



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SELASA 31 MAC 2020**

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1.	COVID-19: MOA BINCANG NASIB PEKEBUN DI CAMERON HIGHLANDS, SH -ONLINE	KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN (MOA)
2.	KEMBONG THRIVING UP NORTH, NEWS, THE STAR (METRO NORTH) -8	LAIN-LAIN

UKKMOA

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN MOA, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
31/3/2020	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

Covid-19: MOA bincang nasib pekebun di Cameron Highlands



SHAH ALAM - Sektor pertanian dan pelancongan di Cameron Highlands yang dilaporkan terancam angkara koronavirus (Covid-19) mendapat perhatian pihak Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani hari ini.

Nasib pekebun mungkin bakal berubah apabila satu mesyuarat khas bagi membincangkan perkara itu diketuai Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee dilaporkan diadakan petang ini.

Berdasarkan sumber diperoleh, beberapa isu lain turut dibincangkan berikutan penularan wabak Covid-19 dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) khususnya melibatkan perkara di bawah bidang kuasa Kementerian itu.

Sinar Harian difahamkan respon terhadap aduan pekebun pekebun sayur di tanah tinggi itu tidak dapat diberikan dalam kadar segera kerana pihak terbabit perlu mengutamakan beberapa isu dibangkitkan sebelum itu.

Namun, perkembangan ini akan dapat memberi sedikit kelegaan kepada lebih 2,300 pekebun sayuran di Cameron Highlands yang menghasilkan lebih 800 tan metrik pengeluaran sayur-sayuran sehari. Ini kerana, hanya 30 peratus dari jumlah tersebut mampu dijual di pasaran akibat penularan wabak Covid-19 dan PKP yang telah dilanjutkan hingga 14 April ini.

Terdahulu, Setiausaha Agung Persekutuan Persatuan-Persatuan Pekebun-Pekebun Sayur Malaysia, Chay Ee Mong berkata, keadaan ekonomi akibat Covid-19 kini mencengkam pekebun sayuran di Cameron Highlands. Katanya, pekebun-pekebun sayur di tanah tinggi itu mahu tidak mahu memang terpaksa menuai sayur-sayuran di ladang kerana jika tidak, sayur seperti kubis, tomato, sawi dan pak choi akan tua begitu sahaja.

Kata Ee Mong, bagaimanapun permintaan di pasaran jatuh teruk apabila banyak pasar ditutup atau dikurangkan pekerja, kantin atau premis makanan tidak beroperasi dan orang ramai perlu duduk di rumah untuk mematuhi PKP. Akui Ee Mong, pendek kata, sayur sudah tidak laku dan tidak boleh dipasarkan. Pekebun mengeluarkan 800 tan metrik atau 800,000 kilogram sayur-sayuran sehari, namun hanya 30 peratus mampu dijual di pasaran.

Ekoran kerugian yang dihadapi itu juga membuatkan pekebun di tanah tinggi itu kini berdepan kesukaran untuk membayar gaji pekerja ladang.

Dalam pada itu, menurut Ee Mong, biarpun berdepan dengan kerugian, kesemua pekebun mengambil inisiatif menyertai program khidmat sosial dengan membekalkan sayur-sayuran kepada rumah kebajikan, rumah anak yatim dan rumah orang tua secara percuma.

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Kembong thriving up north

Fishermen bag huge haul thanks to marine phenomenon

By LO TERN CHERN
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INDIAN mackerel are enjoying a feast in the northern end of the Straits of Malacca, thanks to a marine phenomenon causing a super concentration of phytoplankton and zooplankton to bloom.

Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of the fish, locally known as kembong, are forming huge schools and swimming around all day to enjoy their feast of planktonic life.

In a statement, the Fisheries Department said that satellite images showed that since last December, chlorophyll concentrations about five nautical miles off Perlis, Kedah and Penang had been exceedingly high, indicating that the sea now has a delicious plankton soup for kembong.

"The chlorophyll concentration will begin dropping after March when the monsoon starts," said the Fisheries Department, adding that the phenomenon is happening all the way to India.

Before the movement control order began, there was a frenzied buying of kembong in many fishing villages in Kedah.

Fishermen caught so many kembong that they sold them for just RM1 per kg.

The Star sent a team in the middle of March to inspect the buying craze and found a fisherman giving his kembong away for free.

Fisherman Rosli Yunus, 50, was seen at the Whispering Fish Market in Kuala Muda, Seberang Prai, with a big haul of about 300kg of kembong.

He had just returned from Pulau Sayak, less than 1km from the southern Kedah coastline.

Rosli said he deployed his gill net just once during his trip to catch the 300kg of kembong.

"Today is Friday so I'm not selling the fish. I'm just giving."

"Come, bring a bag and take some," Rosli called out to the crowd at the market which has a unique practice where prospective buyers whisper their bids to fishermen, thus keeping the transactions confidential.

Dozens of other fishermen at the



Rosli (second left) and his crew members untangling the fish from the net at the Whispering Fish Market jetty. — Photos: ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star



This basket of fish is all mine, claims a feline 'customer'.

Whispering Fish Market also came back laden with kembong and were letting them go for just RM1 per kg.

Off season, kembong can be priced at above RM20 per kg in wet markets.

It is sweet and has a fine flesh texture.

The fish also is essential for making Penang's asam laksa soup.



Rosli (left) giving away the fish he caught with his crew members.



Marketgoers at the beach getting fresh mackerel. This event was before the movement control order was enforced.