

**Dry spell to ease by end March, says weather department – Bernama  
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The hot and dry spell experienced in many areas is in the final phase of the monsoon season which is expected to abate by the end of March, said meteorological department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail.

"It is now the tail end of the northeast monsoon which causes many areas to receive less rain over an extended period, leading to the hot and dry weather," she said in Putrajaya today.

Che Gayah said the current weather condition had not reached the "hot wave" level and was still categorised as normal with 30% rainfall based on the long-term average.

Asked if the temperature of the hot and dry weather was different from last year, she said it was not much with the temperature varying over three degrees Celsius.

The temperature in Malaysia is currently between 33 and 35 degrees Celsius.

Che Gayah said the inter-monsoon season would start in April until mid-May, when states in the peninsula would experience wet weather with thunderstorm in the afternoon and evening.

She said heavy rain and thunderstorms were common before the southwest monsoon begins from June to September which is the dry season.

Che Gayah said under its standard operating procedure, the department would only carry out cloud-seeding when haze reached the level hazardous to human health.

"The department is always prepared to conduct cloud seeding with private flight companies to overcome the problem. At times, dam operators will also carry out cloud seeding to raise the level of water. If they seek our help, we will be prepared to assist," she said. – Bernama, February 24, 2015.

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