



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SELASA 4 FEBRUARI 2020**

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UKKMOA

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

Nelayan asing dicekup, udang geragau dirampas



PPM Pelabuhan Klang menaham tiga warga Indonesia yang sedang mencari hasil laut di perairan Laut Sungai Besar, Selangor kelmarin.

SUNGAI BESAR - Kegiatan nelayan warga asing yang sedang mencari hasil laut pada kedudukan jarak 2.2 batu nautika dari Sungai Besar di sini dipatahkan Pasukan Polis Marin (PPM) dalam Op Gelora pada Sabtu lalu.

Pegawai Pemerintah Markas Operasi PPM Pelabuhan Klang, Deputy Superintendent Hazri Zakaria berkata, tiga warga Indonesia berusia lingkungan 40-an telah ditahan dalam operasi kira-kira jam 1.45 petang itu.

“Siasatan mendapati seorang daripada mereka adalah tekong dan dua lagi awak-awak.

“Pemeriksaan lanjut menemui kira-kira 30 kilo-

gram udang geragau yang dianggarkan bernilai RM500 hasil daripada kegiatan warga asing terbabit. Hasil laut itu telah dirampas untuk siasatan lanjut,” katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* semalam.

Beliau berkata, pemeriksaan awal mendapati bot pukat tunda kelas B yang digunakan warga asing terbabit adalah milik warga tempatan.

Katanya, dipercayai warga asing itu telah aktif sejak enam bulan lalu dan diupah pemilik bot terbabit untuk mencari hasil laut.

“Kes telah diserahkan kepada Pegawai Penyiasat Jabatan Perikanan Kuala Selangor untuk tindakan selanjutnya,” katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
4/2/2020	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	4



ANAK benih kelapa dari Vietnam dirampas di Pelabuhan Klang Barat, Selangor.

Maqis rampas kubis, benih kelapa

Pelabuhan Klang: Sebanyak 20,000 kilogram kobis dan 9,000 kilogram benih kelapa dirampas

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Maqis) Selangor di sini, bulan lalu.

Pengarah Maqis Selangor, Dr Tarmisal Alimin berkata, kubis yang dibawa masuk dari China bernilai RM29,777.59 itu dirampas pada 23 Januari lalu.

“Dagangan itu dirampas selepas dipercayai mempunyai serangga perosak dikenali sebagai Plutella.

“Manakala benih kelapa dari Vietnam dianggarkan bernilai RM42,501.45 yang sebahagian daripadanya mempunyai perosak (kulat),” katanya dalam kenyataan di sini, semalam.

Dr Tarmisal berkata, benih kelapa itu dibawa masuk melalui Pelabuhan Klang Barat pada 10 Januari lalu.

Menurutnya, kes disiasat mengikut Seksyen 14 dan Seksyen 14 9 (b) Akta Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia 2011 [Akta 728].

20,000 kilogram kubis China ada serangga perosak dirampas



Anggota Magis membuat pemeriksaan ke atas kontena terbahit di Pelabuhan Klang baru-baru ini.

PELABUHAN KLANG - Sebanyak 20,000 kilogram (kg) kubis yang dikesan mempunyai serangga perosak berjaya dirampas Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Magis) Selangor dalam satu operasi yang dijalankan pada 23 Januari lalu.

Pengarah Magis Selangor, Dr Tarmisal Alimun berkata, dalam operasi jam 11 pagi itu, pihaknya memeriksa sebuah kontena yang membawa dagangan kubis dari China yang dianggarkan bernilai RM29,277.59.

"Pemeriksaan kemudiannya mendapati kubis berkenaan dipertawai mempunyai serangga perosak yang dikenali sebagai ulat Plutella.

"Kesemua kubis itu dirampas untuk tindakan lanjut kerana jika dibiarkan masuk ke pasaran negara boleh menjejaskan industri tanaman," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Menurutnya, rampasan tersebut merupakan tangkapan pertama bagi tahun ini membabitkan Plutella.

"Kes ini kita siasat di bawah

Sekyen 14, Akta Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia 2011 [Akta 728] yang jika sabit kesalahan boleh didenda tidak melebihi RM100,000 atau penjara tidak melebihi enam tahun atau kedua-duanya sekali.

"Magis sentiasa teliti dan cekap dalam menjalankan pemeriksaan bagi keluaran pertanian yang diimport ke negara kita supaya setiap keluaran pertanian tersebut tiada perosak dan penyakit, bahan cemar dan mematuhi syarat dan peraturan yang telah ditetapkan," katanya.

KADA rancang hasilkan kacang mangga telur dengan harumanis

KOTA BHARU - Pauh ringan atau mangga telur yang banyak terdapat di Kelantan bakal dikenali sebagai pauh manis leting hasil kacukan dengan barumanis oleh Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Kemubu (KADA).

Pengerusinya, Datuk Husam Musa berkata, evolusi baharu menerusi proses cantuan beberapa kaedah termasuk batang itu akan dijalankan pihaknya bulan ini.

"Jenis mangga yang banyak dan dikenali sebagai pauh ringan dalam kalangan rakyat di Kelantan mempunyai harga yang begitu rendah di pasaran.

"Proses mengevolusi mangga ini

dengan cara pencantuman bersama mangga-mangga berkualiti tinggi mampu menghasilkan mangga yang lebih enak dan setaraf," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang akhbar selepas Majlis Menandatangani Perjanjian Persefahaman (MOU) antara KADA dan Badan Halal Korea (KHA) di Ibu Pejabat KADA Lundang di sini semalam.

Hadir sama, Pengerusi KHA, Mustafa Jin.

Husam berkata, pada peringkat pertama pihaknya kini sedang mengenalpasti pokok-pokok mangga telur milik penduduk kampung di kawasan jajahan KADA dan akan

melaksanakan percubaan secara percuma atas persetujuan pemiliknya.

"Kawasan percubaan diutamakan di lokasi tumpuan ramai seperti di tepi jalan dan kedai makan agar hasilnya nanti dapat dilaksanakan orang ramai dan sekiranya berjaya evolusi ini akan dilaksanakan secara besar-besaran.

"Proses percubaan ini juga mendapat kerjasama dengan Persatuan Harumanis Kedah dan memakan masa selama lapan bulan sebelum dapat melihat hasil buahnya yang kemudian akan diberi nama manggis leting," katanya.



Husam (dua dari kiri) dan Mustafa (dua dari kanan) menyumbangkan MOU yang ditandatangani kedua-dua pihak di Kota Bharu semalam.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
4/2/2020	BERITA HARIAN	ONLINE	

KADA bakal perkenal kaedah titisan basah sawah



KOTA BHARU: Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Kemubu (KADA) akan memperkenalkan kaedah baru menggunakan 'Micro Drips Padi Irrigation' bagi menjaga kelembapan tanah sawah.

Pengerusi KADA, Datuk Husam Musa, berkata melalui kaedah baru itu, padi tidak memerlukan air yang banyak sehingga membanjiri petak sawah dan kaedah itu sama seperti yang diamalkan dalam tanaman hidroponik.

"Menurut Universiti Pertanian Hydrabad, India, penjimatan air berlaku sebanyak 50 peratus, pengurangan belanja baja dan racun berkurangan dan hasil meningkat 100 peratus.

"Jadi kita mungkin akan membuat percubaan di mana-mana sawah untuk kegunaan pada masa akan datang bagi menghadapi fenomena pemanasan global," katanya.

Sehubungan itu, Husam berkata, pihaknya sudah menghantar surat kepada sebuah universiti di India yang sebelum ini pernah membuat kajian 'Micro Drips Padi Irrigation' iaitu menggunakan saluran paip secara titisan untuk penanaman padi.

Mengenai kemarau, Husam berkata, masa kritikal dijangka antara Mac hingga April, iaitu semasa padi matang kerana mengikut ramalan cuaca, hujan tidak akan turun sehingga akhir Mei yang turut dikaitkan dengan pemanasan global.

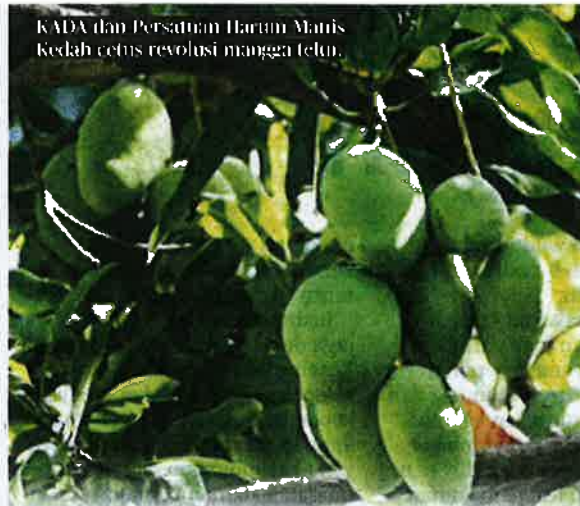
Pada 2018, seramai 2,999 pesawah yang rugi disebabkan kawasan sawah kering kontang akibat kemarau.

Bagaimanapun, KADA menjangkakan kerosakan tanaman akibat kemarau tahun ini lebih ringan berikutan petani sudah mula mengikut nasihat pegawai pertanian untuk mengawalkan jadual tanam.

"KADA mengenal pasti antara faktor yang menyumbang kepada padi rosak ialah petani menanam tidak mengikut jadual ditetapkan seperti berlaku kelewatan pada masa hujan dah hampir habis, padi baru disemai.

"Jadi sekarang kita awalkan dan insya-Allah dalam tempoh empat musim akan datang kita akan cuba mengikut jadual alam semula jadi, iaitu pada musim air banyak, padi sudah disemai.

"Sebenarnya, padi ini bukanlah tanaman yang memerlukan limpahan air. Padi sebenarnya tanaman boleh tahan, boleh hidup tanpa air dan boleh hidup di dalam air. Jadi, air yang diperlukan tidaklah sebanyak air macam sekarang," katanya. — BERNAMA



KADA dan Persatuan Harum Manis
Kedah cetus revolusi mangga telur.

Kada perkenal Pauh Manis Leting

Kota Bharu: Mangga telur atau dikenali sebagai 'pauh ringan' di Kelantan bakal mengalami revolusi selepas 'dikahwinkan' dengan baka harum manis sebelum dinamakan 'Pauh Manis Leting'.

Proses cantuman itu akan dilakukan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Kemubu (Kada) dalam masa terdekat.

Pengerusi Kada, Senator Datuk Husam Musa berkata, inisiatif itu dipilih berikutan pokok mangga telur banyak di negeri itu serta harganya agak rendah di pasaran.

"Kaedah cantuman bersama mangga yang berkualiti tinggi dipilih bagi memanfaatkan lagi pengeluarannya. Cantuman antara pauh ringan milik penduduk kampung dengan harum manis akan dijalankan secara percuma dengan kerjasama Persatuan Harum Manis Kedah.

"Cantuman dibuat boleh mengeluarkan hasil dalam tempoh lapan bulan dan kita jangkakan menjelang 2021, buah pauh manis leting akan terhasil," katanya ketika sidang media di pejabat Kada, di sini, semalam.

Husam berkata, inisiatif itu akan dimulakan di se-

mua jajahan Kada sebagai percubaan untuk mengenalpasti teknik mana yang sesuai bagi proses cantuman itu.

"Jika teknik cantuman itu berjaya dan mengeluarkan pauh manis leting berkualiti tinggi, permintaan pasti meningkat, sekali gus boleh menjana pendapatan penduduk kampung.

"Pegawai pertanian Kada akan berjumpa dengan orang kampung yang bersetuju supaya tanaman pauh ringan mereka dijalankan teknik cantuman itu sebagai percubaan. Lokasi yang dipilih adalah yang menjadi tumpuan ramai.

"Kaedah cantuman ada beberapa teknik termasuk sama ada di batang (pokok) atau pucuk dan kita akan melihat teknik yang mana berjaya menukarkan klon harum manis ke mangga yang mempunyai isi berwarna oren bagi menghasilkan pauh manis leting," katanya.

Terdahulu beliau menandatangani perjanjian persefahaman (MoU) dengan wakil dari Badan Halal Korea (KHA) yang diketuai pengurusnya, Mustafa Jin bagi menjalankan pelbagai kerjasama dalam bidang agrikultur termasuk pemasaran produk.

FAMA Terengganu sasar jualan RM200j

Yakin mampu capai target jualan berdasarkan strategi diatur bersama usahawan tani terlibat

Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) Terengganu menyoal jualan sebanyak RM200 juta untuk 12 program yang dilaksanakan pada tahun ini.

Pengarahnya, Fauzi Mohamed berkata, pihaknya yakin dapat mencapai sasaran itu berdasarkan strategi dan perancangan yang telah diatur bersama usahawan tani terlibat.

"Daripada RM200 juta itu, kita sasar jualan sebanyak RM90 juta daripada jualan di pasar tani, RM80 juta jualan outlet runcit usahawan tani, RM6 juta daripada jualan di My Farm Outlet dan bakinya daripada jualan seperti di karnival My Best Buy dan lain-lain program," katanya kepada Bernama di Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu semalam.

Program lain anjuran FAMA ialah seperti Jualan Terus Dari Ladang (JTDL), Karavan Tani, Motosikal Tiga Roda (M3R), Agropreneur Muda, Khidmat



Sasaran merupakan unjuran hasil jualan melibatkan 12 program dianjurkan sepanjang 2020.

Urusiaga Segar dan Kompleks Pemasaran Kekal.

Dalam pada itu, Fauzi berkata, FAMA Terengganu akan menganjurkan jualan istimewa My Best Buy pada 7 dan 8 Februari ini di Bandar Baru Kerteh di Kemaman sempena penganjuran Petronas Le Tour De Langkawi 2020.

Katanya, program menawarkan pelbagai produk hasil tani dengan harga yang lebih murah antara lima hingga 20 peratus berbanding harga pasaran.

"Kita jangka seramai 10,000 pengunjung akan hadir ke program selama dua hari itu dan pelbagai aktiviti menarik dise-

diakan kepada mereka termasuk pertandingan gubahan sayur dan buah.

"Paling menarik ialah jualan istimewa *Happy Hour* Produk Agromas dengan harga yang murah, khusus untuk pengunjung pada program jualan itu," katanya.

Beliau berkata, antara produk hasil tani yang akan dijual pada program berkenaan ialah melon manis Terengganu, nanas MD2, madu kelulut, 'Coconut Shake Kemburr', pati bali dan pati durian belanda, nasi serai daging, ayam masak Palembang, keropok lekong dan ketupat palas pelbagai inti. - Bernama

Malaysia tak pernah import haiwan dari lokasi wabak H5N1

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia tidak pernah mengimport haiwan hidup dan produk daripadanya yang di wilayah Huanan, China, kawasan dikesan terdedah kepada wabak selsema burung H5N1.

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Veterinar, Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam, berkata Malaysia mengimport keratan ayam daripada loji pemprosesan ayam yang berada 1.313 kilometer daripada kawasan kejadian iaitu di Liaocheng, Shangdong.

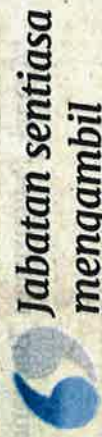
"Pihak berkuasa China telah mengambil tindakan untuk mengawal penyakit H5N1 yang ter-

jadi. Malaysia tidak mengimport haiwan hidup dan produk daripada kawasan ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Beliau berkata, jabatan sentiasa memantau keadaan dan berhubung dengan OIE (Pertubuhan Kesihatan Haiwan Sedunia) untuk mengetahui status kedua-dua kan sebenar dari semasa ke semasa.

"Jabatan sentiasa mengambil sampel keratan ayam yang dibawa masuk untuk diuji bagi penyakit H5N1 dan setakat ini tiada sampel yang positif.

"Langkah berjaga-jaga akan ditingkatkan dan sampel akan di-



Jabatan sentiasa mengambil sampel keratan ayam yang dibawa masuk untuk diuji bagi penyakit H5N1 dan setakat ini tiada sampel yang positif.

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam,
Ketua Pengarah
Perkhidmatan Veterinar



ambil daripada setiap penghantaran untuk diuji," katanya.

Kementerian Pertanian dan Hal Ehwal Luar Bandar China melaporkan penemuan kes selsema burung di sebuah ladang di bandar Shaoyang, dalam wilayah Huanan.

Kejadian itu berlaku di sebuah ladang yang mempunyai 7,850

ekor ayam, dengan 4,500 ayam mati akibat penyakit terbabit.

Susulan kes itu, pihak berkuasa memusnahkan 17,828 ayam bagi mengelakkan kuman daripada terus merebak.

H5N1 adalah virus influenza yang mudah berjangkit dengan sesetengah jenis H5N1 boleh merebak kepada manusia.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
4/2/2020	SINAR HARIAN	NASIONAL	10

Tiada haiwan hidup, produk diimport dari Shaoyang, China

PUTRAJAYA - Malaysia tidak mengimport haiwan hidup dan produk dari Shaoyang, China sebaliknya mengimport keratan ayam daripada loji pemprosesan di Liaocheng, Shangdong iaitu kira-kira 1,313 kilometer dari lokasi penularan wabak selesema burung H5N1.

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Veterinar, Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan Nizam berkata, China telah mengambil tindakan untuk mengawal penyakit H5N1.

Menurutnya, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar akan sentiasa memantau keadaan dan berhubung dengan World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) untuk mengetahui status kedudukan sebenar dari masa ke masa.

“Jabatan sentiasa mengambil sampel keratan ayam yang dibawa masuk untuk diuji bagi penyakit H5N1.

“Setakat ini tiada sampel yang positif. Langkah berjaga-jaga akan ditingkatkan dan sampel akan diambil daripada setiap konsainan untuk diuji,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Kelmarin, media melaporkan pemerintah China mendedahkan berlaku penularan wabak selesema burung H5N1 di sebuah ladang ternakan di bandar Shaoyang di wilayah selatan Hunan.

Kira-kira 4,500 daripada 7,859 ayam yang ditenak di ladang itu dilaporkan mati akibat jangkitan virus tersebut.

Tidak import dari wilayah terjejas wabak H5N1

Putrajaya: Malaysia tidak mengimport haiwan hidup dan produk dari kawasan Shaoyang di wilayah Huanan, China yang dilaporkan berlakunya wabak selsema burung H5N1.

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Veterinar Datuk Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hassan berkata, Malaysia mengimport keratan ayam dari loji pemprosesan ayam di Liao-

cheng, Shangdong terletak 1,313 kilometer (km) dari tempat kejadian.

Berdasarkan laporan media, China melaporkan penularan H5N1 di sebuah ladang ternakan di bandar Shaoyang,

dengan 4,500 daripada 7,859 ayam ditenak di la-

dilaporkan mazi akibat jangkitan virus itu.

Menurut Quaza Nizamuddin, pihak berkuasa China sudah mengambil tindakan mengawal pe-

nyakit itu susulan laporan kes H5N1 itu. Jaba-

tan Perkhidmatan Veterinar juga sentiasa mengambil sampel keratan ayam yang dibawa masuk untuk diuji bagi penyakit H5N1, katanya semalam.

"Setakat ini tiada sampel yang positif," katanya.

Langkah berjaga-jaga juga akan ditingkatkan dan sampel akan diambil daripada setiap kosaimen untuk diuji, katanya.



DR Quaza



TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
4/2/2020	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	11



SARUNG tangan yang dibawa sebagai sumbangan kepada kerajaan China.

PESAWAT Air Asia AK8264 berlepas daripada klia2 ke Wuhan, China untuk membawa pulang 141 rakyat Malaysia.

Pengarah Kesihatan (Perubatan) Datuk Dr Rohaizat Yon, Pengarah Kawalan Penyakit KKM Dr Norhayati Rusli.

Dzulkefly berkata, saringan masuk dan dekontaminasi untuk semua itu akan dibantu Pasukan Khas Bahan Kimia Berbahaya (Hazmat) Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia bersama KKM.

“Mereka yang tidak bergejala akan dibawa ke pusat pemantauan yang

terletak tidak jauh daripada KLIA.

“Manakala mereka yang menunjukkan gejala akan terus dibawa ke hospital rujukan sama ada di Hospital Sungai Buloh atau Hospital Kuala Lumpur,” katanya.

Namun beliau enggan mendedahkan lokasi pusat pemantauan untuk kuarantin itu di bawah tanggungjawab Agensi Pengurusan Bencana (Nadma).

H5N1 BIRD FLU

'NO IMPORTS FROM SHAOYANG'

Veterinary D-G: Malaysia does not import live animals, products from Chinese county

PUTRAJAYA

MALAYSIA does not import live animals and products from the Shaoyang county in Hunan province, China, where an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu has been reported, said Department of Veterinarian Services director-general Datuk Dr Quaza Niza-

muddin Hassan.

He added that Malaysia imported chicken cuttings from a chicken processing plant in Liaocheng, Shangdong, located 1,313km from the outbreak area.

Quaza said the Veterinary Services Department regularly sampled imported chicken cuttings for testing for H5N1.

"So far, no sample has tested positive," he added.

Quaza said precautionary measures would be stepped up and samples would be taken from every consignment for testing.

He added that the department would monitor the situation and contact the World Animal Health Organisation to find out about the current status from

time to time.

According to media reports, China has reported an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu at a livestock farm in Shaoyang, where 4,500 of the 7,859 chickens had died from the virus.

Quaza said the Chinese authorities had since taken measures to contain the disease following the H5N1 outbreak. **Bernama**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Pakistan PM's working visit to boost bilateral ties

KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's two-day working visit to Malaysia, which began yesterday, is set to enhance and solidify long-standing relations between the two nations.

Imran's second visit here since his ascension to the prime minister's post in August 2018 brings a high-level delegation from Islamabad, including Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Defence Production Minister Zubalda Jalal.

Imran arrived here last night. The former cricket star is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya today.

Imran is also scheduled to give a talk at the Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) on regional peace and security.

The two leaders share great camaraderie as they have similar views in many areas, such as on combating corruption and issues concerning the Muslim ummah like Islamophobia, Palestine and plight of the Rohingya people.

Their meeting is expected to touch on matters of mutual interest and a follow-up on Dr Mahathir's official visit to Islamabad in March last year where both leaders had agreed to elevate Malaysia-Pakistan relations to a strategic partnership that will mark a new level of bilateral cooperation in the trade of palm oil, agricultural products, retail, halal products, automotive parts, energy, science and technology, and telecommunication investment. **Bernama**



A pump boat believed to be used in fish bombings near Putau Gaya off Kota Kinabalu seized by marine police. PIC COURTESY OF SABAH MARINE POLICE

POVERTY

Most fish bombings are done by children, says Sabah minister

KOTA KINABALU: Most fish bombings in Sabah are committed by children, said state Agriculture and Food Industry Minister Datuk Junz Wong.

"Ever since the (fish bombing) incident in Semporna (which killed three scuba divers) last year, a committee chaired by the ministry had studied similar cases in depth.

"We found that most fish bombing cases are committed by children.

"Therefore, bolstering enforcement will be an issue. How to (do you) arrest kids?" he said after the presentation of a certificate by

the Malaysia Book of Records to Bayu Aquaculture Sdn Bhd, here.

He was commenting on the Friday incident which took place at the protected Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, believed to have been carried out by two men who fled the scene after noticing a group of 13 tourists present there.

Wong said he did not discount the possibility of minors manipulated by certain parties to carry out the bombings.

Marine police had previously told the *New Straits Times* that the illegal activity was spurred by the influx of immigrants and ver-

tain parties had exploited them due to their state of poverty.

The fishing community is aware of the adverse effects brought by fish bombings that could, among others, affect their livelihood in the long term.

"You cannot stop people from doing it if they are hungry. There are so many poor people in Sabah to the extent that their daily meals are just *basting* (fish) and rice.

"I believe that they are living in poverty. (Only) If they can fill their tummy and earn income, will they start thinking about it (stopping fish bombing)," said Wong. **Bernama**

	SUBUH	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR	MAGHRIB	ISIYAK
Melaka	6:14	7:25	1:27	4:48	7:27	8:39
Penang	6:17	7:34	1:35	4:56	7:31	8:43
K. Lumpur	6:19	7:27	1:30	4:51	7:28	8:40
Johor Bahru	6:07	7:18	1:21	4:42	7:22	8:33
Kuantan	6:11	7:22	1:24	4:45	7:23	8:35
Ipoh	6:22	7:30	1:33	4:54	7:30	8:41

Apec secretariat takes precautions for meetings

PUTRAJAYA: Stringent measures have been put in place to manage risks from the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) 2020's 1st Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1) and Related Meetings, which kicked off here yesterday.

The Apec 2020 National Secretariat said it was working with the Health Ministry and other authorities to ensure the safety of delegates and all parties involved in the series of meetings.

The secretariat said the safety and precautionary measures undertaken included providing liquid sanitisers at various locations at meeting venues and accommodations throughout SOM1 and Related Meetings, providing disposable surgical face masks for

all delegates and working members of Apec 2020, providing non-contact thermometers to check body temperatures at all information counters and ensuring all delegates fill up the self-declaration form on arrival at the airports.

The secretariat said the authorities would also have in place medical centres at meeting venues; 24-hour on-call medical officers from the ministry for any medical needs; mobile clinics at side-event venues; as well as isolation rooms at meeting venues.

Other measures taken for the safety, health and wellbeing of delegates includes the placement of thermal body scanners upon arrival at KLIA and klia2.

Advocate health measures through video presentation would also be undertaken before every meeting as well as providing daily updates of the coronavirus status in Malaysia by the ministry to the Apec 2020 Secretariat, which would be communicated to delegates.

The secretariat said it would accommodate meeting through remote participation by Apec 2020 delegates unable to attend SOM1 in Malaysia.

The first SOM1 and related meetings started yesterday with 102 meetings, workshops, activities and field trips that will be organised by various ministries and agencies and will last until Feb 22.

The secretariat said more than

1,700 delegates from 21 economies had registered for the meetings.

Discussions in the meetings would be centred on setting the work plan for their respective committees and working groups, in progressing the shared prosperity agenda aligned with the Apec 2020 theme, it said.

"Officials and private sectors will be deliberating on issues that include business mobility, food security, sustainable development, Customs procedure, standards setting, health and intellectual property rights."

Malaysia has chosen "Optimising Human Potential towards a Future of Shared Prosperity" as the theme for Apec 2020.

'Scavenger fish' being cultured and bred for a bigger market

By STEPHANIE LEE
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KOTA KINABALU: What used to be regarded by some as scavenger fish is now being cultured and bred for a bigger market.

The streaked spinefoot rabbitfish is now being bred for the first time in a Malaysian hatchery.

Bayu Aquaculture Sdn Bhd, the company behind the effort, was recognised in the *Malaysia Book of Records* yesterday.

Sabah Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Dätuk Junz Wong said no hatchery in the country had ever done this before.

He said the accomplishment could draw more tourists to Sabah for its diverse seafood.

He said the rabbitfish was not popular among domestic visitors, especially those from the peninsula, and some called it the "trash-eating fish".

"But now, we see that with proper culture, we not only managed to produce fish fry in our own hatchery, but also changed the perception and showed that the rabbitfish could be a delicious meal," Wong said.

Apart from the rabbitfish, Bayu Aquaculture also saw the successful growth of the Echo grouper, which is a crossbreed between hybrid grouper and giant grouper.

The Echo grouper is also a new species of fish that was listed in the *Malaysia Book of Records* in May 2019.

Wong said these new species could become part of Sabah branding, just like the highly valued Empurau fish in Sarawak.

"In Sarawak they have the Empurau (a type of fruit-eating fish found specifically in an area in Sarawak) and maybe for Sabah we can brand our own fish with this new grouper species or rabbitfish," he said.

He said this proved that Sabah was able to produce high-quality food which is sustainable.

Wong said for now, the streaked spinefoot rabbitfish and Echo grouper were sold at the Alu-Alu Restaurant in Kolombong.

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

RETHINK APPROACH TO LIVESTOCK FARMING

IT would be convenient if the 2019-nCoV coronavirus outbreak could be blamed solely on Wuhan's wildlife markets. However, scientists are struggling to pinpoint the original host of the virus and how it infected people.

This leaves us with two issues to be addressed:

WILDLIFE needs to be protected and measures must be taken by all countries to end wildlife trade, ban the exploitation and killing of wildlife and halt the destruction of wildlife habitats, whether or not the killing of any particular species has an adverse impact on human health and safety; and

TO protect human health, we need to protect animal health and welfare. We need to examine how intensive animal agriculture and low animal welfare standards have resulted in threats to human health, safety and wellbeing.

History shows that not only does eating farmed meat not inoculate humans against diseases, intensive animal agriculture is also a major driver of zoonosis and disease outbreaks, referring to infectious diseases caused by bacteria, viruses and parasites that spread between animals (usually vertebrates) and humans.

If Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Ebola, West Nile, Nipah, avian influenza and 2019-nCoV viruses were merely transmitted to those who directly handle and consume wildlife, they would not have had the pan-

demetic effects that they did. But wildlife diseases can and do afflict domestic animals, and cross species to humans. Farm animals frequently become intermediate or amplifier hosts for pathogens.

Researchers, including those from the Centre for Global Health Science and Security of Georgetown University, Washington DC, estimate that 70 per cent of zoonotic diseases come from wildlife, and then make the leap from wildlife to humans.

Deforestation and human encroachment into previously forested areas for agriculture and wild birds. The crowded and unhealthy conditions in factory farms then expedite the spread of viruses such as avian influenza, and bacterial pathogens, such as E. coli, Campylobacter and salmonella.

The Japanese Encephalitis virus was transmitted by the Culex mosquito (which feeds on wild birds and mammals) to farmed pigs, which became carriers for the virus and then amplified these infections in humans.

The Nipah virus became an outbreak because virus-infected fruit bats transmitted their virus to the farmed pigs via the consumption of fruit contaminated with bat saliva or urine.

In the case of the Nipah virus

outbreak in Malaysia, there was no evidence of direct transmission from bats to humans, and almost all the human cases had direct contact with the infected pigs. Clearly abstinence from hunting, poaching and wildlife products would have made no difference at all in the case of the Nipah virus.

Intensive animal farming is usually characterised by high animal population density and low genetic diversity, both of which are factors that promote increased pathogen transmission and adaptation. Farmed poultry live in conditions that suppress their immunity and make them more susceptible to infections.

Avian influenza virus is reported to be "subclinical or of low pathogenicity in wild birds", yet become highly pathogenic when transmitted to domestic poultry. A 2010 study published in *Veterinary Record* reported that a large-scale United Kingdom survey found that battery-cage poultry farms are six times more likely than cage-free farms to be infected with the strain of salmonella, most commonly associated with food poisoning.

The risk of zoonotic diseases must be managed through improvement in farm animal welfare standards, disease management and control measures. These include mitigating measures such as using slower-growing animal breeds, creating diets and management conditions that



To safeguard our health, we need to protect animal health and welfare.

minimise stress to animals, increasing surveillance and vaccination to monitor and minimise the spread of disease or limiting live animal transportation time.

Other efforts include investing more in research and knowledge transfer to improve farm animal health and welfare standards, reducing non-therapeutic antibiotic use to reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance and encouraging consumers to eat less, or no meat products, or by replacing conventional meat products with higher welfare animal products such as grass-fed beef or free-range or certified humanely raised poultry.

On a personal level, we can reduce and mitigate the risk of zoonotic diseases and infections by choosing a plant-based diet and limiting our exposure to wildlife. At an institutional level, those with the political and eco-

nomic leverage must reduce and mitigate the said risk by disallowing deforestation and expansion of agricultural activities into forested areas.

There should also be tightening of biosecurity controls in farms and places that process or handle animal products, improving animal health and welfare standards, replacing factory farming systems with more humane and sustainable systems, setting restrictions and guidelines on the transportation of livestock and poultry, and removing barriers and creating incentives for the development, production, and consumption of plant-based foods and lab-grown meat to replace and eventually phase out conventionally produced farmed meat.

WONG EE LYNN

Petaling Jaya, Selangor