

THE STAR VIEWS 16 JUN 2009
“CLOUD SEEDING SHOULD START EARLY”

The Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD), Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation would like to thank Mr. Zahar for his concern and logical advice on the need to carry out cloud seeding operations while the rain clouds are available.

Cloud seeding operations are essentially carried out to enhance the rain efficiency. The success of cloud seeding would depend on the availability of suitable clouds for seeding. Hence, we recognize there are constraints on seeding opportunities/windows to enhance sufficient rain especially during the dry seasons. In Malaysia, during the South-West Monsoon season (May to September), the availability of suitable clouds for seeding depends very much on the few rain periods that occur during the usual dry weather condition. Better opportunities for cloud seeding exist during the inter-monsoon seasons (April . May and October - November).

The cost of cloud seeding are relatively expensive, hence cloud seeding are carried out for water resources on a request basis from the dam owners and the willingness of dam owners to pay for the aircraft rental. MMD would be carrying out cloud seeding operations over the Muda and Pedu Dam from 20 June 2009 as a result of a request from MADA.

For the current dry weather in Malaysia, MMD has also carried out cloud seeding operation from 13 June 2009 until 15 June 2009 over the west Selangor and the Klang Valley especially over areas where high values of API and haze were observed.

However, it should be stressed that minimization of wastage of water and conservation of water are very important during periods of water stress and drought.

Thank you.

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