

KERATAN AKHBAR

NAMA AKHBAR: THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS)

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12 drowning hotspots identified

PUTRAJAYA: The Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry have identified 12 hotspots nationwide as “high risk” areas due to the high number of drowning incidents involving more than five victims.

Its minister Tan Sri Noh Omar said based on the data derived from the Fire and Rescue Department (JBPM) alone, 327 cases of drowning were recorded last year compared with only 260 cases in 2016.

“The first two months of this year alone saw 65 cases of drowning recorded, making the situation very alarming for the government.

“According to JBPM records, 42 incidents have been recorded at riverside or water keys, 11 along the beach, eight at waterfalls and four occurring at lakes or mining pools,” he told reporters after chairing the Water Activities Safety Council meeting at the ministry yesterday.

The high risk areas identified by the ministry include:

- ▶ Sungai Kg Batu Payung, Tawau, Sabah – 15 deaths
- ▶ Sungai SKC Kg Timah, Selangor – 7 deaths
- ▶ Sungai Kg Sabak, Pengkelan Chepa, Kelantan – 6 deaths
- ▶ Sungai Chiling, Selangor – 6 deaths
- ▶ Sungai Gasi, Selangor – 5 deaths
- ▶ Sungai Sendat waterfalls – 12 deaths
- ▶ Lata Berembun waterfalls, Raub, Pahang – 10 deaths
- ▶ Chamang waterfalls, Pahang – 5 deaths
- ▶ Pantai Nipah, Kelantan – 14 deaths
- ▶ Muara Tok Bali beach, Kelantan – 7 deaths
- ▶ Teluk Bahang beach, Penang – 7 deaths
- ▶ Semenyih Dam, Selangor – 10 deaths

As such, Noh said an action plan to prevent more drowning incidents has been prepared and approved during the meeting.

Among proposals contained in the action plan, include implementing bylaws to fine those caught swimming at “high risk” areas; guidelines; setting up of warning signs and safety facilities and awareness campaigns. He said the ministry will implement “quick win” measures immediately in an effort to quickly address the issue.

“We will be identifying all red zones and make public announcements on the area as a precautionary measure to take when one is within the area.” – by **G. Surach**