# LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
# ISNIN 27 NOVEMBER 2023

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UKK KPKM

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

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# AKADEMIA

FOKUS


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# REZEKI PETANI MUDA

## Pelajar SK Tasek Permai diberi pendedahan berkebun, hasil tani dijual kepada waris

**Kebun** Komuniti 3RGG (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Go Green) Sekolah Kebangsaan Tasek Permai, Ampang, Selangor ini menzahirkan kesungguhan dan kegigihan warganya.

Ia ditubuhkan Unit Kitar Semula di bawah Unit Hal Ehwal Murid sekolah berkenaan dan dirasmikan Pengarah Belia, Masyarakat dan Landskap Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ), Khairilazhar Ismail baru-baru ini.

Menariknya, nama Kebun Komuniti 3RGG dipilih kerana ia begitu sinonim warga sekolah berkenaan yang mengamalkan konsep 3R dan sentiasa bergiat aktif dalam program kitar semula anjuran MPAJ sehingga berjaya menerima beberapa anugerah.

Pada masa sama, ia juga bertujuan merealisasikan hasrat guru besarnya, Zulkifli Hassan, 59, selain inisiatif menjadikan sekolah berkenaan tampil dengan identiti tersendiri bagi Program Transformasi Sekolah 2025 (TS25).

Menurut Zulkifli, beliau berazam mengindahkan kawasan tebing bukit terbiar berhampiran pagar utama sekolah sebagai kawasan yang boleh dimanfaatkan bagi menaikkan imej sekolah itu.

"Perkara ini mendorong saya untuk mewujudkan Kebun Komuniti 3RGG yang digunakan sebagai alternatif baharu kepada murid-murid dalam menimba ilmu.

"Penyertaan murid dalam menjaga dan menjual hasil tanaman kebun juga dapat menyemai budaya keusahawanan dalam diri mereka," katanya ketika ditemui Harian Metro.

Zulkifli berkata, pihak MPAJ adalah salah satu organisasi yang banyak memberi sokongan kepada mereka.

"Antara pihak lain yang memberi sumbangan termasuk Yayasan Wakaf Malaysia, pengusaha pam minyak Petron dan Persatuan Ibu bapa Dan Guru (PIBG) bagi membeli keperluan berkebun.

"Ada juga sumbangan yang diperoleh dari hasil kemenangan sekolah dalam pertandingan kitar semula, jualan tanaman sayur kepada ibu bapa serta sumbangan orang awam yang berminat membantu menjayakan projek ini," katanya.

Menurutnya, kebun itu berpotensi besar sebagai sumber pendapatan tambahan, namun pihak sekolah masih memerlukan sokongan dan sumbangan kewangan bagi memastikan ia kekal terjaga selain terus menyumbang manfaat.

"Saya mengalu-alukan sumbangan kewangan terutama daripada pihak bank, syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC), syarikat korporat dan komuniti

AKTIVITI menanam kubis oleh Khairilazhar (empat dari kiri) dan Zulkfli (lima dari kiri) bersama wakil dari MPAJ, PIBG, Jabatan Pertanian, Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia, Petron Taman Putra dan Pustaka Rakyat.

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"Malah saya juga memang berminat menjaga kebun komuniti ini kerana dapat membantu menambahkan kewangan sekolah dan dapat mencantikkan lagi sekolah

NUR FASHA ASMIRA

setempat pada masa hadapan.

"Hasrat saya, kewujudan kebun komuniti ini dapat merapatkan kerjasama antara sekolah dengan ibu bapa dan komuniti setempat," katanya yang bakal bersara wajib pada pertengahan Januari depan.

Sementara itu, Penyelaras Kebun Komuniti 3RGG, Hasmanie Hamzah, 43, pula berkata, kebun komuniti itu menerima sokongan penuh daripada warga SK Tasek Permai serta Kumpulan Sokongan Ibu Bapa (KSIB).

"Sumbangan KSIB terdiri daripada barangan kitar semula dan digunakan semula sebagai pasu bunga bagi mencantikkan kebun komuniti ini.

"Oleh itu, pihak sekolah berharap agar lebih banyak pembabitan daripada ibu bapa dalam menjayakan Kebun Komuniti 3RGG," katanya.

Hasmanie yang juga guru pendidikan Islam berkata, pihak sekolah akan mengekalkan usaha penjagaan kebun komuniti itu secara berterusan.

"Sayur-sayuran yang ditanam sering membuahkan hasil yang lumayan dan selepas dipetik, kami akan menanam semula sayur baharu.

"Hasil tuaian pula dijual kepada ibu bapa melalui aplikasi WhatsApp dan keuntungan yang diperoleh setakat ini sangat berbaloi kerana kebanyakan ibu bapa membeli sambil menderma.

Sementara itu, murid SK Tasek Permai, Hashraf Nabil Mohd Nazlan, 12, berkata, usaha mewujudkan kebun ini memberikan banyak kelebihan dalam pembelajaran dan kehidupan harian.

"Pelaksanaan Pembelajaran dan Pemudahcaraan (PdPc) di dalam kelas sains juga menggunakan tumbuhan hijau untuk memudahkan guru memberikan contoh.

"Guru di dalam kelas dapat menceritakan dengan lebih jelas proses pokok membesar dan kebaikan tumbuhan hijau kepada manusia.

"Berkebun juga adalah aktiviti yang menarik kerana hasil tanaman lebih memuaskan, bersih dan sihat untuk dimakan," katanya.

Bagi Nur Fasha Asmira Firdaus, 12, dia berasa seronok dengan kewujudan Kebun Komuniti 3RGG di sekolahnya.

"Saya sangat teruja dapat merasai pengalaman berkebun bahkan mempelajari proses penanaman dan penjagaan sayur-sayuran dengan lebih baik.

"Malah saya juga memang berminat menjaga kebun komuniti ini kerana dapat membantu menambahkan kewangan sekolah dan dapat mencantikkan lagi sekolah," katanya yang juga ketua pengawas.

KHAIRILAZHAR (tiga dari kanan) bersama Zulkfli (dua dari kiri) melancarkan kebun komuniti 3RGG di Sekolah Kebangsaan Tasek Permai, Ampang.

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# Seeing cracks in the egg industry

## Rising cost, due to higher feed and chick prices, pose trouble

By KHOO GEK SAN
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**PETALING JAYA:** Despite the government's plan to allow for variable egg prices, the egg industry faces a substantial challenge due to the escalating production costs, mainly attributed to rising feed and chick prices.

The Veterinary Services Department (DVS) said the factors significantly influence the price of ex-farm eggs.

While acknowledging that the egg supply is stable, it said the poultry industry needs more time to fortify the supply chain against potential disruptions.

"These factors directly impact the ex-farm price of eggs, making it necessary to address them to achieve a sustainable and affordable market rate," it said in reply to queries from *The Star*.

The DVS said the egg industry is smaller than the broiler industry, with fewer players and a less developed support chain.

"The broiler industry has breeding farms (grandparent stock and parent stock) that provide replacement stock, while the egg industry only has breeding farms (parent stock).

"Any disruption to the egg industry's replacement stock supply can significantly impact the entire production chain," it said.

It added that the reliance on imported grandparent egg stock exposes the industry to vulnerabilities such as availability, price fluctuations and global chicken disease issues.

It noted that chicken egg production was projected to be 737,704,260 eggs in September and 684,577,364 in October.

Johor Small and Medium Poultry Farmers' Association secretary Wong Wei Chang said the rising costs of raw materials and operations as well as the recent climate change have negatively affected chicken health and production.

"As the year-end approaches, adverse weather conditions and diseases are affecting the breeding of chickens on farms, making it impractical to enhance production.

"Currently, only large farms with sufficient funds can bolster production, and small- to medium-sized farms are unable to dominate the market in terms of output," Wong said when contacted.

Wong's farm yields 150,000 eggs per day. He said eggs are scarce in the market, primarily due to a shortage of breeding chickens in May and June, leading to reduced egg production from September to October.

He said that the price of breeding chickens (chicks) on farms has risen from RM2 in 2020 to RM4.20 per chick, contributing to increased farm costs.

According to Wong, raising chicks into egg-laying hens takes 16 to 17 weeks and the egg production rate is not 100%.

"To sustain egg production on the farm, we have no choice but to postpone the culling of old hens," he added.

Federation of Livestock Farmers' Associations of Malaysia deputy president Lee Yoon Yeau said that the current egg supply in the market is only adequate and has yet to return to its former level.

However, he said that if the government is willing to withdraw subsidies at this stage and allow egg prices to fluctuate in the market, businesses would have the opportunity to increase production with the potential for higher profits.

"The cost of producing a single egg averages 45 sen. If the government were to remove subsidies and allow egg prices to fluctuate freely, the average price of each egg could be around 50 sen.

"It is challenging to lower egg prices this year due to various factors such as exchange rates, feed and chick prices," he added.

Mydin managing director Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin said the availability of chicken eggs in the market has not fully recovered.

He suggested that authorities consider removing egg price controls to facilitate much-needed industry investments.

He said that removing price controls would yield results after a certain period, registering a significant time lag of three to five months for the egg production cycle to restart.

**Eggs-tra careful:** A worker preparing chicken eggs for customers at the Jalan Raja Bot wet market. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

# Chicken rice seller having a fowl time with roller-coaster bird prices

By LO TERN CHERN
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**GEORGE TOWN:** It has been a roller-coaster ride for chicken rice seller Warren Tan when prices of the bird were floated beginning this month.

He had a good start when the whole chicken from his supplier was RM1 cheaper than the market rate.

Tan, 35, had just started his stall at a food court here late last month.

But soon, prices began to rise.

"In the beginning, I got my supplies for as low as RM8.20 per kg but it is now RM9.20 per kg.

"The difference in price may not seem a lot, but we cook about 40 chickens a day, so it adds up," he said.

Each chicken, he said, would weigh between 1.6kg and 1.8kg.

"When this is totalled up, that RM1 difference means over RM1,000 in costs for me by end of the month," he lamented.

Tan said he did not switch supplier as the current one could provide him with the specific chicken he needed for his recipe.

"The chicken is of a particular breed and specially slaughtered for us.

"They're slightly smaller than normal but much more tender, and I have to get it from him because only he can commit to our needs," said Tan, who inherited the recipe from his late grandfather who was a Hainanese chef.

He said he was glad to have the chance to use his grandfather's traditional style of preparing chicken rice and would strive to keep his prices low.

"My aim is to maintain my price so that customers can continue to enjoy this meal, but at the same time, I am hoping that costs will be manageable," he said.

Prior to the floating of chicken prices, the government set the ceiling price for fresh whole bird at RM9.40 per kg.

Since this month, the price was floated following the removal of related subsidies.

Chicken seller T. Sham Kumar, 34, said he gets his whole chicken for RM7.50 per kg from his supplier but complies with the general pricing of RM9.40 per kg to consumers.

"Even during the recent Deepavali, we maintained the price of RM9.40 per kg for whole chicken, and we will continue to do so.

"Chicken is probably the most common meat product consumed by everyone and it must always be affordable," he said.