

**1. How long is the trend expected to last?**

The present drier weather condition is expected to continue until May 2010 as the current moderate El Nino is expected to weaken gradually.

**2. Why is it this happening?**

The weather in February and March is generally hotter and drier over the Northern states of Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah compared to other months of the year. The primary causes of this are the position of the sun, which is vertically overhead the Equator, and low cloud cover over the region. This year the situation has become more severe because of the occurrence a moderate El Nino phenomenon which is expected to continue till May. Rainfall in Sabah and east Sarawak is expected to decrease during this time.

**3. Will this be a yearly trend?**

The El Nino phenomenon is not a yearly trend but rather 3 . 7 years cycle. During El Nino, Southeast Asia region including Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia are drier than normal conditions while eastern Equatorial Pacific is unusually wet.

**4. Which states are badly hit and why?**

In general, Sabah and east Sarawak is mostly felt the effects of El Nino and to less extent, northern and eastern states of Peninsular Malaysia especially during Southwest Monsoon.

In February 2010, most areas in Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Negeri Sembilan and Johor in Peninsular Malaysia,

Bintulu, Miri and Limbang in Sarawak and all of Sabah received only 0.4 . 88 mm of rain for the month. This represents 0.6-56.1 % of the average. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010, less amount of rainfall continues over Sabah and east Sarawak as shown below:-

Meteorological station	Rainfall (mm) 1 . 17 Mac 2010	Mean Monthly (March)
Kota Kinabalu	0	72.5
Kudat	0	99.7
Tawau	0	93.3
Sandakan	7	176.5
FT Labuan	1.0	118.0
Limbang	3.4	-
Miri	27.4	146.0

### **Weather outlook for April – June 2010**

Rainfall amounts are expected to returning to normal over the peninsular Malaysia from April. Drier conditions in Perlis, Kedah and Pulau Pinang are expected to continue until April with reduced rainfall of 20 . 30 % of the average. In Sabah dry conditions are expected to continue till May. Pedalaman, Pantai Barat and Labuan Federal Territory are expected to receive reduced rainfall of 20 . 40 % of average. Other areas in sabah are expected to receive normal rainfall. Rainfall in Sarawak is expected to be normal for the period.

### **5. Do you recommend water rationing?**

The public is always encouraged to conserve water with regards to any weather condition.