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

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
1.	An environment minister's vision for Malaysia	Eco-Business	Klik pada tajuk berita
2.	CEP Estate Sanitary Landfill site operations to be terminated from today	The Edge Markets	Klik pada tajuk berita
3.	UTM setuju penubuhan jawatankuasa pantau kilang kimia	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita
4.	Zuraida: Banteras Pencemaran dari berleluasa.	Sin Chew Daily	Klik pada tajuk berita
5.	Wujudkan SOP pencemaran kimia babitkan sekolah / Wujud SOP tangani kesan terhadap sekolah	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk lampiran 1
6.	Mahu SOP seperti bencana di Pasir Gudang - Maszlee	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita
7.	JK Khas pantau pengurusan kilang berasaskan kimia	Malaysiakini	Klik pada tajuk berita
8.	Tapak pelupusan sampah Ladang CEP 1 ditutup	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita dan Rujuk lampiran 2
9.	Tapak pelupusan Ladang CEP 1 dihentikan	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
10.	Kerajaan Johor beri jaminan atasi pencemaran ammonia	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita

11.	MARGMA gesa turunkan tarif gas, elektrik	Berita Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
12.	Inkues Adib: Video lakonan semula ditayangkan	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
13.	Johor to consider cloud seeding if dry spell persists	Channel News Asia	Klik pada tajuk berita
14.	Operasi Tapak Pelupusan Ladang CEP 1 dihentikan berkuat kuasa hari ini	Kosmo!	Klik pada tajuk berita
15.	Margma calls on TNB, Gas Malaysia to revise natural gas tarif	The Sun Daily	Klik pada tajuk berita
16.	Malaysia needs to lower electricity and gas prices to reflect international market	New Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita
17.	Bring natural gas price down quickly, glove makers urge Gas Malaysia, TNB	The Edge Markets	Klik pada tajuk berita
18.	Mount surprise checks to keep Sabah rivers clean, say green groups	Free Malaysia Today	Klik pada tajuk berita
19.	Sg Asap folk want promises fulfilled	The Borneo Post	Klik pada tajuk berita
20.	**Advancecon, Kumpulan Semesta to explore solar energy opportunities**	The Sun Daily	Rujuk lampiran 3
21.	**No water supply to 75,000 households in Kluang**	The Sun Daily	Rujuk lampiran 4
22.	**Pembenihan awan awal bulan depan**	Berita Harian	Rujuk lampiran 5
23.	**Apa selepas bencana Sungai Kim Kim?**	Utusan Malaysia	Rujuk lampiran 6

TEMPATAN

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
24.	Converting plastic bottles into rice	New Straits Times	Klik pada tajuk berita
25.	Living next door to toxic waste	Malaysian Insight	Klik pada tajuk berita
26.	Pengurangan tarif mampu kurangkan tekanan pengeluar: FMM	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita
27.	Teksi elektrik pertama Mei ini	Harian Metro	Klik pada tajuk berita
28.	**Straw mesra alam ganti straw plastik**	Utusan Malaysia	Rujuk lampiran 7
29.	**A robot therapy dog for company**	The Sun Daily	Rujuk lampiran 8
30.	**Maszlee nafi beri kenyataan ganti cuti sekolah**	Sinar Harian	Rujuk lampiran 9
31.	**Sapura Industrial branches into aerospace**	The Sun Daily	Rujuk lampiran 10
32.	**Glovemakers want lower electricity, gas tariffs**	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 11
33.	Advancecon, Kumpulan Semesta to explore solar energy opportunity	The Edge Markets	Klik pada tajuk berita
34.	UiTM sasar 36 kampus hijau	Harian Metro	Klik pada tajuk berita
35.	Penutupan Ladang CEP 1 mampu selesai pencemaran Sungai Benut	Utusan Malaysia	Klik pada tajuk berita
36.	**‘Lima good for Malaysia’**	The Sun Daily	Rujuk lampiran 12

ANTARABANGSA

Bil	Berita	Media	Capaian Berita Penuh
37.	**China to assess chemical hazards**	The Star	Rujuk lampiran 13
38.	**Wesfarmers bids for Lynas**	New Straits Times	Rujuk lampiran 14
39.	**19 maut, berpuluh cedera banjir buruk di Iran**	Sinar Harian	Klik pada tajuk berita

LAMPIRAN 1
BERITA HARIAN (ISU): MUKA SURAT 17
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

PENCEMARAN TOKSIK DI SUNGAI KIM KIM

Wujud SOP tangani kesan terhadap sekolah

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Pendidikan akan bekerjasama dengan beberapa kementerian dan agensi lain untuk mewujudkan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) berhubung kesan pencemaran sisa kimia yang menjejaskan sekolah.

Menterinya, Dr Maszlee Malik, berkata pihak terbabit ialah Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA), Jabatan Kimia, Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) serta Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM).

Beliau berkata, SOP berkenaan akan digunakan sekiranya kes pencemaran kimia seperti yang berlaku di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang, berulang.

"SOP ini penting kerana kes pada skala besar yang berlaku di Sungai Kim Kim tidak pernah berlaku sebelum ini menyebabkan kita tiada rujukan khusus mengenainya," katanya ketika menggulung usul menjunjung kasih terhadap titah Yang di-Pertuan Agong di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Pencemaran toksik di Sungai Kim Kim yang dikesan 7 Mac lalu menjejaskan kira-kira 4,000 penduduk, termasuk pelajar, sehingga 111 sekolah di kawasan terbabit diarahkan tutup sementara.

Maszlee berkata, ketika ini, kementerian mengguna pakai Surat Pekeliling Ikhtisas, Surat Pemakluman Menghadapi Bencana dan Surat Peringatan Hadapi Bencana, selain persediaan menghadapi bencana luar jangka serta bantuan seperti kaunseling dan psikologi kepada pelajar.

Fakta nombor

4,000 PENDUDUK terjejas akibat Pencemaran toksik di Sungai Kim Kim

111 SEKOLAH diarah tutup

Tiada penutupan IPG

Dalam pada itu, Maszlee memberi jaminan tiada penutupan Institut Pendidikan Guru (IPG) akan dilakukan kerajaan.

Sebaliknya, beliau berkata, Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia (IPGM) dalam proses perbincangan menawarkan kursus peringkat sarjana dan kemungkinan ijazah doktor falsafah (PhD) pada masa depan.

Katanya, kementerian juga akan menaik taraf kampus IPG yang daif membabitkan bangunan dan kuarters pelajar.

"Kerajaan meluluskan projek menaik taraf kemudahan akademik IPG Kampus Ilmu Khas di Cheras dalam Pelan Tindakan Keempat, Rancangan Malaysia Ke-11, membabitkan peruntukan RM34 juta.

"Hingga 20 Mac lalu, kerajaan meluluskan peruntukan RM2.063 juta bagi pembaikan kemudahan beberapa IPG dan RM1 juta untuk kuarters uzur," katanya.

LAMPIRAN 2
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (DALAM NEGERI): MUKA SURAT 8
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

Tapak pelupusan sampah Ladang CEP 1 ditutup

Oleh DIANA AZIS
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■ PUTRAJAYA 26 MAC

OPERASI pelupusan sisa pepejal di Ladang CEP 1 di Simpang Renggam, Johor, dihentikan sepenuhnya berkuat kuasa hari ini berikutan laporan limpahan air larut resap ke sungai berhampiran.

Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Zuraida Kamaruddin berkata, air larut resap yang bertakung di dalam sel tapak pelupusan tersebut akan dipindahkan ke Tapak Pelupusan Seelong bermula esok, untuk dirawat.

"Kementerian juga telah mengarahkan operator untuk menempatkan tiga Mobile Leachate Treatment Plant (MLTP) di tapak berkenaan bagi meningkatkan kapasiti rawatan air larut resap.

"Sisa pepejal dari tiga pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) iaitu Majlis Perbandaran Kluang, Majlis Daerah Simpang Renggam dan Majlis Perbandaran Batu Pahat pula akan dihantar ke Tapak Pelupusan Seelong," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini hari ini.

Kandungan ammonia punca ikan mati – JAS

Oleh NURUL HUDA HASSAN
pengarang@utusan.com.my

■ JOHOR BAHRU 25 MAC

PUNCA kematian ikan-ikan di Sungai Ulu Benut dan Sungai Machap, Simpang Renggam dekat Kluang dipercayai disebabkan kandungan ammonia yang tinggi kesan limpahan air sampah yang masuk ke dalam sungai berkenaan.

Pengarah Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) negeri, Datuk Dr. Mohammad Ezanni Mat Salleh berkata, hasil siasatan awal pihaknya mendapati, punca pencemaran di sungai itu adalah disebabkan air titisan sampah daripada tapak pelupusan sampah berdekatan.

Menurutnya, siasatan awal juga mendapati, benteng [illegible] pelupusan sampah [illegible] tan semalam, sampel di sungai itu juga sudah diambil dan kita juga sudah mengenal pasti punca pencemaran adalah dari tapak pelupusan sampah di Simpang Renggam.

"Kita sedang giat menjalankan siasatan berhubung kejadian itu dan akan menyiapkan kertas siasatan dalam kadar segera supaya pendakwaan boleh dilakukan ke atas pihak yang terlibat," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini hari ini.

MOHAMMAD EZANNI MAT SALLEH

Beliau diminta mengulas titah Sultan Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar yang mahu pihak berkuasa segera menyiasat pencemaran di Sungai Ulu Benut [illegible] di Simpang [illegible] babkan [illegible] baharu Facebook Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar juga mahu pihak berkuasa yang berkaitan segera mengemukakan laporan berhubung pencemaran itu kerana tidak mahu kejadian seperti di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang berulang.

Mohammad Ezanni berkata, sampel yang diambil pihaknya akan diserahkan kepa[illegible] mia[illegible]

T[illegible] itu [illegible] men[illegible] 31 A[illegible] Sekeliling 1974 akta yang sama[illegible]

"Susulan pen[illegible] kan semalam [illegible] sudah mengel[illegible] empat kompau[illegible]

KERATAN *Utusan Malaysia* semalam.

Mengulas lanjut Zuraida berkata, Ketua Setiausaha kementerian, Datuk Seri Mohammad Mantek akan mempengerusikan mesyuarat koordinasi bersama agensi berkaitan bagi mengenal pasti kesan air larut resap kepada sungai berdekatan.

ZURAIDA KAMARUDDIN

Antara agensi terlibat adalah Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim; Jabatan Alam Sekitar, Unit Perancang Ekonomi Negeri Johor, Badan Kawal Selia Air Johor serta Syarikat Air Johor.

Tapak Pelupusan Ladang CEP 1 yang mempunyai keluasan enam hektar mula beroperasi pada 2003 di bawah seliaan Majlis Daerah Simpang Renggam secara pelupusan terbuka.

Kerajaan kemudiannya mengambil alih operasi tapak tersebut pada April 2017 dan menaik taraf kepada jenis pelupusan sanitari termasuk penambahan sel baharu.

"Tapak ini menerima anggaran sebanyak 500 tan sisa pepejal sehari daripada tiga PBT iaitu Kluang, Simpang Renggam dan Batu Pahat.

"Dengan tindakan segera ini, diharapkan isu limpahan air larut resap dari tapak pelupusan Ladang CEP 1 dapat diatasi segera," katanya.

LAMPIRAN 3
THE SUN (SUNBIZ): MUKA SURAT 13
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

Advancecon, Kumpulan Semesta to explore solar energy opportunities

KUALA LUMPUR: Earthworks and civil engineering services specialist Advancecon Holdings Bhd recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd (KSSB) to explore opportunities in the solar energy industry in Malaysia, particularly the Large Scale Solar Project 3 initiated by the Energy Commission.

Subject to Advancecon being successful in its bid for the project, Advancecon will appoint KSSB as the project's consultant, whereby KSSB's primary role is to identify and secure a suitable land to serve as the location of the project.

The MoU also involves KSSB working closely with Advancecon to provide all necessary expertise and assistance towards the implementation of the project and will include, but not limited to, local management support and development support. This also includes coordinating with various landowners, government officials and the local community.

Advancecon group CEO Datuk Phum Ang Kia said this new collaboration with KSSB is meant to explore opportunities in the solar energy industry as Malaysia embraces renewable energy.

"We believe that Advancecon's current expertise as a specialist in infrastructure works would be a plus point in our bid for the proposed solar project. Moreover, this marks a new step for Advancecon to develop a source of recurring income to complement our core business in earthworks and civil engineering," Phum said in a statement.

As part of Advancecon's CSR initiatives, it remains committed in implementing a climate change strategy to address increasing environment concerns on renewable energy and to positively impact communities for a sustainable future.

LAMPIRAN 4
THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 6
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

No water supply to 75,000 households in Kluang

Ammonia pollution leads to closure of water treatment plant

KLUANG: Water supply to about 75,000 households was disrupted in Johor since Saturday morning following a temporary closure of the water treatment plant in Simpang Renggam in Kluang.

The plant was closed because of ammonia pollution in Sungai Benut.

Those affected are from Simpang Renggam, Ayer Hitam, Kulai and part of Pontian district.

Simpang Renggam member of Parliament and Education Minister Maszlee Malik said the pollution had worsened as the bund surrounding the Renggam landfill in the vicinity broke, causing leachate to be absorbed (into the ground).

Scientists have said that leachate from landfills can contaminate and pollute surface and groundwater.

"We believe there are irresponsible people taking the opportunity to release ammonia into this river. At the same time, we are urging SAJ Ranhill (which is responsible for water supply services in Johor) to provide water through tankers to consumers in the affected areas.

At the same time, we hope that action will be taken against the perpetrators and ensure the landfill in Ulu Sungai Benut (which is one of the causes of the problem) is closed immediately," he said after visiting the treatment plant yesterday.

Meanwhile, State Department of Environment director Datuk Dr Mohammad Ezanni Mat Salleh, who also visited the plant, said the authorities had carried out an investigation and had taken samples from the river to submit to the Chemistry Department for analysis.

The case is being investigated under Section 31 and Section 25 of the Environmental Quality Act 1974. – Bernama

LAMPIRAN 5
BERITA HARIAN (KEMARAU): MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

Pembenihan awan awal bulan depan

Operasi hasilkan hujan dilaksana seminggu: MetMalaysia

Oleh Faris Fuad
faris.fuad@bh.com.my

Kuala Lumpur

Operasi pembenihan awan dijangka dapat dilaksanakan awal bulan depan berikutan banyak awan jenis kumulus yang boleh menghasilkan hujan.

Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi (MetMalaysia), Datuk Alui Bahari, berkata pihaknya juga meramalkan tempoh itu selepas mengkaji keadaan atmosfera merangkumi kelembapan udara tinggi serta arah dan kelajuan angin yang sesuai.

"Mengenai isu penerbangan sebenarnya bergantung kepada kesesuaian atmosfera dengan kebiasaannya, tempoh penerbangan selama dua jam.

Operasi dapat dilaksana

"Kalau tidak berlaku perkara luar biasa, operasi itu akan dapat dilaksanakan dalam tempoh seminggu," katanya kepada *BH*, semalam.

Alui Bahari

Charles Santiago

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Air Negara (SPAN), Charles Santiago ketika dihubungi, berkata pihaknya tiada halangan terhadap inisiatif Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani serta MetMalaysia selain menyifatkan ia sebagai langkah sesuai selari dengan keadaan cuaca semasa.

"Secara amnya, SPAN tiada halangan untuk pihak terbabit melakukan pembenihan awan.

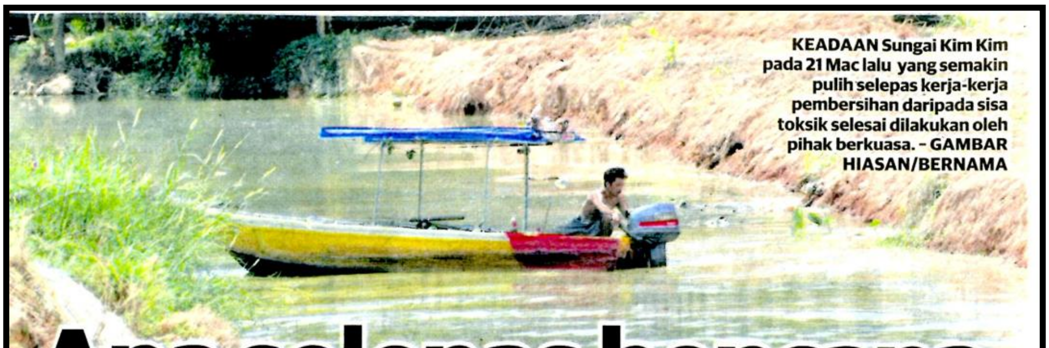
"Ia memandangkan keadaan cuaca panas, kekurangan hujan dan paras air sungai yang rendah," katanya.

Sabtu lalu, Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani dilaporkan akan melakukan pembenihan awam di kawasan sawah kendalian Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Kemubu (KADA) dalam masa terdekat berikutan cuaca panas yang bermula sejak Februari lalu.

Ketua Setiausahanya, Datuk Mohd Sallehhuddin Hassan dipetik sebagai berkata, pihak kementerian sudah mengeluarkan arahan dan berbincang dengan MetMalaysia untuk pelaksanaan pembenihan awam demi kebaikan pesawah.

Katanya, buat masa sekarang, pihaknya sedang menunggu bahagian teknikal MetMalaysia terlebih dahulu untuk menilai keadaan semasa dan bila ia akan dilaksanakan selain keperluan penerbangan.

LAMPIRAN 6
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (FORUM): MUKA SURAT 18
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)



KEADAAN Sungai Kim Kim pada 21 Mac lalu yang semakin pulih selepas kerja-kerja pembersihan daripada sisa toksik selesai dilakukan oleh pihak berkuasa. – GAMBAR HIASAN/BERNAMA

Apa selepas bencana Sungai Kim Kim?

SAUDARA PENGARANG,

BENCANA pencemaran kimia di Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang, Johor telah mencatat detik-detik hitam dalam lembaran pengurusan alam sekitar di negara kita.

Ini bukanlah insiden kali pertama berlaku sejak Malaysia mengubah sektor asas ekonominya daripada pertanian kepada perindustrian pada 1984.

Sejak bencana itu berlaku, kerajaan telah bertindak proaktif dengan mewujudkan pusat gerakan bencana untuk menyelaras gerak kerja pengurusan bencana.

Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS), Jabatan Kimia Malaysia dan Pasukan Unit Bahan Berbahaya (Hazmat) telah dikerah dalam mengenalpasti bahan pencemar dan membuat pemantauan kualiti udara di sekitar Pasir Gudang.

Walaupun tindakan kerajaan cukup baik, satu masalah yang saya lihat perlu ditangani dengan lebih berkesan adalah berita-berita palsu yang tersebar dalam media sosial serta laporan melampau media massa yang menimbulkan kebimbangan dalam kalangan penduduk.

Hal ini memberikan isyarat jelas kepada kita untuk menilai semula prosedur operasi standard (SOP) pengurusan bencana.

Aspek penting yang perlu diambil kira adalah dari segi menyelaras sumber-sumber berita daripada pihak berkuasa.

Kita lihat pelbagai kenyataan yang dikeluarkan oleh agensi-agensi terlibat kadang kala terdapat percanggahan.

Pengumuman mengenai bahan-bahan pencemar yang dikesan perlulah dilakukan dengan teliti.

Ketika bencana, penggunaan alat pengesan gas beracun boleh digunakan di lapangan tetapi perlu juga disahkan melalui keputusan analisa makmal supaya laporan yang diumumkan kepada rakyat diyakini kredibilitinya.

Hakikatnya, negara kita masih belum ada SOP lengkap dalam menghadapi pencemaran kimia, biologi dan radiologi.

Maka, Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma) harus diberi tanggungjawab untuk menggubal SOP sedemikian.

Nadma juga perlu menubuhkan majlis penasihat bagi menasihati kerajaan mengenai pengurusan kesan kimia, biologi dan radiologi.

Dengan mengambil konsep serupa di Amerika Syarikat (AS), majlis ini akan menyediakan pelan tindakan pengurusan bencana yang .

Ini meliputi aspek mengenal pasti bahan pencemar, persampelan, ujian makmal, pemantauan kualiti alam sekitar yang berterusan, pengawasan perubatan kepada mangsa yang terdedah kepada pencemaran, pembersihan dan pengurusan sisa bahan pencemar.

Buat masa ini, kita lebih tertumpu kepada pengurusan bencana seperti banjir dan jerebu. Anggaplah bencana Sungai Kim Kim ini sebagai percubaan dalam menyelaras pengurusan bencana akibat pencemaran kimia.

Saya juga kagum dengan langkah Kementerian Tenaga, Sains, Teknologi, Alam Sekitar dan Perubahan Iklim yang berusaha keras dalam menangani bencana ini.

Pengumuman kementerian untuk meminda Akta Kualiti Alam Sekeliling 1974 disambut baik oleh semua.

Sumbang saran oleh pemegang taruh dan pakar akademik amat ditagih dalam menggubal akta baharu ini agar ia menjadi 'senjata' kuat untuk membela nasib alam sekitar.

Harus diingat, undang-undang sahaja tidak mampu untuk mencegah daripada insiden ini berulang.

JAS harus mempersiapkan pegawainya untuk membuat pemantauan yang kerap serta bertindak terhadap laporan-laporan pencemaran serta membuat pemeriksaan susulan.

ABDUL QAIYUM MUSA
ALS Technichem (M) Sdn. Bhd.

LAMPIRAN 7
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (UTUSAN KOTA): MUKA SURAT 47
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

AMIR MALIK (dua dari kiri) menunjukkan straw kertas biodegradasi di premis perniagaan, D'Tandoor di Putrajaya, baru-baru ini. – UTUSAN/RASHID MAHFOF

Straw mesra alam ganti straw plastik

PUTRAJAYA 26 Mac – Restoran terkemuka, D'Tandoor baru-baru ini menganjurkan kempen The Last Straw iaitu inisiatif tidak menggunakan penyedut minuman atau straw plastik di seluruh rangkaian cawangannya di dalam dan luar negara.

Pengurus Besar D'Tandoor, Amir Malik berkata, kempen itu sejajar dengan seruan kerajaan terhadap larangan penggunaan straw plastik di Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya dan Labuan pada tahun ini.

Kata beliau, bermula Januari lalu, semua cawangan restoran D'Tandoor tidak lagi menggunakan straw plastik dan menggantikannya dengan penyedut minuman biodegradasi.

"Walaupun larangan kerajaan itu hanya melibatkan tiga Wilayah Persekutuan namun kami turut memperkenalkan pengunaan straw 'mesra alam sekitar' itu di cawangan luar negara antaranya Arab Saudi, Kemboja dan Australia.

"Apabila kita memperkenalkan langkah sebegini di luar negara, ramai puji Malaysia kerana menggorak langkah untuk tidak menggunakan straw plastik," katanya ketika ditemui pada pelancaran kempen itu di sini, baru-baru ini.

Menurut Amir, beliau berharap inisiatif itu dapat dijadikan ikutan oleh pemilik perniagaan makanan lain di negara ini.

"Sudah tiba pada masanya penduduk dunia melangkah ke hadapan untuk tidak lagi menggunakan straw plastik yang boleh memberi kesan pencemaran buruk kepada alam sekitar.

"Hampir setiap hari manusia membuang straw plastik dan menambah pencemaran bahan yang tidak boleh dikitar semula.

"Perkara ini harus dihentikan demi alam sekitar yang lebih lestari," katanya.

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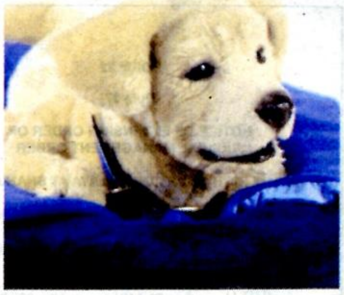
LAMPIRAN 8
THE SUN (FEATURES): MUKA SURAT 19
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)



A robot therapy dog for company

AS technology becomes more lifelike thanks to machine learning and artificial intelligence, sentient robots are being developed that focus more on human companionship rather than task-oriented performance.

Animal bots like Sony's Aibo and Groove X's Lovot were both developed to keep people company as their primary function, though the former is slowly gaining more practical capabilities like home monitoring.

Recently, a new robot companion, whose artistic design was made by Muppet puppet creator Jim Henson's Creature Shop, has reached its funding goal on Kickstarter weeks before its deadline.

The Tombot Puppy golden retriever is designed to "emulate live animal appearance and behaviours, providing ongoing fun, happiness, and emotional support", primarily to seniors and those who cannot have a real pet of their own.

The companion has been designed to relieve loneliness, reduce anxiety, and provide people with a subject of emotional attachment.

According to Tombot, these "Puppies are an invaluable tool for increasing social engagement in the senior, and for redirecting 'challenging' behaviours".

Not only do the robots look and act similarly to real dogs, but they also respond accordingly to how they're being touched and where, just like Sony's Aibo pups do.

However, Tombot Puppies only rest in a lying position with their heads up while the Sony iteration walks around and comes to you when called.

At US$449 (RM1,825) per robot, these pups cost less than a quarter of both Aibo and Lovot companion robots.

If all goes according to Tombot's plan, shipments of the first litter will begin in March of 2020. – AFP-Relaxnews

LAMPIRAN 9
SINAR HARIAN (NASIONAL): MUKA SURAT 16
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

Maszlee nafi beri kenyataan ganti cuti sekolah

SUNGAI KIM KIM TERCEMAR

PUTRAJAYA - Menteri Pendidikan, Dr Maszlee Malik menafikan beliau mengeluarkan kenyataan mengatakan sekolah yang bercuti disebabkan bencana sisa kimia di Pasir Gudang, Johor, perlu menggantikan cuti tersebut.

Menurutnya, beliau mengesan laporan tersebut menerusi berita atas talian sebuah akhbar tempatan yang menggunakan tajuk *Cuti Sekolah Akibat Pencemaran Sungai Kim Kim Perlu Diganti* yang disiarkan kelmarin.

Malah, beliau berharap akhbar terbabit lebih berhati-hati supaya tidak mengelirukan mereka yang terkesan dengan bencana ini.

"Saya ingin menegaskan bahawa saya tidak pernah mengeluarkan kenyataan agar cuti akibat bencana sisa kimia di Pasir Gudang perlu diganti.

"Dalam sidang akhbar berkenaan, transkrip jawapan saya adalah seperti berikut: Kita akan maklumkan kemudian melalui Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri (JPN), mereka akan membuat pemakluman kepada Pejabat Pendidikan Daerah (PPD) Pasir Gudang dan kepada sekolah-sekolah," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Maszlee berkata, status sama ada cuti berkenaan perlu diganti atau tidak hanya akan diputuskan melalui Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Johor dan PPD Pasir Gudang.

LAMPIRAN 10
THE SUN (SUNBIZ): MUKA SURAT 12
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

Sapura Industrial branches into aerospace

Automotive parts maker inks agreement with two Japanese firms to manufacture, assemble aircraft components

LANGKAWI: Automotive components manufacturer and assembler Sapura Industrial Bhd has entered into a shareholders' agreement with two Japanese aerospace companies to diversify into the manufacturing and assembling of aerospace components for the Malaysian and global markets.

Sapura Industrial together with Wada Aircraft Technology Co Ltd and Aero Inc had on March 15 incorporated Sapura Aerospace Technologies Sdn Bhd. Sapura Industrial will hold a 60% stake in the joint venture company, while Wada will hold 25% and Aero 15%.

Sapura Aerospace Technologies will build a high technical facility over a 5-acre site in the Greater Klang Valley area with an investment of up to RM100 million in the next five years for facilities and machineries.

The joint venture company will provide manufacturing and assembly services of aerospace components, sub-assemblies, tooling, jigs and fixtures, for the aerospace industry in Malaysia, Japan and globally.

Sapura Industrial is an automotive parts manufacturer for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), specialising in precision machining, hot and cold forming and chassis and modular assembly.

Wada Aircraft is involved in the business of manufacturing aerospace components, jigs, fixtures and tooling while Aero specialises in the business of assembly and manufacturing of aerospace parts.

Sapura Aerospace Technologies will benefit from the aggregated and combined resources of the three shareholders which will bring together 110 years of manufacturing experience, a 1,500-strong team and the operations of 11 aerospace facilities.

It will synergistically and quickly deploy the expertise of these three companies in various areas of aerospace manufacturing, business management, customer reach and deliverability.

Besides this, the companies will share capabilities including manufacturing experience and facilities, technical expertise, human resource development, professional network and business support.

Sapura Aerospace Technologies will also provide better service and competitive solutions to existing and potential customers who are major players in aircraft manufacturing and provide a good platform to expand its customer base in Japan, Malaysia and globally.

The joint venture company is among the first Malaysian companies offering specialised and focused suite of services, particularly in high-value chain aircraft assembly and machining works, to Malaysian, Japanese, regional and envisioned global potential customers.

These potential customers include OEMs and tier 1 suppliers, such as Airbus and Boeing.

These specialised expert services to be offered by Sapura Aerospace Technologies include advanced machining, assembly of large key sections of aircraft, advanced manufacturing, high-level engineering and wide variety of manufactured materials.

Sapura Aerospace Technologies plans to construct a purpose-built high technically specified facility with more than 200 staff to be trained under specially-designed programmes and accreditation. Production is expected to ramp up in 2021.

LAMPIRAN 11
NEW STRAITS TIMES (NEWS/BUSINESS): MUKA SURAT 67
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

APPEAL TO GOVT

GLOVEMAKERS WANT LOWER ELECTRICITY, GAS TARIFFS

Charges should reflect LNG and coal prices in global markets, says Margma

Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association members exported 168.8 billion pieces of medical gloves valued at RM17.74 billion last year.

OOI TEE CHING
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MEDICAL glove makers have urged the government to lower gas and electricity tariffs in view of the substantial drop in liquefied natural gas (LNG) and coal prices in the international market.

Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association (Margma) president Denis Low Jau Foo said gas and electricity tariffs should reflect LNG and coal prices in international markets.

He said the Asian LNG pricing benchmark of Japan Korea Marker futures was at US$11.81 (RM48) per one million British thermal units (MMBtu) in September last year.

"Since then, gas prices have fallen 60 per cent to US$4.60 per MMBtu.

"The price of Newcastle coal has also dropped by almost 25 per cent from US$118 per tonne in July last year to about US$88 per tonne now," said Low in a statement yesterday, in response to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement that the government would consider lowering fuel tariffs in view of the downtrend pricing of gas and coal.

In December last year, Gas Malaysia Bhd and Tenaga Nasional Bhd announced tariff hikes just as LNG and coal prices in international markets had started to decline.

Natural gas base tariff for the non-power sector in Peninsular Malaysia rose to RM32.69 per MMBtu from RM31.92 per MMBtu for the January to June period.

For electricity, businesses will have to pay surcharge of 2.55 sen per kilowatt hour from this month until June.

Low said glovemakers were besieged by rising costs due to higher wages and costlier gas and electricity.

"This year, despite uncertainties in the world economy, we hope to garner RM19.88 billion in export earnings," he said.

He contended many other high-technology and capital-intensive manufacturers were in support of lower electricity and gas tariffs.

"It would be wise of the government to quickly step in to ensure that Malaysia maintains its competitiveness," added Low.

Last year, Margma members exported 168.8 billion pieces of medical gloves valued at RM17.74 billion.

LAMPIRAN 12
THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS): MUKA SURAT 2
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

METAL DRAGONS ... Two fighter jet pilots from the Royal Malaysian Air Force display their flying prowess during the opening of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition yesterday. – *BERNAMAPIX*

See also page 2

'Lima good for Malaysia'

Exhibition has helped country keep up with defence industry, says Mahathir

Mahathir waves from Jet Embraer's E190-E2 at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre yesterday. – *BBXPIX*

LANGKAWI: The introduction of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima) in 1991 has helped Malaysia keep up with the catalytic and rapidly growing defence industry, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

In his opening speech when launching Lima'19, Mahathir said the move was necessary as Malaysia has now gained prominence as the host of the leading maritime and aerospace exhibition in Asia Pacific.

"As the Member of Parliament for Langkawi, it is indeed with pride that I witness this edition of Lima still attracting international maritime and aerospace players and businesses from all corners of the globe.

"The 15th edition of Lima brings back memories of the momentous 1991 edition when I launched the 1st Blueprint for the Development of the Aerospace Industry in Malaysia.

"It was a bold move for some and baby steps for others. But looking at what we have before us in the development of the aerospace industry today, it was a necessary move to ensure that Malaysia kept up with the catalytic and rapidly growing industry," he said.

Lima'19 sees the participation of 406 defence-related companies and commercial entities from 32 countries, including 206 local firms.

The 15th edition of LIMA is themed "Defence and Commercial Connecting Intelligence".

Mahathir stressed that modern security threats require Malaysia and other countries to continue upgrading and modernising their strategic assets.

He said the government has allocated a total of RM5.9 billion for the security sector, which covers defence, public order and enforcement, under Budget 2019.

"The investment in the security sector will involve equipping the armed forces with state-of-the-art technologies and weaponry.

"We plan to make Malaysia the leading aerospace nation in Southeast Asia." – Bernama

LAMPIRAN 13
THE STAR (STAR ASEAN): MUKA SURAT 22
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

Combing the area: Relatives looking for a missing worker at the pesticide plant following the explosion, in Xiangshui county, Yancheng, Jiangsu province. — Reuters

China to assess chemical hazards

BEIJING: The central government has ordered a national inspection to assess potential hazards of chemicals and safety risks at all chemical industry parks across the country, following an explosion in Jiangsu province that claimed the lives of at least 78 people.

Fourteen more bodies were found as rescue teams thoroughly searched 20 enterprises in a chemical industrial park where the blast occurred in Xiangshui county, said Cao Lubao, mayor of Yancheng, the city that administers the county.

The explosion occurred at 2.48pm after a fire broke out in a plant owned by Jiangsu Tianjiayi Chemical Co on Thursday last week.

Fifty-six bodies had been identified as of Monday, with 22 remaining to be identified. Of the 28 people previously reported to be missing, 25 have been confirmed dead after DNA tests.

The other three had been confirmed safe, Cao said at a news conference on Monday.

As of noon on Monday, 566 injured people remained hospitalised, including 13 in critical condition and 66 with severe injuries, he said.

A team sent by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment has been guiding environmental response measures at the explosion site, with more than 30 experts in environmental monitoring and treatment of water, solid waste and soil supporting the effort, according to a statement from the ministry.

> "Younger students in lower grades were screaming after the explosion, but we big girls and boys were brave.
>
> **Zhou Mohan**"

Cao said air quality reports are issued every two hours, and air quality has been meeting the standards.

After the blast, the Work Safety Committee of the State Council issued an urgent order that a thorough examination of potential hazards of dangerous chemicals across the country must be undertaken.

Authorities involved in production safety nationwide are required to conduct careful inspections of processing plants involved in nitrate chemical reactions and of enterprises that produce or store nitrate compounds, according to a release from the central government on Monday.

Authorities should "make law enforcement bite, and severely punish those enterprises and individuals that are indifferent to laws and lives", it said.

Ten schools where classes were suspended after the blast reopened on Monday. Though small glass fragments could still be seen on the ground, all broken windows and doors had been fixed.

Gong Yansen, deputy director of Xiangshui's education bureau, said all school buildings had been checked to ensure their safety.

"There are more than 2,000 students in the 10 schools," he said.

"Among them, 136 were injured by the explosion. Most of them had slight wounds from broken glass and have returned to school today."

Zhou Mohan, 12, who studies at Chenjiagang Central Elementary School, said she was glad to see her classmates.

"Younger students in lower grades were screaming after the explosion, but we big girls and boys were brave," she said.

The provincial environmental monitoring centre has sent six teams to monitor and guarantee the safety of the air around the 10 schools. It said all results showed the air was clean. — China Daily/Asia News Network

LAMPIRAN 14
NEW STRAITS TIMES (WORLD/ BUSINESS): MUKA SURAT 69
TARIKH: 27 MAC 2019 (RABU)

US$1.1B OFFER

WESFARMERS BIDS FOR LYNAS

Takeover will give company control of only proven producer of new energy materials outside China

Lynas Corp Ltd is facing problems in getting licence renewals for its US$800 million processing plant in Malaysia due to concerns over its waste storage. REUTERS PIC

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA'S Wesfarmers Ltd made a surprise US$1.1 billion (RM4.48 billion) offer yesterday for rare earths miner Lynas Corp Ltd, looking for new growth after a series of asset sales, but its shares fell as investors fretted about increased risk.

A takeover would give the retail-to-chemicals conglomerate exposure to new energy materials, with control of the only proven producer outside China of materials used in everything from electric cars to wind turbines.

However, investors eyed concerns around Lynas' processing plant in Malaysia, sending Wesfarmers shares down 3.5 per cent in their biggest fall in a month, wiping A$1.4 billion (RM4.06 billion) off the company's market value.

"It seems like a risky proposition. They have permitting issues at a facility in Malaysia and some environmental concerns, so it does increase their risk profile," said a Wesfarmers analyst, who declined to be named.

Lynas, which has a mine in Western Australia and a US$800 million processing plant in Malaysia, was facing problems in getting licence renewals for the plant due to concerns over its waste storage.

The firm said it was assessing the unsolicited A$2.25 a share proposal, pitched at a 45 per cent premium to its last close, which it described as "highly conditional, indicative and non-binding".

Lynas shares, which have been dragging around 18-month lows, closed up 35 per cent at A$2.10, below the bid price.

"It's Wesfarmers' style to buy counter-cyclically at a depressed price. They can easily afford it," said another analyst.

Wesfarmers, which has built up a war chest after the sale of its KMart auto business and coal mine assets, said it had complementary mining and chemical processing expertise, as well as a track record of working with governments.

"An investment in Lynas leverages our unique assets and capabilities, including in chemical processing," said Wesfarmers managing director Rob Scott.

The proposal is subject to a range of conditions, including that Lynas has relevant operating licences in Malaysia for a "satisfactory period" following the close of the deal. **Reuters**