



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN  
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UKKMAFI

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

03 APR, 2022

## Visit by federal minister signifies move to strengthen national agro-food sector

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia

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# Visit by federal minister signifies move to strengthen national agro-food sector

By Antonia Chiam

**KUCHING:** The recent three-day working visit to Sarawak by Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee served as a platform for the federal and state governments, target groups as well as industry players to discuss approaches to further increase agricultural production and strengthen the country's food security.

The visit was regarded as very important for the national agro-food sector in line with the planning and direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (Mafi) through the National Agro-Food Policy 2021-2030 (DAN 2.0).

Ronald's inaugural visit to the state kicked off on Thursday with a courtesy call on the Premier of Sarawak Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here, where discussions touched on several issues, including food security and involvement of the private sector in helping the government develop the agro-food sector.

In a press conference on the same day, Ronald said his ministry had set an allocation of RM150 million to develop the agro-food sector in Sarawak.

He added that the allocation would be channelled to various departments and agencies relevant to the agro-food sector, set to benefit sub-sectors such as plantation and livestock breeding.

"One of the things that the federal government wants to achieve is to see the agro-food sector be modernised and

efficiently managed, and at the same time, for it to be using the latest technology towards reducing cost of operation and dependency on imported goods, as well as increasing productivity," said the federal minister.

Also on Thursday, Ronald attended the 'Mafi Luncheon Talk with Industry Players' held at Dewan Majma' Tunku Abd Halim Mu'adzam Shah here, where he had a dialogue with industry players in the agro-food sector covering fisheries, crops, livestock sub-sectors and the entire agro-food chain including other departments and agencies with interest in the agro-food sector.

The luncheon talk was aimed at strengthening the National Food Security Agenda through ideas, views and suggestions put forth by industry players towards the direction of the agro-food sector, especially in relation to food security in line with current needs.

One of the key points that Ronald had brought up was that the reopening of the country's borders on April 1 would further boost its agro-food industry.

"There were restrictions imposed on restaurants, cafés, hotels, and other establishments, but with the reopening of the country's borders lockdown following the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak in the country, I believe that the agro-food sector will indirectly benefit from it."

At the same event, Ronald also presented dividends to the Sarawak State Fishermen's

Association (PENESA) amounting to RM192,032.10, as well as an allocation to the KUNITA Sportsfishing Project of the Satang Biru Area Fishermen's Association amounting to RM50,000.

On Friday, Ronald made a trip to Batang Lupar Integrated Agricultural Area (IADA) for a tour of the Stumbin and Tanjung Bijet rice cultivation sites in Sri Aman, about 190km from here.

He visited the Smart Paddy Field Programme (Smart SBB) site, where he described the programme as 'being expected to increase farmers' income up to 50 per cent through complete infrastructure facilities and farm mechanisation.'

"Until March 2022, the Smart SBB programme in Sarawak is being implemented under the supervision of the Batang Lupar IADA, in collaboration with Advansia (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, involving an area of 80 hectares in L2 and L3 Tanjung Bijet, Sri Aman for the main season of 2021 and off season of 2022.

"The programme involves a total of 245 participants for both seasons," he said.

Ronald expressed his hope that more industry players, especially the 'syarikat peneraju' (leading companies) under the Smart SBB programme, would come forward and bring new ideas and innovations so that such programmes could be developed not only for paddy, but also other crops.

He also witnessed the exchange

of memorandum of collaboration (MOC) documents between Mafi and Syarikat Padiberas Nasional Bhd (Bemas) for the operation of Stumbin Certified Paddy Seeds Production and Processing Centre (SPPC).

"It is also my hope that this strategic collaboration between Mafi and Bemas would make the paddy and the rice sub-sector in Sarawak more competitive along the industry chain.

"Mafi also supports the aspirations and efforts of the Sarawak government towards modernising the agricultural sector for the production of lucrative paddy for local consumption, and reducing dependence on rice imports," he said.

On Friday, Kiandee attended a dinner reception held at a hotel here, where he was cited to have said that a special committee would be established for regular official meetings for better cooperation between his ministry and Sarawak's Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture and Regional Development (Manred) to tackle challenges in ensuring food security.

He said this was a result of discussions with Manred minister Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom, who was also present at the event.

"There is need for involvement and engagement between the ministry at federal and state levels. Such engagement is not just once, but we need to meet more often."

"That is why we have come to a decision to form a special

committee consisting of officers from Mafi and Manred. We will continue to work together in finding the best ways to ensure the country's food security," said Ronald.

The federal minister wrapped up his three-day working visit to Sarawak with a walkabout at the popular Medan Niaga Satok here yesterday morning to inspect the progress of the ongoing upgrading works there.

It is stated that the market is currently undergoing renovation and improvement works carried out by Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (Fama) and the Sarawak government.

"The state government has, in fact, contributed RM7 million for the upgrading works on Satok Market, and this reflects the close working relationship between the state and federal governments.

"Fama will also be carrying out improvement works on the markets located throughout Sarawak, with another RM7 million having been earmarked under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) to upgrade 15 markets in the state.

"Fama will continue to play its role as a marketing agency to support the agro-entrepreneurs in creating a friendly business environment for all stakeholders involved," said Ronald, as he pointed out that the renovation works on Medan Niaga Satok would be conducted in stages, with the multi-storey parking building and Block C scheduled to finish their construction soon.



Ronald puts his signature on a banner to mark his visit to the SMART SBB site at Tanjung Bijet in Sri Aman.



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Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



Ronald (front, centre) inspects Medan Niaga Satok, which is currently undergoing renovation works. Seen on the federal minister's left is Fama Sarawak director Abdul Ja'afar Lian.

One of the things that the federal government wants to achieve is to see the agro-food sector be modernised and efficiently managed, and at the same time, for it to be using the latest technology towards reducing cost of operation and dependency on imported goods, as well as increasing productivity.

— Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Klандee, Agriculture and Food Industries Minister



Ronald (second left) presents a mock cheque for RM192,032.10 to a PENESA representative during the event. Also seen is Sarawak's Deputy Minister for Modernisation of Agriculture and Regional Development Il Mactaine Ben (right).



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### SUMMARIES

KUCHING: The recent threeday working visit to Sarawak by Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee served as a platform for the federal and state governments, target groups as well as industry players to discuss approaches to further increase agricultural production and strengthen the country's food security.

03 APR, 2022

**Ronald: Improve rice self-sufficiency**

The Sunday Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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# Ronald: Improve rice self-sufficiency

By **Sam Chua**  
reporters@theborneopost.com

**KUCHING:** Sarawak plays a crucial role in supporting the country's efforts in safeguarding its food security.

In stating this, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee said judging from what he had observed during his recent visit to a paddy plantation in Batang Lupar, Sri Aman, much improvement was needed to enhance the food security in Sarawak.

In this respect, he said his ministry would seek to request for more funds meant to enhance the infrastructure development in Sarawak for the paddy industry to flourish, as well as to strengthen the nation's food supply chain.

**Efforts towards improving food security are on-going and the cooperation between the state and federal agencies and departments are vital in realising the country's objectives of protecting its food security.**

— Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry

"Efforts towards improving food security are on-going and the cooperation between the state and federal agencies and departments is vital in realising the country's objectives of protecting its food security," Ronald told reporters after a visit to Medan Niaga Satok in Petra Jaya here yesterday.

The visit concluded the federal minister's three-day visit to Sarawak, during which he inspected the status of numerous agriculture projects in the state and got to

identify weaknesses and issues that would require further improvements.

During the visit to a paddy plantation in Sri Aman on Friday, Ronald stated that the national rice self-sufficiency level was at 63 per cent, but Sarawak's was at 38 per cent.

In view of this, he stressed that immediate measures must be carried out to increase rice production in order to meet the target of 80 per cent for the national rice self-sufficiency level, and 60 per cent for



(From right) Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (Fama) Sarawak director Abdul Ja'afar Lian accompanies Ronald during the federal minister's visit to Medan Niaga Satok in Kuching.



03 APR, 2022

## Ronald: Improve rice self-sufficiency

The Sunday Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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### SUMMARIES

'reporters@theborneopost.com KUCHING: Sarawak plays crucial role in supporting the country's efforts in safeguarding its food security. In stating this, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee said judging from what he had observed during his recent visit to a paddy plantation in Batang Lupar, Sri Aman, much improvement was needed to enhance the food security in Sarawak.



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## Ronald adakan lawatan kerja ke MNS

Mingguan Sarawak, Malaysia

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# Ronald adakan lawatan kerja ke MNS

AZREEN KERIA

KUCHING: Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI), Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiangadé mengadakan lawatan kerja ke Medan Niaga Satok (MNS) di Kuching bagi melihat sendiri aktiviti operasi oleh usahawan semalam.

Medan Niaga Satok merupakan salah satu projek usahasama antara Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) bersama dengan pihak Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Kementerian Perumahan Sarawak.

Menurut beliau, sebanyak RM7 juta telah diperuntukkan oleh Kerajaan Sarawak di dalam penambahbaikan yang dibuat bersama FAMA dan ia merupakan kerjasama erat agensi persekutuan dengan Kerajaan Sarawak bagi kemudahan usahawan di Kuching.

"Ini merupakan projek besar sejak 2013 lalu dan ketika ini dalam penambahbaikan yang dibuat oleh FAMA dan Kerajaan



LAWATAN... Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiangadé mengadakan lawatan kerja ke Medan Niaga Satok (MNS) di Kuching bagi melihat sendiri aktiviti operasi oleh para usahawan.

Sarawak bagi kerja pembangunan dan naik taraf seperti kerja pembinaan parking bertingkat, naik taraf di blok B, C dan D."

jelasnya ketika selesai mengadakan lawatan kerja di Medan Niaga Satok.

Kos asas projek adalah seba-

nyak RM46.6 juta dibina di atas tapak seluas 12.25 ekar dengan menyediakan 995 lot perniagaan di enam komponen utama iaitu

blok B (Produk Basah), Blok C (Produk Kering), Blok D (Plaza), Blok E (Geral Makanan Minuman), Pasar Borong dan Pasar Minggu dengan jumlah peserta seramai 947 orang dengan mencatat nilai jualan sebanyak RM47.8 juta.

"Sebanyak RM7 juta juga diperuntukkan dalam Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK-12) bagi menaik taraf 15 Dewan Niaga di seluruh Sarawak sepanjang RMK-12. Kita juga mengalu-alukan kerjasama daripada Kerajaan Sarawak untuk dana penambahbaikan kemudahan dewan niaga," ujarnya lagi.

Dalam pada itu, beliau menambah, pihak MAFI akan sentiasa berusaha untuk mendapatkan dana memastikan pembangunan infrastruktur terutamanya Industri padi beras di Sarawak.

Beliau juga berharap agar kerjasama yang berterusan di antara Kerajaan Sarawak dan Kerajaan Persekutuan akan berusaha untuk memastikan sekuriti makanan negara dapat dicapai



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## Ronald adakan lawatan kerja ke MNS

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### SUMMARIES

KUCHING: Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI), Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee mengadakan lawatan kerja ke Medan Niaga Satok (MNS) di Kuching bagi melihat sendiri aktiviti operasi oleh usahawan semalam. Medan Niaga Satok merupakan salah satu projek usahasama antara Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) bersama dengan pihak Kerajaan Sarawak melalui Kementerian Perumahan Sarawak.



| TARIKH   | MEDIA          | RUANGAN | MUKA SURAT |
|----------|----------------|---------|------------|
| 3/4/2022 | ASTRO<br>AWANI | ONLINE  |            |

## Program Jualan Semarak Ramadan diteruskan di 82 outlet Fama



*Peluasan skop Program Jualan Semarak Ramadan @ Pasar Tani itu bertujuan menghargai pengunjung pasar tani. - Foto fail*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Program Jualan Semarak Ramadan akan diteruskan di 82 lokasi outlet FAMA di seluruh negara.

FAMA dalam kenyataan memaklumkan ini termasuk 62 lokasi di Pasar Tani, 16 lokasi di Pasar Tani Kekal, dua lokasi di MyFarm Outlet dan dua lokasi di Pusat Transformasi Luar Bandar (RTC).

"Antara pengisian Program Jualan Semarak Ramadan @ Pasar Tani ini adalah edaran buah kurma dan produk usahawan kepada pengunjung serta jualan waktu ria bagi produk buah-buahan dan 'showcase' menu nostalgia berbuka puasa. Turut diadakan juga sumbangan kepada rumah anak yatim," menurut kenyataan itu pada Sabtu.

Terdahulu, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah (Operasi) FAMA Abdul Rashid Bahri melancarkan Program Jualan Semarak Ramadan @ Pasar Tani Peringkat Kebangsaan di Pasar Tani Kelana Jaya, Selangor pada Sabtu bagi menguar-uarkan kepada orang ramai mengenai pengoperasian pasar tani berkenaan.

Program itu dianjurkan bagi memberi peluang kepada orang ramai mendapatkan barangan keperluan dan makanan termasuk bekalan bahan mentah berkualiti dengan harga yang berpatutan sempena menyambut Ramadan.

Dalam kenyataan itu, Rashid berkata peluasan skop Program Jualan Semarak Ramadan @ Pasar Tani itu bertujuan menghargai pengunjung pasar tani yang sentiasa hadir mendapatkan barangan dapur dalam persediaan menyambut kedatangan bulan Ramadan.

Menurut kenyataan itu, Rashid turut menyerahkan sumbangan kepada 50 anak yatim dari Pertubuhan Pusat Jagaan Baitul Hidayah dalam majlis berkenaan.

Untuk rekod, nilai jualan pasar tani di seluruh negara pada tahun lepas berjumlah RM170 juta manakala sehingga Februari 2022, nilai jualan sebanyak RM42 juta dicatatkan dan melibatkan 10,868 usahawan di 270 lokasi pasar tani seluruh negara.

-- BERNAMA



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## KK's Ramadan Bazaar at Asia City back after two-year hiatus

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia

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## KK's Ramadan Bazaar at Asia City back after two-year hiatus

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) in collaboration with Kota Kinabalu City Hall has revived the Ramadan Bazaar at Asia City here after two years of 'rest' to help traders increase their income.

Kota Kinabalu FAMA

officer Saibe Mohamad Saidol, however, said the number of stall lots had to be limited to 73 only and arranged according to standard operating procedures (SOP) which included set distancing between stalls and provision of scanning of the mySejahtera application to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"They (traders) have been waiting (to trade at the Ramadan bazaar), even for the past two years they have applied for the Ramadan bazaar to be opened, but due to the pandemic it was not allowed to operate.

"Now the Ramadan bazaar has been allowed (to operate)



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## KK's Ramadan Bazaar at Asia City back after two-year hiatus

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and there is relaxations on the SOP. The applicants are grateful ... people say this Ramadan bazaar is the source of livelihood for most Ramadan bazaar traders (in this city)," he told Bernama.

Saibe, who is also the coordinator of the Ramadan bazaar at Asia City, hopes

that the traders and patrons can together comply with the SOP set and adapt to the new norms of Ramadan bazaars.

Meanwhile, the traders involved were elated that the Ramadan bazaar has been allowed to operate this time, with some of them already

making preparations to do business starting today, the first day of the fasting month.

One of the traders, Suriani Amir, 42, said she would make full use of the opportunity to generate side income as she has not traded in such a bazaar for two years. — Bernama



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KOTA KINABALU: The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) in collaboration with Kota Kinabalu City Hall has revived the Ramadan Bazaar at Asia City here after two years of rest to help traders increase their income.



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## FAMA menaiktaraf pasar tamudi Sarawak

Utusan Borneo Sarawak, Malaysia

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**PASAR:** Ronald (dua kanan) diiringi yang lain semasa mengadakan lawatan kerja ke Medan Niaga Satok semalam.

# FAMA menaik taraf pasar tamu di Sarawak

Projek berkenaan merupakan kerjasama antara MAFI menerusi FAMA dengan kerajaan negeri

Oleh Jessica Jawing

**KUCHING:** Sebanyak 15 pasar niaga atau pasar tamu di bawah Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) di Sarawak akan dinaik taraf dalam Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK12).

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Mandee berkata, projek berkenaan merupakan kerjasama antara kementeriaannya menerusi FAMA dengan kerajaan negeri.

"FAMA akan menambah baik pasar niaga yang ada di seluruh negeri.

"Kita-kira RM7 juta diperuntukkan di bawah RMK12 iaitu untuk menaik taraf 15 pasar niaga di seluruh Sarawak sepanjang rancangan berkenaan.

"FAMA akan terus menyumbang untuk menambah baik struktur perniagaan di seluruh negara termasuk Sarawak," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang media selepas lawatan kerja ke Medan Niaga Satok yang dihadiri Timbalan Menteri Pemodenan Pertanian Martin Ben di

“Kira-kira RM7 juta diperuntukkan di bawah RMK12 iaitu untuk menaik taraf 15 pasar niaga di seluruh Sarawak sepanjang rancangan berkenaan.”

Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Mandee  
Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan

kini semalam.

Ronald berkata, usaha menaik taraf itu akan diteruskan dan FAMA akan terus memainkan peranan sebagai agensi pemasaran yang bukan sahaja membantu peniaga dan pengusaha tetapi mewujudkan satu suasana perniagaan selesa bagi semua pihak.

"Kita juga mengalu-alukan kerjasama kerajaan negeri yang menyumbang dana bagi menambah baik infrastruktur perniagaan yang ada di Sarawak," tegasnya.

Katanya ia termasuk projek menaik taraf Medan Niaga Satok (MDS) di mana kerajaan negeri telah memperuntukkan RM7 juta bagi kerja pembangunan dan naik taraf tempat letak kereta bertingkat, naik taraf Blok B, C dan D.

"Ia merupakan satu projek besar yang telah dirasmi-

kan pada tahun 2013 dan ketika ini ada sebahagian daripadanya sedang dalam penambahbaikan yang dilaksanakan antara FAMA dan kerajaan negeri.

"Kita mendapat sumbangan daripada kerajaan negeri sejak 2019 dan 2020, sebanyak RM7 juta untuk penambahbaikan kemudahan di Medan Niaga Satok ini," katanya.

Beliau berkata ia merupakan kerjasama erat bersama agensi persekutuan dengan kerajaan negeri untuk menyediakan kemudahan kepada peniaga, pengusaha atau pengunjung di Kuching.

Mengenai penyiapan projek MDS, Ronald berkata ia akan siap secara bertahap dengan ada antaranya dijangka siap pada Mei depan kerana ada yang sedang dalam proses akhir untuk menyempurnakan pembinaan.



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## FAMA menaiktaraf pasar tamudi Sarawak

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Projek berkenaan merupakan kerjasama antara MAFI menerusi FAMA dengan kerajaan negeri

O l e h Jessica J a w i ng KUCHING: Sebanyak 15 pasar niaga atau pasar tamu di bawah LembagaPemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) di Sarawak akan dinaik taraf dalam Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12 (RMK12). Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee berkata, projek berkenaan merupakan kerjasama antara kementeriannya menerusi FAMA dengan kerajaan negeri.



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## Minister checks on upgrading works at Medan Niaga Satok

The Sunday Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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## Minister checks on upgrading works at Medan Niaga Satok

**KUCHING:** Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee visited Medan Niaga Satok at Petra Jaya here to check the progress of ongoing upgrading works.

"This market is a big project officiated in 2013 and currently undergoing renovation and upgrading works carried out by Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (Fama) and the state government," he said in a press conference after the visit.

He said works at the market will be completed in stages, with the multi-storey car park and Block C to be completed soon.

He stated the state government had contributed RM7 million to the upgrading works, a reflection of close working relationship between the state and federal governments.

Ronald pointed out that Fama will also be carrying out improvement works at 15 markets throughout Sarawak with another RM7 million under the 12nd Malaysia Plan.

"Fama will continue its role as a marketing agency to support agropreneurs," he added.

In a press statement, Fama said Medan Niaga Satok was a RM46.6 million project built

on 12.25-acres at Jalan Matang, Petra Jaya.

A total of 995 business lots at Block B for wet products, Block C for dry products, Block D plaza, and Block E food and beverages stalls generated sales of RM47.8 million last year.

Fama added that it has established many retail outlets to offer agriculture products and commodities directly to customers bypassing the middleman.

Among the retail outlets set up in cooperation with agropreneurs are Rural Transformation Centre, MyFarm outlet, My

Best Buy, Agrobazaar K-Shoppe Agrobazaar Online, and agriculture markets.

Also present during the visit were state Deputy Minister of Modernisation of Agriculture and Regional Development Encik MacLaine @ Martin Ben, federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries deputy secretary-general Datuk Badrul Hisham Mohd, Fama director-general Dato Zainal Abidin Yang Razalli, Fama state director Abdul Ja'afar Lian and Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs state director Dato Stanley Tan.



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## Minister checks on upgrading works at Medan Niaga Satok

The Sunday Post (Kuching), Malaysia

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### SUMMARIES

KUCHING: Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee visited Medan Niaga Satok at Petra Jaya here to check the progress of ongoing upgrading works. "This market is a big project officiated in 2013 and currently undergoing renovation and upgrading works carried out by Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (Fama) and the state government," he said in a press conference after the visit.



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## RM7m to upgrade 15 markets

New Sunday Tribune, Malaysia

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**KIANDEE** (centre) and others take a look at the ikan Terubok being sold at Medan Niaga Satok, Kuching. Photo: Mohd Alif Noni

## RM7m to upgrade 15 markets

**KUCHING:** A total of RM7 million has been allocated under the 12th Malaysia Plan for the upgrading of 15 markets throughout Sarawak.

Agriculture and Food Industries, Datuk Seri Ronald Kiandee, disclosed this after visiting Medan Niaga Satok (MNS) here yesterday.

He said the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI) would continue efforts to contribute and improve business structures throughout the country including Sarawak.

"FAMA will continue to play its role as a marketing agency that not only helps traders and entrepreneurs but also creates a comfortable business environment for all parties," he added.

Kiandee at the same time also welcomed cooperation from the Sarawak government in contributing funds to improve the existing business infrastructure in the state.

He said the basic cost of the Medan Niaga Satok (MNS) project which was built on a 12.25 acres in Jalan Matang,

Petra Jaya, is RM46.6 million.

"MNS has received an allocation of RM7 million from the Sarawak State government for development and upgrading works such as the construction of multi-storey car parks, upgrades in blocks B, C and D," he said.

He explained that the project will provide a market with a modern, clean, orderly and complete concept with the latest waste management system.

"MNS was built to replace the Satok Market which was becoming obsolete and no longer suitable due to drainage problems, dirty environment and traffic congestion," he said.

Apart from that, he shared that FAMA has developed many retail outlets aimed at strengthening the supply chain as well as increasing market opportunities (outlets) for direct sales of agricultural commodities and agricultural products to consumers, especially in urban and suburban areas.

"Through these outlets, the distribution chain can be shortened as well as the risk of market manipulation by middlemen reduced," he said.

He added that there are 1,037 of these outlets throughout Malaysia.

Meanwhile, FAMA also developed marketing infrastructures such as the Rural Transformation Center (RTC) Program, MyFarm Outlet, Farmers' Market, and Permanent Farmers' Market.

"In addition, various marketing and sales programmes and activities are held here such as the MyRakyat programme and Direct Sales from Farms as an initiative to help reduce the cost of living of the people.

"Close collaboration with the State Government will continue to ensure that MNS plays an important role in agro-food marketing in Sarawak," he said.

Also present were Sarawak Deputy Minister of Agriculture Modernisation and Regional Development (MANRED), Martin Ben, MAFI deputy secretary-general, Datuk Badrul Hisham Mohd, FAMA director-general, Datuk Zainal Abidin Yang Razalli and Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Sarawak director, Datuk Stanley Tan.



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## RM7m to upgrade 15 markets

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### SUMMARIES

KIANDEE (centre) and others take a look at the ikan Terubok being sold at Medan Niaga Satok, Kuching. Photo: Mohd Alif Noni

KUCHING: A total of RM7 million has been allocated under the 12th Malaysia Plan for the upgrading of 15 markets throughout Sarawak.