, such as our environmental health.

alizan@isis.org.my

The author is a Fellow in Technology, Innovation, Environment and Sustainability (TIES) division, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia

LAMPIRAN 2

SINAR HARIAN (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 37

TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)



Tujuh tong biru berbau cuka

Ditemui bawah jambatan di belakang SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort

RAZIATUL HANUM
A. RAJAK

PASIR GUDANG

Penduduk Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort mendakwa, menemui tujuh tong biru mencurigakan di bawah jambatan dan longkang kira-kira 500 meter dari SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort.

Salah seorang penduduk, Ahmad Roh Ariffin, 50, berkata, hasil pemeriksaan awal mendapati bahan di dalam tong itu berbau seperti cuka.

"Penduduk yang memikat ayam jumpa sejak Khamis lalu dan masa itu, kita dah laporkan kepada pihak berkuasa, namun tiada tindakan sampai hari ini (semalam).

"Kita jumpa empat tong bawah jambatan ini dan tiga tong lagi dalam parit. Masa turun tengok kita ada terhidu seperti cuka pada tong itu," katanya ketika ditemui di lokasi penemuan di belakang SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort, semalam.

Jarak kawasan penemuan empat tong di bawah jambatan dengan penemuan tiga tong di kawasan parit kira-kira 200 meter.

Sementara itu, Pegawai Khas Menteri Besar Johor, Syed Othman Abdullah hadir ke lokasi selepas me-

PENCEMARAN SUNGAI KIM KIM



FOTO: RAJA JAAFAR ALI

Anggota bomba dan penyelamat dari Unit Hazmat mengambil bacaan pada beberapa tong yang dijumpai di kawasan parit berhampiran SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort, Pasir Gudang.

nerima aduan dan difahamkan perkara tersebut disampaikan kepada Menteri Besar, Datuk Osman Sapian.

Kemudian, pegawai Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS)

Johor tiba di lokasi dan mengambil sampel berwarna hitam pekat.

Pasukan Unit Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) Jabatan Bomba Malaysia turut tiba dan mengambil bacaan

pada mulut tong.

Dalam pada itu, Ahmad Roh berkata, Sungai Sembilang yang bersambung terus dengan Sungai Kim Kim sudah lama tercemar.

info

- 4 tong bawah jambatan
- 3 tong dalam parit
- Sungai Sembilang bersambung Sungai Kim Kim

"Keadaan sungai itu memang begitu dah kotor bertahun-tahun, lebih lima tahun lepas tapi tiada tindakan.

"Punca kotor kita tidak pasti mungkin kerana sisa perumahan berdekatan atau kilang-kilang dekat-dekat sini," katanya yang tidak mahu kes pencemaran kimia di Sungai Kim Kim berulang.

Beliau berharap tong-tong tersebut dikeluarkan segera dan kawasan itu dibersihkan supaya tidak menjadi lebih parah.

KEADAAN Sungai Kim Kim di Pasir Gudang semalam selepas dua minggu tercemar dengan sisa kimia.

Polis tangkap suspek dua minggu selepas lebih 4,000 penduduk Pasir Gudang terjejas

9 petualang Sungai Kim Kim ditahan

POLIS menahan sembilan lelaki dipercayai terlibat membuang sisa bahan kimia ke dalam Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang, Johor dalam satu operasi khas kelmarin. Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun berkata, dua suspek ditahan di Johor, manakala tujuh lagi di luar negeri tersebut. **➤ BERITA DI MUKA 2**



MOHAMAD FUZI



PASUKAN bomba memeriksa beberapa tong biru dikhuatiri mengandungi kimia beracun yang ditemui penduduk berhampiran Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang semalam.

Kesemua suspek direman 6 hari bantu siasatan kes pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim

9 suspek cemar sungai ditahan

Oleh SHARKAWI LONDING dan MOHD. IZUAN ROSELI

JOHOR BAHRU – Polis semakin hampir merungkai kejadian pencemaran sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim di Pasir Gudang selepas berjaya memburu sembilan lelaki dalam beberapa siri tangkapan di sekitar negeri ini dan luar Johor sejak kelmarin.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun (**gambar kecil**) berkata, kesemua individu itu ditahan bagi membantu siasatan selepas dipercayai terlibat dalam kes pencemaran sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim sejak 7 Mac lalu.

Katanya, daripada jumlah tangkapan tersebut, seramai dua suspek telah ditahan di negeri ini manakala tujuh lagi ditahan di beberapa lokasi di luar Johor.

“Operasi untuk menges-

san suspek yang bertanggungjawab dalam kes ini telah dijalankan semalam (kelmarin).

“Setakat ini, kesemua suspek sudah direman selama enam hari bermula hari ini (semalam) sehingga 23 Mac depan bagi membantu siasatan,” katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) Kontinjen Johor di sini semalam.

Tambah beliau, permohonan reman bagi kesemua suspek adalah bagi membolehkan siasatan dijalankan di bawah Seksyen 278 Kanun Keseksan kerana menjadikan udara berbahaya kepada nyawa manusia.

“Suspek juga disiasat mengikut Seksyen 284 serta Seksyen 326 Kanun Keseksan,” katanya.

Individu yang didapati bersalah di bawah Seksyen



ANGGOTA polis membuat sekatan jalan bagi memeriksa kenderaan yang keluar masuk dari kawasan terlibat pencemaran sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang semalam.

278 boleh didenda maksimum RM1,000 manakala Seksyen 284 memperuntukkan hukuman penjara enam bulan atau denda RM2,000. Seksyen 326 pula membolehkan seseorang itu dipenjarakan sehingga 20 tahun.

Ketika ditanya mengenai perincian tangkapan, Mohamad Fuzi bagaimanapun enggan mendedahkan butiran tersebut kerana siasatan polis sedang dijalankan.

Terdahulu, Mohamad Fuzi berkata, polis memiliki petunjuk bagi memberkas suspek utama terbabit dengan pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim.

Beliau berkata, pihaknya kini sedang memperhebat usaha mengesan dan memberkas suspek berkenaan.

Pada 11 Mac lalu, tiga lelaki termasuk dua pemilik kilang ditahan **Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS)** Johor kerana disyaki membuang sisa bahan kimia ke dalam Sungai Kim Kim sehingga menjejaskan ribuan penduduk di Pasir Gudang.



KERATAN Kosmo! semalam.

Dua hari kemudian, seorang pengusaha kilang yang juga suspek utama dijadualkan didakwa di mahkamah, namun proses pendakwaan tidak dapat diteruskan kerana kekurangan maklumat.

Kosmo! semalam melaporkan, penduduk setempat mendesak pihak berkuasa agar mengheret segera dalang dan pihak yang bertanggungjawab di sebalik kejadian ini.

Pencemaran sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim sejak 7 Mac lalu menyebabkan beratus-ratus orang awam termasuk pelajar terjejas akibat sesak nafas.

INFO Kronologi bencana udara di Pasir Gudang

- **7 Mac** – Seramai 35 mangsa terdiri daripada pelajar dan kakitangan sekolah dikejarkan ke hospital selepas terhidu bau sisa buangan berjadual dipercayai bahan kimia jenis metana yang dibuang di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang
- **9 Mac** – Jumlah mangsa meningkat kepada 79 orang dan dua buah sekolah ditutup manakala pihak polis mula membuka siasatan selepas menerima laporan
- **11 Mac** – Tiga lelaki termasuk dua pemilik kilang memproses tayar kitar semula ditahan kerana disyaki membuang sisa bahan kimia ke dalam Sungai Kim Kim
- **13 Mac** – Sebanyak 111 buah sekolah ditutup susulan kejadian pencemaran di Sungai Kim Kim, manakala kerja-



ANGGOTA Unit Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) memeriksa dan mengukur kualiti udara di sekitar kawasan tong plastik yang ditemui berhampiran cabang Sungai Kim semalam.

Penduduk jumpa 7 tong bahan kimia

PASIR GUDANG - Belum pun reda kes pembuangan sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, penduduk Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort di sini dikejutkan dengan penemuan tujuh tong berwarna biru dipercayai mengandungi bahan kimia yang dibuang ke dalam parit dan bawah jambatan Sungai Sembilang di sini.

Lokasi penemuan tujuh tong itu berhampiran loji kumbahan Tanjung Puteri yang terletak kira-kira 500 meter dari Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tanjung Puteri Resort di sini dan 2 kilometer dari Sungai Kim Kim.

Ahmad Roh Ariffin, 50, mendakwa, tong-tong tersebut ditemui penduduk ketika mereka memikat burung dan ayam hutan di belukar berdekatan.

"Penduduk sebenarnya jumpa sejak Khamis lalu dan memaklumkan kepada pihak berkuasa namun tidak diambil tindakan.

"Kami jumpa tiga tong dibuang ke dalam parit berdekatan manakala empat tong lagi di bawah jambatan.

"Hari ini (semalam) kami lapor sekali lagi supaya tindakan segera diambil supaya kejadian pencemaran seperti Sungai Kim Kim tidak berulang," katanya

ketika ditemui di sini semalam.

Ahmad Roh berkata, mereka tidak mengetahui apa isi kandungan tong terbabit namun selepas dihidu ia berbau seperti cuka.

Jelasnya, sebelum ini ada penduduk mendakwa terdapat lebih 20 tong namun dipercayai diambil oleh penagih dadah untuk dijual.

Tinjauan *Kosmo!* di lokasi kejadian mendapati sepasukan Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) dan Pasukan Unit Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) sedang menjalankan siasatan.

kerja pembersihan turut dimulakan oleh pegawai agensi termasuk Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM)

● **14 Mac** - Seorang pengusaha kilang yang ditahan sepatutnya didakwa di mahkamah tetapi pendakwaan tidak dilakukan

● **15 Mac** - Jumlah mangsa meningkat kepada 4,035 orang dan Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim menubuhkan Jawatankuasa Saintifik bagi membantu Kerajaan Negeri menyelesaikan masalah selain menangani isu pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim

LAMPIRAN 5

THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 5
TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)

**SHOCK DISCOVERY OF BLUE BARRELS NEAR PASIR GUDANG**

JOHOR BARU: The residents of Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort near Pasir Gudang here were shocked by the discovery of seven blue barrels containing a substance, which smelled like vinegar, under a bridge near Sungai Sembilang. A resident, Ahmad Roh Ariffin, said the villagers became suspicious of the contents of the barrels after being informed of them by wild fowl hunters. Checks by Bernama found that there were three blue barrels in the ditch and four more under a bridge, about 200m away. Personnel from the Department of Environment and Hazmat unit from the Fire and Rescue Department were seen inspecting the barrels and taking samples for analyses.

Pentadbir boleh tutup sekolah jika jerebu semakin teruk

KUALA LUMPUR – Pihak pentadbiran sekolah dibenarkan menutup sekolah atau mengehadkan aktiviti luar tanpa perlu merujuk kepada Kementerian Pendidikan sekiranya indeks pencemaran udara (IPU) semakin teruk akibat jerebu.

Timbangan Menteri Pendidikan, Teo Nie Ching berkata, sekolah telah diberi kuasa untuk membuat keputusan itu berdasarkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) sedia ada.

“Kami sudah ‘turunkan kuasa’ kepada sekolah, jadi tidak perlu untuk mereka merujuk kepada kementerian untuk mendapatkan kebenaran me-



MOHAMADDIN



NIE CHING

nutup sekolah atau menghentikan aktiviti luar kerana kami mahu mereka membuat keputusan sendiri.

“SOP sudah ada, bermaksud sekiranya jerebu teruk, sekolah tertentu yang buat keputusan,” katanya kepada pemberita di lobi Parlimen di sini semalam.

Sementara itu, di Putrajaya, Menteri Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya, Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi berkata, kementeriannya sedang mengikuti rapat keadaan cuaca

semasa di kawasan tarikan pelancongan seperti di Banting, Selangor dan Rompin, Pahang yang masing-masing

mencatatkan kualiti udara tidak sihat.

“Saya menyarankan agar orang ramai dan pelancong mendapatkan maklumat terkini berkenaan jerebu di laman web indeks udara di <http://apims.doe.gov.my>,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Beliau turut menggesa operator pelancongan agar memberi peringatan kepada pelancong berhubung situasi semasa dan menyalurkan bantuan topeng mulut jika perlu.

Menurut bacaan IPU sehingga pukul 3 petang semalam, Banting mencatatkan bacaan 104 manakala Rompin 176.

IPU antara 0 dan 50 adalah baik, 51 hingga 100 (sedehana), 101 hingga 200 (tidak sihat), 201 hingga 300 (sangat tidak sihat) dan 300 ke atas (berbahaya).



Two views of Sungai Kim Kim captured five years apart. In 2012 the water was a normal greenish, muddy colour (left); by 2017, it had turned black (above). — Photos: ZAKI ZAINUDIN

By SIM LEOI LEOI and NELSON BENJAMIN star2@thestar.com.my

Anatomy of a disaster

The incident of toxic fumes from a polluted river in Johor poisoning the air and sending people to hospital was a disaster waiting to happen.

SOME time in the morning of March 7 – before students of the nearby SK Taman Pasir Putih and SM Taman Pasir Putih arrived for classes – a truck must have driven up to the bridge overlooking Sungai Kim Kim.

Although what happened next has still to be established, what is not in doubt is that the truck then dumped chemical waste into the river that runs through much of Pasir Gudang town before joining the sea in the Johor Strait.

For many of the area's residents, for fishermen living along the river and people in the surrounding coastal villages, such dumping is not new.

They have long complained to the authorities that the water in the river – and even in town drains – turns black whenever it rains, saying they suspected that pollution from industrial waste was at fault.

Pasir Gudang, about a half-hour's drive from Johor Bahru, is an industrial port city and, apart from the fishing villages along the coast, various industries, including chemical plants, have set up bases here.

Only 2km away from Seletar Airport over in Singapore across the Straits of Johor, the town has also been in the news recently following a dispute over airspace between Malaysia and the island state. And then came much worse news as the chemical spill put people in hospital and shut down schools.

Because this time, the waste did not just turn Sungai Kim Kim black. This time, the waste vaporised, producing noxious fumes that sickened schoolchildren and residents in Taman Pasir Putih and Taman Kota Masai nearby.

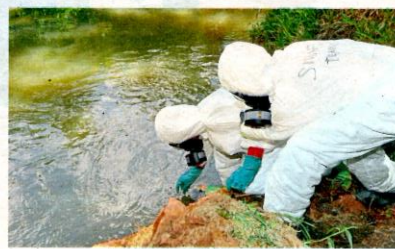
The victims, complaining of dizziness and vomiting, were rushed to hospitals in ambulances. Pictures and footage of medical teams wearing masks attending to those overwhelmed by the fumes gripped the nation.

At the end of the first day, over 100 victims had been recorded. In only slightly more than a week – as the fumes spread further from the original dump – there were almost 3,000 cases, and 111 schools and 92 kindergartens and nurseries in the district were closed.

The bridge where the dumping had taken place was cordoned off and the authorities – including even the Defence Ministry – moved in. Although no emergency was declared, masks were sold out in the area. The situation was so dire that Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad postponed a



Taman Pasir Putih residents are carrying out their daily activities at Pasir Gudang now – with precautionary face masks.



Hazmat personnel collecting water samples from Sungai Kim Kim. They gather daily air, water and soil samples for analysis to ascertain the level and type of chemicals in the area.

scheduled meeting and flew out to Pasir Gudang last Thursday for a personal briefing.

While a committee has been set up to carry out a scientific investigation into the incident, experts have since suggested that the current dry and hot weather might have caused the chemicals in the water to vaporise faster.

Water quality and modelling specialist Dr Zaki Zainudin says that the incident resulted from a "perfect storm" of factors affecting Sungai Kim Kim.

"There are four factors leading to the pollution of the river. There has been illegal dumping and discharge of chemicals – some of which could be legal – into the river over the years. The villagers told me that the drains turn black when it rains. "There has also been rapid development in the Tanjung Langkat industrial area adjacent to the river. The industrial effluents from the factories are either discharged into Sungai Kim Kim or Sungai Kopok," he points out.

Dr Zaki says there also appears to be a plant upstream of Sungai Kim Kim in a residential area which might also be discharging sewage into the river.

"On top of this, Sungai Kim Kim is affected by tides. So it's a much slower flowing river, leading to the build-up of pollutants.

"The river has been progressively deteriorating – this is very clear. It's

only that the dumping has never been this large in scale previously," says Dr Zaki.

The expert shared on his blog and Facebook page two pictures he took from a bridge over Sungai Kim Kim, one showing greenish water in 2012 and the other showing black water in 2017 (see images top).

"Such a rapid deterioration in water quality within a span of just a few years," he laments. Reports actually suggest that Sungai Kim Kim has been a dumping ground for chemical waste for the past 10 years.

A team from *The Star* that arrived at ground zero on March 8 spotted the Fire and Rescue Department's Hazardous Materials Unit (Hazmat) personnel carrying dozens of bags presumably containing toxic waste.

A Department of Environment (DOE) staff member collapsed despite being suited up protectively and had to seek medical attention. In a press conference before that, Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin revealed that analysis of the samples taken by the DOE from the river showed that they contained benzene, acrolein, acrylonitrile, chloride, methene, hydrogen, toluene, xylene, ethybenzene and d-limonene, among other chemicals.

D-limonene is usually found in the recycling process of tyres. The owner of an illegal tyre recycling factory is expected to be charged under Section 34B of the Environmental Quality Act 1974, which carries a jail term of up to five years and a RM500,000 fine.

In a statement, Sahabat Alam Malaysia called on both the DOE and the Johor state government to take stern action against the perpetrators.

"We are of the view that urgent and immediate action is needed to expedite the prosecution of the perpetrators of what are serious environmental crimes.

"We are also wondering what remedial actions are being taken to clean up the river so that the toxic chemicals and fumes from the waste dumping are prevented from affecting the health and environment of people in the surroundings, including the schools" says the NGO's president S.M. Mohamed Idris.

While Yeo told reporters in Parliament last Thursday that phase two of the river clean-up is expected to be completed within a week or less – four contractors were appointed for this purpose – people are now asking whether more measures should have been carried out earlier before the situation worsened.

In a statement widely reported in some media, the Fire and Rescue Department's director-general said that the agencies involved had decided to leave the chemicals unat-

tended due to the high cost of cleaning them up. Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia president S. Piarapakaran is shocked by that decision.

"Every chemical can be evaluated and potential harm will be known. How did the responsible agencies come to the conclusion that this chemical should be left as it is?" he said in a statement.

Pointing out that Section 47 of the Environmental Quality Act gives the DOE the power to recover costs and expenses, Piarapakaran urged the federal government to investigate the incident in a transparent manner, and for action to be taken against those responsible for neglect.

"We hope that the federal government acts swiftly."

In the meantime, Dr Zaki, who has carried out research on the water quality of rivers around the country, has a new worry.

In October 2018, Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar was reported as saying that in 2017, river pollution had increased by 2% compared to 2013.

"My concern is that many more rivers may be affected as well," Dr Zaki says.

Just hours after he spoke to us last Thursday, waste dumping was reported in Sungai Klang, which has been tainted with an oily substance believed to be a chemical.

LAMPIRAN 8

NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS / NATION): MUKA SURAT 8
TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)



The haze in Port Klang yesterday. The heatwave is expected to last for three consecutive days. PIX BY SADDAM YUSOFF

WORSENING AIR QUALITY

ROMPIN, BANTING API AT UNHEALTHY LEVELS

9 states at Level 1 alert, Pendang in Kedah at Level 2

DAWN CHAN AND MOHD*SYAHMI RASYDAN SHAMLIN
KUALA LUMPUR
cnews@nstp.com.my

THE air quality in Rompin, Pahang, and Banting, Selangor, has reached the unhealthy level of the Air Pollutant Index (API) of the Department of Environment.

A reading at the Rompin API station up to 9am showed that the API had touched 171, while it reached 102 in Banting.

Another 62 API stations nationwide recorded moderate readings, while only two stations saw good air quality. No stations registered a hazardous reading.

An API reading between 0 and 50 is good, 51 to 100 is moderate, while 100 to 200 is classified as unhealthy, 200 to 300 as very unhealthy and more than 300 is hazardous.

Nine states are reported to be at Level 1 alert. Pendang in Kedah is at Level 2 (heatwave), with temperatures between 37°C and 40°C.

Based on a Malaysian Meteo-



The Air Pollutant Index in Banting has reached the unhealthy level of 102 yesterday.

rological Department (Met-Malaysia) update, as at 5.20pm yesterday, 21 areas were at Level 1 with temperatures between 35 °C and 37°C.

The areas listed include Chuping in Perlis; Kota Setar, Sik, Baling and Kulim (Kedah); Hulu Perak, Kuala Kangsar, Kinta and Batang Padang (Perak); Jerantut, Raub, Temerloh, Maran and Ben-

tong (Pahang); Sepang and Petaling (Selangor).

Also listed were Port Dickson (Negri Sembilan), Melaka Tengah (Melaka), Tangkak in Johor and here.

The heatwave is expected to last for three consecutive days.

Sabah and Sarawak recorded daily maximum temperatures of less than 35 °C.

Fire Dept warns against uncontrolled burning

KUANTAN: The Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia recorded 6,566 cases of fire incidents at farms, forests, bushes and rubbish dumps nationwide due to the prolonged hot weather in the first two months of the year.

Its director-general Mohamad Hamdan Wahid said 4,667 of the fire cases involved bushes/wild grass, rubbish (878), followed by forest (682) and farms (339).

He said most of the fire incidents were man-made, such as throwing away cigarette butts and empty gas canisters during picnic activities, deliberately making small-scale uncontrolled burning, opening of agricultural farms and replanting.

"However, in the current hot spell, any uncontrolled burning activity is prohibited as it may contribute to air pollution and haze.

"Our officers and staff nationwide have been instructed to be on the alert. The logistics and human resources at 16 operational centres nationwide are ready to handle open burning cases.

"The Air Unit is also geared up. If needed, we can mobilise their

services from the bases in Subang, Selangor and Bertam, Melaka," he told a press conference at the presentation of medals and excellent service awards at the Pahang Fire and Rescue Department headquarters here yesterday.

Present were Pahang Malaysia Fire and Rescue Department director Nor Hisham Mohammad and his deputy Mohd Sani Harul.

Hamdan said up to Sunday, there were 680 cases of open burning in Pahang, up by 262 per cent, compared with 188 cases during the same period last year.

He said based on records, Kuantan district recorded the highest number of calls on open burning (321), followed by Pekan (152) and Temerloh (131).

Hamdan said the Pahang Fire and Rescue Department had activated the Haze Operation Room at the state headquarters. "The rotation of duties at all fire departments in three districts, namely Kuantan, Pekan and Rompin involving nine stations, are temporarily extended from 12 hours to 24 hours, to increase on-duty staffing."

6 The logistics and human resources at 16 operational centres nationwide are ready to handle open burning cases.

MOHAMMAD HAMDAN WAHID
Fire and Rescue Department director-general

School heads can decide if classes need to be postponed

KUALA LUMPUR: Management of schools have the autonomy to decide whether they should limit outdoor activities or shut down their schools in the event the haze returns.

Deputy Education Minister Teo Nie Ching said schools had adopted a standard operating procedure (SOP) to decide on their own without having to consult the ministry.

"They have the SOP. When haze reaches a certain level of the Air Pollutant Index, then it is compulsory for them to close and also limit outdoor activities.

"We have delegated the authority to decide, so they don't need to come back to the ministry for

permission," said Teo at a press conference at the Parliament lobby, here, yesterday.

She said the SOP was made available for schools and district education offices, where they could monitor the situation and make their own decisions.

At 1pm, Rompin and Banting, Selangor, were the only two districts in the country that remained in the "unhealthy" range.



Teo Nie Ching



CHEMICAL WASTE

2 MORE RIVER DUMP SITES IN PASIR GUDANG

Barrels found in Sg Masai and Sg Sembilang

RIZALMAN HAMMIM
JOHOR BARU
rizalman@nst.com.my

TWO more rivers in Pasir Gudang have been found to have been used as dump sites for chemical waste. In the first case, 10 barrels, believed to be containing chemical substances, were found in Sungai Masai, located next to the Pasir Gudang Highway. The discovery was made by res-

idents of nearby housing estates on Sunday after the authorities came to the location to start the clean-up.

Pasir Gudang MCA chief Tan Tuan Peng said the residents had questioned why they were not informed of the existence of another source of pollution that could contribute to the crisis.

"The public have the right to know. The authorities should not cover up these things."

Another dump site was found in Sungai Sembilang near Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort.

Seven barrels were found in the river, which is 500m from SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort.

The barrels were found in a drain and under a bridge connecting Taman Tanjung Puteri

and Taman Pasir Putih. Resident Ahmad Roh Ariffin, 51, said the barrels were found on Thursday, but no action had been taken after the authorities were informed of the discovery.

"Liquid from the barrels flowed into the river and there is a bad stench."

"Some residents have complained of breathing difficulties and nausea."

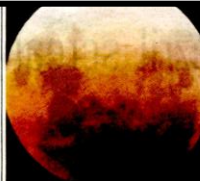
A check at the site showed that the authorities had cordoned off the area.

Efforts to get comments from the authorities proved unsuccessful, and a press conference by Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin was cancelled.



The Fire and Rescue Department's Hazardous Materials Unit personnel checking barrels found in a drain near SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort in Pasir Gudang yesterday. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

Supermoon NST-Shopee photo contest



This **Thursday, March 21**, the supermoon will be visible again in Malaysia and much of the world.

A supermoon is a new or full moon that occurs when it is at, or near its closest approach to Earth. This event, combined with Earth's shadow slowly swallowing the moon during the lunar eclipse, will provide for a spectacular night.

To make this lunar event even more exciting, we will be having a photo contest! We invite you to send us your best image of the supermoon.

We will select one grand prize winner and three consolation prize winners.

Consolation prizes x 3
• Mi Band 2

Grand prize x 1
• Amazfit Bip smartwatch

How to win:

1. Take your most creative shot of the supermoon and post it on your Instagram
2. Don't forget to tag your photos with #nstsUPERMOONCONTEST2019
3. Remember to put your Instagram account on Public mode for the duration of the contest
4. Closing date for the contest is March 22 (12 noon)
5. Winners will be announced on March 24 in the New Sunday Times

PRIZES

Terms & Conditions

- Contest is open to all Malaysians
- Judges' decision is final
- Winners will be notified via Instagram
- MPB staff and immediate families are not allowed to participate

9 held over dumping of chemical waste

JOHOR BARU: Police have arrested nine men, two of them in Johor and seven outside the state, to assist in the investigation into the dumping of chemical waste in a river in Pasir Gudang. Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun said yesterday.

The police had applied to the court to have the men, who were arrested on Sunday, remanded for six days from yesterday to help the police in the probe, he said after the presentation of Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara awards at the Johor police headquarters here.

Fuzi said the investigation would be conducted under Section 278 of the Penal Code for making the atmosphere noxious to health, under Section 284 of the Penal Code for negligent conduct with respect to any poisonous substance and under Section 326 of the Penal Code for voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means.

The dumping of chemical wastes in Sungai Kim Kim in Pasir



Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun

Gudang was discovered on March 7, when many students, teachers and staff of schools near the river suffered breathing difficulty, vomiting, nausea and sore throat after inhaling toxic fumes from the effluents.

On March 13, the Education Ministry ordered all 111 schools in Pasir Gudang to close after more people suffered what has come to be known as the "Kim Kim Symptoms".

Environs gone wrong







Johor: Sungai Kim Kim has turned almost black from the toxic waste dumped into it. No fish, prawns or even crocodiles are found in the river anymore. — Bernama

Kuala Lumpur: Tourists taking in the sights at Dataran Merdeka under the shade of umbrellas. — AZMAN GHANI/ The Star

Sarawak: Forest fires are raging in nine districts around the state.

George Town: The hazy view of the city from a ferry. — Bernama

Johor: Authorities find new dumpsites near Sungai Masai, along the Pasir Gudang Highway.

Compounding the heatwave and its effects to the environment are the irresponsible acts of humans. Sungai Kim Kim isn't the only contaminated area in Pasir Gudang. Sungai Masai and Sungai Semilang in the industrial town may be next. > See reports on pages 3 & 6

**LAMPIRAN 10 (SAMB.)
THE STAR (NATION): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)**

Nine states on Level 1 heatwave alert

Mercury reaches 40°C in peninsula and may last till April

PETALING JAYA: It is getting hotter by the day with temperatures in the peninsula "boiling" between 35°C and 40°C.

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) has put a district in Kedah on Level 2 heatwave alert while 23 districts in seven states and one federal territory in the peninsula are on Level 1 after temperatures increased.

Pendang in Kedah is the only district placed on Level 2 alert after recording temperatures between 37°C and 40°C.

The 23 areas in the seven states are Chuping in Perlis; Kota Setar, Sik, Baling and Kulim in Kedah; Hulu Perak, Kuala Kangsar, Kinta and Batang Padang in Perak; and Jerantut, Raub,

Temerloh, Maran and Bentong in Pahang.

Also listed are Kuala Selangor, Kelang, Hulu Selangor, Sepang and Petaling in Selangor; Jebebu and Rembau in Negri Sembilan; Tangkak in Johor; and Kuala Lumpur.

The other regions, including Sabah and Sarawak, recorded temperatures below 35°C.

"The hot weather is due to the lack of cloud cover and low rainfall during the end of the north-east monsoon," said MetMalaysia director-general Datuk Alui Bahari.

He said such extreme temperatures were usual during the end of the north-east monsoon period, adding that the heatwave was expected to subside next month with more rainfall.

He added that Malaysia was experiencing a weak El Nino (irregular weather phenomenon) but did not expect it to be as severe as the 2016 El Nino.

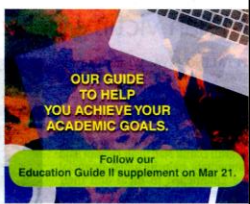
"The highest daily temperature recorded was 40.1°C in Chuping on April 9, 1998, during the 1997-1998 Super El Nino," he said.

Meanwhile, the National Water Services Commission reiterated its advice for people to conserve water during the hot spell.

"We have been advising the people since February to use water wisely," it said.

On the MetMalaysia Facebook page, Malaysians were seen reminding each other to take care during the heatwave.

"Woah heatwave! Drink lots of water ya,"



Fadhil Saufi said. "The weather in Penaga is so hot even my cat is running into the bedroom to find a cool place to relax," Putera Katak said.

Pahang open fires increase by 262% due to dry days

KUANTAN: Days without rain have resulted in an increase of open fires in Pahang. The State Fire and Rescue Department said they received 680 reports up to yesterday.

This shows an increase of 262% compared with the same period last year, which had only 188 cases.

"Kuantan recorded the highest number at 321, while Pekan had 152 cases and Temerloh 131.

"To tackle this, the department has activated the haze operations room at Pahang headquarters since March 17," it said in a statement.

It added that personnel at all nine fire stations in Kuantan, Pekan and Rompin had been temporarily put on 24-hour shifts.

The seven areas affected by fires were Pulau Serai in Peramu, Sungai Miang forest, Pekan Timut plantations and Jalan Pekan-Nenas in Pekan, areas near the Nenasi-Rompin border as well as Bukit Palas and the Gebeng industrial area in Kuantan.

The fire at the Nenasi-Rompin border appeared to be quite serious with some 20ha of forest already burnt.

Pahang Fire and Rescue Department director Nor Hisham Mohammad said the air pollutant index readings in Rompin had a high of 279 at 3am yesterday.



Hot and smokey: A fireman keeping watch to ensure a bushfire doesn't get out of control in Sarawak.

Sarawak battling to contain bushfires

MIRI: Firefighters in Sarawak are battling bushfires that have spread in nine districts over the past 24 hours.

Hotspots have been detected even in the night and pre-dawn hours, and firefighters are working hard to contain these fires.

Sarawak Fire and Rescue Department, in its latest updates yesterday, reported wildfires in

Miri, Kuala Baram, Tatau, Marudi, Bario, Limbang (all in northern Sarawak), Mukah, Daro (central Sarawak) and Sri Aman (southern Sarawak).

In Miri and Kuala Baram, there are eight different locations where these wildfires had burned, said Miri fire chief Supt Law Poh Kiong.

"In Bario, there are fires near the

airport where people are using fire to clear the area for illegal farming," he said yesterday.

More than 40.4ha of forested bush land have been razed in Kuala Baram and Miri.

Wildfires are flaring up again as the hot weather continues.

Many of these fires are caused by deliberate open burning to clear the land.

'Unhealthy' haze returns to Rompin, other areas

PETALING JAYA: On top of the scorching heat, Malaysians may also have to battle the haze which appears to be slowly setting into the country.

Shah Alam and Banting in Selangor, and Rompin in Pahang, encountered hazy weather as its Air Pollutant Index (API) breached the 100 mark.

On Sunday night and early Monday morning, Rompin saw an API that reached levels between 250 and 270, which is categorised as "very unhealthy."

The highest API level in Rompin over the past several days was recorded at 279 as of 3am on Monday, with its folk waking up to an API level of 196 at 7am.

Throughout the day yesterday, Rompin continued to encounter API

levels between 170 and 180 which fell under the "unhealthy" category.

API levels in Shah Alam on Sunday night passed well over the 100-mark threshold, which is classified as "unhealthy."

The levels were between 130 and 160 on Sunday night, with the highest level recorded at 161 as of 9pm.

The air quality significantly improved at about 2am on Monday, with its API dipping below the 100 mark.

At press time, the API level in Shah Alam was classified as being moderate. Banting also saw its API level tip over the 100-mark at 10pm on Sunday.

On Saturday morning, Kota Kinabalu and Kimanis saw its API levels rise between 110 and 140.



Grey day: Gantry cranes emerging from the haze as a boat makes its way across Port Klang harbour in limited visibility. — Bernama

The API measures the air quality in Malaysia, and also reflects its effect on human health ranging from good to hazardous.

API levels of 0 to 50 are consid-

ered "good", levels of 51 to 100 are considered "unhealthy", 101 to 200 considered "very unhealthy", with a reading of over 301 considered "hazardous".

12 Filipinos, one M'sian held in Sabah anti-terror raids

KUALA LUMPUR: Twelve Filipinos and a Malaysian have been detained for suspected involvement in militancy following an anti-terror swoop in Sabah, said Tan Sri Mohamed Fuzi Harun.

The Inspector-General of Police said the suspects were detained by the Bukit Aman Special Branch Counter Terrorism Division on March 11 and March 12 in Semporna and Tambunan.

"Those detained were either members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Maute or Royal Sulu Force (RSF) terror groups.

"Some of them were also detained for harbouring militants," he said in a statement yesterday.

The first series of arrests was made on March 11 in Semporna of five Filipinos and a Malaysian man.

"Four of the suspects were involved with the Maute terror group in an attack in Marawi, the Philippines in 2017.

"The four also harboured other Maute members and even militants from the Middle East who fled to Sabah.

"Two others were members of the RSF who were responsible for the attacks in Lahad Datu and Semporna in 2013. We also believe they are recruiting new members among Filipinos in Sabah," the IGP said.

The next series of arrests was in Tambunan on March 11, where five Filipino men and a Filipino woman aged between 23 and 63 were detained.

"One of the men detained is a member of the ASG who were involved in clashes in Marawi.

"He fled to Sabah in December last year to avoid capture by the Philippine security forces," he said.

The last arrest was of a 39-year-old Filipino man in Tambunan on March 12, the IGP added.

"He had offered protection and harboured elements from the ASG and Maute," he said.

A total of 10 other Filipinos who did not have proper identification and travel documents were also detained, he added.

With the latest arrests, Mohamad Fuzi said the counter terrorism division was confident of nabbing the remnants of the groups still hiding in Sabah.

"The terror suspects were detained under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (Sosma) 2012," he said.

'Use licensed contractors to clean up'

JOHOR BARU: It costs between RM600 and RM2,500 per metric tonne for companies to properly dispose of chemical waste with legitimate contractors, said the technical director of the main contractor involved in the cleaning up process of Sungai Kim Kim, N. Shanker.

"We need to analyse many things in the lab before we arrive at the right cost to charge the company."

"It includes whether the material

is organic or inorganic or if it contains any carcinogen (cancer-causing substance)," he said yesterday.

Shanker said companies should only engage contractors licensed under the Department of Environment (DOE) as they have the proper equipment and expertise to dispose of the waste safely.

"We have to also collect these substances from the companies as these could only be transported with proper licensed vehicles and not any ordinary lorries," he added.

Meanwhile, Johor Solid Waste Management and Public Cleaning

Corporation (SWCorp) director Cairul Hisham Jalaluddin said companies would have to pay about RM50 to RM70 for each tonne of waste sent to the nine sanitary landfills throughout the state.

"Some companies, unwilling to pay the cost, chose to take the easy way by conveniently discarding the waste illegally," he added.

Asked if there was a cap to the amount of waste that the companies could send to the landfills each day, Cairul said there was no limit and all waste - except chemical waste - could be sent to the landfills.

The Star has reported that solid waste, mainly from construction, was being dumped within a 5km radius of Sungai Kim Kim and one of the discarded items sported the name of a major chemical-producing company.

More than a dozen other sites have been discovered and the authorities are looking for more sites as they widen their checks around the river.

Some houses along the river have also been turned into possible "landing points" for illicit chemical dumping and house owners are allegedly paid for each lorry load.



Pasir Gudang fuming

All schools to be closed until the end of term holidays

More dumpsites found

Discovery just 500m away from one of the schools ordered closed

PASIR GUDANG: While the authorities have their hands full cleaning up the contaminated Sungai Kim Kim, two new dumpsites have been found along Sungai Masai and Sungai Semilang.

It is learnt that the authorities who were notified of the discovery at Sungai Masai on Sunday promptly went to the location along the Pasir Gudang Highway heading towards Johor Baru.

According to sources, more than 10 blue-coloured plastic barrels, believed to contain chemical substance, were collected from Sungai Masai, one of the main waterways here.

Checks on the river, which is about 18km away from Sungai Kim Kim, showed that it flows straight into the Johor Straits bordering Singapore.

Meanwhile, about seven barrels were found near Sungai Semilang in Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort at 2.30pm yesterday.

This river is a mere 2km from Sungai Kim Kim, where the chemical pollution around the area - which came to light earlier this month - has sickened more than 4,000 people.

The discovery is also just 500m away from SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort, one of the 111 schools ordered closed since last Wednesday due to the toxic fumes coming from the river.

The barrels were found dumped at a drain and underneath a bridge connecting Taman Tanjung Puteri and Taman Pasir Putih.

A resident, Ahmad Roh Ariffin, 51, claimed that the liquid from the barrels had seeped into the river, resulting in a terrible stench.

"We found the barrels last Thursday and informed the authorities about them, but there has been no action so far."

"We are worried because the smell is really bad and there are some residents who complain of



Cause for concern: The new dumping place near SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort. (Inset) Authorities at the new illegal dumpsite in Sungai Masai.



breathing difficulty and nausea," he added.

Yesterday, two police personnel arrived at the scene to place a barricade around the area to bar the media and public from going near the site.

The Star had reported that there were new signs of other waste dumping sites within a 5km radius of Sungai Kim Kim.

In a statement last night, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Osman Sapian urged the public to refrain from going to the two newly found illegal dumpsites near Sungai Masai and Sungai Semilang.

The Kempas assemblyman said he had directed the state Depart-

ment of Environment (DOE) to investigate the reports immediately.

"I am seriously looking at the reports and complaints about several chemical dumpsites in Masai."

"I have instructed security agencies such as the Fire and Rescue Department and police to close off the two areas," he said.

Pending a full report by DOE, the areas will be closed off until cleaning, control and investigation have

PASIR GUDANG: All 111 schools in and around the district will remain closed due to the toxic fumes until the end of the week-long school holidays, which are to begin this Friday.

Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik said the decision was made following advice and information from the police, Chemistry Department and Fire and Rescue Department.

"The ministry found that all of the affected schools could not reopen yet. The order to close remains until further notice," he said at a press conference after visiting victims who are receiving treatment at the medical base in the Pasir Gudang Indoor Stadium yesterday.

He assured the people that the ministry would continue to give updates regarding the situation at Sungai Kim Kim.

Earlier, Maszlee attended a meeting with the disaster committee at Menara Aqabah here and spent some time with the patients warded at the Sultanah Aminah Hospital.

All 111 schools have been ordered closed since March 13 after hundreds of students suffered breathing difficulty, nausea and vomiting due to the toxic fumes emanating from the river.

For Johor, the school holidays will be from March 22 to 30.

Asked if there would be replacement days for the affected schools, Maszlee said it would be decided soon.

"What's important now is the safety of the students, teachers and staff."

"Whether or not the dates need to be replaced will be considered later."

"However, the dates set for public examinations will be unchanged," he added.

been done, he added.

Malaysian Nature Society vice-president Vincent Chow said he was not surprised with the latest developments and the possibility of more dumpsites being uncovered.

"The authorities, especially the state government, should conduct thorough checks in all the districts in Johor because illegal dumping has been going on for a long time," he said.

Nine arrested over toxic pollution

JOHOR BARU: Police have arrested nine men in connection with the Sungai Kim Kim toxic chemical pollution in the Pasir Gudang district.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun said two of them were detained here while seven others were caught outside Johor Baru on Sunday.

"We are unable to reveal their ages and where they were picked up as this could jeopardise our investigation," he told reporters after presenting Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara awards to 396 retired and serving police officers at the Johor police headquarters here yesterday.

Mohamad Fuzi said the suspects would be remanded for six days starting from yesterday.

Factories suffering millions in losses

JOHOR BARU: Factories located within the Pasir Gudang industrial area are suffering millions of ringgit in losses following the chemical pollution at Sungai Kim Kim, according to a local leader of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

SME Association of South Johor adviser Teh Kee Sin said although some of the factories had temporarily shut down their operations, it was still early to tell the exact losses.

"March is normally a busy month for manufacturers as orders start to pick up after the long Chinese New Year break in February," he said.

Teh said manufacturers had to suspend operations for now as they did not have enough production workers to cope with the increased orders.

"The manufacturers are not taking any risk because their workers, mostly those who live in Pasir Gudang and nearby areas, have

shown symptoms of dizziness, nausea, chest pains and vomiting," he said.

He revealed that there were about 700 factories operating in Pasir Gudang.

Of these, 450 were in heavy industries employing thousands of workers, including Sabahans and Sarawakians who have made Pasir Gudang their home.

The main priority now, he said, was to clean up Sungai Kim Kim

and restore confidence in Pasir Gudang residents that the place was safe for them.

"Once the situation returns to normal, manufacturers are likely to scramble to fulfil their orders," he said.

Teh also criticised the state government for what he called its slow response in handling the incident, adding that there was a lack of updates and accurate information to the people initially.

Pencemaran toksik di Sungai Kim Kim

PANTAU 6 BULAN

- » Pakar nasihat Sungai Kim Kim dipantau 6 bulan untuk pastikan benar-benar selamat.
- » Sungai Kim Kim perlu 'direhatkan' bagi pastikan tiada gas beracun meluap ke udara dan air sungai ditapis sepenuhnya.
- » JAS ada peralatan kesan pemeluapan gas beracun.
- » Kementerian Pendidikan arah sekolah ditutup sehingga 30 Mac.
- » Polis berkas 9 suspek lagi.

**BERITA PENUH
DIMUKA 2&3**



TINJAUAN dari udara memperlihatkan keadaan Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang, semalam. Gambar kecil menunjukkan dua warna: cerah dan gelap iaitu tahap pencemaran toksik di sungai itu. - BERNAMA



Pantau Sungai Kim Kim 6 bulan

Oleh BORHAN ABU SAMAH
perangangutusan.com.my

■ KUALA LUMPUR 18 MAC

SUNGAI Kim Kim di Pasir Gudang, Johor perlu dipantau selama tempoh enam bulan bagi memastikan tiada lagi gas beracun yang mengalir atau meluap ke udara sebelum disahkan selamat.

Pakar alam sekitar dan air, Dr. Ibrahim Ashaari berkata, dalam tempoh tersebut Sungai Kim Kim perlu 'dirahatkan' dengan memastikan tidak ada gas beracun meluap ke udara dan air sungai ditapis sepenuhnya.

Beliau yakin Jabatan Alam Sekitar mempunyai peralatan yang diperlukan bagi mengesan pemelupuan gas beracun bagi mengelakkan orang ramai daripada terhidu serta menjejaskan kesihatan.

"Jika tiada lagi pemelupuan gas beracun berlaku, sekolah-sekolah boleh dibuka dan tidak



IBRAHIM ASHAARI

"Jika tiada lagi pemelupuan gas beracun berlaku, sekolah-sekolah boleh dibuka dan tidak perlu menunggu sehingga tempoh enam bulan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika tampil pada segmen *Sembang Online di Utusan Online* hari ini.

Ibrahim pernah mengajar di universiti luar negara dan tempatan mempunyai ijazah kedoktoran dari Institut Sains dan Teknologi Stuttgart, Jerman dalam bidang air dan kini merupakan Ketua Pegawai Teknologi Asian Environmental Engineering Sdn. Bhd.

Beliau turut mengingatkan penduduk setempat supaya

segera mendapatkan rawatan jika berasa terjejas kesihatan seperti rasa perit di tekak dan hidung serta pening kepala kerana ia adalah tanda awal seseorang terhidu gas beracun.

Pihak berkuasa juga, kata beliau, perlu memberi maklumat yang tepat kepada orang ramai supaya mereka faham dan mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga.

Beliau menyarankan orang ramai supaya tidak panik, kerana apabila terhidu gas, di dalam situasi panik, gas berkenaan akan dihidu dengan lebih banyak.

Ibrahim turut melahirkan



PENCEMARAN SISA TOKSIK

ANGGOTA Pasukan Khas Pengurusan Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) menggunakan peralatan Chemical Detector AP4C untuk mengesan sisa toksik pada seorang kanak-kanak di Pusat Rawatan Awal, Stadium Tertutup Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang, Johor, semalam.

keimbangan kesan jangka panjang yang boleh menyebabkan kanser akibat terdedah kepada sisa toksik dan beliau menasihatkan mangsa membuat pemeriksaan kesihatan berterusan.

Sehubungan itu, beliau menyarankan orang ramai memainkan peranan sebagai pemantau dan mengekang sebarang perbuatan pembuangan sisa toksik dengan menjadi mata serta telinga pihak berkuasa.

Kata beliau, orang ramai perlu segera melaporkan kepada pemimpin setempat jika terdapat sebarang lori yang membawa muatan asing masuk ke kawasan mereka sebelum disalurkan maklumat kepada polis dan seterusnya bomba serta jabatan alam sekitar untuk tindakan.

Dalam pada itu, beliau turut bimbang orang ramai yang tidak bertanggungjawab turut bersekongkol dengan kilang-kilang dalam melupuskan sisa toksik secara haram demi sedikit keuntungan.

ANGGOTA Hazmat memeriksa dan mengukur kualiti udara di sekitar kawasan tong yang dibuang berhampiran cabang Sungai Kim Kim dan Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Tanjung Puteri Resort di Pasir Gudang, semalam. - UTUSAN/ FARID JANUDDIN

9 suspek lagi diberkas

JOHOR BAHRU 18 Mac - Polis percaya dalang yang bertanggungjawab ke atas kejadian pencemaran sisa toksik di Sungai Kim Kim di Pasir Gudang akan dapat diberkas dalam masa terdekat dengan tertangkapnya sembilan lelaki semalam.

Dengan penahanan sembilan suspek dipercayai penjenayah alam sekitar yang berusia 27 hingga 41 tahun, hasil risikan dijalankan polis menerusi Pasukan Khas yang ditubuhkan, beberapa siri tangkapan lagi akan dilakukan.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun berkata, sembilan lelaki terbabit, masing-masing dua orang ditahan polis di negeri ini manakala tu-

juh orang lagi ditahan pihaknya di luar Johor, semua mereka sudah dibawa ke negeri ini.

"Keadaan nampaknya kembali pulih secara perlahan-lahan tetapi operasi kita mengesan dan menangkap suspek telah pun berjalan semalam dan hasilnya, sembilan lelaki yang ditahan itu. Operasi masih berjalan.

"Kita juga sudah mendapat perintah tahanan reman dan mahkamah membenarkan semua mereka direman selama enam hari bermula hari ini," katanya kepada pemberita selepas Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara (PJPN) Kontinjen Johor, di Ibu pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Johor di sini hari ini.

Pada majlis itu, beliau me-

nyempurnakan penyerahan PJPN kepada 400 individu merangkumi 396 orang pegawai dan anggota polis yang masih berkhidmat manakala empat lain merupakan pesara.

Mohamad Fuzi berkata, suspek yang ditahan itu akan disiasat mengikut Seksyen 278 Kanun Keseksan kerana menjadikan udara berbahaya kepada kesihatan dan Seksyen 284 kanun yang sama kerana kelakuan cuai berkenaan dengan benda beracun.

Tambahnya, kes itu turut disiasat di bawah Seksyen 326 Kanun Keseksan kerana dengan sengaja menyebabkan cedera parah dengan menggunakan senjata atau lain-lain benda yang berbahaya.

Tujuh tong dipercayai sisa buangan toksik ditemukan

PASIR GUDANG 18 Mac - Belum pun reda kes pencemaran toksik di Sungai Kim Kim di sini, beberapa lagi tong dipercayai berisi sisa buangan bahan kimia ditemukan dalam semak di Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort di sini.

Kesemua tujuh buah tong berwarna biru itu ditemui di dua lokasi berhampiran Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tanjung Puteri Resort oleh penduduk kawasan berkenaan sejak 14 Mac lalu.

Seorang wakil penduduk, Ahmad Roh Ariffin, 50, berkata, penemuan tong yang mencurigakan oleh seorang penduduk taman itu telah dimaklumkan kepada pihak berkuasa sebelum ini namun tiada seba-

rang tindakan diambil.

“Semasa ditemui, tong itu didapati berbau seperti cuka tapi ia tidak dibuka kerana tidak tahu apa isi kandungannya.

“Hari ini, saya laporkan terus perkara ini kepada pejabat Menteri Besar dan wakilnya telah datang untuk meninjau kawasan terbabit dengan bantuan polis,” katanya ketika ditemui pemberita di lokasi penemuan tong tersebut, di sini hari ini.

Katanya, tiga daripada tong berkenaan ditemukan dibuang dalam longkang manakala empat lagi ditemukan di bawah jambatan sebatang anak sungai yang bersambung dengan Sungai Kim Kim.



Hampir semua sekolah kualiti udara normal

PASIR GUDANG 18 Mac - Hanya Sekolah Kebangsaan Taman Rinting 3 di sini menunjukkan kualiti udara yang tidak normal iaitu bacaan nilai Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) pada kadar lima dan tiga partikel per sejuta (PPM), menerusi pemantauan yang dijalankan semalam.

Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) dalam satu kenyataan memberitahu, pemantauan dibuat di kesemua 42 sekolah yang berada dalam radius kawasan pencemaran toksik di Sungai Kim Kim di sini.

Menurut kenyataan berke-

naan, hampir kesemua sekolah menunjukkan kadar VOC sifar, kecuali SK Taman Rinting 3.

“Pemantauan di 42 buah sekolah itu dibuat oleh 30 pasukan pemantau Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim (MESTECC), masing-masing pada pukul 12 tengah hari, 3 dan 6 petang semalam.

“Kadar VOC lima dan tiga PPM di sekolah berkenaan diperoleh ketika pemantauan dibuat pada pukul 3 petang, masing-masing di aras bawah dan aras satu sekolah berkenaan,” katanya.

LAMPIRAN 13

THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 3
TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)



Victims of toxic fumes leave hospital

JOHOR BARU: A total of 119 people have been discharged from Sultanah Aminah Hospital (HSA) and Sultan Ismail Hospital (HSI) as of Sunday night, following the chemical pollution incident in Sungai Kim Kim in Pasir Gudang on March 7.

Johor Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee chairman Dr Sahrudin Jamal said this brought the total number of people still warded at the two hospitals to 29.

He said four people were still in the intensive care unit compared with seven previously, and they were reported to be in stable condition.

In a statement yesterday, Sahrudin said 30 teams under the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change would be mobilised to monitor air quality at 42 schools within a 5 to 9km radius from the polluted river in Pasir Gudang.

"Environment and Chemistry Department personnel will carry out comprehensive monitoring activities from today." – Bernama



Nine arrested over dumping of chemical waste

JOHOR BARU: The police have arrested nine men, two of them in Johor and seven outside the state, to assist in investigations into the dumping of chemical waste in a river in Pasir Gudang, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun said yesterday.

The police had applied to the court to have the men, who were arrested yesterday, remanded for six days from today to help police

in the probe, he told reporters after the presentation of Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara awards at the Johor Police headquarters here.

Mohamad Fuzi said the investigation will be conducted under Section 278 of the Penal Code for making the atmosphere noxious to health, under Section 284 of the Penal Code for negligent conduct with respect to any poisonous substance and under Section 326 of the Penal

Code for voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means.

The dumping of chemical wastes in Sungai Kim Kim in Pasir Gudang came to light on March 7 when many students, teachers and staff of schools near the river suffered breathing difficulty, vomiting, nausea and sore throat after inhaling toxic fumes emanating from the effluents. - Bernama



KENDERAAN
jelajah Bulan
rekaan
Toyota untuk
angkasawan
JAXA yang
diumumkan
di Tokyo, Jepun
pada Selasa lalu.

Toyota dedah rekaan kenderaan jelajah Bulan JAXA

TOKYO – Pengeluar kereta terkenal, Toyota mendedahkan rekaan sebuah kenderaan jelajah Bulan untuk angkasawan Agensi Penerokaan Aerqangkasa Jepun (JAXA) di sini pada Selasa lalu.

Kerjasama antara Toyota dan JAXA itu adalah untuk menyediakan kemudahan pengangkutan yang tidak memerlukan sut angkasawan dipakai sepanjang masa menjelang misi Jepun meneroka Bulan sekitar tahun 2030.

“Kenderaan jelajah yang mempunyai bekalan oksigen sendiri adalah satu elemen penting dalam penjelajahan penuh dan operasi di permukaan Bulan,” kata Presiden JAXA, Hiroshi Yamakawa baru-baru ini.

Konsep kenderaan rekaan Toyota itu boleh digunakan dua orang angkasawan atau empat orang ketika kecemasan dan menggunakan teknologi tenaga solar serta sel tenaga. Kenderaan jelajah itu dijangka siap menjelang tahun 2029.

“Graviti Bulan hanya satu per enam berbanding Bumi. Bulan juga mempunyai kawah, lembah dan bukit selain terdedah kepada radiasi serta suhu terlampau tinggi atau rendah,” jelas Naib Presiden JAXA, Koichi Wakata ketika memaklumkan keperluan teknologi sokongan untuk memudahkan tugas angkasawan.

“Setakat ini, kajian bersama kami telah memeriksa konsep awal sebuah sistem kenderaan jelajah angkasawan dan telah mengenal pasti isu-isu teknikal yang perlu diselesaikan,” tambahnya.

Toyota memaklumkan kenderaan yang bakal dibina itu adalah 6 meter (m) panjang, 5.2m lebar dan 3.8m tinggi, bersamaan saiz dua buah bas mikro serta mampu digunakan untuk menjelajah sehingga 10,000 kilometer permukaan Bulan. – Agensi



KENDERAAN
pengangkutan itu boleh
membawa dua hingga
empat orang angkasawan.



School teachers and Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia lecturers during one of the hands-on Knowledge Building sessions of the programme.

Impacting change in spurring STEM

ExxonMobil collaborates with UKM to introduce Training of Trainers programme

HUMAN capital development has always been a core focus at ExxonMobil. Why? Because it believes that the success of its business depends on its diverse pool of highly-qualified talent who are dedicated and uphold integrity, high-quality work and good corporate citizenship. Combined with its commitment to the communities it operates in, the company highly values education and has long championed programmes and efforts to encourage and nurture the interest of Malaysia's brightest young minds in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Recently, in an effort to address the declining interest in Science and Math among students, ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Malaysia Inc. (EMEPMI) collaborated with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to introduce a Training of Trainers programme. The objective behind the pilot programme - to develop a group of STEM Master Trainers via training modules



Participants of the ExxonMobil-UKM STEM Club @ Sabah Training of Trainers programme during the closing ceremony.

developed and delivered by UKM.

Thirty primary school and 32 secondary school teachers from 10 selected districts in Sabah participated. Training focused on equipping the school teachers with a STEM approach' in teaching Science and Math syllabus at schools to drive students' interest, engagement, understanding and appreciation in STEM subjects.

Said EMEPMI general manager of public and government affairs, Sukiman Mohamed, "Teachers are the key driving force behind students'

academic performance and they have the potential to create motivation, interest and excitement in students to attract them to STEM. We hope this initiative will contribute towards efforts to increase the number of students in the Science stream as Malaysia looks toward achieving a STEM-driven economy in the near future".

Training will be on-going as this is just the first phase of the Training of Trainers programme. Phase two is scheduled to run from July to September this year.

LAMPIRAN 17

THE STAR (NEWS): MUKA SURAT UTAMA
TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)



Choked by inaction

For more than a decade, Kuala Lumpur residents have had to put up with noise and air pollution caused by unauthorised sand washing, but their complaints continue to fall on deaf ears. >2&3



“ Federal Territories Land and Mines Office should take the lead. ”

FT DID director Nishad Mohamed Mohd Shaffy



“ It is unlawful to remove sand from any land without a permit. ”

Lawyer and local government expert Derek Fernandez

Delving into murky waters

Land office's lack of action on sand washing frustrates residents, DBKL and DID



Other than air pollution, the machinery used in sand washing activities also creates a din. (Right) A couple living in Andes Villa looking out from their balcony which faces the sand washing site.



Chong says he highlighted the matter to the authorities seven year ago but nothing has been done about the sand washing site.



Yap says he keeps his windows and balcony shut 24/7 to keep the noise and dust out.



Kit says he is concerned about the health of children as sand washing pollutes the environment.

Stories by BAVANI M. bavanim@thestar.com.my.

RESIDENTS living in Andes Condo Villa and Mutiara Bukit Jalil near the Kampung Bohol flood retention pond in Kuala Lumpur are joining forces to put a stop to an illegal sand washing activity taking place near their homes.

Residents, some of whom are lawyers, engineers and environmentalists, will set up a pro-tem committee to resolve the long-standing issue which they claim has adversely affected their quality of life.

Waking up to the incessant droning sound of sand washing machines, water pumps, high pressure jet sprays and excavators scooping up sand and gravel as well as hundreds of tipper lorries coming in and out of their neighbourhood is too much for residents.

"It is an endless din that has robbed me of peace of mind," said Marian Loh who lives in Andes Condo Villa.

"Imagine living next to a construction site where the work never stops."



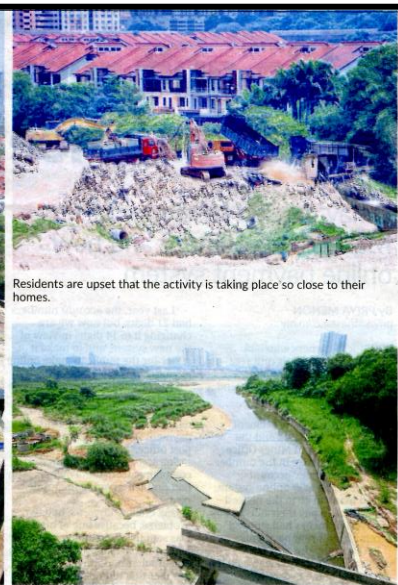
Buildings at the site where illegal sand washing is taking place.

Mutiara Bukit Jalil resident Chong Han Hoi said he highlighted the matter to the authorities seven years ago but no action was taken.

Kevin Yap said he shuts his windows and balcony door 24/7 to keep out the noise and dust. "We are worried about our health too as it is not safe because



The Kampung Bohol flood retention pond is badly affected by the sand washing activity nearby.



Residents are upset that the activity is taking place so close to their homes.

The sand washing site is located near the Kampung Bohol retention pond and Sungai Kuyoh.

of air pollution," Yap said.

"I have children and I worry about their health. This is not the kind of environment to bring up children," said resident Kit Wong.

Loh hoped the authorities would take proactive measures and stop the work immediately, especially in light of the recent toxic pollution incident in Pasir Gudang, Johor.

Their next plan of action is to approach Seputeh MP Teresa Kok on the matter.

"We will seek a meeting with Kok. If that does not work, then we will take it up with the Kuala Lumpur mayor and Federal Territories minister," said Wong Soon Kiat.

"We will even lodge a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) if that is what it takes to get things going."

Residents are simply fed up as the illegal sand washing activity has been going on for many years

with repeated warnings from the authorities falling on deaf ears.

StarMetro highlighted the issue in 2008, and again in August last year where sediment in the retention pond due to direct discharge of mud water into Sungai Kuyoh by an unlicensed sand washing operator badly affected the pond's habitat and river.

In a meeting last year attended by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) Enforcement, Legal, Economic Planning, Landscape, Valuation and Property Management departments, which was chaired by Civil Engineering and Urban Transportation Department director Abdul Hamid Surip, it was revealed that illegal sand washing and rubbish dumping operations were taking place at Lot 40401.

A search at the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office (PTG) showed the Government was the landowner but a subsidiary of

a textile company has a private caveat, registered on Nov 12, 2015, on the lot.

However, when *StarMetro* contacted the company for clarification, an executive claimed to have no knowledge of illegal sand washing taking place on the land.

It had also leased part of the land to another private company.

The executive said if the tenant was found to have broken the law, it would enforce the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement.

It has been seven months since the issue was reported but sand washing continues at the site.

Kuala Lumpur Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Nishad Mohamed Mohd Shaffy has written to PTG asking for a status update.

"PTG should take the lead and enforce the law," said Nishad.

A DBKL spokesman told



Residents of Andes Condo Villa and Mutiara Bukit Jalil plan to set up a pro-tem committee to stop the sand washing activity.

StarMetro that the issue was under PTG's jurisdiction and governed by the National Land Code 1965.

"We are frustrated and disappointed too," said the spokesman.

"We are ready to assist in enforcement but PTG has to act first."

At press time, PTG had yet to respond on the matter.

PTG should initiate legal steps to stop sand pirates, says expert

LOCAL government expert Derek Fernandez said the law governing activities like sand mining and sand washing comes under the National Land Code 1965 (NLC) and the land office is its governing agency.

"Federal Territories Land and Mines Office (PTG) knows or at least should know of Section 426, which is about the unlawful extraction or removal of rock or sand.

"Section 426 is clear. It is unlawful to remove sand from any land without a permit.

"The offence is liable to a fine not exceeding RM50,000, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both," he said.

Fernandez added that any person caught transporting sand in his possession or anyone assisting in the extraction or transportation of sand, which has not been

approved under Section 70 of the NLC, or the Federal Territory Land Rules 1995, were equally guilty of the offence.

But does the law include the term "sand washing"?

"Any digging or washing of sand would constitute an extraction," Fernandez said.

He elaborated that extraction, removal and transporting sand without approval would also include extraction at the site for the purpose of washing it, or digging which would constitute an offence without a permit.

"And if it's illegal use of land, the land can be forfeited under the NLC. And PTG is the principal authority here to take action," he said.

What is the solution?

"The solution is extremely simple. Under the Act, and relevant laws,

the principal responsibility for the enforcement of these laws is the land office.

"PTG can undertake a joint operation with Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and the police to enforce the law," he said.

Fernandez added that even transporting sand required an additional permit from DBKL, so City Hall should be part of the operation.

The standard operating procedure, Fernandez said, was to immediately enter the site (sand washing) and seize all machinery, lorries and equipment used for the extraction of sand.

If the activity was done without approval, all individuals involved could be arrested.

Fernandez also said that the land owner could also be taken to task for violating the conditions and restrictions of the land.

"If the land title specifies it for

residential or affordable homes, then the owner is violating the title by carrying out the extraction of sand and this means there is a technical breach of conditions and restrictions which can result in the forfeiture of the land by PTG," he added.

Cripple the operation

Fernandez, who is also a Petaling Jaya City Council councillor, said Section 426A of NLC, authorises a police officer not below the rank of inspector, the registrar or the land administrator to arrest any person committing or attempting to commit or abetting unlawful extraction of sand.

The arrest can be carried out without a warrant.

He said an arrest could be done without warrant to seize any vehicles or equipment used for the purpose of illegal transporting of

sand and demolishing any building and taking possession of the sand in the name of the state.

"All these remedies are effective to stop illegal sand mining provided there is a will to do so.

"And the land owner can be liable if shown that he is aiding and abetting," he said.

"Issuing multiple summonses is totally ineffective because the profit they make (from sand washing) is more than sufficient to pay 1,000 summonses," he said.

"It is far better for the land office, DBKL and Federal Territories Ministry to seize the vehicles and prosecute in court.

"Vehicles seized with sand in it should be case exhibits.

"Upon conviction, the court can impose a daily fine if the activity continues and also a term of imprisonment," said Fernandez.



SUKARELAWAN menyusun makanan untuk dihidangkan kepada petugas dan penduduk yang mendapatkan saringan awal dan rawatan di Stadium Tertutup Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang.



PENDUDUK yang terkena simptom sakit akibat pencemaran sisa bahan kimia mendapatkan saringan awal.



DR Maszlee mencuba peralatan yang digunakan bagi mengesan bahan kimia ketika melawat penduduk dan pelajar yang mendapatkan saringan awal dan rawatan di Stadium Tertutup Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang.

9 SUSPEK DITAHAN

■ Beberapa individu masih diburu dipercayai terbabit insiden pembuangan sisa bahan kimia



RACUN SUNGAI KIM KIM

Izlaaily Nurul Ain Hussein
izlaaily@hmetto.com.my

Johor Bahru

Polis menahan sembilan individu, semalam, dipercayai terbabit dalam insiden pembuangan sisa bahan kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Taman Pasir Putih, Pasir Gudang.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun berkata, dua suspek ditahan di Johor dan tujuh lagi ditahan di luar negeri ini.

"Operasi memburu beberapa lagi individu yang boleh membantu siasatan kes masih diteruskan.

"Saya tidak boleh beri

terlalu banyak maklumat terperinci kerana ia akan mengganggu siasatan dan operasi polis," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas menyempurnakan Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara Kontinjen Johor di Dewan Dato' Onn, Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Johor di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Pengarah Pengurusan Bukit Aman, Datuk Abd Rahim Jaafar; Ketua Polis Johor, Datuk Mohd Khalil Kader Mohd dan Timbalan Ketua Polis Johor, Datuk Mohd Kamarudin Md Din.

Mohamad Fuzi berkata, semua suspek direman enam hari bermula

semalam sehingga Sabtu ini.

Katanya, siasatan dilakukan mengikut Seksyen 278 Kanun Keseksaan (menjadikan udara berbahaya kepada kesihatan), Seksyen 284 (kelakuan cuai berkenaan benda beracun) dan Seksyen 326 kanun sama (menyebabkan cedera parah).

Semalam, Mohamad Fuzi memaklumkan bahawa polis memperoleh petunjuk yang menjurus kepada identiti suspek bertanggungjawab membuang sisa bahan kimia secara haram di sungai itu dan operasi memburu serta menjejak suspek sedang giat dijalankan untuk membuat tangkapan.



PETUGAS kontrak swasta melakukan kerja pembersihan berterusan sisa toksik di Sungai Kim Kim.

Pusat rawatan semakin tenang

Pasir Gudang: Suasana Stadium Tertutup Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang (MPPG) di sini, yang menjadi pusat rawatan awal kepada mangsa pencemaran pembuangan sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, 7 Mac lalu, dilihat tenang berbanding sebelum ini.

Malah, jumlah penduduk yang datang mendapatkan rawatan pada hari ke 12 insiden pencemaran itu juga berkurangan.

Tinjauan mendapati

meskipun keadaannya tidak sesak, masih ada penduduk yang datang mendapatkan rawatan akibat simptom pencemaran udara bermula jam 7 pagi.

Tinjauan juga mendapati bilangan sukarelawan yang memberikan bantuan sudah berkurangan, selain terdapat pertubuhan bukan kerajaan (NGO) Yayasan Dana Kebajikan Muslim Malaysia yang memberi bantuan secara sukarela.

Bagaimanapun, petugas keselamatan termasuk

Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamatan (JBPM), kakitangan Kementerian Kesihatan dan Angkatan Tentera Malaysia (ATM) masih berada di lokasi untuk memberikan perkhidmatan 24 jam.

Anggota Pasukan Unit Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) JBPM juga melakukan saringan bacaan pencemaran kimia terhadap setiap individu yang hadir ke kawasan yang cemar yang dibuka di pusat itu.

Syabas, anda semua hebat!

Johor Bahru: Tunku Mahkota Johor, Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim menghargai penghargaan kepada semua pihak yang membantu menyediakan rawatan kepada mangsa pencemaran sisa kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang.

Tunku Ismail menyuarakan penghargaan itu menerusi laman Facebook (FB) rasminya, semalam.

"Saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah dan syabas kepada semua anggota yang terlibat dalam membantu menyediakan rawatan pemulihan yang diperlukan berikutan kejadian pencemaran sisa kimia di Pasir Gudang.

"Dedikasi yang anda berikan dalam membantu

Johor mengatasi krisis ini tidak ternilai," titahnya.

Baginda turut menghargai sumbangan cemerlang diberikan pasukan keselamatan dan sukarelawan sepanjang misi membantu mangsa pencemaran sejak 7 Mac lalu.

"Ikhlash dari hati saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih atas tugas cemerlang yang anda lakukan.

"Anda semua pasukan polis, unit tindakan kecemasan, tentera, doktor, pembantu perubatan, sukarelawan dan lain-lain melakukan kerja yang hebat dalam membantu keadaan cemas ini. Terima kasih!," titahnya.

Tutup sekolah hingga bermula cuti penggal

Pasir Gudang: Semua 111 sekolah di daerah ini yang terjejas akibat pencemaran bahan kimia di Sungai Kim Kim di sini, terus ditutup sehingga cuti sekolah bermula 22 hingga 30 Mac ini sebagai langkah berjaga-jaga.

Menteri Pendidikan, Dr Maszlee Malik berkata, arahan penutupan itu dibuat selepas beliau mendengar taklimat dan mendapatkan penjelasan daripada semua pihak berkuasa dan pakar yang terlibat dalam menyelesaikan isu pencemaran sisa kimia di Pasir Gudang, semalam.

"Berdasarkan taklimat dan penjelasan menyeluruh daripada pihak berkuasa dan pakar berkaitan, Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia (KPM) mendapati penutupan sekolah diteruskan sehingga cuti sekolah," katanya sempena lawatan ke pusat rawatan awal di Stadium Tertutup MPPG di sini, semalam.

“Bagi saya keselamatan perlu diutamakan terlebih dahulu, selain tidak ada perubahan jadual peperiksaan awam”
Dr Maszlee Malik

Taklimat Sekretariat Pengurusan Bencana Negeri Johor di Menara Aqabah Majlis Perbandaran Pasir Gudang (MPPG) disampaikan Pegawai Daerah Johor Bahru, Ketua Polis Negeri Johor, Pengarah Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran Negeri Johor, Pengarah Jabatan Kimia Malaysia (Johor) serta Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Negeri Johor.

Dr Maszlee berkata, maklumat lanjut berhubung perkembangan terkini krisis pencemaran itu akan disampaikan dari semasa

ke semasa.

Ditanya sama ada akan ada cuti ganti, Maszlee berkata, ia belum difikirkan kerana pihaknya lebih mengutamakan keselamatan pelajar dan guru.

"Bagi saya keselamatan perlu diutamakan terlebih dahulu, selain tidak ada perubahan jadual peperiksaan awam," katanya.

KPM pada 13 Mac lalu mengarahkan semua 111 sekolah di seluruh Pasir Gudang ditutup berkuatkuasa serta merta susulan pencemaran bahan kimia di kawasan berkenaan sejak 7 Mac lalu.

Dr Maszlee dalam kenyataan medianya dipetik sebagai berkata, semua sekolah ditutup hingga ke satu tarikh yang akan dimaklumkan kemudian.

KPM memutuskan untuk menutup semua sekolah berdasarkan situasi semasa dan maklumat Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri. Sehubungan itu, semua murid, pelajar, guru, kakitangan dan pekerja di semua sekolah berkenaan tidak perlu hadir sehingga keadaan pulih.

Beri peringatan dulu

Operator pelancongan diminta ambil perhatian isu cuaca semasa



Siti Aisyah Sukaimi
sitaisyah@hmetro.com.my

Putrajaya
Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya meminta operator pelancongan memberi peringatan kepada pelancong berhubung situasi cuaca semasa dan me-

nyalurkan bantuan topeng muka jika perlu. Menteri Datuk Mohamad Muddin berkata, ketika ini pihaknya mengikuti rapat keadaan cuaca semasa terutama membabitkan kawasan tarikan pelancongan. "Antaranya seperti di Banting, Selangor dan Rompin, Pahang yang menca-

katkan kualiti udara tidak sihat, iaitu masing-masing 104 dan 176 sehingga jam 3 petang hari ini (semalam). "Saya juga menyarankan orang ramai dan pelancong mengemas kini maklumat terkini berkenaan jerebu di laman web indeks udara di <http://apims.doe.gov.my>."

JARAK pengaliran sekitar Pelabuhan Klang kelihatan terbatas akibat jerebu.

katanya dalam kenyataan, di sini, semalam. Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, orang ramai khususnya kanak-kanak, warga emas dan individu yang mempunyai masalah kesihatan dinasihatkan memakai topeng muka dan mengurangkan aktiviti luar suluan keadaan jerebu melanda negara ketika ini.



MOHAMMAD Hamdan

Kuantan: Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia merekodkan 6,566 kes kebakaran ladang, hutan, belukar dan sampah di seluruh negara berikutan cuaca panas berpanjangan dalam tempoh dua bulan pertama tahun ini. Ketua Pengarahnya, Datuk Mohamad Hamdan Wahid berkata, 4,667 daripada kes kebakaran itu membabitkan belukar/ladang manakala 878 kes sampah diikuti 681 kes di hutan dan 339 kes di kebun atau ladang. Beliau berkata, kebanyakan punca kebakaran disebabkan perbuatan manusia seperti membuang puntung rokok dan bekas api ketika membuat aktiviti perkeltahan, sengaja membuat pembakaran kecil-kecilan tanpa kawalan, pembukaan ladang pertanian serta tanaman semula. "Bagaimanapun, ketika ini adalah di larang sama sekali sebarang aktiviti

Rekod 6,566 kes kebakaran

pembakaran tanpa kawalan kerana ia juga boleh menjadi penyumbang kepada pencemaran udara dan jerebu. "Pegawai dan anggota kami di seluruh negara, bagaimanapun diminta sentiasa bersiap siaga, malah logistik dan kekuatan sumber manusia di 16 Pusat Gerakan Operasi di seluruh negara diletak dalam kea-

daan bersiap sedia bagi menghadapi kebakaran terbuka. "Unit Udara Bomba juga diletakkan dalam keadaan bersiap siaga dan jika keadaan memerlukan maka kami boleh menggerakkan perkhidmatan mereka daripada pangkalan di Subang, Selangor dan Bertam, Melaka," katanya pada sidang media di ma-

lis Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang (APC) 2018 dan Pingat Kebesaran Jabatan di Ibu pejabat Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Pahang di sini, semalam. Turut hadir, Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Pahang, Nor Hisham Mohammad dan Timbalannya, Mohd Sani Harul.

Empat jam padam api di belantara

Port Dickson: Anggota bomba mengambil masa lebih empat jam untuk memadam kebakaran hutan seluas 4.04 hektar di Jalan Kampung Bukit Tembok berhampiran Pasir Panjang di sini, semalam. Komander Operasi dari Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat (BBDP) Telok Kemang, Lokman Ghani berkata, hingga petang semalam, kawalan dilakukan untuk memastikan kebakaran padam sepenuhnya. "Hutan itu membabitkan kawasan yang luas dan anggota mengerah kudrat untuk memadam kebakaran. "Tumpuan utama adalah memastikan api tidak merebak ke kawasan penempatan penduduk," katanya. Lokman berkata, kebakaran dipercayai berpunca daripada cuaca panas. Katanya, pihaknya menerima panggilan daripada penduduk jam 11.27 pagi, sebelum 17 anggota dari BBDP Telok Kemang dan Port Dickson dikerah ke lokasi. "Sebaik tiba jam 11.50 pagi, anggota mendapati api marak dan kerja pemadaman segera dilakukan.



HUTAN di Jalan Kampung Bukit Tembok berhampiran Pasir Panjang yang terbakar.

"Api dapat dikawal dalam masa 30 minit, sebelum dipadamkan sepenuhnya dalam tempoh lebih 4 jam," katanya. Pada masa sama, Lokman turut menasihatkan orang ramai supaya tidak melakukan pembakaran terbuka.



MOHD Razman mengorek kolam untuk mengairi tanamannya di Kampung Bendang Pak Yong.



MOHD Razman menunjukkan tanah kering ketidadaan air.



Tumpang

Petani bimbang rugi besar

Seorang petani di Kampung Bendang Pak Yong di sini, melahirkan kebimbangan berdepan kerugian besar sekiranya kemarau berlarutan. Mohd Razman Aziz, 41, berkata, dia mula menanam kunyit, tembakai, tebu dan ubi kayu di tanah seluas enam hektar sejak awal tahun ini terpaksa mengeluarkan modal tambahan untuk mengairi tanamannya. Katanya, dia terpaksa menggali telaga untuk mengairi tanaman kunyitnya kerana musim kemarau yang berlarutan sejak beberapa bulan ini. "Saya sudah berhabis RM15,000 untuk memulakan penanaman sejak Januari lalu dan kos

bertambah untuk menggali telaga serta membeli sebuah enjin bagi mengempam air untuk tanam kunyit serta tembakai. "Separuh daripada tanaman tebu kering kerana kekurangan air kerana enjin mengempam air dari tali air terpaksa digunakan secara bergilir dengan tembakai," katanya di kebun kunyitnya di sini. Menurutnya, dia juga bimbang sekiranya kemarau berpanjangan, ia akan turut menjejaskan sawah padinya seluas dua hektar dan ternakan itik. "Saya hanya mampu berdoa supaya kemarau tidak berpanjangan hujan dalam masa terdekat," katanya.

“Saya sudah berhabis RM15,000 untuk memulakan penanaman sejak Januari lalu dan kos bertambah untuk menggali telaga serta membeli sebuah enjin bagi mengempam air untuk tanam kunyit serta tembakai”
Mohd Razman Aziz

Kebakaran punca jerebu

Bacaan IPU di Selangor rekod indeks tidak sihat

SHAH ALAM

Beberapa kejadian kebakaran yang berlaku semalam dipercayai menjadi antara punca penyebab kualiti udara di Selangor mencatatkan bacaan indeks pencemaran udara (IPU) kurang sihat.

Menurusi laman Sistem Pengurusan Indeks Pencemaran Udara Malaysia (Apims) menunjukkan kawasan Shah Alam mula mencatatkan bacaan IPU tidak sihat bermula jam 4 petang kelmarin dengan bacaan 106 manakala tahap pencemaran udara di Banting pula mula terjejas pada hari sama bermula jam 10 malam dengan bacaan pada tahap 105.

Selain Selangor, keadaan udara daerah Rompin di Pahang juga turut terjejas apabila bacaan IPU berada pada tahap tidak sihat dengan bacaan 254 bermula jam 4 petang kelmarin.

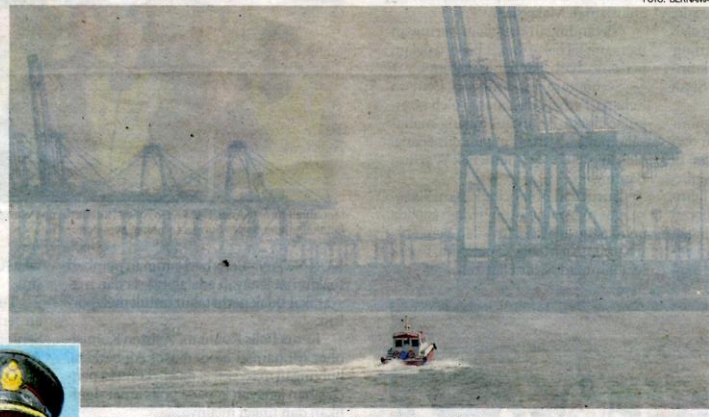


FOTO: BERNAMA

Jarak penglihatan sekitar Pelabuhan Klang kelihatan terbatas akibat jerebu yang melanda semalam.



NORIZHAM

Sehingga jam 5 petang semalam, bacaan IPU di Shah Alam kembali pulih dan berada dalam keadaan sederhana dengan bacaan 96.

Manakala, bacaan udara di Banting dan Rompin masih berada dalam keadaan tidak sihat dengan bacaan IPU masing-masing adalah 114 dan 176.

Penolong Pengarah Operasi

Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Selangor, Penguasa Kanan Bomba I Norizham Mohd Nudin berkata antara kejadian kebakaran yang agak kritikal berlaku semalam adalah melibatkan kawasan tanah gambut berhampiran KM28 Lebuhraya Elite (dari KLIA-Putrajaya).

"Kebakaran berhampiran lebuhraya berkenaan telah menyebabkan kesesakan yang teruk disebabkan oleh asap yang tebal

dan kualiti udara juga sedikit terjejas berkemungkinan akibat daripada kejadian itu.

"Bagaimanapun, anggota Bomba telah berjaya memadamkan kebakaran terbabit daripada merebak dan pagi ini juga kami melakukan sekali lagi pemantauan bagi memadamkan saki baki hotspot di kawasan itu," katanya.

Norizham turut menasihati orang ramai khususnya pengusaha di sektor pertanian agar meng-

BACAAN IPU

17 Mac 2019 (Ahad)

- Selangor
 - Shah Alam - 106 (4 petang)
 - Shah Alam - 111 (5 petang)
 - Banting - 90 (4 petang)
 - Banting - 90 (5 petang)

- Pahang
 - Rompin-254 (4 petang)
 - Rompin -254 (5 petang)

18 Mac 2019 (Isnin)

- Selangor
 - Shah Alam - 94 (4 petang)
 - Shah Alam - 96 (5 petang)
 - Banting - 113 (4 petang)
 - Banting - 114 (5 petang)

- Pahang
 - Rompin- 176 (4 petang)
 - Rompin -176 (5 petang)

- IPU: Status
- 0-50: Baik
 - 51-100: Sederhana
 - 100-200: Tidak sihat
 - 200-300: Sangat tidak sihat
 - >300: Berbahaya

hentikan sebarang pembakaran terbuka bagi mengelak kejadian tidak diinginkan berlaku.

Katanya, aktiviti pembakaran sampah haram juga perlu diberi perhatian kerana pihaknya kerap menerima panggilan kecemasan akibat aktiviti tersebut.

Henti kebakaran terbuka

KUANTAN - Negara mungkin dilanda masalah jerebu serius berikutan kes kebakaran hutan dan terbuka meningkat di seluruh negara sejak Februari lalu.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia

(JBPM) Datuk Mohammad Hamdan Wahid berkata, justeru orang ramai diingatkan agar menghentikan pembakaran terbuka pada musim panas yang sedang melanda negara pada ketika ini.

Menurutnya, sehingga 28 Febuari lalu

sebanyak 6,566 kes kebakaran terbuka direkodkan di seluruh negara berbanding 16,566 kes sepanjang tahun 2018, bererti lebih satu pertiga kejadian kebakaran sudah direkodkan dalam tempoh dua bulan sahaja, tahun ini.

"Pahang antara negeri tertinggi mencatatkan kes kebakaran terbuka.

"Tumpuan diberikan ke atas daerah yang sedang berlaku kebakaran hutan seperti Pekan dan Kuantan," katanya pada sidang media selepas Penganugerahan Pingat Jabatan dan Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang JBPM Pahang, semalam.



Dari kiri: Nor Hisham mengiringi Mohammad Hamdan menyampaikan Anugerah Kecemerlangan kepada Komander Operasi Kanan Zon 2, Mohd Arshad Abdullah.



Tinjauan dari udara memperlihatkan keadaan Sungai Kim Kim di Pasir Gudang, semalam.

Tidak beri kesan besar kepada penternak ikan, petani

PUTRAJAYA - Pencemaran sisa bahan kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang, Johor, tidak memberi kesan besar kepada penternak ikan dan petani di kawasan sekitar.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani, Datuk Salahuddin Ayub berkata, laporan awal daripada tinjauan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) mendapati, hanya beberapa pengusaha ikan sungai menyatakan pendapatan mereka sedikit terjejas berikutan pencemaran tersebut. "Setakat ini, tidak ada tanda-tanda besar melibatkan

ikan dan sayur-sayuran. Saya telah minta pemantauan serius dibuat dan laporan terkini diumumkan," katanya selepas melancarkan kempen peng-haraman racun Paraquat, di sini, semalam.

Salahuddin berkata, pihak kementerian akan menyalurkan bantuan jika penternak ikan dan petani mengalami kesan daripada insiden itu.

Sementara itu, ditanya isu bantuan baja tambahan kepada 322,000 pesawah seluruh negara, Salahuddin berkata, proses pengagihan telah selesai. - *Bernama*

Guru, pelajar dapat pampasan

Mangsa toksik akan dapat pampasan berbentuk insurans takaful

JOHOR

Kementerian Pendidikan memaklumkan pelajar, guru dan kakitangan sekolah yang telah dimasukkan ke hospital akibat bencana pencemaran sisa bahan kimia di Pasir Gudang akan mendapat pampasan.

Menterinya, Dr Maszlee Malik berkata, bagi tujuan itu, pihak Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Johor dan sekolah-sekolah terlibat akan menguruskan proses mendapatkan pampasan tersebut yang berbentuk insurans takaful.

"Jadi mana-mana anak murid termasuk guru sendiri yang telah dimasukkan hospital, mereka hanya perlu bawa bukti rawatan dan insya-ALLAH, pihak sekolah dan Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri akan membantu sekolah mengendalikan urusan tersebut. "Kita akan pastikan mereka akan mendapat pampasan ber-



Maszlee mengadakan sidang akhbar bersama Timbalan Pengarah Pendidikan Johor, Azman Adnan (kiri) dan Pengarah Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Johor, Datuk Yahaya Madis (kanan) di Stadium MPPG, Pasir Gudang.

bentuk insurans takaful," katanya selepas mengadakan lawatan ke atas mangsa yang mendapatkan rawatan di Hospital Sultanah Aminah (HSA) di sini, semalam.

Maszlee berkata, setakat semalam, seramai lima pesakit terdiri daripada murid dan guru masih mendapatkan rawatan di HSA, namun memaklumkan ra-

mai daripadanya telah dibenarkan keluar.

Dengan penurunan bilangan murid atau pelajar, guru dan kakitangan sekolah yang telah keluar dari hospital, berbanding angka terdahulu, beliau berkata, Kementerian Pendidikan berasa agak sedikit tenang dengan perkembangan tersebut.

PENCEMARAN SISA KIMIA SUNGAI KIM KIM, PASIR GUDANG, JOHOR

— Sehingga 18 Mac

Sepanjang **1.5KM** kawasan terjejas telah berjaya dibersihkan

- 29** pesakit masih menerima rawatan di hospital
- 4** pesakit masih mendapatkan rawatan di ICU & dilaporkan stabil
- 119** orang telah dibenarkan pulang
- Penutupan semua sekolah di Pasir Gudang diteruskan sehingga 30 Mac
- Hasil siasatan Jabatan Veterinar mendapati tiada kawasan ternakan terjejas
- 9 lelaki direman bantu siasatan kes pencemaran sisa kimia

Sumber: Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Alam Sekitar & Pertanian Johor, Kementerian Pendidikan & Ketua Polis Negara. Infografik Bernama

Sekolah tutup hingga 30 Mac

PASIR GUDANG - Semua sekolah terlibat pencemaran kimia di kawasan ini akan terus ditutup sehingga cuti pertengahan penggal pertama, Jumaat ini.

Menteri Pendidikan, Dr Maszlee Malik berkata, keputusan itu diambil sebagai langkah pencegahan dan berhati-hati.

"Kita telah menerima taklimat daripada jawatankuasa bencana tadi (semalam) dan untuk langkah berhati-hati sekolah akan terus ditutup sehingga cuti pertengahan penggal pertama.

"Kita berharap semua pihak mengambil maklum perkembangan semasa di sini dan jika ada maklumat tambahan, kita akan maklumkan kepada umum dari

masa ke masa," katanya selepas melawat pusat saringan di Stadium Tertutup Pasir Gudang, semalam.

Cuti sekolah pertengahan penggal akan bermula 22 Mac hingga 30 Mac ini.

Beliau mengesahkan, tiada perubahan jadual peperiksaan awam, meskipun proses pembelajaran dan pengajaran terganggu akibat bencana toksik di Pasir Gudang.

Sebelum ini, Kementerian Pendidikan mengarahkan 111 sekolah di daerah Pasir Gudang ditutup serta-merta selepas ratusan pelajar dan kakitangan beberapa sekolah terkesan akibat pencemaran kimia yang berlaku di Sungai Kim Kim.

9 individu ditahan

JOHOR BAHRU - Polis menahan sembilan individu yang disyaki terlibat dalam pencemaran sisa bahan kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun berkata, dua daripada sembilan individu terbabit ditahan di negeri ini, sementara selebihnya di luar Johor.

Menurutnya, polis telah mendapatkan perintah reman dari mahkamah terhadap semua individu terbabit, bermula semalam hingga 23 Mac depan bagi membantu siasatan.

"Operasi kita untuk menangkap suspek telah pun berjalan semalam (kelmarin).

"Proses siasatan sedang berjalan. Kita pun sudah dapat reman enam hari hingga 23 Mac," katanya pada sidang media Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Kontinjen Johor di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Ketua Polis Johor, Datuk Mohd Khalil Kader Mohd.

Suspek disiasat di bawah Seksyen 278 Kanun Keseksaan, Seksyen 284 Kanun Keseksaan dan Seksyen 326 Kanun Keseksaan.



GEMPA BUMI DI LOMBOK

Sukar terima hakikat ibu terkorban

PM ucap takziah kepada keluarga mangsa

Oleh Faris Fuad
bhnews@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Anak sulung mangsa kedua yang dikenal pasti terkorban akibat kejadian gempa bumi dan tanah runtuh di Lombok, Indonesia, semalam sukar menerima hakikat bahawa ibunya, Lim Sai Wah, 56, sudah pergi buat selama-lamanya.

Tan Peng Cheng berkata ia suatu tragedi buat dirinya dan satu perkara yang sukar diterima.

"Ibu saya seorang suri rumah tangga yang biasa, kami empat adik-beradik gembira dan dijaga dengan penuh kasih sayang," katanya kepada BERNAMA menerusi aplikasi WhatsApp selepas tiba di

Lombok semalam.

Sai Wah, bercuti ke tempat peranginan berkenaan dengan suaminya, Tan Ching Chuan, 62, yang turut mengalami cedera ringan dalam kejadian itu.

Seorang lagi yang terbunuh ialah Timbalan Ketua Pengarang Eksekutif Sin Chew Daily Datin Tai Siew Kim.

Peng Cheng berlepas ke Lombok pagi semalam untuk urusan susulan kejadian itu, serta melawat dan membawa pulang bapanya ke tanah air.

Giat aktif dalam yoga

Sai Wah yang bergiat aktif dalam yoga lebih daripada 10 tahun, bakal menduduki peperiksaan pada bulan Jun ini untuk mendapatkan sijil kelayakan mengajar.

Selain dua yang terkorban dalam kejadian gempa bumi itu, Wisma Putra semalam turut mengesahkan tujuh mangsa cedera dan sedang menerima rawatan di Hospital Lombok manakala 13 lagi terselamat.



[FOTO EPA]

Anggota penyelamat membawa keluar mayat Sai Wah dalam kejadian gempa di Lombok.

Semua 22 warga Malaysia itu dilaporkan berada di Air Terjun Tiu Kelep Senaru ketika gempa berukuran 5.8 pada skala Richter menggegarkan Lombok Timur, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Indonesia pada 2.07 petang semalam, lapor BERNAMA.

Di Kuala Lumpur, Perdana Men-

teri, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad menzahirkan rasa simpati dan takziah kepada ahli keluarga mangsa yang terkorban dan meminta warga Malaysia yang terkesan dengan kejadian itu mendapatkan bantuan daripada Kedutaan Malaysia di negara terbabit.

Kementerian Luar dalam satu

kenyataan berkata, pegawai Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di Jakarta kini di Lombok bagi memantau keadaan di samping menghulurkan bantuan konsular kepada mangsa terbabit, manakala warga Malaysia yang terjejas boleh menghubungi pegawai bertugas kedutaan di talian +62 813 80813036.



PENCEMARAN DI PASIR GUDANG

2 ditangkap di Johor, 7 di negeri lain

➔ Operasi buru suspek cemar Sungai Kim Kim diteruskan

Oleh Izlaily Nurul Ain Hussein
izlaily@nstp.com.my

✦ Johor Bahru

Polis menahan sembilan lelaki dipercayai terlibat dalam kes pembuangan sisa bahan kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Taman Pasir Putih, Pasir Gudang, dekat sini.

Ketua Polis Negara, Tan Sri Mohamad Fuzi Harun, berkata semua suspek itu ditahan dalam operasi khas kelmarin.

"Dua suspek ditahan di Johor manakala tujuh lagi ditahan di luar negeri ini.

Tak boleh dedah maklumat
"Operasi memburu suspek lain masih diteruskan. Saya tidak boleh dedahkan terlalu banyak maklumat kerana akan mengganggu keselamatan dan operasi polis," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas menyempurnakan Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara Kontinjen Johor di Dewan Dato' Onn, Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen (IPK) Johor di sini, semalam.

Yang turut hadir, Pengarah Pengurusan Bukit Aman, Datuk

Abd Rahim Jaafar, Ketua Polis negeri, Datuk Mohd Khalil Kader Mohd dan Timbalan Ketua Polis negeri, Datuk Mohd Kamarudin Md Din.

Mohamad Fuzi berkata, semua suspek terlibat kini direman enam hari sehingga Sabtu ini.

Katanya, semua mereka disiasat mengikut Seksyen 278, Seksyen 284 dan Seksyen 326 Kanun Keseksaan, masing-masing kerana menjadikan udara berbahaya kepada kesihatan, berkelakuan cuai membabitkan bahan beracun dan menyebabkan cedera parah.

Kelmarin, Mohamad Fuzi dilaporkan berkata, pihaknya sudah ada petunjuk bagi memberkas suspek utama terlibat dengan pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim di sini dan operasi memburu mereka giat dijalankan.



Mohamad Fuzi menganugerahkan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara kepada bekas pesara polis, Maimunah Abd Razak pada Majlis Istiadat Penganugerahan Pingat Jasa Pahlawan Negara Kontinjen Johor, di Johor Bahru, semalam.



Anggota Hazmat mengambil sampel bacaan di dalam tong biru dalam parit berhampiran SMK Tanjung Puteri Resort, Pasir Gudang, semalam.

PENCEMARAN DI PASIR GUDANG

Penduduk jumpa tong biru dipercayai berisi bahan kimia

→ Dakwa kandungan sisa toksik mengalir ke Sungai Sembilang

Oleh **Mohamed Farid Noh**
farid_noh@bh.com.my

■ Pasir Gudang

Penduduk Taman Tanjung Puteri Resort di sini gempar dengan penemuan beberapa tong biru dipercayai berisi sisa bahan kimia, di Sungai Sembilang, kira-kira dua kilometer dari Sungai Kim Kim.

Tong terbabit ditemui kira-kira 500 meter dari Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tanjung Puteri Resort, salah satu daripada 111 sekolah di sini yang diarah ditutup sementara sejak Rabu lalu.

Tinjauan media di kawasan berkenaan sebaik dimaklumkan penduduk mendapati ada beberapa tong biru dipercayai berisi sisa kimia dibuang di bawah jambatan yang menghubungkan Taman Tanjung Puteri ke Taman Pasir Putih.

Mengalir dalam sungai

Seorang penduduk, Ahmad Roh Ariffin, mendakwa kandungan tong yang dipercayai sisa toksik itu sudah mengalir ke dalam Sungai Sembilang dan mengeluarkan bau yang tidak menyenangkan.

"Kemunculan tong biru itu disedari penduduk sejak Khamis lalu dan sudah dila-

porkan kepada pihak berkuasa, namun tiada tindakan diambil.

"Penduduk bimbang kerana boleh menghidu bau busuk seperti cuka, apatah lagi ada yang mengadu sesak nafas dan mual.

"Kami berharap pihak berkuasa menyiasat kemunculan tong biru ini kerana isu pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim pun belum selesai," katanya kepada pemberita, semalam.

Dua anggota polis dilihat sudah menutup kawasan berkenaan dengan pita garisan kuning polis dan tidak membenarkan media dan orang ramai mendekati kawasan berkenaan.



Pembersihan sisa minyak di Taman Eng Ann selesai

Shah Alam: Kerja pembersihan sisa minyak di kolam takungan, saluran longkang dan tanah tercemar di Taman Eng Ann di sini, selesai sepenuhnya kelmarin.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Alam Sekitar, Teknologi Hijau, Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna negeri, Hee Loy Sian, berkata sebanyak 28,000 liter sisa disedut menggunakan dua lori tangki penyedut.

"Lori yang penuh diisi itu diletakkan sebagai simpanan sementara sebelum pelupusan dilakukan.

"Kaedah pelupusan bersesuaian akan dilakukan selepas mendapat keputusan analisa persampelan daripada Jabatan Kimia berkenaan jenis buangan terbabit," katanya pada satu kenyataan, semalam.

Loy Sian berkata, pihak Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS), Pengurusan Bencana Negeri Selangor (UPBN) dan agensi lain diarah melakukan mitigasi dan pencegahan diambil serta-merta pada Khamis lalu, disusuli kerja pembersihan sehari kemudian oleh kontraktor pembersihan yang dilantik bagi mengelak sisa minyak yang dibuang mencemari Sungai Klang yang berada sekitar 1.5 kilometer dari lokasi kejadian.

Buat laporan polis

"Laporan polis dibuat pada jam 8.30 pagi, 15 Mac lalu dan siasatan forensik untuk mendapatkan bukti sabitan kesalahan juga dilakukan pada hari sama," katanya.

Beliau berkata, hasil bantuan penduduk setempat, lori tangki yang disyaki digunakan untuk membuang sisa minyak itu ditemui dan proses siasatan terhadap individu atau syarikat terbabit sedang dijalankan.

Katanya, jika sabit kesalahan, pesalah boleh dikenakan tindakan mengikut Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974, yang memperuntukkan denda sehingga RM100,000 atau penjara sehingga lima tahun atau kedua-duanya.

"Pada masa sama, tindakan perundangan juga boleh diambil berdasarkan Seksyen 7, Larangan Pencemaran Sumber Air, Enakmen Lembaga Urus Air Selangor 1999, bergantung kepada keputusan analisis persampelan yang disesuaikan dengan Sub-Seksyen 79 enakmen sama.

"Denda tidak melebihi RM100,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi tiga tahun atau kedua-duanya boleh dikenakan terhadap pesalah berdasarkan peruntukan perundangan ini," katanya.



Lori yang penuh diisi itu diletakkan sebagai simpanan sementara sebelum pelupusan dilakukan"

Hee Loy Sian,

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Alam Sekitar, Teknologi Hijau, Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna Selangor



Kawasan ternakan tidak terjejas

Pasir Gudang: Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) mengesahkan tiada kawasan ternakan di sekitar Sungai Kim Kim, di sini, terjejas akibat pencemaran sisa kimia beracun.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Alam Sekitar dan Pertanian Johor, Dr Sahrudin Jamal, berkata jabatan itu melakukan kajian pencemaran terhadap haiwan ternakan di kawasan berkenaan sejak kelmarin.

"Jabatan Veterinar melakukan kajian pencemaran terhadap haiwan ternakan di lokasi

Sungai Kim Kim sejak jam 10 pagi semalam (kelmarin).

"Hasil siasatan mendapati tiada kawasan ternakan terke- san," katanya dalam kenyataan, di sini, semalam.

Lima parameter gas diperiksa

Sementara itu, Dr Sahrudin berkata, lima parameter gas akan diperiksa bagi memastikan kualiti udara di kawasan terjejas pencemaran, terutama sekolah berada dalam keadaan selamat.

Katanya, parameter gas dipe- riksa ialah oksigen, karbon mo-

noksida, hidrogen sulfida (H₂S), 'Low Exposure Limit' (LEL) dan 'Volatile Organic Compound' (VOC).

"Sebanyak 30 pasukan di bawah Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim, terutama Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) dan Jabatan Kimia sudah digerakkan bagi memantau kualiti udara di 42 sekolah dalam radius lingkungan lima hingga sembilan kilometer dari kawasan pencemaran sejak semalam (kelmarin)," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan berka- iatan, beliau berkata, seramai 119

orang yang dimasukkan ke wad Hospital Sultanah Aminah (HSA) dan Hospital Sultan Ismail (HSI) akibat terjejas pen- cemaran bahan kimia sudah di- benarkan pulang sehingga jam 12 tengah malam kelmarin.

"Sehingga kini hanya 29 pe- sakit masih dirawat di wad hos- pital, berbanding 120 pesakit yang dilaporkan semalam (kel- marin).

"Empat pesakit masih men- dapatkan rawatan di Unit Ra- watan Rapi (ICU), berbanding tujuh pesakit sebelum ini dan mereka dilaporkan berada da- lam keadaan stabil," katanya.

LAMPIRAN 27

BERITA HARIAN (WILAYAH): MUKA SURAT 62
TARIKH: 19 MAC 2019 (SELASA)



SISA BUANGAN KIMIA BERHAMPIRAN SUNGAI KLANG [FOTO FAIZ ANUAR/BH]



Pekerja membersihkan kolam takungan berhampiran Sungai Klang di Taman Eng Ann, Klang, kelmarin.

NGAN
NDA?

in APPS
atan

Stok

K

LAZADA
Fortress Shopping

ipk COLLEGE

m.my

Selangor tunggu laporan LUAS

➔ Kerja bersih sisa buangan kimia capai 85 peratus

Oleh Norrasyyidah Arshad
norrasyyidah@nstp.com.my

Shah Alam

Kerja pembersihan sisa buangan kimia dari kolam takungan berhampiran Sungai Klang di Taman Eng Ann mencapai 85 peratus sehingga jam 10 malam kelmarin.

Menteri Besar, Amirudin Shari, berkata pembersihan itu adalah langkah awal diambil bagi menangani masalah pencemaran kimia di kolam takungan itu.

"Pencemaran tidak berlaku di Sungai Klang, tetapi hanya di kolam takungan itu.

"Buat masa ini, kita da-

lam tindakan mengeluarkan semua bahan kimia yang terdapat di dalam kolam berkenaan.

"Kita akan pantau dari semasa ke semasa dan memerlukan maklumat daripada orang awam berkenaan kawasan yang berpotensi untuk berlaku kejadian sama seperti di kolam takungan," katanya kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Istiadat Pembukaan Penggal Kedua Sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Selangor Ke-14 di sini, semalam.

Ambil sampel

Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah berkenaan merasmikan istiadat terbabit.

Yang turut berangkat mengiringi baginda, Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin dan Raja Muda Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah.

Amirudin berkata, kerajaan negeri sudah mengambil sampel sisa buangan terbabit, selain menunggu

laporan Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS).

"Laporan ini akan digunakan sebelum mengambil tindakan pendakwaan," katanya.

Sementara itu, diminta mengulas titah Sultan Selangor yang mahu sekolah tahfiz swasta tidak berdaftar dengan Jabatan Agama Islam Selangor (JAIS) ditutup, Amirudin berkata, kerajaan negeri akur dengan titah berkenaan.

"Setakat ini, kita belum mengambil tindakan menutup (pusat tahfiz swasta tidak berdaftar) kerana sejak dua tahun lalu kerajaan negeri sudah mengarahkan sekolah tahfiz itu didaftarkan. Kita memudahkan cara sekolah tahfiz mendaftar dan sudah beri masa yang cukup.

"Tindakan perlu diambil kerana kita bukan hendak menghalang, tetapi perlu memastikan sekolah mempunyai kurikulum sempurna, selain mempunyai kemudahan tidak berbahaya," katanya.



40KG OF PLASTIC FOUND IN WHALE

MANILA: A starving whale with 40KG of plastic trash in its stomach has died after being washed ashore in the Philippines, activists said yesterday, calling it one of the worst cases of poisoning they have seen. A necropsy on the animal was performed and 40kg of plastic, including grocery bags and rice sacks was found. The animal was unable to eat because of the trash in its stomach. – AFP



**CYCLONE CAUSED
90% DAMAGE**

BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE: A cyclone that slammed into Mozambique last week has damaged or destroyed 90% of Beira, the Red Cross said yesterday, as the death toll in the country and neighbouring Zimbabwe rose to 157. "The scale of damage caused by cyclone Idai is horrifying," the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. - AFP

Dead whale in Philippines had 40kg of plastic in stomach

MANILA: A starving whale with 40kg of plastic trash in its stomach has died after being washed ashore in the Philippines, activists said, calling it one of the worst cases of poisoning they have seen.

Environmental groups have tagged the Philippines as one of the world's biggest ocean polluters due to its reliance on single-use plastic.

That sort of pollution regularly kills wildlife like whales and turtles that ingest the waste.

In the latest case, a Cuvier's beaked whale died on Saturday in the southern province of Compostela Valley where it was stranded a day earlier, the regional fisheries bureau said yesterday.

The agency and an environmental group performed a necropsy on the animal and found about 40kg of plastic, including grocery bags and rice sacks.

The animal died from starvation because of the trash filling its stomach, said Darrell Blatchley, director of D' Bone Collector Museum Inc, which helped conduct the examination.

"It's very disgusting and heart-breaking," he said.

"We've done necropsies on 61 dolphins and whales in the last 10 years and this is one of the biggest (amounts of plastic) we've seen."

The 4.7m long whale was stranded in Mabini town on Friday where local officials and fishermen tried to release it, only for it to return to shallow water, said the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

"It could not swim on its own, was emaciated and weak," regional bureau director Fatma Idris said.

"It was dehydrated. On the second day it struggled and vomited blood."

The death comes just weeks after the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternative released a report on the "shocking" amount of single-use plastic in the Philippines, including nearly 60 billion sachets a year. —

AFP