



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
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UKKMOA

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



ANTARA produk perikanan yang dijual Nektmat di Shopee.

Jualan tani, ikan cecah RM250,000 di Shopee

Kuala Lumpur: Nilai hasil jualan pertanian dan perikanan menerusi platform e-dagang Shopee Malaysia bagi dua kedai rasmi Agrobazaar Fama dan Nektmat mencecah RM250,000.

Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan melalui Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (Fama), Persatuan Nelayan Kebangsaan (Nektmat) dan Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) menjalinkan usaha sama dengan Shopee itu sebagai langkah jangka panjang untuk melindungi kebajikan petani dan nelayan.

Ketua Kluster Barangan Pengguna Bergerak Pantas, Shopee Malaysia, Tan Ming Kit berkata, usaha sama

yang bermula bulan lalu sehingga 15 Mei lalu merekodkan hampir 2,000 pesanan di sekitar Lembah Klang.

“Buat masa ini, penduduk Lembah Klang yang membuat pesanan di kedai-kedai ini sebelum 12 tengah hari menerima produk mereka pada hari berikutnya (kecuali hujung minggu dan cuti umum),” katanya kepada pemberita di Pejabat Fama Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur/ Putrajaya di sini.

Beliau berkata, jika berlaku permintaan tinggi pada masa hadapan, pihaknya bersedia untuk berunding bagi menetapkan masa penghantaran yang lebih pantas dan efisien.

Buang 600,000 benih udang galah

Seremban: "Saya terpaksa melepaskan 600,000 ekor benih udang galah bernilai RM48,000 ke Sungai Rembau semalam kerana tidak mampu lagi menanggung kos operasi," ujar usahawan benih udang galah, Abdul Auf Hafiz Hasfarudin, 34.

Dia berkata, perniagaannya merosot teruk selepas semua kolam pancing ditutup sejak Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dikuatkuasakan 18 Mac lalu.

Ini menyebabkan dia hilang punca pendapatan kerana tiada permintaan udang galah hidup daripada kalangan pengusaha kolam.

"Bagi mengelakkan terus menanggung kerugian, dia terpaksa melepaskan 600,000 ekor benih udang galah ke Sungai Rembau.



ABDUL AUF melakukan kerja pembersihan kolam takungan penetasan benih udang galah selepas tidak digurakan lagi.

Malahan tawaran pemberian secara percuma kepada pengusaha kolam memandangkan udang itu sudah besar dan tidak sesuai diternak di tangki juga tidak mendapat sambutan kerana mereka juga tidak mempunyai duit

untuk menanggung kos menternak," katanya.

Mengusahakan pusat penetasan udang galah di kawasan seluas 0.40 hektar di Kampung Chuah, Lukut, Port Dickson, Abdul Auf Hafiz berkata sebelum ini, dia mampu membekalkan

1.2 juta ekor benih udang galah bernilai RM90,000 kepada lapan penternak udang galah di negeri ini.

"Sebaik PKP dikuatkuasakan, ada penternak membatalkan tempahan dan saya hanya mampu jual 300,000 ekor benih udang galah bernilai RM22,500. Satu-satunya jualan saya sepanjang PKP dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Bersyarat (PKPB)," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Sembilan Halimi Abu Hanip berkata, Abdul Auf Hafiz adalah antara empat pengusaha udang galah di negeri ini yang terjejas kerana tidak dapat memasarkan benih ketika PKP dan PKPB dikuatkuasakan.

- Bernama

DATUK CHALET TERNAK IKAN

Pengusaha ambil keputusan beralih kepada penternakan selepas industri pelancongan tenat

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Hulu Selangor

Terpaksa beralih kepada bidang penternakan haiwan selepas mendapati industri pelancongan merudum teruk kesan pandemik Covid-19 yang berlaku. Tindakan itu terpaksa dilakukan pengusaha sebuah chalet, Datuk Ruslee Hashim bagi meneruskan perniagaan selain memastikan resort dibangunkan tidak terbiar begitu saja.

Bellau berkata, industri pelancongan kian tenat ekoran pandemik Covid-19 sejak 18 Mac lalu memaksa beliau mengubah perniagaan menjual haiwan ternakan seperti ikan air tawar, lembu, rusa dan kambing kepada orang ramai.

Katanya, antara haiwan ternakan yang laris dijual ketika sambutan Aidilfitri lalu adalah rusa import, kambing dan lembu.

"Permintaan daging rusa cukup laris dan diminati pelanggan yang sering membuat tempahan secara atas talian sejak awal Ramadan lalu bagi persiapan menyambut Aidilfitri. Kami membela lebih 100 rusa yang ditermak dalam kandang di sini.

"Saya jual dagingnya pada harga RM50 sekilogram kepada mereka yang berminat. Penghantaran juga turut diuruskan terus ke rumah pelanggan," katanya.

Menurutnya, setiap haiwan dipelihara di

kawasan resortnya diberi makanan berkualiti seperti palet khas dan sayuran segar setiap hari.

Katanya, dia terpaksa mencari pendapatan baru bagi menanggung kos gaji pekerja, makanan haiwan ternakan dan sewa utiliti lain yang perlu diuruskan setiap bulan.

"Saya bersyukur kerana masih ada rezeki diberikan Allah SWT walaupun menghadapi ujian wabak penyakit Covid-19 ini.

"Usaha gigih perlu diteruskan demi meneruskan kelangsungan hidup. Permintaan kambing dan lembu tempatan juga makin rancak sejak akhir Ramadan tahun ini.

"Ramai pelanggan tempatan dan dari Kuala Lumpur membeli ternakan kami dari ladang ini," katanya.

Ruslee berkata, minatnya menternak haiwan ternyata memang berbaloi apabila menjadi punca rezeki menarik ketika ini bagi menyara keluarganya.

Katanya, mereka berdoa dan nekad membangunkan industri pelancongan semula apabila Covid-19 berakhir kelak.



RUSLEE menunjukkan ikan yang dipelihara di kawasan resortnya.

Empower farmers to meet demand

A POSITIVE aspect of the Covid-19 pandemic is the reflection in some social media circles on the challenges that the nation is facing. Not just confined to issues directly related to the pandemic, the exchange of ideas and information covers a spectrum of socio-economic and political issues, many of them less explored or regarded as "untouchable" by the English and Malay mainstream media.

One of the nation's most prolific and thoughtful bloggers, Syed Akhbar Ali recently responded to a reader's concern on the subject of local food production and how it has been neglected to the detriment of the national economy and society.

Taking the cue from the reader's appeal to the government and policymakers to focus on food production and to avoid deviations, "Tamatkan penyelewengan", Outsayed the Box's (OTB) article provides some background on how and why our local food (padi, fruits, vegetables) producers and their associated industries have been left behind.

The underdevelopment of our local food industry has been attributed by Syed Akhbar to the nation's earlier political leadership under Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the New Economic Policy.

However he has omitted to mention that this underdevelopment was not due to lack of government funding. In the 10 five-year Malaysia Plans since 1970, agriculture has been allocated a very generous share of the country's budget. During each five-year plan about RM7 billion to RM11 billion was allocated to agriculture bringing the total allocation for agriculture since 1970 to at least RM70 billion.

How much of this has gone to well-

documented and longstanding leakages, malpractices and corruption needs to be asked.

Even a modest 10% of this total means that RM7 billion has disappeared into the pockets of non-farmers. For today, Syed Akhbar has asked why it is necessary to allocate RM800 million of scarce public funds in the current stimulus programme for the growing of short-term cash crops aimed at ensuring food security during this crisis period. The answer to his question is unlikely ever to see the light of day.

Racial factor in local food production

Syed Akhbar's commentary also touches on a myriad of other issues. They include some which lie at the heart of the racial political system which has become the dominant driver of the economy.

To be sure there are issues in agricultural and food production that are not racially skewed or do not have a race-based explanation.

These relate to the technical aspects of production and productivity; the need to invest in infrastructure and R&D; the lower level skills and knowledge of many local producers; an aging farming population; the competition stemming from imported food products and higher paying employment in the non-agricultural sector; and so on.

But does the racial equation and dynamics found in other aspects of life and society also enter into the issue of self-sufficiency and food production?

And if it does, in what way?

This topic is important not simply because it is 50 years now since the New Economic Policy with its Malay dominance emphasis was first introduced.

It is also important because at this time of acute economic crisis when global supply chains have been

disrupted, national and local self-sufficiency concerns have assumed greater importance.

In a recent webinar organised by the Science Media Centre of Malaysia, a panellist Dr Paul Teng of the Institute of Agricultural and Food Security Studies called on Asean countries to rethink their food systems in view of border closures and export bans by some countries on food supplies.

An important point he made was the observation that empowering farmers to produce more also meant empowering the consumer as well as other intermediaries all the way down the supply chain.

Syed Akhbar has made a similar observation. According to him: *Jika kita menambahkan sedikit pelaburan di Cameron Highlands bayangkan peluang pekerjaan baru yang akan seterusnya wujud bagi semua penduduk negara - bukan saja penanam sayur Cina dan India. Kerja logistik, perbankan, membayai eksport impot, perkapalan, penerbangan, packaging dan banyak lagi. Trickle down effect dan spillover effect akan menguntungkan keseluruhan ekonomi negara kita.*

(If we increase investment in Cameron Highlands food production) this will generate new employment which will benefit all - not only Chinese and Indian vegetable growers. Logistics activity, export and import taxes, shipping, air freight, packaging and much more. The trickle down and spillover effect will benefit our entire national economy.)

Food self-sufficiency: How not to buy at the moon

So what's standing in the way of enhanced food production? First, it is important not to establish self-sufficiency as a hard target. Encourage

local production as much as possible through proven market and technology-driven incentives and remove barriers. But recognise that self-sufficiency given the structure of our economy and comparative advantage in other sectors is not a rational or feasible economic goal.

Let the local producers determine whether it is better to put their money on planting Musang King or some other crop and let the market find the balance between local production and imports without the heavy hand of the government intervening to impose controls which will mainly result in higher costs to consumers.

Second, the solution in enhancing production is not to be found by throwing in more money such as the RM800 million extra.

The key constraint that has cropped up repeatedly since the colonial period is the lack of access to land for the Chinese and Indian agricultural community. And when land is available, many farmers are tied to very short leaseholds or temporary occupation licences that provide little security of tenure and deter them from investing in higher level technology and infrastructure.

And this continues for many non-Malay farmers who despite working the land under TOL for several generations still cannot get the change in status of the land despite the change in state government from Barisan Nasional into Pakatan Harapan hands.

Until this land constraint is addressed we will forever be chasing an impossible dream in the quest for enhanced food production.

Lim Teck Ghee's Another Take is aimed at demystifying social orthodoxy. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com



ANOTHER TAKE
BY LIM TECK GHEE

"Until the land constraint is addressed we will forever be chasing an impossible dream in the quest for local food self-sufficiency."