

LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN RABU 6 FEBUARI 2019

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UKKMOA

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
6/2/2019	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

Benih kerang RM500,000 untuk diseludup dirampas



ALOR SETAR – Agensi Kawalan Sempadan Malaysia (Aksem) Kedah menahan dua lelaki dan merampas 100 kilogram benih kerang bernilai RM50,000 yang dipercayai untuk diseludup ke negara jiran, semalam.

Timbalan Komander Risikan dan Operasi Aksem Kedah, Inspektor Anandha Krishnan berkata, rampasan itu dibuat terhadap sebuah kereta jenis Proton Perdana yang dinaiki dua lelaki berumur 30 dan 35 tahun di Kilometer 4.8 Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan (PLUS) arah Thailand di pekan Changlun, Kubang Pasu pada jam 10.10 malam.

"Kita menjalankan pemeriksaan ke atas kereta berkenaan yang berada dalam keadaan mencurigakan sebelum menjumpai beberapa guni berwarna putih disyaki benih kerang di dalam bonet belakang kereta berkenaan dan dipercayai dibawa dari Perak. "Harga benih kerang ini RM500 sekilogram dan sekiranya pemintaan tinggi di negara jiran harga itu boleh meningkat sehingga dua atau tiga kali ganda. Bulan Januari hingga Mac

adalah musim benih kerang ini jadi kita akan tingkat pemantauan dalam tempoh tiga bulan," katanya pada sidang media di sini, hari ini.

Anandha berkata, hasil pemeriksaan lanjut juga mendapati suspek menerima upah RM300 menghantar benih kerang itu dan bergerak kira-kira jam 2 atau 3 pagi bagi mengelakkan benih kerang terkena panas hingga menyebabkan ia mati. "Mereka bergerak pada awal pagi dan apabila pintu sempadan buka, mereka akan terus masuk ke negara jiran. Kita dapati mereka juga menggunakan kereta lebih kecil berbanding kereta besar seperti Naza bagi mengelak daripada dikesan pihak penguatkuasa," katanya.

Beliau berkata nilai rampasan keseluruhan berjumlah RM70,000 termasuk kereta itu dan kes disiasat mengikut Perkara 3(1) Peraturan Perikanan (Pemulihan dan Kultur Kerang 2002) dan kes diserahkan kepada Jabatan Perikanan Kedah untuk tindakan lanjut. - Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
6/2/2019	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

Dua bot nelayan Malaysia ditahan di Selat Malaka



JAKARTA - INDONESIA. - Kementerian Kelautan dan Perikanan menahan bot nelayan asing dipercayai dari Malaysia di perairan Zona Ekonomi Eksklusif Indonesia (ZEEI) di Selat Malaka, Sabtu lalu.

Jenderal Pengawasan Sumber Daya Kelautan dan Perikanan (PSDKP) Nilanto Perbowo, berkata penahanan bot tersebut dilakukan oleh Kapal Pengawas Perikanan Hiu 012 ketika

membuat operasi membanteras kegiatan penangkapan ikan secara haram di Wilayah Pengelolaan Perikanan Indonesia.

"Dua bot ditahan dengan tertera bendera Malaysia. Namun juragan dan awak-awak bot berkenaan adalah warga Thailand.

"Kedua-dua bot tersebut didapati melakukan penangkapan haram di perairan negara ini tanpa permit sah serta menggunakan alat tangkapan yang di larang oleh kerajaan Indonesia," katanya.

Menurutnya bot-bot tersebut ditunda ke Pangkalan Lampulo untuk proses siasatan dan undang-undang oleh Pegawai Negeri Sipil (PPNS) Perikanan. -Tribunnews

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
6/2/2019	THE SUN DAILY	ONLINE	

China's hunger for durian threatens Malaysian forests: Environmentalists

This picture taken on Dec 19, 2018 shows a worker for a non-governmental organisation (NGO) walking in a durian plantation in Raub. — AFP

RAUB: Soaring demand for durians in China is being blamed for a new wave of deforestation in Malaysia with environmentalists warning vast amounts of jungle is being cleared to make way for massive plantations of the spiky, pungent fruit.

Grown across tropical Southeast Asia, the durian is hailed as the "king of fruits" by fans, who liken its creamy texture and intense aroma to blue cheese.

But detractors say durians stink of sewage and stale vomit. The strong smell means many hotels across the region have banned guests from bringing them to rooms, while Singapore does not allow the fruit on its subway system.

Nevertheless, they are a hit in China, and the increase in demand has prompted exporters to vie for a bigger share of the burgeoning market.

Growers in Malaysia are increasingly shifting from small orchards to industrial-scale operations – a trend that environmentalists warn presents a new threat to rainforests already challenged by loggers and palm oil plantations.

"Right now durians are gaining a lot of attention from the Chinese market," said Sophine Tann, from environmental protection group Peka, which has studied land clearances to make way for the fruit.

"This deforestation for planting of durians is in preparation to meet that demand."

In Raub, swathes of rainforest have recently been chopped down to make way for a new plantation, with durian seedlings protected by netting planted across bare hillsides.

The plantation is next to an area of protected forest, which is home to a kaleidescope of animals from monkeys to exotic birds.

A river, now murky and filled with trunks and branches from logging, runs close by.

A sign outside the plantation said it was run by Ample Harvest Produce but company staff refused to comment when contacted about the loss of trees in the area.

Peka said the land's status was changed by the local government to allow logging, but local authorities did not respond to requests for comment.

Love at first bite

In a Beijing mall some 4,000km away, a stall named "Little Fruit Captain" is doing a brisk trade selling Malaysian durians.

Shop manager Wang Tao said his customers "fall in love" with durians from Malaysia due to their particularly sweet taste, often

preferring them to those from rival exporters, such as Thailand.

He imports frozen durians from a facility in Malaysia and sells them in plastic containers or in other forms – a kind of baked dessert, in ice cream or fried up as crisps.

Customers are kept up to date about the shop's stock via the WeChat messaging app.

"I first tried durian as a child and acquired a taste for it," said university student Liu Zelun, who visits the shop once a week for her durian fix.

"Thai durians have a stronger flavour and you tend to get sick of it after a while, but not the ones that I buy from here."

The most popular variety – and one of the most expensive – is Musang King, known for its thick, golden flesh. A single Musang King was on sale at the Beijing stall for 800 yuan (RM489), several times more expensive than in Malaysia.

"Our customers aren't concerned about the prices, they just want the best," said Wang.

Palm oil down, durian up

With the price of key export of the nation, palm oil, used in everyday goods around the world from soap to margarine, in a seemingly inexorable decline, farmers are increasingly turning to durians.

The government has backed the expansion of the industry, hoping to cash in on growing demand from the world's secondbiggest economy. The value of durian shipments from Malaysia to China in the first eight months of 2018 hit RM7.4 million, more than double the value in the same period of 2017, according to the agriculture ministry in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia hopes a deal struck in August to pave the way for the export of whole, frozen durians to China will boost shipments, and are aiming to more than double production to 443,000 tonnes by 2030.

Previously, Malaysian durians could only be shipped to China in pulp and paste form.

Despite the looming production boom, the agriculture ministry insisted plantations will expand slowly and said it was encouraging growers to use existing orchards and revive unproductive trees.

"Deforestation for new areas is not encouraged," Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub told *AFP* in a statement, adding that if trees were logged for plantations, strict environmental rules must be followed.

In Kelantan, tribespeople last year set up blockades to stop a company from logging their ancestral lands to set up a Musang King plantation.

The government has taken up their cause, suing the state government for failing to uphold their land rights.

But environmentalists warn the overall picture is bleak.

Durian cultivation is "driving yet more deforestation and biodiversity loss in Malaysia", said environmental group Rimba, warning it was leading to "destruction of critical habitat for wide-ranging animals such as tigers, elephants, primates, and hornbills." — *AFP*

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
6/2/2019	FREE MALAÝSIA TODAÝ	ONLINE	

Chinese hunger for 'world's smelliest fruit' threatens Malaysian forests



The meat of a durian being removed at an eatery stall specialising in the fruit, in Beijing, Jan 18, 2019. (AFP pic)

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In the jungle-clad district of Raub in central Malaysia, swathes of rainforest have recently been chopped down to make way for a new plantation, with durian seedlings protected by netting planted across bare hillsides.

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Chinese hunger for durians threatens Malaysian forests

A worker for a non-governmental organisation walking in a durian plantation in Raub December 19, 2018. — AFP pix RAUB, Feb 6 — Soaring demand for durians in China is being blamed for a new wave of deforestation in Malaysia with environmentalists warning ...

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Headline	China's hunger for durian threatens Malaysian forests: Environmentalists		
MediaTitle	The Sun Daily (www.thesundaily.my)		
Date	06 Feb 2019	Color	Full Color
Section	NEWS	Circulation	5
Order Rank	5	Readership	6
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