



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 31 JULAI 2020**

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1.	TANJUNG IPOH PIONEERS SWEET CORN CULTIVATION PROJECT, MALAYSIA NEWS GAZETTE, ONLINE	KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN (MAFI)
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UKKMAFI

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
31/7/2020	MALAYSIA NEWS GAZETTE (WWW.MALAYSIANEWS GAZETTE.COM)	ONLINE	

Tanjung Ipoh pioneers Sweet Corn Cultivation Project

KUALA PILAH The Sweet Corn Cultivation Project implemented by the Tanjung Ipoh Area Farmers Association (PPK) via its credit scheme, Supervised Farm Credit Scheme (SKLT) will be the pioneer project for all PPKs nationwide in efforts to reduce dependency on imported food.

Deputy Agriculture and Food Industries Minister I Datuk Seri Ahmad Hamzah said the model used in the Tanjung Ipoh project could increase farmers' income while nurturing young entrepreneurs.

"SKLT is among the operational and product marketing planning models of projects managed by PPK and is aimed at developing abandoned lands, instilling interest among youths to venture into agriculture, reducing food imports, offset trade imbalance as well as helping the country's economic growth.

"At present, there are 80.9 hectares (ha) of corn crop in Tanjung Ipoh, of which 38.45 ha are under the SKLT involving 21 farmers including 15 young entrepreneurs," he said after a working visit to the project site here today.

Also present was Kuala Pilah Member of Parliament Datuk Eddin Syazlee Shith who is also Deputy Works Minister.

Earlier, while reading the speech text of Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee, he said the ministry always gave serious attention towards expanding the corn farming project.

"The ministry via its Youth Agropreneur Unit and Agrobank would continue to support and provide financing facilities to encourage more young people to venture into this field," he said.

"This project can be a source of income for it has the potentials to be the country's major agricultural product as well as for downstream activities," he added.

Source: BERNAMA News Agency

Headline	Dept culls coral-eating starfish		
MediaTitle	Daily Express (KK)		
Date	31 Jul 2020	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	25,055
Page No	5	Readership	75,165
Language	English	ArticleSize	100 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 213
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 638



Dept culls coral-eating starfish

KOTA KINABALU: Efforts are ongoing to destroy the Crown of Thorns (Cots) starfish in Sabah's east coast waters stretching from Kunak to Lahad Datu.

Sabah Fisheries Department director Dr Ahemad Sade said his department was trying to ensure that the starfish did not destroy healthy corals in the area. He said the move was necessary as it could pose a danger to the marine ecosystem if left unchecked.

He said some 350 Cots from the seabed off Kunak and Lahad Datu were destroyed earlier this week.

The Cots initiative was undertaken by the state Fisheries Department to protect marine life in the waters of Pulau Silumpat, Tabawan and Blue Hole, he said. Ahemad said the Fisheries Department was constantly monitoring the situation in Sabah waters.

He said culling the coral-eating starfish with injection was the most effective method to control its outbreaks.

Semporna Fisheries Department officer Mohammad Rizal Socradji said the exercise would benefit fishermen with healthy coral life as well as make the area an attraction for tourists.

He hoped the programme would also create greater public awareness on the importance of marine ecosystem conservation efforts. - The Star

Headline	No go for harmful products		
MediaTitle	The Star (Metro South and East)		
Date	31 Jul 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	News	Circulation	19,900
Page No	1,3	Readership	59,700
Language	English	ArticleSize	1122 cm ²
Journalist	NELSON BENJAMIN	AdValue	RM 15,745
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 47,236

No go for harmful products

Maqis personnel conduct checks at Johor's entry points to protect the people, agricultural sector

By NELSON BENJAMIN
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JOHOR BARU: All 16 entry points into Johor are closely monitored, with thorough checks on imported agriculture products to prevent diseases and pests from harming the people and the agricultural sector.

Johor Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department (Maqis) personnel are the frontliners who check on agriculture products being brought in or taken out of the country.

Johor Maqis director Nur Afiyah A. Rahman said similar to the Covid-19 pandemic that was harmful to humans, diseases and pests could harm plants and animals.

"As such, we have to be vigilant and prevent items that pose a risk from entering the country," she explained during an interview.

She said Maqis personnel were especially monitoring and checking on livestock brought into Johor.

"We want to prevent viruses such as African Swine Fever, African Horse Sickness and mango seed weevil, a type of pest that lives inside mango seeds, from being brought in.

"We ensure the meat, fruits and livestock imported have permits and health certificates," she said, adding that for poultry a *halal* certification from the country of origin was a must as well.

"We are being vigilant at our borders to protect the agricultural sector.

"Viruses and pest can be detrimental, with serious consequences for all," said Nur Afiyah.

She noted that banana and papaya farmers had been hit badly by pests in the past.

She said Maqis, formed in 2008, was a one-stop centre comprising five agencies under the Agriculture and Food Industry Ministry.

The agencies are Agriculture Department, Veterinary Department, Fisheries Department (DOF), Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia and Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority.

"Our role is to carry out inspections at the border and submit findings to the expertise or laboratories to carry out tests and take the required action," said Nur Afiyah.

She added that Maqis had quarantine centres at KL.



Nur Afiyah says Maqis is being vigilant at borders to protect the agricultural sector.

International Airport, Penang, Perlis and Kelantan.

On the 16 entry points, Nur Afiyah said they included the two land crossings at the Johor Causeway and Second Link, Senai International Airport and sea links either via ferry terminals or ports in Pasir Gudang, Stulang, Rukup, Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Muar,

Batu Pahat, Tanjung Belungkor and Tanjung Pengelih.

She said Maqis worked closely with forwarding agents involved in the import and export of agricultural products and livestock.

"So far, none of the cases detected involved issuing compound notices.

"The items were being brought

in without import or export permits and false declarations.

"We also had cases where the import and export conditions or requirements were not met," she cited.

"When we find threats of diseases, pests or contamination, the items are seized and immediately destroyed."

She said 88 compound notices had been issued so far this year, compared to 96 last year.

"The compounds are between RM1,000 and RM50,000, depending on the severity of the cases," she said.

She highlighted that prior to 2019, legal action was immediately taken if any item was found to pose a risk.

"Maqis helps to facilitate the movement of agricultural items in and out of the country.

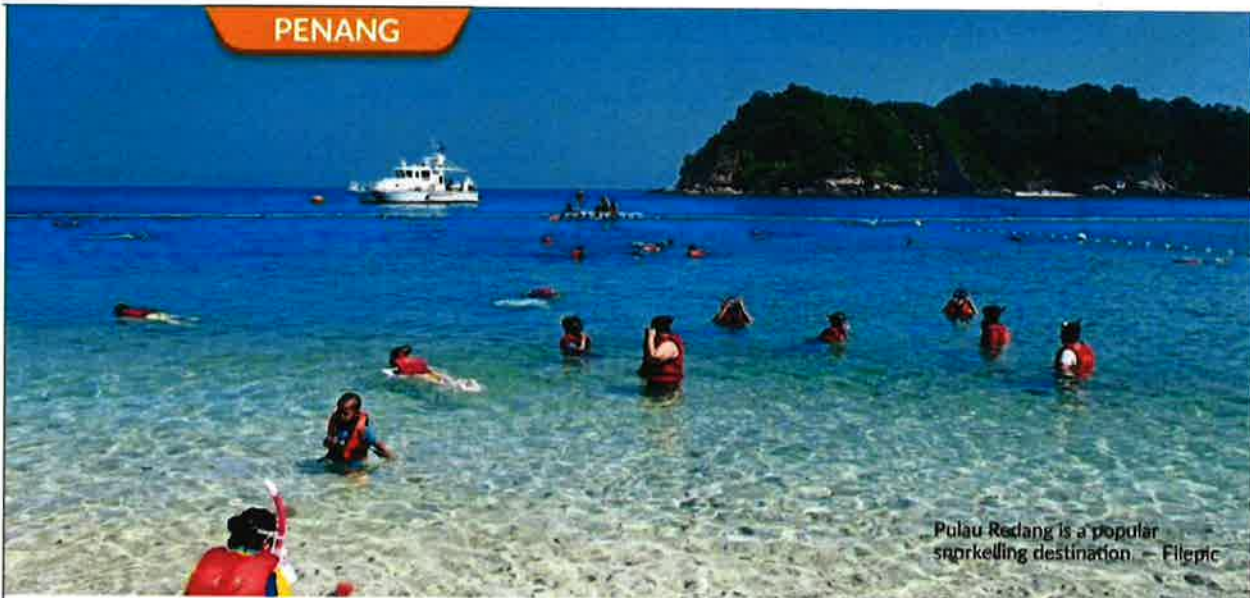
"We inspect and certify them before they reach Customs officers," she explained.

Nur Afiyah took over the department last year.

Prior to that, she was attached to DOF for 15 years.

She said the 72 personnel in Maqis who worked round-the-clock at the entry points had basic knowledge of agriculture.

Headline	Rise of marine tourism		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	31 Jul 2020	Color	Full Color
Section	Metro	Circulation	175,986
Page No	6	Readership	527,958
Language	English	ArticleSize	454 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 22,848
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 68,544



Rise of marine tourism

More Malaysians keen on holidays with underwater activities

MARINE tourism is becoming more popular among Malaysians, especially during the recovery movement control order (MCO).

Tourism Malaysia northern region director Ahmad Husni Ahmad Basri said together with Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry (Motac) and the Fisheries Department, they were now organising various programmes on marine tourism for tour guides and travel agencies in the country.

"Malaysia has many destinations for diving and snorkelling and demand is increasing now that interstate travel is allowed," he said.

He was speaking to reporters at the "Tourism Knowledge Enhancement" programme titled "Symbiosis Between Tourism and Marine Environment."

The programme in Penang was organised by Zou Divers School and Northern Dive Shop and attended by Motac officials, local travel agencies, tour guides and tourism industry players.



Ahmad Husni: Malaysia has many destinations for diving and snorkelling and demand is rising now that interstate travel is allowed.

It was held to explain the standard operating procedures (SOP) concerning marine tourism in Malaysia and convey information on marine tourism destinations.

Ahmad Husni said Pulau Songsong in Yan district, Kedah, had been identified as a marine tourism site.

"Its underwater activities should be given attention due to the richness of coral reefs there," he said.

Meanwhile, programme organiser and scuba diving coach Zulhairie Zulkiflee said the programme was meant to help industry players to follow the SOP.

"After Interstate travel was allowed, I found a lack of SOP compliance at a jetty at a famous tourist island.

"The jetty was packed with visitors. I believe it was because everyone wanted to go on holiday after months of confinement.

"I hope cooperation can be fostered among industry players to prevent over-crowding," he said.

Zulhairie said more people were signing up for scuba diving classes because they were aware that underwater sport was safe.

He said the scope of tourism activities was no longer limited to land as people also wanted to be involved in sea-related activities. — Bernama