



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
KHAMIS 7 MEI 2020**

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UKKMOA

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

Seremban: Sebanyak 1.5 tan ikan sembilang diagih secara percuma kepada penduduk di Lenggeng dekat sini, sebagai inisiatif mengurangkan lambakan ikan ternakan itu selepas gagal dijual ke negara jiran dan pasaran tempatan.

Pengusaha ikan ternakan itu, Man Kok Heng, 55, berkata, bekalan ikan sepatutnya dipasarkan di Thailand selain pasaran tempatan ketika Ramadan ini namun terjejas berikutan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP).

Agih 1.5 tan ikan sembilang percuma



Bagi memastikan semua ikan sembilang dimanfaatkan, saya mengambil keputusan memberikan secara percuma kepada penduduk. "Saya mendapat kerjasama wakil rakyat Adun (Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri) Lenggeng, Subaimi Kassim dan Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Sembilan dalam menganjurkan program serahan ikan ini," katanya.

Kok Heng

“Bagi memastikan semua ikan sembilang dimanfaatkan, saya mengambil keputusan memberikan secara percuma kepada penduduk. “Saya mendapat kerjasama wakil rakyat Adun (Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri) Lenggeng, Subaimi Kassim dan Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Sembilan dalam menganjurkan program serahan ikan ini,” katanya.

Kok Heng berkata demi kian ketika ditemui selepas pengagihan ikan sembilang di Pusat Khidmat Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Lenggeng di Taman Panchor Jaya, Paroi, di sini, semalam. Dia yang mengusahakan ternakan ikan di Titi Jelebu, dekat sini berkata, pihaknya kerugian RM100,000 sepanjang tempoh PKP ini kerana tidak dapat memasarkan ikan dan hasil ternakannya seperti biasa.

ngagikan ikan sembilang secara percuma kepada penduduk dalam kawasan DUN yang diwakilinya.

Belliau berkata, pihaknya percaya sumbangan itu amat bermakna bagi mereka sekali gus meringankan sedikit beban yang terkesan dengan wabak Covid-19 ini.

“Saya dan penternak bersama kakitangan Jabatan Perikanan mengagihkan ikan sembilang ini ke rumah penduduk di Taman Panchor Jaya, Pantai dan Lenggeng ser-ta sekitarnya,” katanya.

“Bagaimanapun, saya puas hati kerana dapat membantu penduduk terjejas sepanjang tempoh pelaksanaan PKP dan berharap sumbangan kecil ini dapat membantu meringankan beban mereka terutama golongan yang kurang berkemampuan,” katanya.

Sementara itu, Subaimi berkata, pihaknya menyambut baik langkah penternak ikan di atas kesudian me-

118 green turtle eggs found on Port Dickson shores

SEREMBAN: The environment is thriving in the absence of people as seen with the discovery of turtle eggs on the shores of Port Dickson. State Fisheries Office via its Facebook page has shared the finding of 118 green-turtle eggs and another 110 more of an unknown species. Its director, Halimi Abu Hanip, said there were more of the eggs uncovered in the tourist spot, and those found were brought to the Ornamental Fish Centre here to be incubated for conservation. "In the past, turtles had landed to nest at Port Dickson beaches, but this was scarce as these creatures were deterred by rapid development and bright lights. "They would look for quiet spots. We are locating them with the help of those who have been given permission to collect the eggs." **Bernama**

Anglers allowed to cast out with strict conditions

By LO TERN CHERN
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GEORGE TOWN: Anglers have been allowed to go fishing but their "hunting ground" is limited under the conditional movement control order.

Guidelines from the Fisheries Department yesterday stated that anglers have to be shore-bound.

Fishing at sea is a no-no, while commercial fishing ponds are not allowed as well.

Anglers can only cast their lines from river banks, lake sides and beaches without using any water craft.

They can only fish within a 10km radius from their homes, maintain at least 1m from each other and fish only from 7am to 6pm.

When the conditional MCO was announced on Friday, recreational fishing was strictly forbidden.

"The toman (giant snakehead fish) must be over 10kg by now," quipped avid angler JS Loh, in reference to how the fish must have grown due to limited fishing activities in recent weeks.

Loh, who has been angling for over 20 years, said he was a kayak fisher and the nature of the sport was such that he essentially fished alone.

"Even if I have a partner, he would stay at least 50m away. We don't share fishing zones," he said, explaining that nearly all kayakers ride single-seater kayaks because two-seaters are too cramped for both to wield rods.

Kayak Fishing Malaysia Facebook Group founder Vincent Khung, whose group has over 11,000 members, said fishing did not necessarily involve large crowds.

"When I fish, I love to have a distance from my buddies. Otherwise,

our lines will tangle," he said. Penang Angling Association chairman Yeap Wee Liang said in commercial fishing ponds, social distancing could be observed just like in other public places.

"Anglers usually prefer to fish at least 30m between another. If other sports can be allowed, fishing is much safer than many of them," said Yeap.

He, however, agreed that crowded fishing activities such as tournaments and the chartering of boats by several anglers should be avoided.

Penang Fisheries Department director Noraisyah Abu Bakar urged anglers to be patient.

"If you live near a body of water, go ahead by yourself and cast your line from land. Enjoy your recreation again, but otherwise be patient until we have Covid-19 fully in control," she said.



Solo sport: A file picture showing an angler on a single-seater kayak holding up a giant snakehead fish.

Sektor pertanian perlu setara perindustrian

COVID-19 memberi impak amat besar dalam pengurusan sosio-ekonomi negara. Negara terpaksa mencari jalan untuk memastikan rakyat patuh Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP), pada masa sama, bekalan makanan sentiasa mencukupi.

Pemerintah juga perlu memastikan rakyat tidak panik terutama berkaitan bahan makanan sepanjang tempoh PKP. Walaupun Malaysia belum mengalami masalah kekurangan makanan, musibah COVID-19 perlu dijadikan asas mengapa Malaysia perlu membangunkan semula sektor pertanian.

Jika kita belajar daripada sejarah, Kepulauan Melayu dahulu terkenal dengan sektor pertanian di samping kegiatan perikanan. Kebanyakan penduduknya tertumpu di pinggir pantai dan kampung. Boleh dikatakan kerajaan awal seperti Majapahit, Srivijaya, Kedah Tua dan Champa terkenal dalam sektor agraria dan maritim.

Sebelum merdeka, hasil utama negara ialah pertanian. Hampir 70 peratus penduduk terbabit dalam sektor ini khususnya penanaman padi. Ketika penjajahan British, ia masih kekal walaupun terpaksa bersaing dengan getah dan bijih timah.

Penanaman padi berjaya membekalkan makanan kepada penduduk Tanah Melayu, sekali gus kekal sebagai tanaman pertanian utama hingga selepas kemerdekaan.

Kini Malaysia melangkah ke hadapan dengan berkembangnya



Sektor pertanian perlu dinilai semula dan dikembangkan agar mampu bekalkan makanan kepada penduduk negara ini. (Foto hiasan)

teknologi dan sektor perindustrian. Ini meletakkan pertanian sebagai sektor kurang penting dalam pembangunan ekonomi negara. Kita terlalu memfokuskan pembangunan ekonomi perindustrian, pembuatan dan pembinaan.

Bagi membangunkan sektor ini, kita menukar tanah yang dulunya tanah pertanian kepada projek perumahan dan perindustrian. Kini, kita sudah terbiasa melihat tanah yang dahulunya kawasan sawah menghiijau bertukar menjadi bangunan batu.

Oleh itu, negara banyak bergantung bekalan makanan dan hasil pertanian dari luar. Namun, sampai bilakah kita hendak bergantung kepada negara luar un-

tuk membekalkan bahan makanan, terutama beras yang menjadi makanan ruji?

Jika negara pengimport dilanda bencana alam seperti gempa bumi dan kemarau umpamanya, mereka tidak dapat lagi membekalkan beras kepada kita. Apakah tindakan kita dalam hal ini?

Tidak syak lagi, sektor pertanian perlu diangkat setara dengan perindustrian. Pertanian perlu dinilai semula dan dikembangkan agar mampu membekalkan makanan kepada penduduk negara ini.

Banyak langkah boleh diambil untuk memartabatkan semula sektor pertanian. Antaranya inperkembangkan penyelidikan sektor pertanian.

Memang banyak penyelidikan dihasilkan di institusi pengajian tinggi, tetapi kebanyakannya dalam bidang bioteknologi dan kejuruteraan. Jika ada penyelidikan dalam sektor pertanian, bilangannya sangat sedikit.

Justeru, penyelidikan pertanian perlu diperhebatkan agar penemuan baharu dapat menambatkan hasil pertanian negara ini. Kerajaan perlu mengadakan inisiatif untuk meletakkan penyelidikan pertanian sebagai penyelidikan bertaraf tinggi, sekali gus menarik penyelidik tempatan dalam sektor pertanian.

Pihak berwajib perlu menambatkan pusat pembelajaran dan pendidikan bagi melahirkan lebih ramai tenaga pakar dalam sektor pertanian.

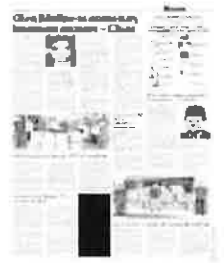
Malaysia tidak mempunyai universiti khas memartabatkan sektor pertanian negara. Ini merujuk ketidaksiyerasian negara dalam membangunkan pertanian yang membekalkan makanan untuk rakyat terus hidup.

Bagi memartabatkan pertanian, negara perlu mengangkat sektor dan hasil pertanian sebagai sumber ekonomi negara penting. Tidak keterlaluan jika dikatakan masyarakat sendiri meletakkan sektor pertanian pada tahap rendah dan tidak begitu penting berbanding sektor pembuatan dan perindustrian.

Mentaliti ini perlu diubah kerana kita suatu masa dahulu ialah negara pertanian.

*Dr Hasnah Hussain,
Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)*

Headline	Junz thanks donors for aid to Putatan, Tuaran		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	07 May 2020	Color	Black/white
Section	Home	Circulation	18,290
Page No	3	Readership	54,870
Language	English	ArticleSize	54 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 151
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 452



Junz thanks donors for aid to Putatan, Tuaran

KOTA KINABALU: Tanjung Aru assemblyman Datuk Junz Wong on Wednesday recorded his appreciation to good samaritans who stepped forward to help those in need during the Movement Control Order.

"Rain Field Forest represented by the Loi brothers on Tuesday and Wednesday sent 2,000 packs of food aid to RELA volunteers, Putatan and Tuaran residents.

"Five-hundred packs were sent on Tuesday, another 1,500 packs were sent on Wednesday.

"There was rice, salt, cooking oil, noodles, biscuits and other essential things for families severely affected by the MCO."

Junz, who is also Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry said he hopes to see Sabahans continue stepping forward to help one another.

"We can overcome this crisis if we continue helping one another.

Sabahans are known for our hospitality. I believe and hope to continue seeing Sabahans stepping forward to help one another."

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
7/5/2020	FREE MALAYSIA TODAY	ONLINE	

We cannot afford to neglect farmers



Malaysia has so far been fortunate that the Covid-19 crisis has not led to a severe food shortage in the country despite initial reports of panic buying after the lockdown was announced.

Many people may be out of jobs, broke and hungry, but few are starving.

However, since the risk of getting infected with Covid-19 remains until a vaccine against it is found and since no one can predict when life will return to normal again, it would be wise for the government to pay serious attention to food security.

In the past, millions in many countries have perished due to food scarcity. We hope that Covid-19 will not go down as the country's first ever natural disaster to cause widespread hunger.

We have heard reports of migrant workers and refugees in the country not getting enough food. But these are largely localised issues and not comparable to the general lack of access to food seen in some parts of the world.

But the damage can be colossal if our war against this noxious virus escalates and we lose.

For this reason, the government cannot ignore the importance of the agriculture sector and of the country's farmers and food producers.

Despite the odds amid the various crises they have faced, farmers have not given up. They keep on delivering their produce.

Nevertheless, if the pandemic continues for long, the country should brace for a food shortage because many food producing countries will stop exporting produce such as rice and other essentials. Vietnam has already stopped exporting rice to give priority to home consumption. Other countries may follow suit.

Malaysia imports most of its food from China, India, Thailand, Indonesia and New Zealand. The largest amount of money spent on food imports in 2018 was for cereals at RM7.1 billion, followed by coffee, cocoa, tea at RM7 billion and feedstock at RM5.9 billion

In the same year, the country also imported high amounts of vegetables (RM4.6 billion), fish and crustaceans (RM4.1 billion), fruits (RM3.9 billion), meat (RM3.9 billion), sugar (RM3.8 billion) and dairy products (RM3.8 billion).

In 2019, the biggest amount spent, RM4.5 billion, was for coffee, cocoa, tea and spices. Imports from China alone cost RM3.1 billion.

Malaysia, the 22nd largest rice consumer in the world, farms its own rice but also imports 30% to 40% per cent of its requirement. The country has about 500,000 tonnes of rice stocks and consumes 200,000 tonnes a month, according to data from the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry.

Malaysia has only enough rice to last two and a half months following Vietnam's decision to suspend its exports. We now have to purchase rice from other countries, such as Pakistan, India, Myanmar and Thailand, but these countries are now more concerned about their own food security.

Nevertheless, boosting agriculture products is not an overnight business. For instance, the country cannot produce rice overnight to substitute for the tons of rice imported from other countries.

Our farmers have kept toiling on despite the many challenges they face. Currently, they are producing with whatever labour is still available. They have roped in family members and non-farm workers who have become jobless by the lockdown.

Their resilience and endurance have to be appreciated. The nature of their work allows little rest or deferment and they have to survive against all odds to make ends meet. They work full time, following the dictates of nature, managing their produce and at times facing price risks.

In most cases, they will keep producing as long as their costs are covered and they can make enough money to run their homes and finance their next crop cycle.

So as not to discourage them from continuing with their efforts, the government has to help sustain the demand for their supplies and guarantee a market for farm produce.

There has to be assistance to farmers and fishermen, such as in the form of agricultural inputs to increase domestic production. Food storage and distribution have to be enhanced to ensure sufficient food supply.

The country has to realign its agro-food sector as demand for food will only increase as the population grows. In fact a billion ringgit's worth of imported fruits and vegetables can be planted locally.

In other words, farmers and the agricultural sector need more government assistance so that food supply is not interrupted.

Perhaps the government can look into some reforms in agriculture, such as those related to marketing, management of surplus, access of farmers to institutional credit and the freeing of the agriculture sector from various restrictions. It should also find ways to revitalise the agriculture sector with modern technology.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
7/5/2020	THE STAR	ONLINE	

Parts of Selayang and Chow Kit placed under enhanced MCO, says Health Ministry



PETALING JAYA: Two new areas in Selayang and Jalan Raja Bot have been placed under the enhanced movement control order (MCO), says the Health Ministry.

According to the Health Ministry, the two new areas - Taman Wilayah and Taman Desa Bakti in Selayang, and Jalan Raja Bot where the Chow Kit market was situated - were sealed by the authorities early Tuesday (May 5) morning.

"The enhanced MCO in the concerned areas began since predawn Tuesday (May 5)," it said in a Facebook posting on May 5.

Meanwhile, Tatt Khalsa Diwan Selangor treasurer Mahinder Gill also confirmed that the Gurdwara Sahib Tatt Khalsa Sikh temple at the Chow Kit market, was sealed by the authorities.

"There is a barricade around the temple premises."

According to Mahinder, the temple is currently hosting 100 tourists from India who were stranded in Malaysia.

"Arrangements were made to fly them out. But with this barricade, we are concerned that they could miss the flight," he said.

Mahinder said the temple has adequate food supplies to sustain the 100 tourists for the time being, but expressed concerned that they wouldn't be able to reach out to donate food the vulnerable during the enhanced MCO.

At the same time, several viral messages circulated on social media saw the authorities placing barbed wire as barricades to cordon off the areas.

On Monday, the Health Ministry said a new cluster involving 16 new local infections were found at the Chow Kit market.