



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 13 DISEMBER 2024

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UKK KPKM

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

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
13/12/2024	SINAR HARIAN	NASIONAL	6

Petani, penternak terjejas banjir sila lapor jika tidak dapat bantuan - Mohamad Sabu

KUALA LUMPUR - Mana-mana petani dan penternak yang terjejas akibat banjir namun tidak memperoleh bantuan diminta menyalurkan maklumat terus kepada Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM).

Menterinya, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu berkata, peniliti-an akan dibuat oleh pegawai-pegawai di lapangan namun wujud kemungkinan berlaku keciciran.

Justeru, beliau memberi komitmen memastikan mereka yang layak, mendapat bantuan dengan adil.

"Skim-bantuan dijalankan secara teliti, ada pengadu sawah tenggelam, sayur musnah atau ternakan mati. Maka pegawai-pegawai akan membuat penilitian, setelah disahkan berlaku kerosakan, kemusnahan, maka KPKM akan cuba membantu.

"Kalau ada di mana-mana dilihat memang binatang ternakan, tanaman padi terjejas, tapi tak dapat bantuan, sila hantar maklumat itu kepada saya atau KPKM kerana dalam usaha kita, mungkin berlaku kealpaan, kita sedia bertindak memberi keadilan sebaik-baiknya.

SIDANG PARLIMEN

"Macam banjir di Kedah baru-baru ini, belum pun kita selesai bagi bantuan sepenuhnya, datang banjir kedua, jadi banciaan kedua perlu dibuat. Kita akan cuba cari penyelesaian terbaik.

"Kalau ada kebocoran sana sini, sila lapor jika tidak mengikut sistem dan keadilan yang ada," katanya pada Sesi Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Menteri, di Dewan Rakyat pada Khamis.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan daripada **Datuk Idris Ahmad (PN-Bagan Serai)** berkenaan indikator utama me-

ngukur kelayakan bantuan kepada petani terjejas banjir, dan saluran aduan sekiranya berlaku kelewatan dan ketidakadilan dalam pengagihan bantuan.

Sementara itu, menjawab soalan asal bagaimana pihak kerajaan menangani isu kemungkinan ketirisan atau ketidakadilan dalam proses pemberian bantuan, jelasnya, bantuan pesawah hanya diberikan kepada pesawah yang berdaftar dan telah melepasi Jawatankuasa Penapis di peringkat Agensi Teknikal Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi (TBTP).

"Permohonan juga perlu disertakan dokumen yang lengkap sebelum dibawa untuk penilaian dan diperakukan kepada Jawatankuasa Induk TBTP di KPKM," ujarnya.



DUA pesawah, Saad Ahmad, 77, (kanan) dan Azhar Awang, 54, menunjukkan sawah milik mereka terjejas dan rosak ekoran bencana banjir di Jalan Gunung Keriang, Alor Setar 2 Disember lalu.

Kerajaan sediakan skim takaful lindungi kerugian

Tabung bencana bantu pesawah

KUALA LUMPUR – Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM) menyediakan Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi bagi pesawah padi dan Tabung Bencana Pertanian bagi pengusaha tanaman selain padi yang terjejas banjir.

Menternya, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu berkata, pihaknya turut memperkenalkan Skim Takaful Tanaman Padi yang mula dilaksanakan pada 13 September lalu.

Beliau berkata, skim takaful itu melindungi tanaman padi daripada pelbagai risiko termasuk bencana banjir.

"Bagi Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi, bantuan ini diberikan secara tunai khusus kepada pesawah yang mengalami kerugian akibat bencana alam.

"Mekanisme ini melibatkan beberapa peringkat penilaian meliputi penyediaan laporan dan penilaian kerugian oleh agensi di lapangan bagi mengenal pasti ta-

han bantuan yang dirancang oleh pihak Kementerian untuk memastikan petani yang terjejas akibat banjir benar-benar mendapat bantuan tanpa penangguhan.

Mengulas lanjut, Mohamad berkata, laporan lengkap akan dibentangkan dan dinilai oleh Jawatankuasa Teknikal Peningkat negeri dan Jawatankuasa Induk di peringkat KPKM.

"Bagi menangani isu kemungkinan berlaku ketrisan atau ketidakadilan dalam proses pemberian bantuan, sebagai makluman, bantuan pesawah hanya diberikan kepada pesawah yang berdaftar dan telah melepasi jawatankuasa penapis di peringkat agensi teknikal.

"Seterusnya, semua permohonan bantuan akan dinilai dengan teliti dan disahkan oleh jawatankuasa di peringkat negeri sebelum dibentangkan kepada jawatankuasa teknikal peringkat ibu pejabat," ujarnya.

Katanya, untuk Tabung Bencana Pertanian bagi pemohonan bencana banjir, siasatan dan bantuan di lapangan akan bermula dalam tempoh 14 hari selepas banjir selesai untuk tujuan menilai tahap kerosakan terhadap tanaman.

"Proses bantuan dan siasatan yang dijalankan oleh jabatan dan agensi bagi sesuatu kawasan yang terjejas adalah dalam tempoh 30 hari.

"Bagaimanapun, proses bantuan dan siasatan perlu dijalankan dengan teliti bagi memastikan semua penerima bantuan adalah golongan asas yang memerlukan dan mengelak ketirisan serta penyalahgunaan bantuan tersebut," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
13/12/2024	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	6

60,000 pesawah belum daftar STTP

KUALA LUMPUR: Seramai 60,000 pesawah di seluruh negara belum mendaftar Skim Skim Takaful Tanaman Padi (STTP) bagi memastikan mereka mendapat pampasan selepas tanaman musnah dilanda banjir.

Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu berkata, pendaftaran STTP akan membolehkan pesawah menerima perlindungan terutama untuk risiko kerugian akibat bencana alam seperti banjir.

Menurut beliau, pesawah yang mendaftar akan penerima pampasan bernilai RM3,000 sekiranya tanaman mereka terjejas akibat bencana tersebut.

“Setakat ini, baru 30,000 (pesawah sudah) berdaftar dan kita masih memerlukan 60,000 untuk menyertai (STTP). Di peringkat awal, ia akan diberikan secara percuma oleh AgroBank, selain membiayai (premium) RM64.80 per hektar.

“Kalau daftar sahaja (dan) berlaku bencana, AgroBank akan beri (pampasan) RM3,000 tetapi kepada mereka yang berdaftar sahaja. (Jadi pesawah) boleh daftar di PPK (Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan) atau AgroBank cawangan

terdekat,” katanya di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin) mengenai usaha mengurangkan kerenah birokrasi bagi pendaftaran bantuan kepada petani terjejas bencana alam.

Menjawab soalan asal, Mohamad berkata, kementerian-nya turut menyediakan mekanisme bantuan lain iaitu Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi (TBTP) bagi pesawah dan Tabung Bencana Pertanian (TBP) bagi pengusaha tanaman lain.

“Bantuan TBTP diberikan secara tunai khusus kepada pesawah yang mengalami kerugian akibat bencana alam. Mekanisme ini melibatkan beberapa peringkat penilaian meliputi penyediaan Laporan dan Penilaian Kerugian oleh agensi di lapangan bagi mengenal pasti tahap kerosakan yang dihadapi oleh pesawah,” katanya.

“Seterusnya, laporan lengkap akan dibentangkan dan dinilai oleh Jawatankuasa Teknikal Peringkat negeri dan Jawatankuasa Induk di peringkat Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM),” jelasnya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
13/12/2024	BERITA HARIAN	NASIONAL	7

Pesawah disaran daftar STTP dapatkan pampasan

Pesawah di seluruh negara disaran berdaftar dengan Skim Takaful Tanaman Padi (STTP) bagi membolehkan menerima perlindungan, terutama bagi risiko kerugian akibat bencana alam seperti banjir.

Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM), Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu, berkata skim diperkenalkan AgroBank dengan sokongan kementeriannya membabitkan pampasan RM3,000 jika terjejas kejadian itu.

Sehubungan itu, beliau menggesa wakil rakyat memainkan peranan membantu pesawah di kawasan masing-masing berdaftar dengan STTP supaya setiap daripada mereka dilindungi Insurans diperkenalkan AgroBank.

"Setakat ini, baru 30,000 (pesawah) berdaftar dan kita masih memerlukan 60,000 untuk menyertai (STTP). Pada peringkat awal, ia akan diberikan secara percuma oleh AgroBank, selain membiayai (premium) RM64.80 per hektar.

"Kalau daftar sahaja (dan berlaku bencana, AgroBank akan beri (pampasan) RM3,000 tetapi kepada mereka yang berdaftar sahaja. (Pesawah) boleh daftar di PPK (Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan) atau AgroBank cawangan terdekat," katanya.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin) mengenai usaha mengurangkan kerenah birokrasi bagi pendaftaran bantuan kepada petani terjejas bencana alam, pada sesi Pertanyaan Menteri di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Menjawab soalan asal, beliau berkata, KPKM juga menyediakan mekanisme bantuan kepada petani terjejas bencana banjir iaitu Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi (TBTP) bagi pesawah dan Tabung Bencana Pertanian (TBP) bagi pengusaha tanaman selain padi.

Bagi TBTP, katanya, bantuan diberikan secara tunai, khusus kepada pesawah mengalami kerugian akibat bencana alam.

"Laporan lengkap akan dibentangkan dan dinilai Jawatankuasa Teknikal Peringkat negeri serta Jawatankuasa Induk pada peringkat KPKM. Permohonan juga perlu disertakan dokumen lengkap sebelum dibawa untuk penilaian dan diperakukan kepada Jawatankuasa Induk TBTP di KPKM.

"Bagi menangani kemungkinan berlaku ketirisan atau ketidakadilan dalam proses pemberian bantuan, bantuan pesawah hanya diberi kepada pesawah berdaftar dan melepasi Jawatankuasa Penapis di peringkat Agensi Teknikal," katanya.

Padi farmers eligible to receive RM3,000 compensation under STTP

FARMERS who have registered for the Paddy Crop Takaful Scheme (STTP) are eligible for RM3,000 in compensation following crop losses due to recent floodings, says Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu.

The Agriculture and Food Security Minister said the scheme was designed to protect padi crops against various risks including floods, highlighting the government's proactive approach to risk management in agriculture. He urged more farmers to sign

up for the crucial support mechanism as there are still 60,000 slots available.

"The STTP, offered at no charge to farmers, is underwritten by AgroBank, which covers RM64.80 per hectare under the scheme.

"With only 30,000 registered so far, more farmers should take advantage of the free scheme, which promises RM3,000 in compensation in the event of a disaster.

"Eligible farmers can register with the Farmers' Organisation

Authority or the nearest AgroBank branch," he said during the Ministers' Question Time.

Datuk Idris Ahmad (PN-Bagan Serai) had asked about the mechanism of aid distribution to ensure affected farmers receive prompt assistance and how the government addresses the issue of potential leakage or unfairness in the aid distribution process.

Highlighting the ministry's careful approach to implementing aid schemes, Mohamad said assistance mechanisms such as

the Padi Crop Disaster Fund and the Agricultural Disaster Fund have been set up.

"For the Padi Crop Disaster Fund, assistance is provided in cash of RM1,800 per hectare for up to three hectares, specifically to farmers who suffer losses due to natural disasters.

"This mechanism involves several stages of assessment including the preparation of loss reports and assessments by field agencies to identify the level of damage faced by farmers.

"A comprehensive report will then be presented and evaluated by the state technical committee and the main committee at the ministry's level," he said.

To an additional question, Mohamad said field officers are deployed to assess claims whether they involve destroyed farms, ruined crops or livestock deaths.

"We take every complaint seriously. If there are farmers who have not received the aid, I urge them to come forward with information," he said.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
13/12/2024	THE STAR	NEWS	1





Stray dogs roaming around a residential area in Ulu Kinta. — RONNIE CHIN/The Star

By MANJIT KAUR
manjit@thestar.com.my

PERAK government is looking at roping in several organisations for its Perak Pawsitive Initiative to keep the number of strays in check.

State housing and local government committee chairman Sandra Ng Shy Ching said she was trying to get organisations such as Perak Real Estate and Housing Developers Association of Malaysia (Rehda) to join the initiative which was aimed at neutering both stray and pet dogs and cats at a subsidised rate.

She said the Pawsitive pilot project was carried out with Kampar District Council in Gopeng from Sept 27 to 29, where 93 dogs (pets and strays) were neutered.

During the event, 96 dogs received free rabies vaccination, 136 dogs had free vaccination shots, 38 applications and renewal of licences were received while five stray dogs were adopted.

Ng said a programme was also held on Oct 19 in Tanjung Malim where the focus was on cats, with some 200 spayed.

"Next year, we intend to expand this programme to other local councils in Perak."

"That is why we need active local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help us."

"I also urge assemblymen and MPs to support this programme by providing matching grants."

"It is essential for us to work with veterinarians, as it will be easier to organise the programme," she added.

Pawsitive is Perak's current strategy to deal with strays.

Ng said the objective was to encourage people to be responsible and neuter their pets.

In Tanjung Malim, the programme was co-organised with a veterinary clinic, she said.

In Gopeng, she said the state government worked with Selangor Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) which had experience handling large-scale neutering programmes.

According to Ng, 3,516 complaints on stray dogs were received by Perak local councils between January and October. The local councils, she said,

Casting wide net to manage strays

Perak govt looking at including various organisations in its neutering initiative



Fire and Rescue Department's K9 team helping to create awareness on how dogs can help in search and rescue operations at the Perak Pawsitive Initiative programme in Gopeng. — Courtesy photo

carried out 1,478 operations to handle the complaints, and caught 6,164 dogs.

"The state government is serious about addressing strays and is working to find effective solutions," she assured.

Strays in remote areas

Ng said some NGOs had suggested neutering dogs living at farms, factories and construction sites where strays could be found.

"There are many farm, factory and construction site operators who may not look into licensing their dogs, given the remoteness of these areas."

"However, I agree with the NGOs that these are areas we need to pay attention to in addressing the rising number of stray dogs and even cats."

Ng was responding to a suggestion from Noah's Ark Ipoh founder and veterinarian Dr Ranjit Kaur Mendhir, who recommended that the state government make it compulsory for owners of farms, factories and construction sites to neuter their dogs.

In a *The Star* report on Nov 28, Dr Ranjit said guard dogs were common at industrial areas and farms in Perak.

She said it would be ideal for people to adopt neutered dogs from animal shelters such as Noah's Ark.

While neutering was important, pet owners as well as those keeping dogs at farms, factories and construction sites must also vaccinate the animals against rabies, said Dr Ranjit.

Meanwhile, Ng also emphasised on an effective adoption drive.

"I really appreciate the NGO's trap-neuter-release-manage (TNRM) initiative."

"However, the number of strays keeps increasing because even neutered dogs are not being adopted."

"TNRM alone is not a feasible solution."

"We know that people will keep on lodging complaints with local councils, requesting for strays in their areas to be relocated," she added.

Policy pros and cons

Perak government is currently reviewing the pros and cons of making neutering compulsory.

Ng said several issues had to be taken into account before neutering was made mandatory, in order for owners to apply or renew their pet licence.

'Register Perak products for intellectual property protection'

THERE are at least five popular products in Perak with the potential to be registered for protection as heritage intellectual property under geographical indications (GI).

Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) chairman Dr Mohd Zuhair Mohd Zain said the products in question were milk corn, Kuala Sepetang mangrove charcoal, Perak onions, Batu Kurau durian, Sungai Perak catfish and Teluk Intan giant river prawn.

"We are worried that if these famous products that are synonymous with Perak are not protected under GI, the state will lose the rights to the names. "The significance of these

products being registered under GI, adds to their attraction and also helps increase the state government's economic revenue," he said when met after launching the MyIPO Satellite Office at Menara Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia (SSM) in Ipoh, Perak.

Mohd Zuhair said he hoped that the authorities would register the intellectual property for the products in question, as they were considered to have their own uniqueness and quality.

He said the opening of the first MyIPO satellite office in Perak was aimed at making it easier for entrepreneurs, designers, innovators and professionals to protect their creations and

product branding. Previously, intellectual property owners in Perak had to travel to MyIPO branch in Seberang Perai Tengah, Penang, said Mohd Zuhair.

"The opening of this office will encourage more individuals and businesses to protect their innovations and work, thus contributing to the state's economic development," he told Bernama.

In addition, he said MyIPO had received 53,456 intellectual property applications from January to October, compared to 50,570 applications in the corresponding period last year.

He said 34,479 applications were from foreigners while 18,977 were from Malaysians.



Onion farming in Kuala Bikam, Perak and (below) a durian stall in Menglembu. — Filepic



A pet owner getting his dog vaccinated at the Perak Pawsitive Initiative in Gopeng. — Courtesy photo



Ng (left) at the launch of the Perak Pawsitive Initiative in Tanjung Malim in October. — Courtesy photo

"Firstly, not all dog owners are willing to neuter their pets, especially those with special breeds.

"Secondly, the cost of neutering is not cheap.

"Imposing this condition might make it unaffordable for some dog or cat owners," said Ng.

She had received feedback from her counterpart in Negri Sembilan where neutering was made compulsory, but despite offering subsidies, the response was still poor.

"The state (Negri Sembilan) also noticed a drop in the number of licence renewals and applications as some owners are choosing to keep dogs without applying for a licence because of the policy," she said.

"As such, we need to consider all aspects and ensure the move we take solves issues instead of creating new ones."

Addressing animal welfare

Ng said regulations on animal welfare and management were outlined under the Animal Welfare Act 2015 with the Veterinary Services Department (DVS) playing a key role as per the Act.

"Cooperation between various parties will continue to be strengthened to ensure this issue is comprehensively addressed.

"A coordination meeting was held recently to align the roles of



Loh, Perak Rehda is interested in getting animal NGOs to give short talks at meetings.



Dr Ranjit: Besides neutering, those keeping dogs must vaccinate the animals against rabies.

DVS, local councils and other departments," she said.

"Among matters raised were the need to strengthen enforcement as well as raising awareness among pet owners about their responsibilities to prevent the issue of strays."

Ng said DVS was also taking steps to establish the Perak State Animal Welfare Committee.

She said the committee would serve as the primary platform on setting up directions and planning for the management of strays.

The committee would discuss issues related to stray animals with district and land offices, local councils as well as relevant

departments and agencies, she added.

Ng said the state government acknowledged that NGOs played an important role in addressing the issue of strays, saying steps had been drawn up to build a strategic cooperation with them.

"Perak is also opening up opportunities for NGOs in need of land to build animal shelters.

"The NGOs can apply for government land at nominal cost," she said.

Positive response

When contacted, Perak Rehda chairman Loh Ban Ho said the association supported the Perak

Pawsitive Initiative.

He said he would also encourage association members to adopt neutered dogs from animal shelters and NGOs.

"We can always allocate part of the association's corporate social responsibility (CSR) fund for Pawsitive," said Loh who supported the move to create awareness of neutering.

"The association is also keen to invite animal NGOs to give short talks during our meetings, which are attended by developers and contractors.

"It is important for both developers and contractors to be provided with adequate information on adoption, neutering and licensing of dogs," he said.

According to Loh, the current practice when construction begins on a development site is to bring in stray dogs to look after the area and workers will care for them.

"It is important for contractors or developers to have plans in place for the dogs once the pro-

ject is completed," he said.

"By leaving the dogs behind once a project is completed, the numbers will double or even triple.

"And because of food shortage, the dogs will roam elsewhere," Loh added.

Dr Ranjit said Noah's Ark welcomed the opportunity to give awareness talks to build awareness of caring for strays.

"By working together with the state government, we can organise a mass spaying camp.

"We can provide veterinarians, our time and expertise if the Perak government provides the funds and space," she added.

Dr Ranjit said Noah's Ark was also willing to look for companies to sponsor free rabies vaccination and other important shots.

"Noah's Ark has been neutering strays since 2011, with between 30 and 35 dogs neutered a month," she said.

"Yayasan Hasanah has been contributing the funds for this."

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
13/12/2024	SINAR HARIAN	PADANG TERAP	27

Maqis rampas 700kg longan

PADANG TERAP - Cubaan menyeludup 700 kilogram (kg) buah longan tidak berhasil apabila kegiatan itu berjaya dihidu pihak berkuasa di pintu masuk Kota Putra Durian Burung pada Isnin.

Pengarah Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (Maqis) Kedah, Hisham Abu Bakar berkata, pemeriksaan mendapati buah longan dianggarkan bernilai lebih RM3,000 dibawa masuk tanpa perakuan 3P yang diwajibkan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA).

Beliau berkata, tindakan terbabit merupakan pelanggaran serius mengikut Akta Perkhidmatan Kuarantin dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia 2011 (Akta 728).

"Susulan ini, semua barang rampasan ditahan untuk siasatan dan tindakan lanjut.

"Kes disiasat mengikut Seksyen 11(1) Akta 728," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Khamis.

Hisham berkata, tindakan tegas diambil bagi memastikan barangan pertanian import bebas penyakit.

Perlis bantu 628 pesawah rugi tanaman tenggelam

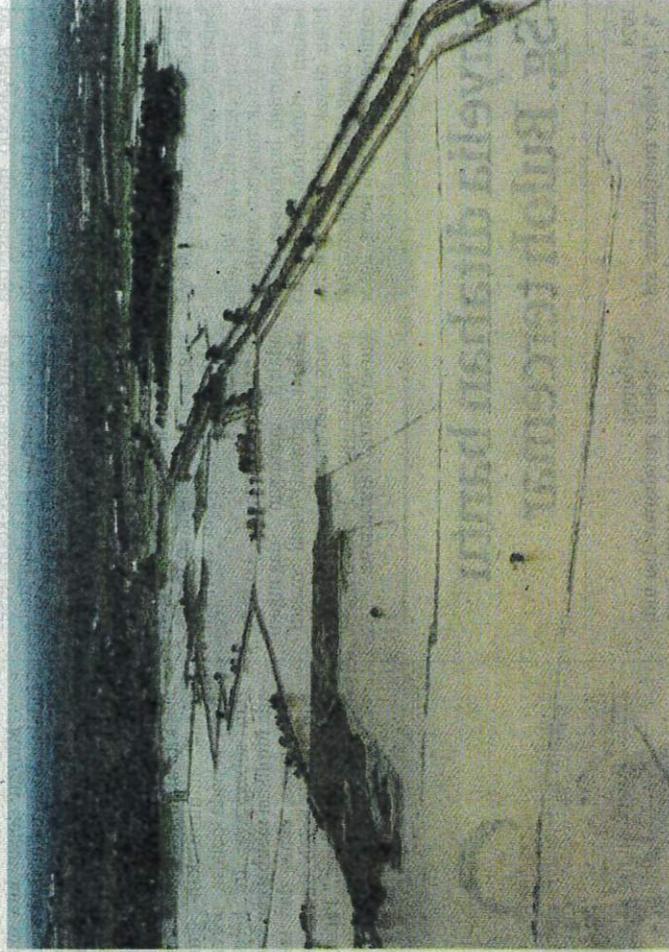
KANGAR: Kerajaan Negeri Perlis menyalurkan peruntukan berjumlah RM202,868 bagi membantu meringankan beban seramai 628 pesawah terjejas akibat banjir pada September dan Oktober lalu.

Bantuan tersebut mula digantikan pada 20 Disember ini dengan menilai tahap kerugian masing-masing mengikut jumlah keluasan tanaman pesawah yang terkesan akibat bencana itu.

Bagi pesawah yang terlibat dengan bencana banjir pula, mereka diminta segera membuat aduan mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan di Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) selewat-lewatnya sehingga 20 Disember ini.

Penggemasi Pertanian negeri, Razali Saad berkata, para pesawah yang terlibat juga boleh menikmati takaful tanaman padi Agro Bank melalui skim insurans tanaman ditimpa bencana dengan mendaftar di bank berkenaan.

"Kerajaan negeri, Pihak Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) dan PPK sudah melakukan bantahan musibah baru-baru ini. Banjir bukan kehendak kita namun sebagai kerajaan, kita mengambil pendekatan menyelesaikan masalah secepat mungkin.



KAWASAN sawah yang tenggelam umpama lautan di Kampung Bakong, Arau. Perlis baru-baru ini.

kin," katanya dalam sesi penggulungan Belanjawan Perlis 2025 dalam sidang Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) di sini, semalam.

Razali berkata, salah satu punca banjir berlaku adalah kelemahan sistem saliran dan pengaliran yang perlu dituruskan dengan sistematik.

kenaan di negeri ini," katanya.

Katanya lagi, kerajaan negeri juga sedang merancang untuk memiliki kilang pengeluaran benih padi sendiri kerana kemudahan tersebut belum ada di negeri ini.

'Terpaksa juga beli beras import, takkan nak ganti makan ubi'

PONTIAN – Rata-rata pengguna di daerah ini hairan apabila beras putih tempatan tiada di pasaran dan terpaksa membeli beras import untuk kegunaan harian.

Tinjauan di sebuah pasar raya di sini mendapati, hanya beras putih import memenuhi ruang jualan sehingga menyebabkan pengguna tiada pilihan terpaksa membelinya.

Seorang pengguna, Mohamed Marskin, 70, meminta isu itu diatasi segera kerana orang ramai terpaksa membeli beras import dengan harga lebih tinggi berbanding beras putih tempatan.

"Jika dahulu pengguna dapat membeli beras putih tempatan dengan harga RM26 sekampit tetapi kini terpaksa membelinya

beras putih import dengan harga RM33 kerana tiada pilihan lain.

"Kami bingung sekarang ini ke mana hilangnya beras tersebut, pengguna juga hadapi kenaikan harga barangan keperluan yang lain, isu ini pula berlaku.

"Kasihannya mereka yang mempunyai tanggungan dan ahli keluarga ramai terpaksa beli beras dengan harga lebih tinggi," katanya di sini semalam.

Menurut Habidah Tamrin, 79, pula, dia terpaksa membeli beras putih import kerana nasi merupakan makanan wajib setiap hari.

"Nak buat macam mana, hari-hari kita kena makan nasi, takkan nak makan ubi sebagai ganti nasi, mahal harganya kami terpaksa juga beli," jelasnya.

Seorang penyelia sebuah pasar raya di Pontian mendakwa, pihaknya tidak menerima bekalan beras putih tempatan sejak hampir empat bulan lalu.

"Tiada lagi bekalan diantar sejak empat bulan lalu dan pengguna merungut kerana mereka terpaksa beli beras putih import yang lebih mahal," ujarnya.

Baru-baru ini bekalan beras putih tempatan diramal kembali berada di pasaran susulan penurunan harga beras putih import di Semenanjung.

Harganya turun daripada RM3,000 per tan kepada RM2,800 per tan bermula 1 Disember lalu.

Ia juga selari dengan penurunan harga semasa pasaran beras dunia.