



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 19 JULAI 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
19/7/2024	THE SUN	NATIONAL	2

Boosting agriculture pact with Manila

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is ready to sign a letter of intent (LOI) with the Philippines to strengthen technical and trade cooperation in agriculture, said Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu

He said the topic was addressed during his meeting with Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Maria Angela Abrera Ponce at Menara Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang.

"I was informed that she (Ponce) was tasked by the Philippine government to strengthen agricultural cooperation with Malaysia, considering we are the largest trading partner for the Philippine agricultural sector within Asean," he said in a post on his Facebook page yesterday.

This meeting marked the first encounter since Ponce commenced her tenure in Malaysia at the end of November 2023.

Mohamad also extended an invitation to the Philippines to participate in the 2024 Agriculture, Horticulture and Agro Tourism Exhibition scheduled from Sept 11 to 22.

– Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/7/2024	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	36

Cuaca panas jejas pengeluaran durian

Oleh NIK NUR IZZATUL
HAZWANI NIK ADNAN
utusannews@mediamulla.com.my

KEMAMAN: Cuaca panas dijangka menyebabkan pengeluaran durian di negeri ini merosot 40 peratus berbanding tahun lalu sebanyak kira-kira 6,000 tan metrik.

Pengarah Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) Terengganu, Mohd Fadlee Hassan berkata, cuaca panas terik melanda negeri ini sejak beberapa bulan lalu.

Katanya, musim durian di negeri ini dijangka bermula minggu hadapan dan ketika ini sudah ada buah yang mulai gugur.

“Kadar air dalam tanah yang berkurangan berikutan cuaca



Kadar air dalam tanah yang berkurangan berikutan cuaca panas ketika musim pokok berbunga menyebabkan bunga buah gugur.”

MOHD FADLEE HASSAN

panas ketika musim pokok berbunga menyebabkan bunga buah gugur dan saiz buah juga dijangka lebih kecil berbanding

kebiasaan,” katanya kepada pemberita pada Program Kempen Lebihkan Makan Buah-buahan dan Sayur-sayuran tempatan peringkat negeri, di Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Kuang, semalam.

Mohd. Fadlee berkata, kebanyakan buah durian yang dijual di pasaran sebelum ini dari negeri luar termasuk Johor dan Perak.

Malah beliau menjangkakan harga durian di peringkat ladang antara RM7 hingga RM10 sekilogram.

“Saya yakin harga ini adalah harga terbaik untuk petani. Kita akan mengambil langkah membeli buah dari petani sekiranya harga buah durian merosot hingga RM4 sekilogram,” katanya.

Shortage of deep-sea fishing boat captains affects supply

► With fewer *tekong*, reduced catch, increasing operational costs, trawler crew hard-pressed to earn decent living

■ BY FARAHATUN NISA OMAR
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: A shortage of *tekong*, or deep-sea boat captains, in the country has affected local fish supply, and in the long term will push up fish prices, said Fisheries Department communications head Mohd Nizam Ismail.

He said a *tekong* must have a licence to steer a deep-sea fishing vessel from the Malaysian Marine Department and a permit from the Fisheries Department.

He said in 2023, the most sought-after Malaysian fish were *selayang cencaru*, *tenggiri*, *selar*, *ikan kembung*, *ikan aya*, and *ikan kerapu* because of their affordable prices and nutritive value.

"In 2022, we had 116,613 deep-sea fishermen of whom 29,123 or 25% were foreigners but the numbers have been declining since 2010. Each fishing vessel lands an average of 420 metric tonnes of deep-sea fish a year."

He said those significantly affected by the lack of *tekong* are the crew who depend on deep-sea



Fish landings have declined as fewer fishermen are venturing into deep-sea fishing.

fishing for their income, adding that with fewer *tekong* and the reduced number of fish landings, the crew are currently hard-pressed to earn an acceptable living.

"One reason for the decrease in the number of *tekong* and fish harvesting is a lack of interest in deep-sea fishing due to the increase in diesel fuel and oil prices as well as operational costs."

Nizam said various factors influence the fishing community's involvement in deep-sea fishing.

"Their daily income is uncertain and does not offer fishermen stability, and they do not consider fishing as a viable profession. Fishing activities are unpredictable, with incomes often dependent on

weather conditions, fish availability and market demand.

"As traditional fishing becomes less viable, people are likely to seek alternative livelihoods that offer more stable incomes and better working conditions.

"This may result in a decrease in the number of individuals who choose to enter the fishing industry."

He said some people may also be deterred from entering the fishing industry because of the perception that modern fishing practices are highly competitive and require large investments in technology and equipment.

"Understanding this, the Fisheries Department provides

training and courses at the Malaysian Fisheries Academy to manage fishing vessels and improve fishing skills.

"A total of 423 trainees have followed our programme between 2001 and 2010."

Nizam said the Fisheries Department currently faces challenges in attracting applications from those interested in fishing while some candidates who applied could not meet the conditions set for the courses.

He said the department has also striven to ensure the sustainability of the fisheries sector through efficient and holistic management of resources, and by encouraging responsible fishing practices.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/7/2024	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	24

Rupanya sangkar siput haram!

Kangar: Gerak-geri mencurigakan sekumpulan nelayan dilihat memasang pancang kayu di permukaan laut membawa penemuan sangkar siput haram di perairan Perlis.

Pengarah APMM Zon Maritim Kuala Perlis, Komander Maritim Mohd Hashim Mat Zain berkata, kejadian petang kelmarin, bot dinaiki nelayan itu dikesan berhampiran pantai Kuala Sanglang, di sini.

“Pada mulanya kami

mengesyaki mereka memasang bubu naga haram menangkap ikan, rupanya sangkar siput,” katanya.

“Nelayan terbabit cuba melarikan diri dari lokasi namun dapat ditahan. Sangkar siput dirampas itu dianggarkan bernilai RM1,000 dan dibawa ke jeti APMM Zon Maritim Kuala Perlis bagi siasatan dan tindakan lanjut.

“Pemilik sangkar siput boleh didakwa di bawah Seksyen 11(3)(c) Akta Perikanan 1985,” katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/7/2024	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	MUKA DEPAN	1

Nelayan diugut jika buat aduan

Jenayah perikanan tindas 30,000 nelayan kecil

Oleh MAISARAH SHEIKH RAHIM
maisarah.rahim@mediamulia.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Lebih 30,000 nelayan kecil terus tertindas apabila isu dan masalah berkaitan 'jenayah perikanan' tidak ditangani secara serius dan berkesan terutama melibatkan kegiatan pencerobohan.

Kegiatan pencerobohan ini bukan sahaja melibatkan nelayan asing memasu-

ki perairan negara, malah pencerobohan dalaman membabitkan bot pukut tunda mencerobohi Zon A (kawasan kurang 5 batu nautika dari pesisir pantai) yang digazetkan untuk nelayan kecil.

Timbalan Pengerusi Persatuan Pendidikan dan Kebajikan Jaringan Nelayan Pantai Malaysia (Jaring), Mohd. Faizal Mohd. Zabri berkata, isu ini kerap kali diadukan kepada agensi-agensi terlibat terutama Jabatan Perikanan (DOF), na-

mun tiada tindakan diambil mengikut pekeliling dan undang-undang ditetapkan.

Lebih mengecewakan, dakwanya, ada dalam kalangan nelayan yang membuat aduan itu menerima ugutan, malah disoal siasat seolah-olah mereka pula membuat kesalahan walaupun mempunyai bukti mencukupi.

Bersambung di muka 2

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
19/7/2024	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	2

Jenayah perikanan tindas 30,000 nelayan kecil

Dari muka 1

“Apabila kita buat aduan kepada DOF, mereka tidak ambil tindakan apa-apa. Kami cuba bantu DOF dalam kerja-kerja penyiasatan dengan membangunkan satu aplikasi, Timestamp bagi memudahkan saluran aduan dibuat secara tepat dengan bukti rakaman video, tetapi ia seperti mencurahkan air ke daun keladi.

“Walaupun ada tangkapan, namun pihak berkuasa menahan bot pukat tunda seminggu sahaja, kemudian melepaskan semula. Ada kes pemberi maklumat pula diugut akan dirampas telefon bimbit mereka menyebabkan sekarang mereka rasa takut untuk bantu membantaras jenayah ini,” katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini, semalam.

Kelmarin, Suruhanjaya Integriti Agensi Penguatkuasaan (EAIC) mengesahkan sedang menyiasat DOF selepas terdapat peningkatan aduan oleh pihak-pihak berkaitan terhadap jabatan berkenaan.

Ini termasuk penguat kuasa tidak memantau penceroboh yang memasuki zon bot nelayan atau memasuki zon berbeza dan tidak mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) antara punca berlaku ketirisan hasil laut.

Selain pencerobohan bot-bot nelayan negara asing, pencerobohan turut melibatkan bot nelayan bagi kategori Zon B (kawasan 5 hingga 12 batu nautika dari pesisir pantai) ke Zon A.

Ini termasuk Zon C2 (kawasan 30 batu nautika dari pesisir pantai sehingga sempadan Zon Ekonomi Eksklusif (ZEE)/ Zon C (kawasan 12 hingga 30 batu nautika dari pesisir pan-



Ada kes pemberi maklumat pula diugut akan dirampas telefon bimbit.”

MOHD. FAIZAL MOHD. ZABRI

tai) ke Zon B.

Mohd. Faizal yang juga nelayan di Pantai Teluk Bahang memberitahu, antara kes berlaku ialah sebuah bot pukat tunda telah dilapor mencerooboh Zon A kurang 3 batu nautika dari Muka Head, Pulau Pinang pada Jun 2021.

Bot ini telah dirakam oleh nelayan-nelayan yang kebetulan berada di kawasan tersebut.

Amat menghairankan apabila bot pukat tunda yang mempunyai rekod 17 kesalahan di bawah Akta Perikanan masih lagi dibenarkan beroperasi.

Katanya, sedangkan hukuman dikenakan adalah mengantung lesen selama setahun di samping kompaun bagi kesalahan pertama, dan kesalahan ketiga pula akan dihadapkan ke mahkamah selain pindah milik lesen vesel tidak dibenarkan selama lima tahun kepada pemilik lain.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, tindakan hukuman itu seolah-olah hanya tertulis di atas kertas tanpa tindakan sebenar diambil, malah ada berlaku kes pindah milik bot.

“Apabila buat aduan, pihak berkuasa membuat ancaman

dan akan cari siapa yang buat aduan dan menyemak lesen nelayan itu pula. Nelayan pantai pula jadi mangsa sehingga ada yang langgar bot kita. Bila buat aduan, tiga jam baru sampai. Bot pukat tunda ini seperti sudah tahu kita hubungi.

“Jadi, kami menyokong tindakan EAIC untuk menyiasat jabatan ini kerana kami percaya ada yang tidak kena dengan penguatkuasaan apabila pengusaha bot pukat tunda terus ‘dilindungi,’” katanya.

Penyelia lapangan Sahabat Alam Malaysia, Azrul Faizal Mohamad pula berkata, pihaknya telah menghantar satu memorandum kepada jabatan berkaitan sejak November tahun lalu yang membangkitkan isu-isu perikanan, namun tiada maklum balas diterima sehingga kini.

Jelasnya, pencerobohan bot pukat tunda di Zon A boleh merosakkan sumber laut dan menangkap banyak anak ikan tiada nilai pasaran yang kemudian dijadikan ikan baja bagi ternakan sangkar dan kolam.

Pada 2020 sahaja, lebih 210,000 tan metrik ikan baja direkodkan oleh bot pukat tunda dan dalam tempoh lima tahun, lebih sejuta tan metrik didaratkan.

“Pencerobohan ini merosakkan alat tangkap nelayan dan dasar laut. Terumbu karang rosak dan hidupan yang berada di dasar mati. Ini tentunya merosakkan nilai ekosistem laut negara.

“Bot-bot tunda ini juga kerap mencerooboh pada waktu malam dengan tidak memasang lampu. Tindakan ini membawa risiko pelanggaran dan bahaya kepada nelayan pantai,” ujarnya.

Padi farmers struggling amid water crisis in Perlis

By IMRAN HILMY
imran@thestar.com.my

KANGAR: The dry spell in Perlis that began in May is becoming a nightmare for padi farmers, resulting in a 50% drop in their income.

Farmers like Khairil Anuar Safar, 52, from Kampung Belukar, are particularly affected as they have just started planting.

"Farmers who began planting in June and haven't seen any rain are struggling. We can't even use fertilisers because there's no water," he said.

Having been a padi farmer for 12 years, Khairil Anuar considers himself lucky to have other odd jobs to sustain himself.

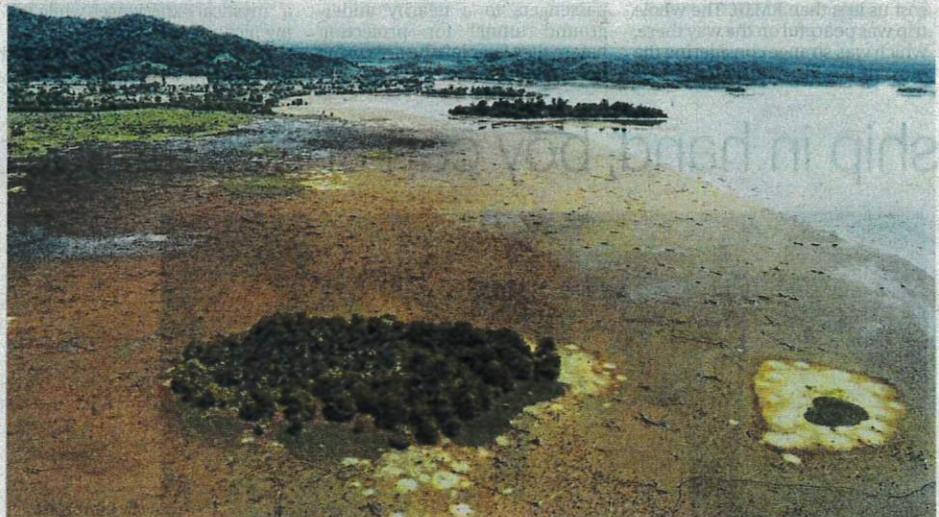
"Those who rely solely on padi farming are the worst hit," he said, adding that the dry spell affects other crops too as it can lead to pest infestations.

While dams in Kedah and Penang still have enough water for domestic and agricultural use, the Timah Tasoh Dam in northern Perlis has reached a critical level, dropping to 26.98m from its normal level of 29.10m. This drastic decrease has severely impacted water supply for irrigating padi farms.

Perlis agriculture committee chairman Razali Saad acknowledged the concern, noting that padi cultivation in the northern areas of Beseri, Tebing Tinggi and Wang Kelian has been particularly affected due to their reliance on the Timah Tasoh Dam.

He said that the state is monitoring the situation closely to ensure the viability of padi fields.

He added that this includes cloud seeding over the Timah Tasoh Dam to help increase the storage level.



Worrying sight: An aerial view of the almost dried up Bukit Merah Dam in Kerian. — Photo from the Irrigation and Drainage Department

The dry weather is also hampering Perak, with its Bukit Merah lake falling from its normal level of 8.68m to 6.18m yesterday.

Bukit Merah supplies treated water to the Kerian District in Perak and also to nearby padi fields.

Over in Kedah, padi farmers at areas which don't come under the Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) are also bracing for the dry season.

Farmers especially those in Kuala Nerang, Padang Terap, Pendang and Baling rely mainly on favourable weather for a successful padi planting season.

Naka Farmers' Association (PPK) unit chief Abdul Kadir Ismail, 64, said farmers in the affected areas are also unable to

fertilise their crops due to water scarcity.

"Many have experienced low yields and lost thousands of ringgit. They now have to replant their crops," he said.

Efforts to tap water from the nearby Sungai Tekai, he added, have been futile as the river has been dry for months.

During this dry season, farmers have taken up part-time jobs like rubber tapping to earn an income.

Mada chairman Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh said levels of reservoirs managed by Mada are sufficient to meet the needs for padi cultivation and domestic use.

"Although it is low, the water capacity is still enough," he said, adding that Mada has already planned to carry out cloud seeding operations with help from the

National Disaster Management Agency.

The operation will be carried out when there is a need to fill up the reservoirs as it will be crucial for the next padi planting cycle.

As of yesterday, the overall status of reservoirs under Mada's supervision showed the Pedu lake is at 46.67% of its capacity while the corresponding figures for Muda and Ahning are 13.34% and 83.56%, respectively.

The combined capacity of the three dams is 611,391 acre-foot or 754,138,571 cubic metres.

According to Universiti Sains Malaysia's atmosfera.usm.my/index.html website, the relative humidity in Penang has dipped by roughly 20% as of yesterday compared with earlier this month.