

Tasik Bukit Merah Dam Must Be Deepened To Prevent Tourism Industry from Being Affected
Bernama
April 23, 2016

BAGAN SERAI, April 23 (Bernama) -- The Orang Utan Island Foundation is asking the Perak state government to deepen the Tasik Bukit Merah Dam, here to ensure that the tourism industry in the area is not affected during the hot and dry season.

Its chief operating officer Dr D. Sabapathy said the drop in water level at the Bukit Merah Lake had forced the Pulau Orang Utan to be closed temporarily from April 11 because the three boats that were frequently used could not operate.

As such, Dr Sabapathy said, the management had to use three kayaks that could be used by six workers at any one time to go to Pulau Orang Utan.

"We have to send food supplies and piped water every day for the requirement of the 24 orang utans on the island by using the kayaks which take two hours to reach the destination.

"The orang utan can only be given piped water to drink because water from the lake is unsuitable and can affect their health," he told Bernama, here Saturday.

A check by Bernama found that the three boats used to ferry visitors to Pulau Orang Utan were left stranded at the Pulau Orang Utan jetty.

The current water level at the Tasik Bukit Merah Dam is 6.10 meters compared with 6.15 meters yesterday and the drop was due to the hot weather caused by the El Nino phenomenon.

The normal water level at the dam is 8.68 meters.

Meanwhile, the Research Officer at Pulau Orang Utan, Helmy Mohd Juli said each of the orang utan was given food three times a day with the average food for each of the animal being three to six kilograms.

"The food supply including fruits for the orang utan is estimated to be about 1,000 kg per week," he said.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1238393>