



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
RABU 22 FEBRUARI 2023

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UKK MAFS

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

Headline	Mat Sabu : Prices of chicken, eggs to be floated after June		
MediaTitle	Kwong Wah Yit Poh		
Date	22 Feb 2023	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	59,667
Page No	A1,A6a	Readership	179,000
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	158 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 742
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 2,226





◆ A6a版

鸡肉鸡蛋价格

料6月后

自由浮动

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莫哈末沙布：鸡肉和鸡蛋价格，预计在今年6月之后自由浮动。

农长：鸡肉鸡蛋价格料6月后自由浮动

(吉隆坡 21 日讯) 农业及粮食安全部长拿督斯里莫哈末沙布指出，鸡肉和鸡蛋价格预计在今年 6 月之后自由浮动，以确保解决供应短缺的问题。

他说，当鸡肉和鸡蛋价格自由浮动，农业部得以评估及

监督价格是否比当前零售顶价高。

“我们有信心农业部(通过价格自由浮动)将满足鸡肉和鸡蛋需求，目前供应也已充足，只是5或6个月之后更加充足，若没发生新的课题(例如天灾)。”

他今日(21日)在其办公室接受访问时，这么说。

根据报道，莫哈末沙布在上个月说，农业部正在探讨是否让市场上的鸡蛋价格自由浮动，以及向B40群体发放目标式补贴，这涉及财政部、经济部及农业部的讨论。

提到鸡只饲料主要成份，即玉米几乎完全从阿根廷和巴西进口，从而对鸡肉和鸡蛋价格构成影响，莫哈末沙布说，政府今年鼓励在国内种植

玉米，以解决食品价格上涨的问题。

他说：“再过数月(玉米种植)已开始有收成……已有公司要实施(购买玉米)例如国家稻米公司。”

“有关稻米种植的研究，在玻璃市如火如荼进行中。”

提到将在本周五提呈国会的《2023 年财政预算案》，莫哈末沙布说，他希望农业部的拨款总数不会被削减。#

Headline	Chicken and egg prices to be floated after June		
MediaTitle	China Press		
Date	22 Feb 2023	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	127,822
Page No	A4	Readership	383,466
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	344 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 4,555
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 13,665



■莫哈末沙布

末沙布：
克服糧食短缺



雞肉蛋

■鸡肉和鸡蛋价格预计在6月后自由浮动。（档案照）

6月自由浮動

（吉隆坡21日讯）农业及食品安全部长拿督斯里莫哈末沙布指出，鸡肉和鸡蛋价格预计在6月后自由浮动，作为政府克服粮食短缺努力的一部分。

他说，当鸡肉和鸡蛋价格自由浮动，农业部得以评估及监督价格是否比当前零售价高。

“我们有信心农业部（通过价格自由浮动）将满足鸡肉和鸡蛋需求，目前供应也已充足，只是5或6个月之后更加充足，若没发生新的课题（例如天灾）。”

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國內種玉米供應飼料

提到鸡只饲料主要成份，即玉米几乎完全从阿根廷和巴西进口，从而对鸡肉和鸡蛋价格构成影响，莫哈末沙布说，政府今年鼓励在国内种植玉米，以解决食品价格上涨的问题。

他说：“再过数个月（玉米种植）已开始有收成……已有公司要实施（购买玉米），例如国家稻米公司。”

“有关稻米种植的研究，在玻璃市如火如荼进行中。”

提到将在本周五提呈国会的2023年财政预算案，莫哈末沙布说，他希望农业部的拨款总数不会被削减。

目前，大马半岛标准鸡肉的零售价顶限为每公斤9令吉40仙，而鸡蛋顶价分别是A级45仙、B级43仙和C41仙。在浮罗交怡、沙巴、砂拉越和纳闽，顶价因地区而异。

Headline	MAFS Minister: Prices of chicken, eggs to be floated after June		
MediaTitle	Nanyang Siang Pau		
Date	22 Feb 2023	Color	Black/white
Section	National	Circulation	27,667
Page No	A19	Readership	83,000
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	413 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 3,129
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 9,387



农长：预计6月后

鸡肉蛋价自由浮动

(吉隆坡 21 日讯) 农业及粮食安全部长拿督斯里莫哈末沙布说，在政府努力克服粮食短缺问题下，预计今年 6 月后，鸡肉和鸡蛋的价格将得以自由浮动。

他说，届时，无论鸡肉和鸡蛋的价格涨或降，国内贸易及生活成本部将可评估和控制商品价格。

“我们有信心，通过价格浮动的措施，将能满足对鸡肉和鸡蛋的需求。其实，如果没有出什么特别状况，例如天灾等，现在的供应量已经基本足够，但从现在起至五六个月后就更充足了。”

莫哈末沙布今天在办公室接受马新社记者访问



末沙布：2023 年预算案倾向于撙节，但 B40 群体的福利不会被削减。

时，如此表示。

上个月，农业及粮食安全部 (MAFS) 研究了鸡蛋市场价格浮动的必要性，并向 B40 群体提供

有针对性的补贴，涉及的部门，包括财政部、经济部和贸消部。

目前，大马半岛鸡肉的最高零售价为每公斤 9

令吉 40 仙，而 A 级鸡蛋的最高零售价为每个 45 仙，B 级 (43 仙) 和 C 级 (41 仙)，但浮罗文怡、沙巴、砂拉越和纳闽，这两种食品的最高价格因地区而异。

进口玉米牵动蛋鸡价

莫哈末沙布说，玉米是鸡只的主食，几乎 100% 从阿根廷和巴西特别进口，因此牵动了鸡肉和鸡蛋的价格。

他说，今年起，政府鼓励在我国种植谷物，以应对食品价格上涨的问题，玻璃市正在积极投入玉米种植的研究。

“再过几个月 (玉米) 将能够开始生产……并且已经有公司要购买，例如 Padiberas Nasional

Berhad (Bernas)。”

对于将在本周五提呈的 2023 年财政预算案，他希望给 MAFS 的拨款不会减少。

他有信心，因为首相拿督斯里安华是根据昌明大马的理念而设定此次的预算案。

“2023 年预算倾向于撙节，但 B40 群体的 (福利) 不会被削减……MAFS 希望 (所分配) 的即使不增加，但至少不削减。”

由拿督斯里伊斯迈沙比里领导的前政府，在第 15 届大选前提交了总拨款 3723 亿令吉的 2023 年预算，其中 53.2 亿令吉分配给当时的农业和食品工业部。



Headline	Egg, chicken prices to be floated after June		
MediaTitle	Sin Chew Daily		
Date	22 Feb 2023	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	288,920
Page No	7	Readership	866,760
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	315 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 7,016
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 21,048



末沙布：料6月後 淨雞雞蛋價將自由浮動

(吉隆坡21日讯)农业及粮食安全部长莫哈末沙布说，政府在努力介入解决粮食短缺问题后，预料今年6月后，国内的标准净鸡和鸡蛋价格将可恢复自由浮动。

他说，标准净鸡及鸡蛋价格浮动，将可以让国内贸易及生活费部评估和控制商品价格，无论与目前的零售顶价相比，是上涨或下跌。

末沙布在接受媒体访问时说，农业

及粮食安全部有信心，通过价格浮动将可满足对净鸡和鸡蛋的需求，现在已经足够应付市场，除非再遇上不可避免的灾难事件。

鼓励在马种植生产玉米

他说，今年初，该部已研究鸡蛋价格自由浮动的必要性，同时向B40群体提供津贴，这课题也涉及到财政部、经济部和国内贸易及生活费部，并一起展开

探讨。

目前西马半岛标准净鸡零售顶价为每公斤9令吉40仙，A级鸡蛋零售顶价为每个45仙、B级43仙及C级41仙，不过，在浮罗交怡、沙巴、砂拉越和纳闽，则因地区不同有相异的顶价。

末沙布也提到，肉鸡饲料之一的玉米，几乎100%从阿根廷和巴西进口，因此影响肉鸡和鸡蛋的价格，政府目前鼓励在马来西亚尝试投入这类原料的种植和生产，以应对食品价格上涨的问题。

Prices of chicken, eggs to be floated after June

KUALA LUMPUR: The prices of chicken and eggs are expected to be floated after June as part of the government's efforts to overcome food shortage, says Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu.

He said the prices would be floated so that the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry (KPDN) could monitor and assess the fluctuations in the prices of the goods compared to the current ceiling price.

"We are confident that the

Agriculture and Food Security Ministry (MAFS) will satisfy the demand for chicken and eggs (through price floating), and even now, it is sufficient, but in five or six months, it will be more sufficient if no new undesirable matters (such as disasters) arise," he told Bernama.

In January, Mohamad reportedly said that MAFS was studying the need to float the price of eggs in the market and provide targeted subsidies to the B40 group and that discussions were being held with the

Finance Ministry, Economy Ministry and KPDN over the matter.

The current retail ceiling price in Peninsular Malaysia for standard chicken is RM9.40 per kg, and for eggs it is 45 sen for Grade A, Grade B (43sen) and Grade C (41sen), respectively.

However, in Langkawi, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan, the maximum prices of the items differ based on zones and districts.

Meanwhile, commenting on grain corn, which is almost 100% imported from Argentina and Brazil

— affecting the price of chicken and eggs — Mohamad said the government was encouraging its cultivation in Malaysia this year.

"In a few more months, (grain corn crops) will start yielding ... and there are already companies that want to implement (the purchase of grain corn) similar to (agricultural model of) Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas)," he said, adding that studies on grain corn cultivation are actively being carried out in Perlis.

On Budget 2023, which will be

tabled this Friday, Mohamad hoped there would be no reduction in the amount allocated to his ministry.

He also expected the Budget to be tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be simple, based on the concept of Malaysia Madani.

Before the 15th General Election at the end of last year, the government led by Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had announced Budget 2023 with a total allocation of RM372.3bil and RM5.32bil was allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries.

Harga ayam, telur dijangka diapungkan selepas Jun depan

Tindakan bagi menangani kekurangan bekalan

Kuala Lumpur: Harga ayam dan telur dijangka diapungkan selepas Jun ini, dalam usaha kerajaan memastikan kekurangan bekalan makanan itu dapat diatasi.

Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, berkata harga ayam dan telur diapungkan supaya Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN) dapat menilai serta mengawal harga barang itu sama ada naik atau turun, berbanding

harga siling runcit semasa.

"Kita yakin Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan akan mencukupkan permintaan ayam dan telur (melalui pengapungan harga). Sekarang pun sudah mencukupi cuma lima atau enam bulan lagi ia akan lebih cukup, jika tidak berlaku perkara baharu yang tidak diinginkan (seperti bencana)," katanya di sini.

MAFS sedang lali

Januari lalu, Mohamad dilaporkan berkata MAFS sedang mengkaji keperluan mengapungkan harga telur di pasaran dan memberi subsidi bersasar kepada golongan B40 dan perkara ini membabitkan perbincangan dengan Kementerian Kewangan, Kementerian Ekonomi serta KPDN.

Harga siling runcit semasa bagi ayam standard ialah RM9.40

Sekarang pun sudah mencukupi cuma lima atau enam bulan lagi ia akan lebih cukup, jika tidak berlaku perkara baharu yang tidak diinginkan (seperti bencana)



Mohamad Sabu,
Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan

sekitogram, manakala harga siling runcit telur bagi Gred A pada 45 sen sebiji, Gred B (43 sen sebiji) dan Gred C (41 sen sebiji), masing-masing di Semenanjung, Sarawak dan Labuan, harga maksimum kedua-dua makanan itu berbeza mengikut zon dan daerah.

Mengulas berhubung jagung

(tanaman jagung bijian) dah boleh memulakan hasil. Sudah ada syarikat mahu melaksanakan (pembelian jagung bijian) seperti (model tanaman) Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas)," katanya dan menambah kajian mengenai penanaman jagung bijian sedang giat dilaksanakan di Perlis.

Mengulas mengenai Belanjaan 2023 yang akan dibentangkan Jumaat ini, Mohamad berharap agar jumlah peruntukan kepada kementeriannya tidak dikurangkan.

Kerajaan pimpinan Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob sebelum Pilihan Raya Umum ke-15, mengumumkan Belanjaan 2023 dengan peruntukan RM372.3 bilion secara keseluruhan dan daripada jumlah itu, RM5.32 bilion diperuntuk kepada Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan.

BERNAMA

bijian, iaitu makanan kepada ternakan ayam yang hampir 100 peratus diimport khas dari Argentina dan Brazil sehingga memberi kesan kepada harga ayam serta telur, Mohamad berkata, kerajaan sedang menggalakkan penanaman bahan itu di Malaysia pada tahun ini, bagi menangani isu kenaikan harga makanan.

"Dalam beberapa bulan lagi

Headline	Chow urges unity govt take immediate action deal with ASF		
MediaTitle	Kwong Wah Yit Poh		
Date	22 Feb 2023	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	59,667
Page No	A6a	Readership	179,000
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	83 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 390
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 1,170



(吉隆坡 21 日讯) 非洲猪瘟在槟州肆虐，槟州首席部长曹观友促团结政府立即采取应对行动，否则将影响整个养猪业生态系统。

他表示，非洲猪瘟已蔓延至槟州逾 30 家养猪场，受影响的养猪场不仅需要关闭，也无法进行销售。

“槟州是全国猪肉供应的主要州属，惟目前槟州的养猪业却一片低迷，依然看不见曙光。”

曹观友也是峇都交湾国会议员。他周二在国会下议院，参与感谢国家元首施政御词时，促请农业及粮食安全部，针对槟州面对的非洲猪瘟问题，立即采取应对行动。

促尽快批准使用疫苗

他也建议，政府须尽快批准使用非洲猪瘟疫苗，并且制定明确的猪只检验标准作业程序 (SOP)。

他也敦促政府撤销疫情已受控养猪场的停止运作令，同时重新检讨销毁猪只的标准。

“我希望政府能够正视非洲猪瘟课题，并且尽快发放援助予受非洲猪瘟影响的养猪场。”

曹观友也呼吁政府，需要确保市场的猪肉供应充足，且能够让消费者安心食用。#



曹观友促团结政府立即采取应对行动，否则将影响整个养猪业生态系统。

快采取行动应对猪瘟 曹观友促团结政府

Headline	Subsidy applications for egg, poultry producers still closed, says Veterinary Department		
MediaTitle	Nanyang Siang Pau		
Date	22 Feb 2023	Color	Black/white
Section	National	Circulation	27,667
Page No	A19	Readership	83,000
Language	Chinese	ArticleSize	174 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,318
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 3,955



(布城 21 日讯) 兽医服务局指出，养鸡业者及蛋农今年的补贴迄今尚未开放供申请。

该局发文告说，有关申请补贴事宜刚在上周五的内阁会议讨论。

“已向内阁提出今年 1 月至 6 月的补贴申请。农业及粮食安全部与兽医服务局至今仍等待内阁批准的会议记录，以落实补贴申请。”

兽医局也说，养鸡业者及蛋农去年的补贴申请，已在 1 月 15 日截止。

根据一家本地报章报道，养鸡业者认为政府不会继续向他们发放补贴。

代表巴生谷一座鸡蛋农场的消息人士声称，兽医服务局网站已没提供谷歌表格形式的补贴申请表格，因此，政府不发放补贴之意越来越明显。

该报道也指农业部长拿督斯里莫哈末沙布说，政府将在今年中旬重新探讨是否向养鸡业者及蛋农发放补贴。

他指出，政府已发放 18 亿令吉补贴予养鸡业者及蛋农，预计到了 6 月将超过 20 亿令吉，数额过于庞大，若政府成功稳定鸡只及鸡蛋价格，就没有需要发放这项补贴。

鸡肉蛋补贴未开放申请 兽医局：待内阁批准

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
22/2/2023	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	32

Kumbahan lembu bukan sebab Sungai Lereh tercemar

MELAKA: Rata-rata penduduk sekitar Sungai Lereh di sini menolak dakwaan pencemaran sungai itu yang berlaku Sabtu lalu, sehingga warna air bertukar hitam dan berbau busuk berpunca daripada kumbahan najis ternakan lembu, di Kampung Bukit Belian.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JPKK) Kampung Paya Rumpit, Mohamad Abd. Rahman, 61, berkata, mereka percaya pencemaran itu disebabkan sisa-sisa dari Tapak Pelupusan Sisa Pepejal Sanitari Sungai Udang.

"Tidak mungkin air najis ternakan menjadi punca hingga menyebabkan air Sungai Seberang Gajah dan Sungai Lereh hingga ke muara bertukar menjadi hitam dan berbau busuk," katanya ketika ditemui.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas kenyataan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Klebang, Datuk Lim Ban Hong yang memaklumkan, laporan awal Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) mendapati, sampel air sungai menunjukkan pencemaran berpunca

daripada kumbahan lembu dan bukannya dari Tapak Pelupusan Sisa Pepejal Sanitari Sungai Udang.

Ban Hong berkata, JAS dan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DVS) akan melakukan operasi bersepadu untuk meninjau kolam kumbahan di ladang ternakan itu dan melihat pengendaliannya.

Menurutnya, ia bertujuan memastikan air najis ternakan tidak lagi dibuang tanpa dirawat ke Sungai Seberang Gajah dan seterusnya masuk ke Sungai Lereh.

Sementara itu, pemilik ladang ternakan di Kampung Bukit Belian, Ah Seng mengesahkan, JAS telah datang menemuinya dan memberi amaran supaya tidak membuang sisa kumbahan ke dalam sungai.

Katanya, dia turut mengarahkan menutup longkang aliran kumbahan daripada terus masuk ke Sungai Seberang Gajah.

"Saya sendiri terkejut dengan aduan mengatakan air najis dari ladang ternakan lembu saya menjadi punca air Sungai Lereh bertukar warna hitam dan berbau busuk, sebab saya hanya bela 90 ekor lembu," katanya.



PEMANDANGAN dari udara menunjukkan muara Sungai Lereh, Melaka bertukar warna gelap. - UTUSAN/AMRAN MULUP

School's farm project bears plenty of fruit

KUALA LUMPUR: A Setapak primary school's out-of-the-box approach to disciplining pupils has succeeded in yielding multiple gains.

SK Jalan Ayer Panas created an urban farming initiative called Cityfarm, which was aimed at resolving the school's disciplinary issues, mainly pertaining to pupils coming to school late.

Teacher Ibrahim Ismail, who was responsible for initiating the Cityfarm project, said the project teaches pupils to be disciplined and also gives them the opportunity to learn about agriculture.

"In fact, some of them have even started gardening at home. Their parents and the local community here have also shown interest in the programme and are involved in it," he said in an interview with Bernama.

The farm has been generating income for the school through the sale of produce and the consulting fees for people seeking guidance on the fertigation technique used by the school.

Located just 10km from the Petronas Twin Towers, SK Jalan Ayer Panas uses the returns from the farm to meet the educational needs of its underprivileged pupils residing in some of the nearby people's housing projects meant for B40 households.

According to headmistress Rozalina Razali, the school has an enrolment of 700 with most of the children from B40 families.

"In terms of academic achievements, we may not be able to compete with other schools in the capital city. But we are proud because these days whenever SK Jalan Ayer Panas



Labour of love: Ibrahim tending to the Cityfarm initiative's (inset) rock melon plants in SK Jalan Ayer Panas in Kuala Lumpur. The project was started to punish students who came late to school. — Bernama

"This way, their classes were not disrupted. In the beginning, as expected, they didn't like the activity but later on when it was time to harvest whatever they had cultivated, they grew excited," said Ibrahim, who has served as an educator for 26 years.

He said they got the project off the ground by cultivating cucumbers using the fertigation method.

"Our main intention was to instil discipline in the children. Later, I felt it would be better if we switched to planting crops that can generate an income for our school. After doing some research, I found that rock melons were capable of providing satisfactory returns," he added.

Ibrahim said the school sought advice from the Agriculture Department and Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI).

The melons harvested at Cityfarm are eagerly snapped up by buyers, with demand outstripping supply.

The farm's rock melon cultivation is alternated with other crops such as cucumber, bitter melon and long beans, depending on the situation.

"Our profits are channelled into a fund for the use of the school and the pupils," he added.

Meanwhile, SK Jalan Ayer Panas' successful application of the fertigation system has drawn the attention of various organisations and institutions, including several schools in the Klang Valley.

Delegations from several local authorities including Kota Kinabalu City Hall, Sabah, and Pasir Gudang City Council, Johor, have also visited the school to see for themselves the success of the fertigation project.

When he was transferred here from Sabah in 2015, he was taken aback by the lack of discipline, particularly when it came to coming to school on time.

"That's when I came up with the idea of starting a farm and 'punishing' latecomers by getting them to work there," he said.

The farming project, which began in 2016, was initially dubbed "Don't Be Late" or Dombel in short, and habitual latecomers were made to work on the farm before the school session started.

is mentioned, people will immediately think of its farm.

"In terms of tackling the issue of latecomers, as far as we're concerned, even if a pupil arrives at 7.28am, we would still say our 'punishment' in the form of learning approach has been successful in disciplining latecomers," she said.

The school session starts at 7.30am.

Ibrahim said that as a disciplinary teacher, he was initially at a loss for an effective solution to address the punctuality issue.

FERTIGATION TECHNIQUE

School's farm instills discipline, makes a tidy profit

KUALA LUMPUR: A Setapak primary school's out-of-the-box approach to discipline pupils has borne fruit.

SK Jalan Ayer Panas' urban farming initiative, called Cityfarm, almost completely resolved the school's disciplinary issues, mainly pupils arriving late for school. The school successfully cultivated rock melon using the fertigation system.

"Cityfarm is a two-in-one initiative. It teaches pupils to be disciplined and gives them a chance to learn about agriculture.

"Some have started gardening at home. Their parents and the community are involved as well.

"The farm generates income for the school through the sale of our produce and the consulting fees we charge for those seeking guidance on the fertigation technique we use," said Ibrahim Ismail, the teacher responsible for initiating the Cityfarm project.

SK Jalan Ayer Panas uses the returns from the farm to meet the educational needs of underprivileged pupils who live in People's Housing Projects (PPR) for Bottom 40 per cent households.

Headmistress Rozalina Razali said the school has 700 pupils, most of them from B40 families. "Our academic achievements may not match other schools in the city, but we are proud because people think of the farm when you mention SK Jalan Ayer Panas.

On dealing with pupils arriving late for school, she said: "We consider pupils late even if they ar-

rive at 7.28am. (School starts at 7.30am.) Our approach of punishing through learning has improved latecomers' discipline."

IT BEGAN WITH CUCUMBER

Ibrahim said as the school's discipline teacher, he was initially at a loss for an effective solution to address some pupils' tardiness.

"After I transferred from Sabah to this school in 2015, I was taken aback by the lack of discipline, particularly the latecomers.

"I racked my brain to think of an effective way to instil discipline among pupils because I didn't want to just punish them, I want to motivate them to come to school.

"So, I came up with the idea of starting a farm and punishing latecomers to work there. Thankfully, the headmistress and teachers supported my proposal."

The farming project, initially dubbed "Don't Be Late" or "Don't be" for short, began in 2016, targeting habitual latecomers. They were made to work on the farm before school started.

"In the beginning, they didn't like it. But when it was time to harvest what they had cultivated, they were excited," said Ibrahim, who has been teaching for 26 years.

The Bahasa Malaysia teacher said the project began with 75 polybags of cucumber plants.

"Our main intention was to instil discipline. Later, I thought it would be better to plant crops that can generate income for our school. After some research, I learnt that cultivating rock melons

can provide good returns."

ADVISING AND FUNDING

Ibrahim said the school consulted KMK Agro Global Sdn Bhd, the Putrajaya Agriculture Department and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and received funding from Edana Delight Bakery before beginning rock melon cultivation in 2019.

"We began with 200 rock melon plants. Now, we have 350 plants growing on a plot of land measuring 30ft by 80ft."

Demand for Cityfarm's rock melons outstrips supply.

"We have no problems with marketing. Teachers and the local community buy the rock melons. Cityfarm is also working with the Ali Maju Sdn Bhd restaurant chain and other restaurants in the neighbourhood," Ibrahim said.

The farm alternates between cultivating rock melon, cucumber, bitter melon and long bean.

"Rock melons can usually be harvested 75 days after seedlings are transferred into the polybags, depending on the type of rock melon plant we grow. Each harvest, we can collect about 600kg."

He said the school profited from selling rock melons despite pricing them lower than market price. "Our profits go to a fund for the school and the pupils."

The success of Cityfarm, which is managed by a committee of 10 teachers, has drawn the attention of various organisations and institutions, including schools in the Klang Valley like SK Setiawangsa,



SK Jalan Ayer Panas discipline teacher Ibrahim Ismail at the school's farm in Kuala Lumpur. BERNAMA PIC

did not come easy.

"We faced hardship. When we started cultivating rock melon in 2019, our greenhouse almost collapsed.

"We didn't have funds for repair work and seedlings were ready to be transferred to polybags. We decided to use our own money to build a new structure."

On future plans, he said the school would stick to the purpose of Cityfarm, which is educating children and inculcating a love of gardening in the community.

"Fertigation doesn't require a lot of space. We are ready to help pupils' parents who want to increase their income with fertigation farming."

He said SK Jalan Ayer Panas regularly participates in carnivals to share knowledge on fertigation, with the next one being the KL Park Festival at Tasik Titiwangsa here from March 4 to 11.

Bernama

FUTURE PLANS

Ibrahim said the farm's success

Initiative to address disciplinary issues at school **bearing fruit**

► Farming programme to curb delinquency sparks interest in agriculture with success of rock melon yield

KUALA LUMPUR: A Setapak primary school's out-of-the-box approach to disciplining its pupils has succeeded in yielding multiple gains for the institution.

SK Jalan Ayer Panas' urban farming initiative, called Cityfarm, has almost completely resolved the school's disciplinary issues, mainly pertaining to pupils coming to school late. In addition, its successful cultivation of rock melons using a fertigation system has garnered the attention of various other institutions, Bernama reported.

"Cityfarm is a two-in-one initiative. It teaches our pupils to be disciplined and gives them the opportunity to learn about agriculture. In fact, some of them have even started gardening at home. Their parents and the local community have also shown interest in the programme and are actively involved in it.

"The farm is also generating an income for

our school from the sale of the produce and from the consulting fee we impose on those who want to learn the fertigation technique that we use," said teacher Ibrahim Ismail, who was responsible for initiating the Cityfarm project.

Located just 10km from the Petronas Twin Towers, SK Jalan Ayer Panas uses the returns from the farm to meet the needs of its underprivileged pupils from the B40 group living at a People's Housing Project nearby.

Headmistress Rozalina Razali said the school has an enrolment of 700 pupils and most of them are from B40 families.

"In terms of academic achievement, we may not be able to compete with other schools in the capital. But we are proud because these days whenever SK Jalan Ayer Panas is mentioned, people immediately think of its farm.

"In terms of tackling the issue of latecomers, we would say our 'punishment as a form of learning' approach has been successful in disciplining latecomers."

As to how the idea of starting the farm came about, Ibrahim said as the school's disciplinary teacher he was initially at a loss trying to find an effective solution to address the issue of latecomers.

Ibrahim said the school sought the advice of KMK Agro Global Sdn Bhd, the Putrajaya

Department of Agriculture and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute as well as received funding from Edana Delight Bakery to get started on their rock melon cultivation in 2019.

"We began with 200 rock melon plants. We now have 350 plants growing on a plot measuring 30 feet by 60 feet, which we cultivate using a fertigation system."

The melons harvested at Cityfarm are snapped up by buyers and demand outstrips supply.

He said the farm's rock melon cultivation is alternated with other crops such as cucumbers, bitter gourds and long beans, depending on the situation.

"Our profits are channelled into a fund for the school and the pupils."

Cityfarm is currently managed by a special committee comprising 10 teachers from the school.

SK Jalan Ayer Panas' successful application of the fertigation system has drawn the attention of various organisations and institutions, including several schools in the Klang Valley.

When asked about plans for the future, Ibrahim said the school will not deviate from the original purpose of creating Cityfarm, which is to educate children and inculcate a love of gardening in the local community.



Ibrahim showing a melon from the farm at the school. — BERNAMAPIC