

El Nino Affect Various Sectors in Malaysia

Bernama

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- The hot weather in the country following El Nino phenomenon since early January has impacted various sectors nationwide.

It has also caused water levels at dams nationwide to dwindle.

The announcement by Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau today saying the country might experience water supply problems up to September due to changing Southwest monsoon winds, has only caused more anxiety.

The situation has forced various sectors such as agriculture, tourism, defense and health to take various initiatives to face the phenomenon.

In KANGAR, Perlis, the water level in Timah Tasoh dam is still at the critical level of 56.21 meters, forcing Syarikat Bekalan Air Perlis (SAP) to continue water rationing until next month.

In KOTA BHARU, Kelantan, the hot weather caused water level in Sungai Golok which acts as a border between Malaysia and Thailand in Kelantan, was also reported to have dropped, which has allowed the people to cross the river with ease.

The situation had forced the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) to enhance the security at the border with more patrols to avoid illegal activities.

In BUTTERWORTH, Pinang, 3,925 farmers in Seberang Perai Utara took initiative by using the dry planting method for planting paddy after being affected by El Nino.

That method will begin on May 10 involving 6,731 hectares of paddy fields which needed to be sowed with paddy seeds with less water.

In NEGERI SEMBILAN, Bernama's survey found that the water theme park in Rembau and recreational centre in Ulu Bendul, Kuala Pilah and beach resort in Port Dickson had fewer visitors due to the hot weather.

The manager of Wet World Air Panas Pedas Resort in Rembau, Khairul Anwar said El Nino caused the presence of visitors to the water theme park to drop by 50 per cent compared to last year.

"Indeed, our revenue declined due to El Nino. We are now in planning to build more shaded areas due to the demands of visitors" he said.

In TAIPING, Perak the hot weather has caused the Orangutan Island in Bukit Merah, Bagan Serai closed for two weeks to visitors since April 11 until now.

The Chief Executive of Operations for the island's foundation, Dr. D. Sabapathy said as the boats were

not operational for transport as the water level in Tasik Bukit Merah dam been shallow.

He said, previously there were three boats carrying out service to the island ,but now it using kayak to go to the island to feed and monitor the orang utan in the island.

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