



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NEW STRAITS TIMES			
TARIKH	:	18/1/2020	MUKA SURAT	:	6
JABATAN	:	SPAN			
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN			

RECEDING LEVELS

DROUGHT FEAR AS 3 KEDAH DAMS DRY UP

Once Pedu dam hits 27pc, water will be released for domestic use only

NOORAZURA ABDUL RAHMAN
ALOR STAR
news@nst.com.my

THE water level at three dams in the state continues to recede, with the Muda dam standing at 16.1 per cent yesterday.

The Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada) general manager Datuk Fouzi Ali, however, said water levels at the Ahning and Pedu dams were at 62 per cent and 46.7 per cent, respectively, and could supply water for agricultural and domestic use.

"Last week, the water level at the Muda dam was 26.72 per cent, Ahning dam at 64.47 per cent) and Pedu dam at 50.18 per cent.

"Despite the decline, Mada is able to release the water daily at 113 cubic metres per second to meet the demands of padi farming and domestic use," he said yesterday.

He said should the level at the



Boats lined up on the dry shores of Tasik Gubir near the Pedu dam following the hot spell in Kedah recently. PIC BY SHARUL HAFIZ ZAM

Pedu dam decline to 27 per cent, water would only be released for domestic use.

As Thailand is expected to face its worst dry season in 40 years, parts of Kedah and Penang have also been hit by dry weather.

In **Pokok Sena**, Kedah, 35 padi farmers in the Pokok Sena Farmers Organisation (PPK) claimed that they lost almost RM1 million when 72ha of their padi fields were affected by the hot weather since last month.

Pokok Sena PPK chief Azami Shawal was quoted by Bernama as saying that most of their crops were damaged and their fields had developed cracks.

In **Kepala Batas**, Penang, farmers in Seberang Prai Utara affect-

ed by the drought would be supplied with water by the state agricultural authorities.

Bernama reported that the Penang Agriculture Department, Integrated Agricultural Development Area of Penang (Iada) and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Mardi) have been told to deploy mobile pumps.

Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Sim Tze Tzin said the authorities would deploy 34 pumps to affected areas.

It is understood that 1,164ha of fields in Seberang Prai Utara had been hit by drought, affecting 827 farmers in Paya Keladi, Pinang Tunggal and Pantai Kamloon.