

More drone units for Johor

Technology will help us produce better results, says state Fire Dept

JOHOR BARU: The Johor Fire and Rescue Department is planning to expand its drone unit.

State director Othman Abdullah said from late last year, Johor was the only state that utilised drones equipped with cameras to aid in their operations and their use had saved time and increased the department's effectiveness.

He said currently, only one team – made up of six fire fighters from the Johor Jaya fire station under the Johor Baru zone – was specially trained to handle the equipment for obtaining visuals and collecting data using the drone camera.

“We aim to establish three or four more teams this year – one for each of the four Bomba zones in Johor.

“The purpose is to use the technology to our advantage to help us produce better results,” he said after the department's annual assembly at the state headquarters

here yesterday.

He said his department wanted to form at least one drone unit in each of the state's three other zones – Kota Tinggi, Kluang and Muar.

Othman said Johor had many water-related cases, including drowning, and missing persons cases last year including those in Yong Peng, Desaru and Pasir Gudang where drone cameras helped in speeding up search and rescue efforts.

He added that the cameras could also be used to monitor and fight forest fires that might occur during the expected prolonged dry spells this year caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon.

“In many cases, 80% of forest fires were actually caused by members of the public who burnt rubbish or cleared land and called us for help when the flames spread and become out of control.”



Eye in the sky: A photo captured by the Johor Fire and Rescue Department drone unit after a recent fire in Jalan Kebun Teh Lama in Johor Baru.