LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
SABTU 1 MEI 2021

BIL	TAJUK KERATAN AKHBAR	KEMENTERIAN / JABATAN / AGENSI
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.	MAFI SASAR PENGELUARAN 3,336 TAN METRIK HARUMANIS TAHUN INI, KOSMO - ONLINE MAJLIS PELEPASAN 'AIRASIA FARM, SH -ONLINE AIRASIA FARM BAWA MANGGA HARUMANIS KE SABAH, BISNES, BH -31 HARUMANIS TERBANG KE SABAH, NASIONAL, SH -14 AIRASIA EDAR HARUMANIS KE SABAH, EKONOMI, UM -38 SWEET CARGO, BUSINESS, NST -21 SABAHANS CAN NOW BUY HARUMANIS WITHOUT FLYING TO PERLIS, NATION, THE STAR -10 FIRST SHIPMENT OF PERLIS HARUMANIS SENT TO SABAH, NEWS IN BRIEF, NST -12 PENGRUS BESAR AIRASIA FARM (SABAH), BERGAMBAR BERSAMA SEORANG PENGUSAHA MANGGA HARUMANIS, NEGARA, KOSMO -18	JABATAN PERTANIAN MALAYSIA (DOA)
10.	MARITIM RAMPAS TUJUH BUBU NAGA, NEGERI PAHANG, SH -26	JABATAN PERIKANAN MALAYSIA (DOF)
11.	JUAL BENIH PADI TANPA KEBENARAN, HM -ONLINE	BAHAGIAN INDUSTRI PADI DAN BERAS (IPB)
12. 13.	AMBOI, A VERTICAL FARM, MUKA DEPAN, THE STAR -1 LITTLE FARM ABUNDANT WITH POTENTIAL, NEWS, THE STAR -3	LAIN-LAIN

UKKMAFI

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	KOSMO	ONLINE	

MAFI sasar pengeluaran 3,336 tan mentrik harumanis tahun ini

SEPANG – Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) menerusi Jabatan Pertanian menyasarkan pengeluaran mangga harumanis sebanyak 3,336 tan metrik dengan nilai RM66.7 juta di Perlis, pada tahun ini.

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Ronald Kiandee berkata, daripada jumlah itu, dianggarkan sekitar 50 peratus akan dijual secara dalam talian melalui platform e-dagang seperti airasia food, airasia fresh dan agrobazaar online.

"Dengan langkah ini secara tidak langsung, ia turut memberi peluang kepada lebih ramai peniaga untuk menyertai aktiviti mempromosikan industri agro makanan ini, menerusi platform e-dagang yang tersedia," katanya dalam sidang akhbar selepas menyempurnakan majlis flag-off harumanis ke Sabah di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (klia2) hari ini.

Turut hadir, Pengerusi Eksekutif Airasia Group, Datuk Kamarudin Meranun dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Airasia Group, Tan Sri Tony Fernandes.

Ronald berkata, industri harumanis bukan sahaja dapat meningkatkan pendapatan kepada 2,415 pengusaha buah mangga itu di Perlis, malah mempunyai impak besar terhadap ekonomi serta industri agro pelancongan dan rantaian bekalan di seluruh negara.

Dalam masa sama, Ronald turut menggalakkan penglibatan lebih banyak syarikat swasta dalam bersama-sama memacu industri harumanis yang dilihat berpotensi tinggi seperti yang dilakukan

anak syarikat Airasia, airasia farm.

"MAFI berbesar hati kerana dapat bekerjasama dengan sektor swasta seperti airasia farm untuk mempromosi kempen 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi.

"Kerjasama itu bukan sahaja akan memperluas pengedaran harumanis ke seluruh Malaysia tetapi juga membawa buah mangga yang cukup eksklusif ini ke Sabah secara rasmi buat pertama kalinya sejajar dengan penekanan kementerian terhadap sektor pertanian bernilai tinggi yang dapat mewujudkan peluang ekonomi untuk rakyat," katanya.

Sementara itu, Tony Fernandes berkata, penghantaran pertama harumanis sebagai komoditi eksport adalah dengan memanfaatkan ekosistem dan teknologi kumpulan airasia seperti Teleport, dan penggunaan platform e-dagang oleh airasia food dan airasia fresh.

"Kami sentiasa berusaha menerokai perniagaan dalam pelbagai cara dan projek ini adalah berterusan bagi Airasia dalam mempromosikan produk makanan Malaysia. – K! ONLINE

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	SINAR HARIAN	ONLINE	

Majlis Pelepasan 'AirAsia Farm'

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee (kanan) dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif AirAsia Tan Sri Tony Fernandes pada Majlis Pelepasan 'AirAsia Farm' Penghantaran Mangga Harumanis ke Sabah di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur 2 (klia2) hari ini.

Penghantaran sulung mangga Harumanis menerusi penerbangan AirAsia AK5104 itu dijayakan melalui kerjasama Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) dengan AirAsia Farm, anak syarikat AirAsia. - Foto Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	BERITA HARIAN	BISNES	31

airasia farm bawa mangga Harumanis ke Sabah

Ronald (tengah), Tony (kiri) dan Kamarudin pada upacara pelepasan penerbangan pertama Harumanis ke Sabah di klia2, Sepang, semalam.
(Foto Fariz Iswadi Ismail/BH)

Syarikat kerjasama dengan MAFI jayakan promosi buah ikonik

Oleh Mohd Zaky Zainuddin
zaky@bh.com.my

Penggemar mangga Harumanis di Sabah kini boleh mendapatkan buah yang menjadi ikon negeri Perlis itu menerusi kerjasama Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) dan airasia farm.

Penerbangan pertama Harumanis ke Sabah menjadi sebahagian daripada kempen 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi' yang dilancarkan MAFI pada 11 April lalu di Beseri, Perlis bagi mempromosi buah ikonik itu.

Penghantaran pertama yang membawa Harumanis berlepas dari Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur 2 (klia2) melalui penerbangan AirAsia AK5104 pada jam 10.25 pagi semalam.

Mangga berkenaan dihantar ke Tune Hotels Kota Kinabalu sebagai lokasi pengambilan rakan perkhidmatan penghantarnya di Sabah dan airasia farm kemudian akan mengedarkannya kepada peruncit utama di Kota Kinabalu.

Mengulas perkembangan itu, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Airasia Group, Tan Sri Tony Fernandes, berkata airasia farm berhasrat menjadi jenama kukuh dan watak penting dalam rantaian bekalan petani Malaysia lima tahun akan datang.

Beliau berkata, airasia farm sudah mengumpul lebih 2,000 petani yang menawarkan pelbagai hasil tanaman kepada 300 perniagaan di seluruh negara.

"Kami melihat banyak potensi agromakanan yang boleh diketengahkan Malaysia.

"Kita bukan hanya memiliki Harumanis, durian Musang King serta buah-buahan lain untuk di pasarkan dalam dan ke luar negara, malah pelbagai lagi makanan basah seperti ikan dan sayur.

"Sejak ditubuhkan pada Jun 2020, airasia farm sudah mengumpul jualan mencecah RM3 juta. Angka ini akan terus meningkat selaras dengan permintaan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian kepada media selepas upacara pelepasan penerbangan pertama mangga Harumanis ke Sabah di Sepang, semalam.

Majlis itu disempurnakan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee.

Turut hadir, Pengerusi Eksekutif Airasia Group, Datuk Kamarudin Meranun dan Pengurus Besar airasia farm, Lalitha Sivanaser.

Sementara itu, Kiandee berkata, kerjasama dengan airasia farm bukan sahaja memperluas pengedaran Harumanis ke seluruh Malaysia, malah membawa mangga yang cukup eksklusif itu ke Sabah secara rasmi buat kali pertama dalam skala yang besar.

"Jabatan Pertanian menyasarkan hasil pengeluaran 3,336 tan Harumanis bernilai RM66.7 juta di Perlis.

"Daripada jumlah itu, dianggarkan 50 peratus dijual dalam talian melalui platform e-dagang seperti airasia food, airasia fresh dan agrobazaar online.

"Industri Harumanis bukan sahaja dapat meningkatkan pendapatan 2,415 pengusaha di Perlis, malah mempunyai impak besar terhadap ekonomi serta industri agropelancongan dan rantaian bekalan di seluruh negara," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	SINAR HARIAN	NASIONAL	14

Harumanis terbang ke Sabah

Sebahagian daripada kempen 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi'

Oleh RAIHAM MOHD SANUSI

SEPANG

Penggemar mangga harumanis di Sabah kini boleh mendapatkan buah yang menjadi ikon negeri Perlis itu menerusi kerjasama Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) dan anak syarikat AirAsia, AirAsia Farm.

Penghantaran pertama mangga harumanis ke Kota Kinabalu dilakukan di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA) 2 menerusi penerbangan AirAsia AK5104 yang berlepas jam 10.25 pagi pada Jumaat.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee berkata, kerjasama itu bukan sahaja akan memperluas pengedaran harumanis ke seluruh Malaysia, malah membawa buah yang cukup eksklusif itu ke Sabah secara rasmi buat pertama kalinya dalam skala besar.

Menurutnya, usaha itu sejajar dengan penekanan kementerian terhadap sektor pertanian bernilai tinggi yang dapat mewujudkan peluang ekonomi untuk rakyat.

"Tahun ini Jabatan Pertanian menyasarkan hasil pengeluaran sebanyak 3,336 tan metrik mangga harumanis bernilai RM66.7 juta di Perlis.

"Daripada jumlah itu, dianggarkan 50 peratus akan dijual secara dalam talian melalui platform e-dagang seperti AirAsia Food, AirAsia Fresh dan Agrobazaar online," katanya pada sidang akhbar selepas menyempurnakan pelepasan penghantaran harumanis bersama Pengerusi Eksekutif AirAsia Group, Datuk Kamarudin Meranun dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif AirAsia Group, Tan Sri Tony Fernandes.

Penghantaran pertama mangga harumanis ke Sabah dilakukan menerusi penerbangan AirAsia AK5104 yang berlepas dari KLIA2 jam 10.25 pagi pada Jumaat.

Pelepasan harumanis ke Sabah adalah sebahagian daripada kempen 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi' yang dilancarkan pada 11 April lalu.

Mangga tersebut akan dihantar ke Tune Hotels Kota Kinabalu sebagai lokasi pengambilan rakan perkhidmatan penghantarnya di Sabah dan AirAsia Farm akan mengedarkan harumanis kepada peruncit utama di Kota Kinabalu.

Ronald berkata, MAFI berbesar hati dapat bekerjasama dengan AirAsia Farm untuk mempromosi kempen 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi'.

"Industri harumanis bukan sahaja meningkatkan pendapatan 2,415 pengusaha harumanis di Perlis, malah mempunyai impak besar terhadap ekonomi dan industri agropelancongan serta rantaian bekalan di seluruh negara," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengurus Besar AirAsia Farm, Lalitha Sivanaser berkata, sinergi bersama MAFI memungkinkan penghantaran harumanis ke Sabah dalam masa kurang dari 72 jam setelah tuaian.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	EKONOMI	38

(DARI kanan) Ronald Kiandee, Kamarudin Meranun dan Tony Fernandes di majlis perasmian penghantaran pertama mangga Harumanis ke Sabah oleh airasia farm di KLIA2, semalam.

AirAsia edar harumanis ke Sabah

PENGGEMAR mangga harumanis di Sabah kini boleh mendapatkan buah yang menjadi ikon negeri Perlis itu menerusi kerjasama Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (MAFI) dengan airasia farm, anak syarikat Airasia.

Penghantaran pertama mangga itu ke Kota Kinabalu berlepas dari KLIA2 melalui penerbangan AirAsia AK5104 pada pukul 10.25 pagi semalam.

KOMBIZ

Majlis pelepasan disempurnakan bersama oleh Menteri MAFI, Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee; Pengerusi Eksekutif Airasia Group, Datuk Kamarudin Meranun dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Airasia Group, Tan Sri Tony Fernandes.

Pelepasan itu merupakan sebahagian daripada kempen 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi' yang dilancarkan oleh Ronald pada 11 April lalu di Beseri Perlis bagi mempromosi harumanis.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	NST	BUSINESS	21

1

1 SWEET CARGO
Agriculture and Food Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee (centre), AirAsia Bhd executive chairman Datuk Kamarudin Meranun (right) and group chief executive officer (CEO) Tan Sri Tony Fernandes flagging off the first shipment of Harumanis mangoes to Sabah at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 recently. airasia farm is the official distributor of the mangoes.

2 MAJOR DEVELOPER
(From left) SP Setia Bhd executive vice-president and chief financial officer Datuk Choy Kah Yew, president and chief executive officer Datuk Khor Chap Jen, chairman Tan Sri Syed Anwar Jamalullail, director Noraini Che Dan and group company secretary June Lee Wai Kim at its 46th annual general meeting recently.

3 EXTENSION
UMW Grantt International Sdn Bhd manufacturing and engineering division acting director Anas Nasrun Mohd Osman (left) announcing its sponsorship for promising motorcycle racer Hafizh Syahrin Abdullah.

4 FESTIVE CHEER
Sunway Bhd deputy executive chairman Tan Sri Razman M. Hashim (third from right) distributing 'bubur lambuk' to members of the police force, represented by Subang Jaya district police chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Khalid Othman, recently

5 GOLF TOURNAMENT
(From left) Carlsberg Brewery Malaysia Bhd corporate communication and corporate social responsibility director Pearl Lai, EPOS ATG Watch chief executive officer (CEO) Tham Onn Chuan, Taylormade executive director K.P. Low, Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Sdn Bhd president and CEO Dr Claus Weidner, The Edge Communications Sdn Bhd publisher and group CEO Datuk Ho Kay Tat, Saujana Hotel vice-president (operations) and general manager Peter Hourigan, Crescent Links (M) Sdn Bhd director Raymond Yee and Mercedes-Benz Services Malaysia managing director Anamika Talwar at the announcement of the return of the MercedesTrophy recently.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	THE STAR	NATION	10

Sabahans can now buy Harumanis without flying to Perlis

By FATIMAH ZAINAL
fatimah@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The trademarked Harumanis from Perlis, a popular seasonal mango reputed for its "double chin" and sweet flesh, has been introduced to Sabahans by airasia farm.

The Harumanis season, from April to June, hit the sky with half a tonne of the mangoes being shipped to the Land Below the Wind on an AirAsia flight yesterday morning from klia2 to Kota Kinabalu.

AirAsia's e-commerce platform, airasia farm, is now an official distributor of Harumanis through its cooperation with the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry.

Its minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee said the ministry was expecting the Harumanis harvest this year to reach 3,336 tonnes, estimated to value at RM66.7mil.

"We anticipate about 50% will be sold online through the e-commerce platforms such as airasia food, airasia fresh and agrobazaar online.

"Therefore, the ministry's cooperation with airasia farm will not only broaden the distribution of Harumanis to the whole of Malaysia but also take these exclusive mangoes to Sabah for the first time on such a large scale," he said.

He added that this would increase the income of more than 2,400 farmers in Perlis and leave a significant impact on the economy as well as agro-tourism and supply chain industries nationwide.

AirAsia Group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes said the company, which cut its teeth in the agribusiness industry amid the challenging aviation year in 2020, aimed to boost farmers' earning power.

An e-commerce platform, airasia farm was launched in June last year under its previous name OURFARM to enable farmers to connect directly to online business, he said.

"The whole idea of airasia farm came from Sabah when I travelled to Kudat, Tawau and Sandakan where I met farmers and saw how they lost a lot of margin to suppliers due to logistics.

"That's the birth of airasia farm. Since June last year until now, we have recorded about RM3mil sales.

"We are working with over 2,000 farmers in Malaysia supplying 300 businesses throughout Malaysia with various products from fruits and vegetables to eggs and anchovies.

"We have an entire ecosystem to promote Harumanis mangoes including our planes, digital assets and physical restaurants," said Fernandes in a press conference at klia2 yesterday.

He said it took less than 72 hours upon harvest to send out the first shipment of the mangoes from Perlis to Sabah.

He said with the incredible technology of Malaysian inventions such as the StixFresh fruit sticker, the shelf life and freshness of the mangoes could be prolonged to six months.

"Our strength is cross-border and when we can fly, which is months away, we can start selling Harumanis all over the Asean region," said Fernandes.

Other fruits that airasia farm would potentially include in the future were pineapples, bananas, pomelos and dragon fruits.

Earlier, Ronald and Fernandes sent off the AirAsia flight along with AirAsia Group executive chairman Datuk Kamarudin Meranun.

The event was part of the 'Harumanis Kembali Lagi' campaign led by the ministry in collaboration with the Agriculture Department and Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority of Perlis to promote the Harumanis mangoes.

The signature mangoes are now available for online order on airasia fresh and airasia food in the peninsula as well as on foodpanda in Sabah.

In 2011, the Perlis government registered "Harumanis Perlis" with the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) to protect its local growers.

The geographical indication "Harumanis Perlis" meant that such mangoes were grown and harvested in Perlis with specific guidelines issued by the authority.

While the law does not prohibit Harumanis from being grown in other states, they are not allowed to market the products under the name "Harumanis Perlis" as this was reserved for Perlis-grown Harumanis mangoes.

One for the album: Ronald (right) and Fernandes (third from left) taking a photo before the flight to Sabah at klia2. – Bernama

Watch the video TheStarTV.com

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	NST	NEWS IN BRIEF	12

First shipment of Perlis Harumanis sent to Sabah

SEPANG: Harumanis mango enthusiasts in Sabah can now enjoy the sweet and juicy tropical fruit as half a tonne of the Perlis iconic product was flown to the state yesterday. The first shipment of Harumanis via AirAsia Flight AK5104 from klia2 was a cooperation between the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry and airasia farm, a subsidiary of AirAsia. "The Harumanis (industry) not only boosts the income of 2,415 farmers in Perlis, it can also have a huge impact on the economy, agro-tourism industry and its supply chain," said Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ronald Kiandee at the flagging off of the Harumanis shipment at klia2. Present was AirAsia Group chief executive officer Tan Sri Tony Fernandes. The shipment is part of the Harumanis Returns campaign to promote the fruit, which began on April 11.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	KOSMO	NEGARA	18

PENGURUS Besar Airasia Farm (Sabah), Murain Shunmuganathan (kanan) bergambar bersama seorang pengusaha mangga harumanis yang dikenali sebagai Nur Nisya di kebun miliknya di Perlis. Airasia Farm bekerjasama dengan Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Jabatan Pertanian serta Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan Perlis sebagai pengedar rasmi mangga harumanis.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	SINAR HARIAN	NEGERI PAHANG	26

Maritim rampas tujuh bubu naga

KUANTAN - Agensi Penguatkuasaan Maritim Malaysia (Maritim) Pahang merampas tujuh set bubu naga yang ditemui di perairan Sungai Ular hasil rondaan di sekitar kawasan itu pada Khamis.

Peralatan menangkap ikan yang dilarang itu ditemui kira-kira jam 10.10 pagi.

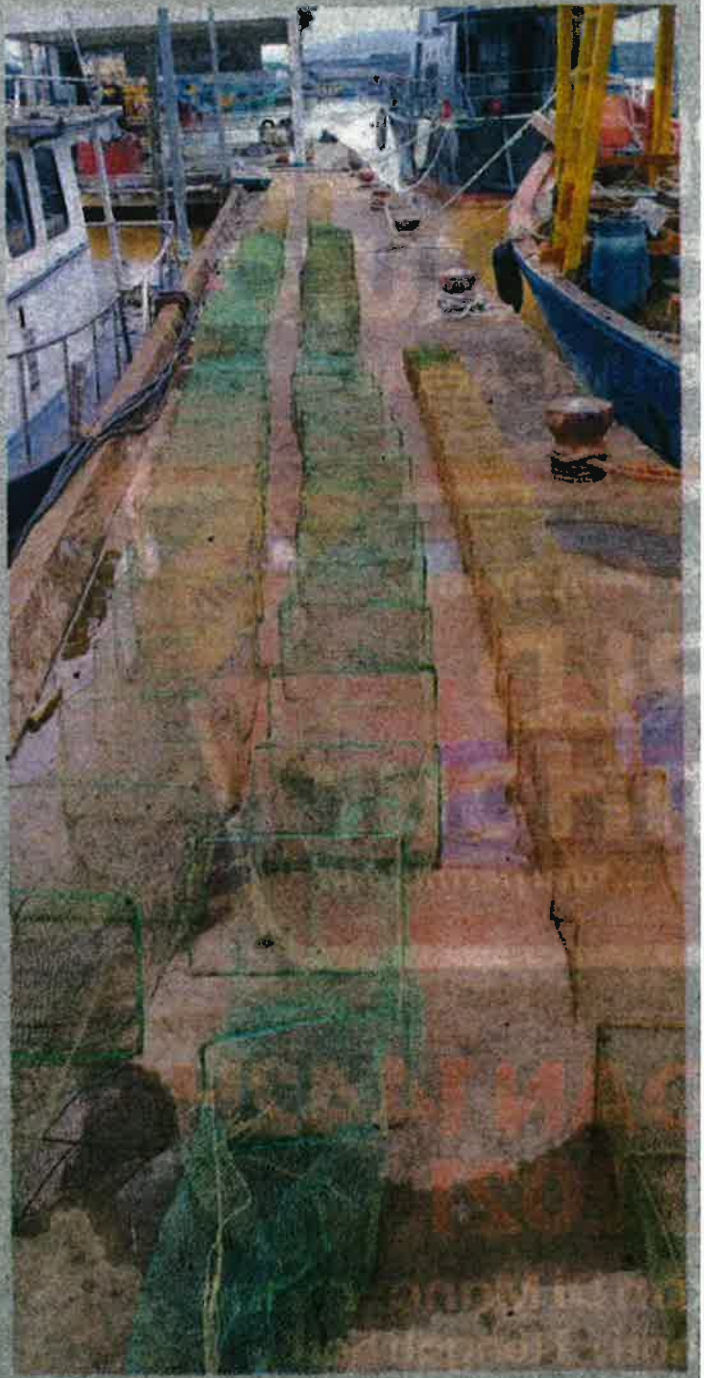
Pengarah Maritim Pahang, Laksamana Pertama Maritim Datuk Amran Daud berkata, bubu berukuran 10 meter setiap satu itu dibawa ke Jeti Pusat Tahanan Vesel Maritim Pahang untuk siasatan lanjut.

Menurutnya, kes diserahkan kepada pegawai penyiasat untuk siasatan mengikut Akta Perikanan 1985 kerana menggunakan peralatan menangkap ikan yang tidak dibenarkan.

"Rampasan bubu naga ini merupakan kes pertama di perairan negeri ini," katanya melalui satu kenyataan pada Jumaat.

Amran berkata, komuniti maritim terutamanya nelayan diminta sentiasa mematuhi undang-undang serta syarat sah lesen dan mengutamakan keselamatan apabila berada di laut.

"Sebarang maklumat berkaitan kegiatan jenayah atau kejadian kecemasan boleh disalurkan terus ke Pusat Operasi Maritim Pahang di talian **09-571 7345** atau melalui talian bantuan kecemasan MERS 999," katanya.



Bubu naga yang ditemui di perairan Sungai Ular dirampas pihak Maritim Malaysia Pahang untuk siasatan lanjut.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	HARIAN METRO	ONLINE	

Jual benih padi tanpa kebenaran

Benih padi sah yang ditemui di sebuah premis di Jalan Sanglang, Jitra semalam. FOTO ihsan MAFI

Kuala Lumpur: Angkara orang dalam? Persoalan itu timbul selepas ada pihak tertentu dikesan menjual benih padi sah tanpa kebenaran.

Ia susulan serbuan sepasukan anggota pegawai penguatkuasa Kawalselia Padi dan Beras Negeri Kedah ke atas premis di Jalan Sanglang, Jitra, semalam.

Ketua Pengarah Pengawalan Padi dan Beras, Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan (Mafi) Azman Mahmood berkata, dalam pemeriksaan itu pihaknya menemui 76 kampit benih padi sah seberat 1,520 kilogram bernilai RM2,432 di premis dipercayai untuk tujuan jualan.

"Kita tidak menolak kemungkinan terdapat pembabitan orang dalam kerana yang dibenarkan menjual benih adalah Pertubuhan Peladang Kebangsaan (Nafas) melalui Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK).

"Ini kesalahan yang serius kerana melanggar Perintah Tetap Ketua Pengarah Pengawalan Padi Dan Beras yang dikeluarkan dibawah Seksyen 4 Akta Kawalan Padi Dan Beras 1994 - Penetapan Kawalan melalui Surat Kebenaran Ketua Pengarah Terhadap Pemasaran Benih Padi," katanya kepada Harian Metro.

Azman berkata, jika disabitkan kesalahan boleh didenda mengikut Seksyen 22(1) Akta Kawalan Padi Dan Beras tidak melebihi RM15,000 atau dua tahun penjara.

Menurutnya, pihaknya akan terus menjalankan pemeriksaan berdasarkan maklumat awam bagi mengekang pemasaran benih melalui pihak ketiga.

"Mereka ini sebenarnya yang menjejaskan proses membekalkan benih kepada petani.

"Sebab itu di sesetengah tempat, ada isu benih tak cukup dan sebagainya.

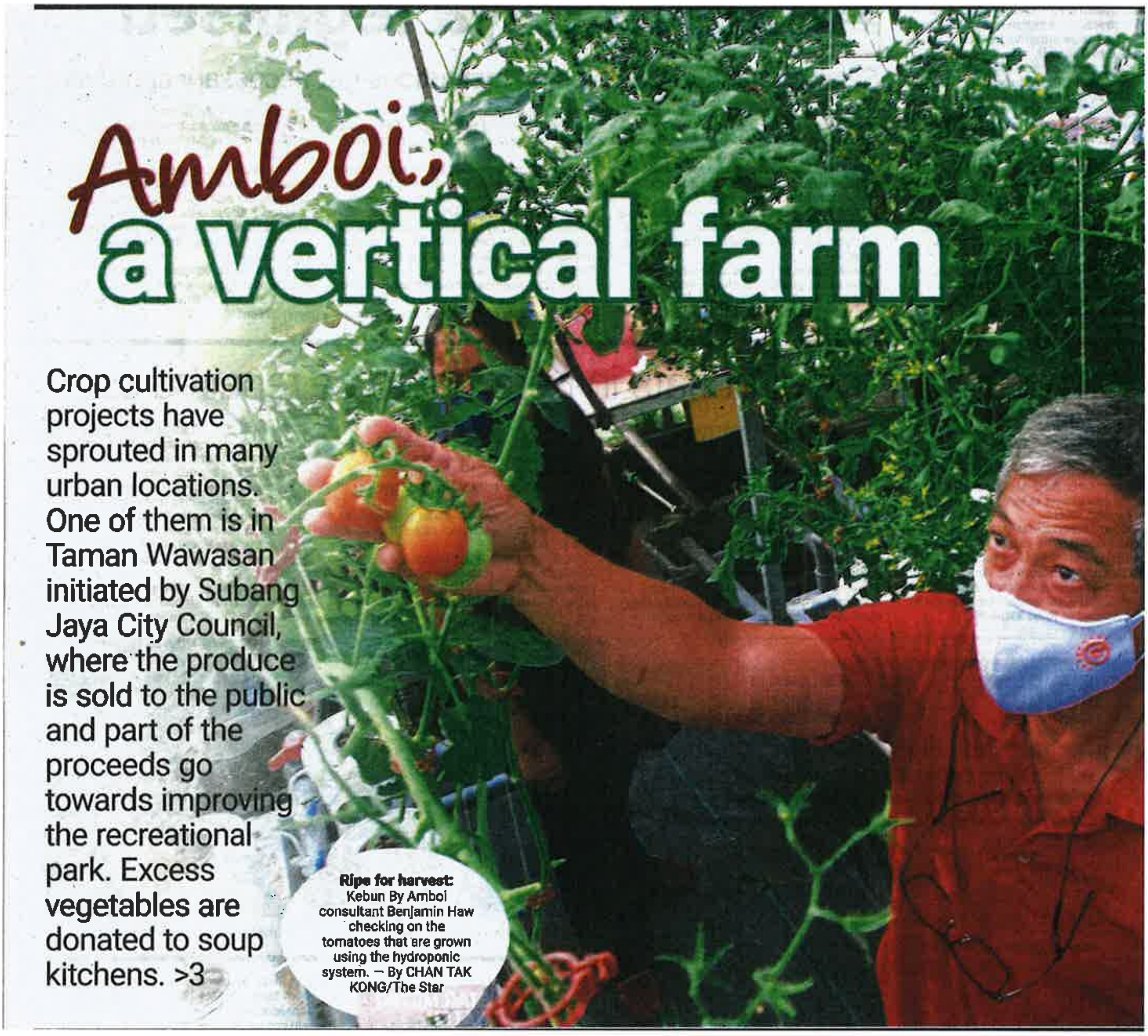
"Kita akan siasat siapa mereka ini dan akan mengambil tindakan segera.

"Sebelum ini ada isu menjual benih lama kepada petani, itu sudah kita selesaikan. Sekarang timbul pula jual benih padi yang baru, jadi kita tidak akan berkompromi," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	THE STAR	NEWS	1

Amboi, a vertical farm

Crop cultivation projects have sprouted in many urban locations. One of them is in Taman Wawasan initiated by Subang Jaya City Council, where the produce is sold to the public and part of the proceeds go towards improving the recreational park. Excess vegetables are donated to soup kitchens. >3



Ripe for harvest: Kebun By Amboi consultant Benjamin Haw checking on the tomatoes that are grown using the hydroponic system. — By CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
1/5/2021	THE STAR	NEWS	3

Little farm abundant with potential

Puchong's hydroponic initiative with vertical farming system attracts public interest

Kebun By Amboi farm is a fully netted greenhouse space that is open to the public.

Seedlings of a certain size will be transferred to the vertical hydroponic towers. – Photos: CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

Chandran (left) and Mahendran are retired professional landscapers who are now caretakers of Kebun By Amboi.

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
sheilasripriya@thestar.com.my

THE Covid-19 pandemic revealed new challenges for the people, and food security among the poor is one of the issues that came to light.

This led to the idea of urban farming in a public park, said Subang Jaya councillor George Yap Kok Weng.

With the help of Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), Kebun By Amboi — a vertical farm — nestled in the Taman Wawasan Recreational Park in Persiaran Wawasan, Taman Wawasan in Puchong, Selangor has been yielding fruitful results since November last year.

"During the pandemic, we saw the potential in urban vertical farming using the hydroponic system.

"Here, vegetables are planted in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) cylindrical towers inserted with seaweed-based nutrients and connected to water sources.

"A few of us, including my assistant Khooi Chu Boon, visited a vertical farm in Sepang. We liked the idea and decided to replicate it.

"The project was proposed to MBSJ and we were given approval to kick-start a pilot project at Taman Wawasan.

"This is the first project where a small portion of a public park is being used for urban farming," said Yap. It is a collaboration between the council and a private company.

Approximately 9.1m x 18m in size, the farm is a fully netted greenhouse space.

The aim of the project is to raise public awareness of vertical gardens using the hydroponic system.

Among the vegetables grown are bok choy, butterhead lettuce, tomatoes and peppermint as well as fruits such as rock melon.

The crops are sold to the public, priced at RM20 per kilogramme.

Excess vegetables are donated to soup kitchens including Dapur Kinrara, a soup kitchen project initiated by Kinrara assemblyman Ng Sze Han's office.

The project is presently based on a profit-sharing model, with 30% channelled to the city council.

MBSJ, *StarMetro* has learned, uses the money to upgrade and maintain Taman Wawasan.

Vegetables at the farm have been harvested thrice and each harvest

A customer, William Pang, harvesting vegetables that he wants to buy.

cycle produced about one tonne of vegetables.

MBSJ will take over the operations and management of the farm after the 18th cycle of harvest.

Kebun By Amboi consultant Benjamin Haw said the cost of building the entire infrastructure for the farm was RM100,000.

The hydroponic method has been around since the 1930s and it has been proven to be safe for human consumption, said Haw.

"The nutrients added to the plants are safe too.

"This farming method requires only 10% of water compared to the normal soil farming method.

"Some 5,000 vegetable heads can be planted on a 46.4 sq m plot, whereas the same ground space can only grow 500 vegetable heads.

"The vertical garden does not need much space and we can harvest large quantities in a period of one month," he explained.

There are plans for Kebun By Amboi to become an educational hub for children and to host school excursions.

Also in the pipeline is a cafe on site, where vegetables sold can be cooked on the spot based on the garden-to-kitchen concept.

Farm caretakers Chandran Kutty, Manoharan Perumal and Mahendran Kaniapan are retired professional landscapers who enjoy spending time at the farm.

They enjoy tending to the vegetables and are interested in environmentally friendly farming methods that produce less carbon footprint.

"People ask a lot of questions when they come here.

"This is good as they too get to take home knowledge and either implement what they have learned at home or teach others," said Chandran.

Customers can harvest their own vegetables with the caretakers' assistance.

Ng, who is also state local government, public transportation and new village development committee chairman, said the pandemic had focused attention on the importance of food sources.

"Urbanites are encouraged to make full use of vacant land after getting approval from the local council and relevant authorities, and use it for community learning.

"I have seen so many successful community farm projects in Selangor.

"Those interested to start such projects and need advice, can get in touch with their area councillors who will be able to help," said Ng who was impressed by the farm at Taman Wawasan.

The farm is open on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 10.30am.

Booking is required for visits to the farm, in order to observe the National Security Council's SOP.

For details, call 011-5628 8346.