



02 APR, 2024

It rains in Sabah after two months of drought

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



Page 1 of 2

It rains in Sabah after two months of drought

KOTA KINABALU: Several areas in Sabah have started to rain following the success of the cloud seeding operations and the onset of the inter monsoons in April.

The state Meteorological Department reported a 67 per cent success rate from the three-day cloud-seeding initiative, with light rains in Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Tawau, Papar, Penampang, Lahad Datu, Nabawan and other areas.

Sabah Meteorological Department director Amirzudi Hashim said the inter-monsoon is expected to continue until May.

"During this season, the country will receive weak winds from various conducive directions, resulting in thunderstorms, heavy rains and strong winds that only last a short while," he said in a statement on Monday.

He said these conditions often occur in the evening or early night time in the West and interior parts of Peninsular Malaysia, West coast Sabah, as well as South and central Sarawak.

During this kind of weather, Amirzudi warned of flash floods, fallen trees and destruction of unstable structures.

"The hot and dry spells are forecasted to slowly improve by mid-April," he said, adding that the public should start to be more alert to the change in weather patterns.

He advised them to keep themselves updated with the latest weather forecasts and to take appropriate measures.

"You can surf the official Malaysia Meteorological Department (MetMalaysia) website, or log into the myCuaca mobile application and other official social media platforms for more information," Amirzudi said.

The public can also contact the department's hotline at 1-300-22-1638 for enquiries, he added.

Sabah was without rain for

about two months due to the El Nino phenomenon. Many areas are short of water supply and water treatment plants at catchment areas are at the brink of drying up.

The state government has supplied water to 58,080 household heads for 355 villages in 12 districts.

Deputy Chief Minister III Datuk Shahelmey Yahya also said the cloud seeding operation conducted over three days starting March 28 in Sabah has shown a 67 per cent success rate in producing rainfall.

He said after the cloud seeding process was carried out, several locations began to receive rain, including targeted areas such as rain catchment zones.

"Some areas did not receive rain, but in these past two days, we have seen thick clouds, and there was a little rain in Kota Kinabalu last night," he told reporters on Monday.

He was met after the Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) and Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) Seikhlas Budi Sesuci Ramadan programme at Masjid Daerah Putatan here.

Present at the event were TNB chairman Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Majid, SESB chairman Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau and SESB chief executive officer Mohd Yaakob Jaafar.

Prior to this, the National Disaster Management Agency conducted a three-day cloud seeding operation in the three drought-hit districts of Papar, Lahad Datu and Tawau.

Shahelmey, who is also Sabah Works Minister, hoped that such weather conditions would persist to aid in the replenishment of river flows in dam areas and plants affected by El Nino.

He also said that the state government had taken this year's drought situation as a guide to making necessary preparations should similar circumstances occur next year.