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Biodiversiti Pulau Sembilan rosak jika tidak dijaga - MB

Oleh **SHAMSUL KAMAL AMARUDIN**
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IPOH: Kekayaan biodiversiti marin di Pulau Sembilan akan mengalami kemerosotan dan kepupusan sekiranya tidak dijaga dan dipulihara, kata Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad.

Justeru, beliau menuntut komitmen semua pihak untuk sama-sama menyayangi dan memelihara khazanah yang terdapat di gugusan pulau itu daripada rosak atau musnah angkara perbuatan tidak bertanggungjawab.

Menurutnya, pulau itu yang diiktiraf sebagai taman negeri merupakan salah satu daripada khazanah Perak yang tidak terhitung nilainya lantaran memiliki keindahan yang menakjubkan selain amat terkenal dengan kekayaan dan kepelbagaian biodiversiti marin.

"Dewasa ini, ekosistem marin berdepan pelbagai ancaman sama ada melibatkan akibat aktiviti manusia mahu pun ancaman semula jadi.

"Umum mengetahui, isu perubahan iklim turut memberi kesan kepada lautan dan ekosistem marin akibat peningkatan dan pengasidan air laut, keluntuiran karang serta hakisan pantai," katanya berucap pada Majlis Penyampaian Sijil Penghargaan Program Hari Konservasi Pulau Sembilan Tahun 2023, di sini semalam.

SULTAN Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah melawat pameran pada Majlis Penyampaian Sijil Penghargaan Program Hari Konservasi Pulau Sembilan di Ipoh semalam. - UTUSAN/MUHAMAD NAZREEN SYAH MUSTHAFA

Sultan Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah berkenan hadir pada majlis tersebut.

Menurut Saarani, laporan daripada World Ocean Summit menganggarkan kadar kehilangan habitat marin adalah sebanyak 0.2 peratus hingga 7 peratus setahun.

Oleh itu, tegas beliau, program konservasi di Pulau Sembilan seperti dilakukan Perbadanan Taman Negeri Perak pada 23 September lalu, sangat penting di tengah-tengah isu sampah sarap yang dilaporkan semakin meruncing serata dunia.

Jelasnya, selain aktiviti pembuangan sampah, sektor pelancongan yang tidak mapan turut menjejaskan kelestarian destinasi dan produk.

"Kita perlu mengambil iktibar bagaimana destinasi pelancongan terkemuka seperti Gunung Everest, Machu Picchu and Stonehenge terkesan akibat pembuangan sampah sarap tinggalan pelancong," ujarnya.

Beliau memaklumkan Pulau Sembilan telah diwartakan sebagai Taman Negeri kira-kira 13 tahun lalu bagi memastikan khazanah alam yang terdapat di kepulauan itu terus dipulihara dan diletakkan di bawah seliaan Perbadanan Taman Negeri Perak yang bertanggungjawab menjaga biodiversiti taman-taman negeri meliputi daratan dan marin.

Katanya, ia terdiri daripada sembilan pulau kecil iaitu Pulau Rumbia, Pulau Lalang, Pulau Agas, Pulau Payung, Pulau Saga, Pulau Nipis, Pulau Buluh, Pulau Batu Putih, dan Pulau Batu Hitam.

Jelasnya, ia merupakan salah satu fokus utama pelancongan berasaskan penyelidikan di Perak selain ekopelancongan Royal Belum dan geopelancongan Geopark Lembah Kinta dan Taman Alam Kinta.

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KATEGORI LIPUTAN:	POSITIF		NEGATIF		NEUTRAL			7	8/11/2023

Gearing up for rough seas

Fishermen extra careful with monsoon expected to start Saturday

By **IMRAN HILMY**
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KEPALA BATAS: On normal days, they would go out to the sea to fish in the wee hours but come the monsoon season, fishermen are extra careful and will only venture out later in the day.

Malaysian Meteorological Department (METMsia) had issued a warning that the north-east monsoon is expected to start on Saturday, bringing with it several episodes of heavy rainfall until next March.

Firdaus Abu Hassan, 34, said he would monitor the weather patterns on the METMsia website and also on social media for his own safety.

"Normally, my friends and I will go out to the sea early in the morning, about 3am or 4am every day, but during the monsoon season, we change our routine. We will go out about 10am or later," he said when met at Kuala Muda fisherman jetty yesterday.

Firdaus said usually they would also look out for the wind condition as it could be dangerous for small boats.

"It's my practice to inform my family members every time before I go out to sea.

"It is important to let someone know my whereabouts. In case something happened to me, they would know what to do," he said.

Another fisherman, Ismail Hamid, 62, said during the monsoon season, he would always remind his crew that they would not be going out to the sea as the waters could be choppy and dangerous.

"Even for an experienced fisherman like me, I could get killed if I insist on going out to fish during adverse weather condition," he said, adding that most fishermen would check the weather forecast first before going out to fish.

Seberang Prai Fisherman Association chairman Mahadi Md Rodzi urged all his members to exercise caution during the north-east monsoon season.

"Fishermen who like to go out at night or in the wee hours should be extra careful as heavy rain is likely to occur during the monsoon, thus affecting their vision.

"So, it is advisable for them to go out to the sea during the day," he said.

METMalaysia, in a statement yesterday, said heavy rainfall is expected in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Johor and western Sarawak.

"If the monsoon wind is strong and coincides with the presence of a low-pressure weather system, continuous heavy rain ca[n] occur in other states of Malaysi[a].

"Continuous heavy rainfall f[or] several days can lead to floodi[ng] in low-lying and flood-pron[e] areas," said the statement.

The department also advis[ed] the public to regularly monitor [its] website www.met.gov.my, [its] social media platforms a[nd] download the myCuaca a[pp] for the latest and accurate inf[or]mation.

Team work: A group of fisherman cleaning their net after returning from their morning trip to the sea at Kuala Muda, Kepala Batas, Penang. They would monitor weather conditions to play it safe this monsoon season. — ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star