



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 10 JULAI 2020**

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UKKMOA

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
10/7/2020	BERNAMA	ONLINE	

Jelapang padi Kota Belud hasilkan 60 peratus padi Sabah - Kiandee



Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee (kanan)

KOTA BELUD, 9 Julai -- Projek jelapang padi di daerah ini menghasilkan kira-kira 60 peratus daripada keseluruhan hasil padi Sabah, justeru masih terlalu awal bagi mana-mana pihak untuk mengatakan projek itu gagal, kata Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee.

Katanya projek itu yang diuruskan oleh Kawasan Pembangunan Pertanian Bersepadu (IADA) Kota Belud masih dalam proses pembangunan dan kini menunjukkan beberapa kejayaan awal termasuk penanaman padi dua kali setahun hasil penambahbaikan sistem pengairan.

"Tentu sekali masih banyak perlu dilakukan. Beberapa tambahan projek baharu sekarang ini sedang diolah oleh kementerian dan akan dimuktamadkan dalam masa terdekat. Kami menjangkakan selepas semua pembangunan dirancang dilaksanakan, kita akan melihat lebih banyak kejayaan besar IADA Kota Belud pada masa akan datang," katanya kepada pemberita di sini hari ini.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas kenyataan Ketua Menteri Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal di Beluran pada 7 Mei lepas yang menyifatkan projek jelapang padi di Kota Belud gagal dan tidak mendatangkan hasil seperti diharapkan meskipun telah menelan belanja hampir RM400 juta.

Mengulas lanjut, Kiandee berkata projek melibatkan kawasan seluas 5,000 hektar yang diusahakan oleh lebih 3,600 pesawah itu telah menelan belanja sebanyak RM159 juta daripada RM350 juta yang diperuntukkan dalam Rancangan Malaysia Ke-11 (RMK11), dan bakinya akan disambung dan diselaraskan dalam RMK12.

Dalam perkembangan berkaitan, Kiandee berkata, Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas) akan membina lima kilang padi di negeri ini sebagai sebahagian daripada obligasi sosial agensi itu yang akan dilaksanakan mulai tahun depan.

Sementara itu, Kiandee turut menyerahkan bantuan berjumlah RM202,603 melalui Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi kepada 185 pesawah yang mengalami kerugian akibat musim kemarau pada Mac lepas dalam satu majlis ringkas diadakan di perkarangan pejabat IADA Kota Belud.

Mengenai pesawah terjejas oleh banjir baru-baru ini, beliau berkata penilaian kerugian masih dijalankan dan dijangka mengambil masa sekurang-kurangnya 45 hari.

-- BERNAMA

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
10/7/2020	UTUSAN BORNEO	ONLINE	

185 pesawah rugi akibat musim kemarau terima bantuan MAFI



SEMAK: Ronald mendapatkan taklimat ringkas berhubung kawasan terjejas di sekitar kawasan Projek Pembangunan Pertanian Bersepadu (IADA) Kota Belud.

KOTA BELUD: Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) menyerahkan bantuan RM202, 663 kepada 185 pesawah yang mengalami kerugian kesan musim kemarau pada Februari dan Mac lepas.

Bantuan itu disampaikan sendiri oleh menterinya, Datuk Seri Ronald Klandee menerusi Majlis Penyerahan Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi (TBTP) Daerah, di sini, semalam.

"Kadar pemberian bantuan kewangan kepada kumpulan pesawah yang terjejas ini diagihkan mengikut penilaian keluasan maksimum tiga hektar setiap seorang," katanya.

Ronald berkata penilaian terbabit berdasarkan dua jenis dan kadar bantuan iaitu Bantuan Kerugian Hasil Padi RM1, 800 melibatkan peringkat tanaman antara 71 hingga 120 hari.

Manakala, pesawah yang mengusahakan peringkat tanaman padi antara tempoh satu hingga 70 hari pula menerima Bantuan Penanaman Semula Hasil Padi sebanyak RM876.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata MAFI turut memberikan perhatian terhadap kejadian banjir kilat di Kota Belud pada 27 Jun lepas akibat hujan yang berterusan sembilan jam.

"Sempena program ini, kita juga menyampaikan bantuan bekalan makanan kepada 200 pesawah yang terjejas dengan banjir kilat terbabit melibatkan peruntukan RM50, 000.

"Saya juga minta MAFI mengenalpasti punca sebenar permasalahan banjir dan semakan semula projek pembangunan kementerian jika turut menjadi punca bencana itu berlaku.

"Selepas punca sebenar diketahui, langkah-langkah mitigasi perlu dilaksanakan untuk mengekang bencana banjir daripada terus berulang pada masa hadapan," katanya.

Menurutnya, bantuan melalui TBTP juga akan diberikan kepada pesawah yang terkesan akibat banjir terbabit namun memerlukan sedikit ruang untuk membuat semakan.

Beliau berkata sekurang-kurangnya tempoh 45 hari diperlukan dari permohonan Jabatan Pertanian Negeri sehingga proses kelulusan jawatankuasa induk peringkat kementerian.

"MAFI akan terus konsisten membela nasib warga tani serta berharap pesawah-pesawah mempunyai semangat baharu untuk terus maju dalam sektor padi dan beras ini," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
10/7/2020	UTUSAN BORNEO	ONLINE	

IADA Kota Belud bukan projek gagal



PELAN: Ronald menyaksikan penyerahan pelan IADA Kota Belud daripada Pengarah IADA Kota Belud Salmah Labulla kepada Pegawai Daerah Kota Belud Diyanah Abdullah.

KOTA BELUD: Kawasan Pembangunan Pertanian Bersepadu (IADA) Kota Belud terbukti berjaya meningkatkan produktiviti pengeluaran hasil padi di negeri ini semenjak diwujudkan dan masih terlalu awal untuk mengatakannya sebagai projek yang gagal.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan Datuk Seri Ronald Kiandee berkata semenjak dilancarkan lima tahun lepas, IADA Kota Belud berhasil merekodkan tuaian hasil padi dua kali setahun berbanding setahun sekali.

"IADA sudah mencatatkan sedikit kejayaan walaupun tidak merangkumi keseluruhan kawasan yang ada disebabkan kekangan infrastruktur,"

katanya, pada sidang medianya di sini.

Ronald berkata setakat ini seramai 3600 pesawah dikenalpasti di Kota Belud dan ada beberapa kawasan yang belum mendapat sistem pengairan juga berminat dengan IADA kerana melihat potensi penanaman padi.

Menurutnya, IADA dalam proses awal pembangunan dengan peruntukan lebih RM350 juta pada Rancangan Malaysia Ke-11 (RMK-11) dan setakat ini RM159 juta sudah digunakan, manakala baki RM203 juta pula akan diselaraskan ke dalam RMK-12.

"Kita jangkakan Kota Belud akan terus menjadi jelapang padi yang penting dengan 60 peratus hasil pengeluaran di Sabah dihasilkan dari daerah ini sekalipun wujud kekangan kemudahan infrastuktur," katanya.

Beliau berkata Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) akan terus memberikan tumpuan penting kepada pembangunan produktiviti dan infrastruktur di Kota Belud sebagai jelapang padi yang utama.

Mengulas lanjut, beliau berkata Kota Belud terletak di lembah yang dikelilingi Kundasang dan setiap kali hujan lebat di tanah tinggi terbabit akan menyebabkan limpahan air hujan mengalir ke kawasan rendah daerah ini.

"Jadi kita memerlukan sistem perparitan dan pengairan yang berkesan termasuk pendalaman sungai yang harus ditangani bersama untuk melihat kejayaan lebih besar IADA pada masa hadapan," katanya.

Pada masa sama, beliau berkata IADA bukan sahaja mengurus bekalan air (di kawasan sawah padi) tetapi turut menguruskan air berlebihan (banjir) di daerah ini sekaligus menuntut langkah lebih berkesan dijalankan.

Menyentuh hal berkaitan, beliau berkata Padiberas Nasional Berhad (BERNAS) berhasrat untuk mendirikan lima lagi kilang padi di negeri ini yang dijangka akan dilaksanakan pada tahun hadapan.

Untuk rekod, laporan Penyiasatan Pengeluaran Padi Kebangsaan (CSS) mendedahkan pada musim lalu IADA Kota Belud mencatatkan pengeluaran hasil padi 25, 900 metrik tan.

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION ACT

Harumanis Perlis trademark protects growers

HARUMANIS, the well known fruit from Perlis, is the talk of the town again, with the discussion centred on the name "Harumanis Perlis". This concerns a branch of intellectual property law called Geographical Indication, which is governed by the Geographical Indication Act 2000.

Section 2 of the act defines this terminology as an indication that identifies a product as originating in a specific territory, where a given quality and reputation of the product is primarily attributable to its geographical origin. The product's reputation and premium quality are influenced by soil and climate characteristics, as well as the human factor.

In Malaysia, the well-known (and registered) geographical indications include Sarawak Pepper, Songket Terengganu, Kek Lapis Sarawak, Halia Bentong and Harumanis Perlis. Concerning Harumanis Perlis, the Malaysian Intellectual Property Office (MyIPO) had certified it as a protected geographical indication in 2011 and also acknowledged Jabatan

Pertanian Negeri Perlis (JPNP) as the registered proprietor of the same. By virtue of Section 21 of the act, local growers and producers shall have the right to use the said geographical indication in the course of trade and business.

However, it should be emphasised that this law does not prevent other parties from growing such mangoes in places other than Perlis. But in such a situation, those parties are not allowed to market the products under the tradename "Harumanis Perlis" as such privilege is given only to the growers and producers carrying out the activity in the geographical area specified in the Register.

Just as stated, the geographical indication "Harumanis Perlis" indicates that such mangoes are actually and harvested in Perlis with specific standard and guidelines issued by the authority.

Therefore, it will be confusing if those parties are allowed to use the name. On that basis, the law prohibits the use of "Harumanis Perlis" for

mangoes grown outside the gazetted territory.

From a broader perspective, the law on geographical indication indirectly helps local growers and producers to create employment opportunities and generate additional sources of income.

Most importantly, the law aims at protecting the public from being deceived by those who try to free-ride the reputation associated with well-known products.

In the case of trademark, for instance, there are goods sold under the name "Adibas" (instead of Adidas). The same observation and reasoning are applied in the protection of Harumanis Perlis as a certified geographical indication. That is to acknowledge the reputation of the product and protect the interests of the local growers, as well as the consumers.

MUHAMAD HELMI

MUHAMAD KHAIR

Law lecturer, UiTM,
Negri Sembilan



The law disallows use of 'Harumanis Perlis' for mangoes grown outside the gazetted areas. FILE PIC

Sabun pati serai wangi

Usahawan wanita manfaat inovasi R&D Mardi Kuala Linggi



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Alor Gajah

Seorang usahawan pembuatan sabun berasaskan serai wangi membuktikan pati dihasilkan melalui penyelidikan dan pembangunan (R&D) Institut Penyelidikan dan Kemajuan Pertanian Malaysia (Mardi) Kuala Linggi di sini, berkualiti tinggi dan mampu berkongsi pasaran tempatan.

Meskipun tidak mampu mendominasi pasaran sepenuhnya, sabun herba serai wangi yang dihasilkan Norasmah Abdul Ghani, 57,



NORASMAH memanfaatkan pati serai wangi dimejukkan melalui R&D Mardi Kuala Linggi untuk menghasilkan sabun serai wangi.

mampu mendapat permintaan yang baik terutama dalam kalangan pengguna Islam.

Sejak lapan tahun lalu, usahawan itu memanfaatkan penghasilan pati berasaskan herba yang dihasilkan melalui R&D Mardi dengan menyertai skim inkubator diasaskan agensi ber-

kenaan kerana yakin Mardi mampu menghasilkan produk berkualiti tinggi.

"Dari semasa ke semasa saya mengikuti kursus dianjurkan Mardi untuk menalami kaedah pembuatan sabun herba yang amat jarang diceburi usahawan Bumiputera.

"Alhamdulillah, pati serai

wangi yang dihasilkan Mardi di berjaya saya manfaatkan untuk menghasilkan sabun yang bukan setakat mampu membersihkan badan daripada kotoran dan daki, malah merawat kulit bagi memeliharanya daripada mengalami kesan penuaan," katanya ketika ditemui di Mardi berkenaan, semalam.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
10/7/2020	BORNEO TODAY	ONLINE	

SHAFIE SERAH GERAN TANAH 6,425 HEKTAR KEPADA 101 KAMPUNG DI KENINGAU, SOOK



KENINGAU: Penantian selama 40 tahun rakyat Keningau dan Sook untuk memiliki sendiri tanah yang telah diusahakan tertunai hari ini selepas menerima geran individu masing-masing daripada Ketua Menteri, Datuk Seri Mohd. Shafie Apdal.

Mohd. Shafie berkata, tanah berkeluasan 6,425.51 hektar itu yang terdiri daripada 2,300 geran individu diserahkan penduduk di 101 buah kampung yang telah membuat permohonan sejak sekian lama.



"Dalam usaha kita yang kita janjikan kepada rakyat di peringkat negeri Sabah kita mahu serahkan geran-geran tanah dan juga wartakan beberapa perkampungan yang lama tadi saya sempat berpeluang bercerita dengan penerima dia tunggu 40 tahun lebih untuk mendapatkan geran tanah.

"Ini merupakan satu langkah pihak kerajaan untuk membolehkan supaya penduduk kampung yang sekian lama berada di kampung-kampung itu dan mereka tidak mempunyai geran tanah, hari ini Sook kita sudah serahkan, di pantai timur di Sandakan dan hari ini Keningau dan ada tempat-tempat lain lagi yang kita akan beri tanah ini status Anak Negeri yang mempunyai hak," katanya.



Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang akhbar selepas majlis Pemimpin Bersama Rakyat dan Penyerahan Geran Tanah Keningau dan Daerah Kecil Sook di Dewan Masyarakat keningau di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir, Menteri Pembangunan Infrastruktur, Datuk Peter Anthony; Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Junz Wong; Pengarah Jabatan Tanah dan Murut, Bernard Liew serta pemimpin-pemimpin masyarakat Kadazan Dusun dan Murut (KDM) Malaysia.



Semua geran berkenaan terdiri daripada Geran Individu Anak Negeri Hasil Pemansuhan Geran Komunal sebanyak 661 lot, Geran Individu Anak Negeri Hasil Pengukuran Program Perkhidmatan Tanah Adat Negeri Sabah (Pantas) (741 lot) dan Geran Individu Anak Negeri Hasil Permohonan Tanah sebanyak 897 lot.

Ketua Menteri berkata, semua penerima geran berkenaan perlu mengusahakan tanah tersebut dan tidak dibenarkan untuk menjualnya demi memastikan mereka mempunyai aset untuk diwariskan kepada generasi seterusnya.



Katanya, di pihak kerajaan negeri, Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan akan menyediakan pelbagai pakej serta bantuan untuk membantu rakyat di bahagian pedalaman berkecimpung dalam sektor pertanian bagi menjana pendapatan.

"Tanah ini jangan jual, dia tidak boleh jual dia boleh majukan seperti yang saya nyatakan kerajaan boleh bagi duit tetapi duit boleh habis tetapi kalau tanah ini dibangunkan dimajukan dia akan sampai akhir hayat hasil yang akan diperoleh bukan hanya sampai kepada kita sampai kepada anak cucu kita.



"Saya juga bersekalikan dengan rancangan kerajaan negeri bila kita lancarkan pelan tindakan untuk membantu pemilik-pemilik tanah, tanam buah-buahan, tanam sayu dan juga hasil pertanian yang mempunyai permintaan dan harga yang hasil pendapatan mereka dapat menjana pendapatan penduduk kampung," katanya.

Sementara itu, Tinjauan Borneo Today di Kampung Mempulut mendapati penduduk yang terlibat dengan Program Perkhidmatan Tanah Adat Negeri Sabah (Pantas) melahirkan kesyukuran selepas penantian mereka untuk memiliki geran tanah individu sejak tahun 1977 tertunai.



Mahani Rangkas, 55, berkata, dia telah mengusahakan tanaman pokok getah, sawit dan pelbagai jenis buah-buahan di tanah tersebut, justeru pemberian geran berkenaan amat bermakna untuknya.

"Memang saya pun rasa bangga juga kepada Ketua Menteri datang penyerahan geran Pantas seluruh pedalaman di Keningau yang diutamakan Kampung Mempulut kami sendiri, jadi saya pun berterima kasih kepada Jabatan Tanah atau pun Ketua Menteri.

"Kurang lebih barangkali kami di Mempulut semua kemungkinan daripada saya pada tahun 1977 memang lama kurang lebih di sini saya pun umur 55 tahun sudah kan jadi memanglah wujud untuk pengukuran PANTAS dengan kami punya tanah.

"Memang saya gembira dalam ada yang dapat geran dalam Kampung Mempulut ini memang saya sokong juga saya dapat pun tidak dapat pun saya berterima kasih juga," katanya.



Raiting Rangkas, 59, berkata, dia dilahirkan di Kampung Mempulut dan membesar di situ dengan mengusahakan tanah tetapi ini adalah kali pertama dia mendapat geran yang mengesahkan tanah miliknya.

"Saya berterima kasih jugalah sebab saya punya geran saya dapat begitu, jadi saya memang gembira berapa tahun saya di sini memang lahir di sinilah jadi baru sekarang saya dapat geran.

"Memang saya gembira, saya punya getah dan kelapa sawit di sini, lama sudah saya pun tidak tahu berapa lama sudah," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
10/7/2020	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	8



Kacang bulu berpotensi besar

USAHAWAN tani, Muhammad Fahmi Ismail, 27, menuai hasil tanaman kacang bulu atau dikenali sebagai Edamame di kebun seluas 0.4 hektar di Wakaf Mempelam. Tanaman yang popular di Jepun itu berpotensi menjadi lumbuk emas di Terengganu kerana mendapat permintaan tinggi dalam kalangan masyarakat. Kacang bulu disajikan di restoran negara matahant terbit itu kerana keunikannya rasanya yang rangup dan berlemak turut dijadikan snek masyarakat di negeri ini sejak dahulu lagi. Bapa kepada tiga anak mulakan projek tanaman terbit sejak 2016 kini mampu menjana hasil sekitar RM10,000 bagi satu tan.

A green engine of growth

THE United States has an 84.1% share of the global market in organic food and beverages. This has come about because, over the past decade, organic producers have risen to the challenge of meeting increasing consumer demand for such products.

A review by the Centre for Research in Biotechnology for Agriculture at Universiti Malaya revealed that the Malaysian organic food industry is still small, with more than 60% of such products being imported.

Over the past decades, the government's initiatives to encourage people to have a healthy lifestyle appear to have been successful - demand for organically grown foods has increased significantly as people appreciate the possible health benefits of such foods and the assurance that such food is safe.

Agriculture and Food Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi has said that the increased demand for organic rice is attributable to Malaysians' healthier lifestyles. He also stressed that organic padi farming offers a better return than traditional agriculture due to low water usage and limited use of padi seeds. It is also proven safe for public health.

Because organic food is chemical-free, other benefits of organically grown foods include higher dry matter levels, particularly for leafy vegetables and tubers, more top-quality proteins with better amino acid ranking in livestock reared organically, and more magnesium, iron, phosphorus and other healthy elements.

Among the environmental effects are the fact that organic farming increases the soil's physical-biological properties as it offers more organic matter and biomass, higher enzyme levels, better soil stability,



Safe food: A field of organic padi in Kahang in Kluang, Johor. — Filepic/The Star

improved water percolation and holding capacity, and less water use and wind erosion. It also requires less energy and creates less waste per unit area of yield and is less environmentally harmful because it does not use synthetic pesticides.

In comparison, conventionally grown foods have adverse health effects due to pesticide residue; they contain more nitrates, heavy metals and hormones; they create antibiotic waste; and they can come from genetically modified organisms. They are also less nutritious and contain fewer protective antioxidants than organically grown foods.

According to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, which promotes organic farming, the four fundamental principles of organic agriculture are health, ecology, fairness and care. The principles are designed to enhance biological cycles in the agricultural system, preserve and enhance soil fertility, minimise all forms of pollution, avoid the use of

pesticides and synthetic fertilisers, and produce high-quality food in sufficient quantities.

Locally, there are also many government policies and regulations aimed at promoting the development of the organic food industry, including the National Agro-Food Policy, Third National Agriculture Policy and the 10th Malaysia Plan. Still, the government's efforts seem futile without proper implementation plans and, crucially, without people's willingness to join the industry.

A few decades ago, India was also far behind in adopting organic farming for various reasons but it achieved rapid growth and has now become one of the world's largest organic food and beverage producers. The country could serve as a model for Malaysia to succeed in organic farming with the advent of various advanced technologies.

We would also have to remove obstacles to developing the organic food industry here, including the

lack of incentives to go organic, the lack of public interest in the quality of natural products, and heightened scepticism among farmers about embracing organic agriculture. Because of this attitude, farmers tend to overlook the fact that organic food can gain people's confidence in food products because of its safety.

Another obstacle to increasing general acceptance of organic foods is their price - they do appear to cost a lot more than traditionally produced foods, typically appearing at premium prices in most supermarkets. Part of this is simply a matter of supply and demand; also, organic produce, meat and dairy often require more money than conventional products to grow unless the economies of scale come into the picture.

Various wellness websites and environment NGOs encourage people to shop at farmers' markets, join food cooperatives and community-supported farms networks, purchase produce seasonally and compare prices at grocery stores, farmers' markets, online and elsewhere to manage their spending on organic food.

Apart from this, the government should review organic farming policies on an ongoing basis and shift the paradigm to ensure that the organic food industry becomes a growth engine for Malaysia's agricultural sector. Comprehensive strategies and collaboration from producers and marketers are needed to gain public cooperation and trust to ensure the industry's success.

FARHAN KAMARUZZAMAN
Emir Research

Note: Emir Research is a think tank focused on research-based policy recommendations.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
10/7/2020	THE STAR	GREATER KLANG VALLEY	1

Reaping what they sow

Tasik Teratai 8 Timur Community Farm in Section 8, Shah Alam, is a source of pride for residents who work hard on harvesting greens for personal consumption as well as income. The project recently bagged top spot in the National Community Park Landscape Initiatives competition. >2&3



Green acres: The Tasik Teratai 8 Timur Community Farm in Section 8, Shah Alam, serves as inspiration to residents in other zones under Shah Alam City Council's jurisdiction. — SAM THAM/The Star

Foreign workers running businesses nabbed in Kajang

GRACE CHEN
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FIFTEEN foreigners, who were either illegally operating or working in grocery shops along Jalan Bistari in Sungai Tangkas, Kajang, were rounded up and the business premises were sealed during a joint operation by Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) and the Immigration Department.

Five premises, believed to be owned by foreign nationals which was against licensing rules, were sealed yesterday.

The authorities inspected all the shops along the road. Some foreign workers tried to flee but

were stopped by enforcement officers.

A foreign worker who only wanted to be known as Nur, said authorities had entered the area around 10am as she was preparing to open her stall.

As Nur had a work permit, she was not worried but decided to close her stall anyway.

Her friend, who works at another food stall, was cooking when she was picked up.

A local resident who only wanted to be known as Abdullah, said foreigners had been running their own businesses here for a long time.

Foreign women first came here as maids and cleaners at nearby educational

institutions.

"Their spouses later followed them upon hearing about job opportunities here.

"Many of them worked for construction companies before becoming sub-contractors.

"To supplement their income, some started selling banana fritters by the roadside.

"Eventually, they opened their own shops," he said.

At a press conference after the operation, MPKJ Enforcement Department director Shariman Mohd Nor said the swoop sent a clear signal that the authorities were serious about stopping foreigners from running and working in shops, which was against local council laws.

Those operating shops and stalls must be Malaysians and those employed must also be Malaysians.

With regard to businesses owned by foreign workers in Sungai Tangkas, Shariman said the council had issued several notices to the premises since 2016.

"Today we are taking action," said Shariman.

Citing hygiene and health reasons as the council's main concerns, he added that the enforcement team took action following public complaints that the shops operated by these foreigners were also slaughtering chickens and selling fresh fish at their premises.



Tasik Teratai 8 Timur Community Farm in Shah Alam occupies land located on a hillside near TNB pylons. — Photos: KAMARUL ARIFFIN and SAM THAM/The Star

Improving the landscape

Competition fosters strong bond among residents by encouraging involvement in community farms and beautification programmes



Taman Desa Anggerik resident Mohd Mustafa Manap, 61, decorates his house using recycled materials.



Zahrudin checking on the plants at the community garden in Section 8, Shah Alam.

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VISITORS to the Tasik Teratai 8 Timur Community Farm in Section 8, Shah Alam, are greeted by beautifully landscaped plots filled with lush vegetables and fruit trees, a testament to the hard work put in by the residents.

The farm, which is located on a hillside under several Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) pylons, plays multiple roles as it provides a harvest of greens for the residents' consumption as well as income from selling the produce.

It is also a great source of pride for the community, providing an oasis of calm and beauty, especially during sunrise and sunset.

Recently, the community farm emerged champion of the National Community Park Landscape Initiatives — a competition by National Landscape Department (JLN) now in its second year — winning the RM20,000 top prize.

The first and second runners-up were Taman Desa Anggerik in Serendah, Selangor and Taman Mewah, Yong Peng in Johor, where the residents' associations (RA) received RM15,000 and RM10,000 respectively.

The award is judged based on landscaping and residents' involvement, with the money channelled back to the landscaping efforts in their neighbourhood.

JLN director-general Rotina Mohd Daik said the department had a Rakan Taman programme where each community would set up a team of volunteers to take care of their neighbourhood parks.

"They can cultivate a community farm or develop a playground in their neighbourhood.

"It is based on volunteerism and

how they instill the landscaping culture in their neighbourhood.

"The department gives the RAs a small allocation to start their initiatives and guide them with their activities," she said, adding that there were now around 150 registered Rakan Taman, with more residents encouraged to join the initiatives.

The award to Tasik Teratai 8 Timur Community Farm was a recognition to all residents who were involved in taking care of the park.

The path leading up to the farm has a recycled door at the entrance, with a sign titled "Seroja" (water lily in Bahasa Malaysia).

The pink water lilies are a highlight as they are flanked by several plots of spinach, asparagus, water chest and mustard greens.

Visitors to the community farm at dawn would usually be greeted by Datuk Zainuddin Ahmad, the chairman of the community farm and the neighbourhood RA.

"I have to start the generator to pump water up from the Shah Alam wetlands at the bottom of the hill to the entire farm," said the 63-year-old retiree.

The two-hectare farm is considered a second home for some 30 RA members who have their respective plots here.

"Gardening is the best way to bring people together and they can also plant their crops, harvest and sell it at the market.

"It is a satisfying feeling which people from all walks of life can experience.

"To-date, we have people from diverse backgrounds, including an expatriate from Japan who has become a member of the farming community," he said.

The idea to have a community farm started when the RA wanted its members to have healthy space for leisure activities.

"We found a plot of TNB reserve land and approached Shah Alam



Desa Anggerik residents with the mock cheque of RM15,000 that they won in the landscape competition.



An array of vegetables planted in the Taman Mewah community farm in Yong Peng, Johor. The farm emerged second runner-up in the competition.

City Council (MBSA) for approval.

"In 2014, we received the green light from the city council who also helped us to level the land."

"This is the pioneer urban community farm in Shah Alam which has also become the role model for residents of other zones under MBSA's jurisdiction, inspiring them to start their own community farm," he said, adding that there were more than 20 urban farms now under the city council's jurisdiction.

One of the challenges that the residents face on the farm is pests. "We do not use pesticide; all we do is mix vinegar and chillies to ward off insects but that is not an effective method."

"Yet, we have to maintain its pesticide-free status," said Zeinuddin.

He said the prize money would help them to continue improving the landscaping at the farm and purchase ploughing machines.

"This includes planting flowers and doing up the pavement so that the farm can be turned into an ecotourism attraction," he said.

Beauty in recycling

Meanwhile, at Desa Anggerik, Serendah, recycled items have been used to beautify the neighbourhood.

Used tyres have been transformed into animal-shaped decor and flower pots at the entrance of Jalan Anggerik 1F, while used plastic bottles line the neighbourhood's road reserve.

"It is all about recycled items when it comes to beautifying the place."

"We do it together and decorate from one lane to another lane," said Desa Anggerik RA chairman Abdul Hamid Abu Bakar.

In the neighbourhood, each lane sports a unique design based on the collective ideas of the residents.

To take the recycling concept



Water lilies are one of the attractions at the community farm in Section 8, Shah Alam.

further, residents use drain water to water the plants.

The neighbourhood has also become a case study for Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM), Selangor, where the undergraduates proposed a community masterplan guideline on landscaping for the Hulu Selangor District Council.

"When the RA was established in 2018, there were not many activities that involved residents."

"So, we started an internal competition for house owners to compete with each other by beautifying their compound."

"In April last year, the council had a landscaping competition and we joined in as a neighbourhood and won first prize."

"The council then encouraged us to participate in the national-level competition organised by JLN and we won second place," he said.

Abdul Hamid said such initiatives had created an awareness among the people to beautify their neighbourhood.

"The impact is clear, our roads have become cleaner as people take better care of how their place looks."

"Bushes have been cleared, the crime rate has come down, and community relations has been strengthened," he said, adding that

they would continue to improve the landscaping as it helped to promote tourism in the area and make it a conducive place to live.

Hulu Selangor District Council Landscape Department director Mohd Fadhil Mohd Lani said the neighbourhood could act as a mentor for other neighbourhoods when they organise their district-level landscaping competition.

"We hope that Desa Anggerik can be a role model for other neighbourhoods," he said.

Meanwhile, Rukun Tetangga Taman Mewah (RT) in Yong Peng, Johor, which won second runner-up in the National Community Park Landscape Initiatives, had been running its community farm since 2017.

Its secretary Halima Md Khalid said the community farm had helped the area's needy residents, especially during festive seasons.

"Vegetables such as long beans, chillies and eggplants that we plant in the farm are sold at the market and part of the proceeds go towards helping the needy."

"It is also a self-sustaining effort for the RA as the profits we make from the sale of vegetables will go into the RT's joint account to fund our yearly community events, such as gotong-royong."

"Besides, it also strengthens the bond among residents when they care for the farm together," she said.



KKB received approval to start an urban farm in Bangsar in mid-2016. — Photos by ONG SOON HIN

Bangsar urban farm applies to lease land

THE operator of an urban farm in Bangsar, which was served with an eviction notice in March, has applied to the Federal Territory Land and Mines Office (PTGWP) to lease the land.

Kebun-Kebun Bangsar (KKB) co-founder Ng Sek San said the application was sent three weeks ago and they were waiting for a reply.

"We hope the lease application for the land used for urban farming will be approved as the farm creates awareness of food security among the public," he said.

He highlighted that such farms were important to decentralise food production as supply chains were compromised during the first few days of the movement control order (MCO).

According to PTGWP records, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) was issued with a Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL) on the land for a period of one year, from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2016.

KKB received approval from DBKL and Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) to start the farm in mid-July, 2016.

However, Ng said he was unaware that DBKL had not renewed the TOL after it expired, nor had any other party applied for one.

The farm occupies about 1ha of land under TNB's high-tension pylons.

The self-sustaining urban farm is being used as a model by Housing and Local Government Ministry to develop new legislation and create new standard operating procedures (SOP) to support urban farming, which is looked upon to play a key role in providing food security for needy communities.

Ng hoped that the new law would open the floodgates to other groups to start urban farming.

"It would give us a lot more certainty toward urban farming should the law be enacted."

"City by-laws drawn up a few decades ago need to be updated for contemporary land-use like KKB," he said.

KKB, which was closed during the MCO, reopened to the public on July 1 following all the SOP by Health Ministry.

Previously, an eviction notice dated March 12 was issued by PTGWP to the farm after it received residents' complaints forwarded by DBKL and TNB about noise disturbance from animals housed at KKB.

The notice stated that the farm had committed an offence under Section 425 (1) of the National Land Code and ordered the farm owners to tear down its structures as well as vacate the state land or face a penalty not exceeding RM500,000 or a jail term of five years.

Ng said animals were vital to educating the public on food security, pest control and to promote a healthy ecosystem using permaculture (permanent agriculture) techniques, which involved working with insects and animals to control pests and provide fertiliser.

The farm houses a few geese, chickens, goats and cows. He added that the education programme at KKB also involved exposing children to domesticated animals and wildlife in addition to teaching them to live harmoniously with nature.

"We often have special needs and autistic children visiting and one of the highlights for them is interacting with the animals," said Ng.

He hoped that lawmakers would consider updating the laws on urban use of land to incorporate animals.

"The laws were written 30 to 40 years ago when sustainability and food security were not a concern."

"But this has become relevant today and important to urban dwellers to deal with the right way," he said.



Visitors feeding the animals at the farm, which received an eviction notice in March.