



**UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT  
JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA  
BERITA PERIKANAN HARI INI**

**4 Jun 2023**  
**15 Zulkaedah 1444H**

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# WATER TASK FORCE REVIEWING PROPOSALS

Meeting held between PM, leaders of Kelantan and Sabah and ministers

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**T**HE special task force established to seek solutions to the water woes in Kelantan and Sabah is scrutinising proposals from the two state governments.

Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said this came following a recent meeting with Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Haji Noot and Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob.

The meeting on Thursday was chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. It was also attended by Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah, Sarawak Affairs and Special Func-

tions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali and Nik Nazmi.

"We have met the chief minister and menteri besar and heard their requests. The task force will follow up at the working level.

"The federal government is committed to solving this fundamental issue in the two states.

"We will study in detail the feasibility of the proposals and see how best we can move forward and which project to prioritise," Nik Nazmi said after a TEDx talk with Universiti Selangor (Unisel) students here yesterday.

The talk was titled "Biodiversity Conservation: The Government's Move for the sake of People's Wellbeing".

Present was Unisel president and Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohammad Redzuan Othman.

On when water woes in the two states could be resolved, Nik Nazmi said: "There are things where we can start soon, while other things will require time as we need to plan in line with the mid-term review on the 12th Malaysia Plan, among others."

On Thursday, Anwar said a task force was established to seek solutions to the water woes in Kelantan and Sabah, comprising of-

officials from the Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Ministry, Finance Ministry and the two state governments.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the Kelantan and Sabah governments had agreed to cooperate with the federal government to expedite the rollout of measures to address the issue.

He said the Kelantan government had applied for a RM8 billion budget and Sabah had raised the issue of loans for its dam project.

During the Unity Government National Convention on May 14, Anwar announced that the federal government would implement plans to quickly resolve the water issue in the two states.

During the talk at Unisel, Nik Nazmi called on the younger generation to play their part in conservation.

"The fate of our biodiversity also lies with the younger generation.

"We still hold the trust given to us to govern the country, but if you feel something is not right (in our conservation efforts), you should be the first to question it.

"Your generation will be more affected by this than mine."



Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad (front row, fourth from right) releasing fingerlings at the launch of Universiti Selangor's biodiversity conservation event at the Bestari Jaya campus in Batang Berjuntai, Kuala Selangor, yesterday. PH. BY HAZRAT SHAMS-UD-DIN

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Kosmo! Ahad 4 JUN 2023

## Bot nelayan asing ditahan ceroboh perairan negara

**GEORGE TOWN** - Maritim Malaysia (APMM) Pulau Pinang menahan sebuah lagi bot nelayan Indonesia kerana menceroob perairan negara untuk menangkap hasil laut pada kedudukan 94 kilometer barat daya Pulau Kendi di sini kelmarin.

Pengarahnya, Kepten Maritim Abd Razak Mohamed berkata, bot nelayan itu dikesan Kapal Maritim Burau semasa melakukan operasi Ops Pertiwi di kawasan berkenaan pada pukul 3.31 petang.

Pemeriksaan mendapati empat kru termasuk tekong yang kesemuanya warga Indonesia berusia 23 hingga 42 tahun berada di atas bot. Kesemua mereka tidak memiliki

dokumen dan pas perjalanan.

"Kesemua kru melakukan kesalahan di bawah Akta Perikanan 1985 dan Seksyen 6(1)(C) Akta Imigresen 1959/63 kerana memasuki Malaysia tanpa pas yang sah," katanya dalam kenyataan di sini semalam.

Menurut beliau, bot, kru bersama 40 liter diesel dirampas dan dibawa ke jeti Limbungan Batu Maung, Pulau Pinang untuk siasatan lanjut.

Pada Rabu lalu, APMM menahan enam kru termasuk tekong bot nelayan Indonesia berusia 18 hingga 51 tahun di barat daya Pulau Kendi selepas gagal mengemukakan dokumen pengenalan diri dan pas perjalanan untuk memasuki perairan negara ini.



BOT nelayan dari Indonesia yang ditahan disyaki menceroob perairan negara di barat daya Pulau Kendi kelmarin.