



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 26 JULAI 2024

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UKK KPKM

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

Nilai kemanisan buah
cecah 23 peratus
brix, pokok subur,
berbuah lebat

Oleh NORHASPIDA YATIM

SETIU

Harumanis Terengganu yang dijenamakan sebagai Mangga King MA128 mempunyai potensi sebagai tanaman bernilai tinggi yang boleh dikomersialkan secara lebih meluas.

Pengarah Pertanian Terengganu, Datuk Zulkepli Amin Mat Jusoh berkata, ia berdasarkan kesesuaian tanaman yang diukur daripada kesuburan pokok, berbuah lebat dan nilai kemanisan buah mencecah 23 peratus brix.

Menurutnya, buah yang sinonim dengan negeri Perlis itu mula ditanam di Terengganu sejak 2016 dan sepanjang tempoh itu, hasil penyelidikan mendapati ia hidup subur dan mengeluarkan hasil sepanjang tahun di atas tanah bris atau tanah berpasir.

"Sebenarnya tiada beza antara harumanis Terengganu dengan

harumanis Perlis kerana ia dari-pada jenis pokok sama cuma ditanam di kawasan berbeza dengan jenis tanah berlainan.

"Di Terengganu, kita kenal pasti kawasan tanah bris yang banyak terdapat di Setiu dan sesuai dengan tanaman ini. Dengan adanya teknologi pengairan dan pembajaan yang betul insya-ALLAH mangga ini boleh berbunga sepanjang tahun," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* pada Rabu.

Zulkepli berkata, setakat ini terdapat 2.6 hektar tanah ditanam dengan mangga king berusia lingkungan lima hingga tujuh tahun di stesen pemerhatian mangga itu di Pusat Pertanian Rhu Tapai yang menjadi pusat rujukan semua peserta tanaman ini.

"Selain di Setiu, kita ada sebuah lagi stesen tanaman mangga king untuk penyelidikan iaitu di kawasan tanah mineral dekat



Pegawai
Pertanian
Pusat
Pertanian
Rhu Tapai,
Nor Hasliza
Abdul Wahab
menunjukkan
buah Mangga
King MA128
yang sudah
matang
dan boleh
dimakan.

Hulu Terengganu seluas 0.8 hektar. Kita dapati pokok yang ditanam di atas tanah mineral hidup subur namun tidak berbuah.

"Berbeza dengan pokok yang ditanam di atas tanah bris kerana ia sentiasa mengeluarkan hasil

sepanjang tahun," ujarnya. Beliau berkata, terdapat hampir 70,000 hektar tanah bris di Terengganu dengan 24,000 hektar daripadanya di daerah Setiu.

Katanya, selain Taman Kekal Pengeluaran Makanan (TKPM),

pihaknya juga membuka kepada pengusaha untuk menyewa tanah dengan jabatan tersebut.

"Kita sediakan empat hektar bagi seorang pengusaha untuk ditanam mangga king ini.

"Selain itu, kita turut galakkan semua daerah yang mempunyai tanah bris untuk mengusahakan tanaman ini bagi memenuhi pasaran tempatan," ujarnya.

Tanaman itu mampu menghasilkan lebih 200 biji buah dengan ukuran berat antara 350 hingga 700 gram sebiji.

Ia memakan masa selama 56 hari dengan purata setiap pokok mengeluarkan hasil 100kg buah yang dijual pada harga RM25 se-kilogram.

Malah penajaan mangga king tidak rumit dan ia memerlukan penggunaan teknologi bagi memastikan setiap buah dihasilkan dapat mencapai gred A.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
26/7/2024	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	29

Pesawah terjejas boleh mohon bantuan tabung bencana

PARIT BUNTAR: Pesawah yang terjejas akibat masalah tiada air disebabkan cuaca panas diminta membuat laporan polis sebelum diadukan ke pejabat Jabatan Pertanian berhampiran untuk proses dokumentasi bagi permohonan bantuan tabung bencana tanaman padi.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan Luar Bandar, Perladangan, Pertanian dan Industri Makanan negeri, Datuk Mohd. Zolkafly Harun berkata, tindakan itu perlu segera dilaporkan supaya pegawai Jabatan Pertanian boleh ke lokasi bagi mendapatkan maklumat terperinci.

“Pegawai dan kakitangan Jabatan Pertanian sudah diarah untuk mengambil semua maklumat dan laporan daripada petani yang tanaman mereka terjejas akibat kemarau.

“Petani terlibat boleh menghubungi atau datang ke pejabat Jabatan Pertanian berhampiran untuk permohonan bantuan tabung bencana tanaman padi,” katanya.

Beliau ditemui pemberita



Petani terlibat boleh menghubungi atau datang ke pejabat Jabatan Pertanian berhampiran untuk permohonan bantuan tabung bencana tanaman padi.”

MOHD. ZOLKAFLY HARUN

dalam program sambutan Hari Ladang Pejabat Pertanian Daerah Kerian di sini.

Menurutnya, situasi cuaca panas di Perak agak ekstrem.

Pihak Kawasan Pembangunan Pertanian Bersepadu (IADA) Perak sudah membekalkan 37 pam bagi membantu pesawah di Kerian mengepam air dari parit.

Beliau memberitahu, selain itu, kerajaan juga membuat permohonan pembenihan awan

kepada Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (Nadma).

“Difahamkan pembenihan awan akan dilakukan di kawasan kolam tadahan Empangan Tasik Bukit Merah.

“Pengumuman pelaksanaan pembenihan awan itu akan dilakukan dalam masa terdekat,” katanya.

Beliau turut menggesa Kerajaan Persekutuan mengembalikan semula Bantuan Sementara Menunggu Padi Masak sebanyak wang RM600 kepada pesawah.

Utusan Malaysia sebelum ini melaporkan dianggarkan lebih separuh daripada 1,817 hektar sawah padi yang baharu ditanam di Kompartmen E di Alor Pongsu, Bagan Serai mengalami kerosakan disebabkan Tasik Bukit Merah tidak dapat membekalkan air berikutan kering sejak bulan lalu.

Ia menyebabkan padi yang baharu ditanam 40 hari lalu daunnya mulai bertukar warna kepada kekuningan dan jika masih tiada air dibekalkan, kemungkinan akan mati.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
26/7/2024	BARITA HARIAN	ONLINE	

Pesawah terjejas kemarau boleh mohon bantuan



PARIT BUNTAR: Pesawah yang terbabit dengan bencana alam termasuk kemarau perlu membuat laporan polis dan melaporkan kejadian kepada Pejabat Pertanian Daerah, bagi menerima Bantuan Tabung Bencana Tanaman Padi.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pembangunan Luar Bandar, Perladangan, Pertanian dan Industri Makanan, Mohd Zolkafly Harun, berkata setakat ini Jabatan Pertanian bekerjasama dengan Kawasan Pembangunan Pertanian (IADA) daerah dalam mengumpulkan data pesawah yang terbabit untuk dibentangkan kepada Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan.

"Hasil tinjauan kita tak semua kawasan terjejas, namun kebanyakannya terjejas akibat kemarau melampau.

"Data seperti usia anak padi dan berapa lama terjejas kita perlukan bagi membolehkan kita membentangkan kepada kementerian. Dari situ, kementerian akan memutuskan sama ada pesawah layak menerima bantuan.

"Permohonan sebelum ini sudah lulus dan bantuan akan disalurkan kepada Lembaga Pertubuhan Peladang (LPP) kawasan masing-masing," katanya selepas merasmikan Hari Ladang Jabatan Pertanian Daerah Kerian, di sini.

Hadir sama Timbalan Pengarah Pertanian Perak Shahril Sabri, dan Pengarah IADA Kerian, Noor Mazirah Teh.

Mohd Zolkafly berkata, bagi menangani musim kemarau yang teruk melanda beberapa kawasan di Perak, Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA) dijangka akan membuat pembenihan awan di Empangan Bukit Merah pada 29, 30 dan 31 Julai ini.

Menurut beliau, pembenihan awan itu bagi membolehkan hujan turun di kawasan empangan berkenaan untuk mengatasi kekurangan bekalan air bagi keperluan pertanian dan minuman serta industri di daerah Kerian.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
26/7/2024	HARIAN METRO	ONLINE	

Kes dera anjing paling tinggi - DVS



Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DVS) Dr Akma Ngah Hamid ditemui pemberita pads Majlis Perasmian Hari Kebajikan Haiwan di Kampung Agong, Penaga, Kepala Batas. FOTO Nur Izzati Mohamad

Kepala Batas: Tahap kesedaran dan keprihatinan masyarakat berkaitan kes penderaan serta

penganiayaan haiwan meningkat pada setiap tahun apabila mereka berani membuat aduan kepada Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DVS) untuk tindakan lanjut.

Ketua Pengarah DVS Dr Akma Ngah Hamid, berkata aduan penderaan dan penganiayaan haiwan terutamanya anjing dan kucing setakat Jun ini sudah merekodkan 2,162 kes.

"Statistik tahun lalu, sebanyak 2,622 aduan penderaan dan penganiayaan haiwan direkodkan berbanding 1,580 aduan tahun sebelumnya.

"Hal ini menunjukkan kesedaran yang semakin meningkat dalam kalangan masyarakat termasuk semakin banyak badan bukan kerajaan (NGO) yang prihatin terhadap kebajikan haiwan apabila bertindak pantas membuat aduan.

"Oleh itu, saya berharap jika (sesiapa nampak) ada kezaliman atau salah laku oleh pemilik, mereka dapat melaporkan dengan kaedah mengikut akta dan peraturan yang betul tanpa mengambil tindakan yang melampaui batas," katanya Majlis Perasmian Hari Kebajikan Haiwan di Kampung Agong, Penaga, di sini, hari inu.

Sambutan itu bertujuan mempromosikan kebajikan haiwan dengan menjadikan pemilik haiwan lebih bertanggungjawab dan memupuk kesedaran mengenai keprihatinan kepada haiwan.

Pada masa sama, ia memberi kefahaman kepada masyarakat berhubung peraturan, garis panduan dan pematuhan Akta Kebajikan Haiwan 2015 (Akta 722)

Mengulas lanjut, Dr Akma berkata, dalam tempoh antara 2021 hingga Jun tahun ini pihaknya merekodkan kes penderaan paling tinggi terhadap anjing iaitu 5,226 kes diikuti kucing 1,900 kes, 178 kes (kuda), 157 kes (arnab), 122 kes (burung), 105 kes (lembu) dan 116 lain-lain kes.

"Selangor menjadi negeri tertinggi (merekodkan penganiayaan kes haiwan) iaitu 3,334 kes diikuti Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (1,113 kes), Johor (800 kes), Pulau Pinang (695 kes) dan Perak (491 kes)," katanya.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
26/7/2024	MALAYSIA GAZETTE	ONLINE	

Selangor catat rekod tertinggi dalam kes penderaan haiwan – DSV



Dr Akma.

KEPALA BATAS – Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DSV) merekodkan trend peningkatan aduan berhubung penderaan terhadap haiwan terutamanya anjing dan kucing di seluruh negara setiap tahun.

Ketua Pengarah DSV, Dr Akma Ngah Hamid berkata, ia susulan sebanyak 2,162 kes penderaan haiwan direkodkan setakat Jun lalu berbanding 2,622 aduan sepanjang tahun lalu.

Jelas beliau, situasi ini sekali gus menunjukkan kesedaran dalam kalangan masyarakat mengenai penderaan haiwan semakin meningkat selain banyak Pertubuhan Bukan Kerajaan (NGO) bertindak pantas sekiranya terhadap kejadian terbabit.

“Jika berlaku kezaliman atau mungkin nampak salah laku oleh pemilik orang ramai dapat melaporkannya sebab kita ada link animal welfare.

“Kita harap aduan dibuat melalui kaedah yang betul lah jangan mengambil tindakan yang melangkaui batasan mereka sendiri sebab kita ada peraturan dan akta kebajikan haiwan yang perlu dipatuhi,” katanya pada Majlis Hari Kebajikan Haiwan 2024 di Kampung Agung di sini, hari ini.



Fahmi Zainol (kiri) merasmikan Hari Kebajikan Haiwan 2024 di Kampung Agung, Pulau Pinang hari ini.

Perasmian majlis itu disempurnakan EXCO Argroteknologi dan Keterjaminan Makanan dan Pembangunan Koperasi Pulau Pinang, Fahmi Zainol.

Majlis ini bertujuan mempromosikan kebajikan haiwan, menjadikan pemiliknya lebih bertanggungjawab dan memupuk kesedaran mengenai keprihatinan kepada haiwan serta memberi kefahaman kepada masyarakat berhubung peraturan, garis panduan dan pematuhan akta kebajikan haiwan 2015 (akta 722).

Mengulas lanjut Akma berkata, dalam tempoh antara 2021 hingga Jun tahun ini, pihaknya merekodkan kes penderaan paling tinggi terhadap anjing iaitu 5,226 kes, diikuti kucing 1,900 kes, kuda 178 kes, arnab 157 kes, burung 122 kes, lain-lain 116 kes dan lembu 105 kes.

“Selangor merupakan negeri tertinggi iaitu sebanyak 3,334 kes, diikuti Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur (1,113 kes), Johor (800 kes), Pulau Pinang (695 kes) dan Perak (491 kes). – MalaysiaGazette

taip untuk carian



AM > BERITA

HARI KEBAJIKAN HAIWAN PUPUK KESEDARAN MASYARAKAT, ADUAN DERA HAIWAN MENINGKAT

🕒 25/07/2024 06:45 PM



Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Dr Akma Ngah Hamid (tengah) bersama Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Agroteknologi, Keterjaminan Makanan dan Pembangunan Koperasi negeri Fahmi Zainol melakukan gimik perasmian Sambutan Hari Kebajikan Haiwan Tahun 2024 di Kampung Agong hari ini.

KEPALA BATAS, 25 Julai (Bernama) -- Hari Kebajikan Haiwan yang dianjurkan setiap tahun berjaya memberi impak positif dengan meningkatkan dan memupuk kesedaran masyarakat dalam menjaga kebajikan haiwan di negara ini.

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Veterinar Dr Akma Ngah Hamid berkata ia dapat dilihat daripada kesedaran orang ramai yang mula membuat aduan berhubung penderaan haiwan supaya tindakan dapat diambil terhadap pihak tidak bertanggungjawab.

Beliau memaklumkan pihaknya menerima peningkatan aduan berhubung penderaan haiwan dengan 1,249 kes diterima pada 2021, seterusnya meningkat kepada 1,580 kes pada 2022, 2,622 kes (2023) dan 2,162 kes pada enam bulan pertama tahun ini.





"Masyarakat mula sedar bahawa kebajikan haiwan adalah serius.

"Ini menunjukkan ada impak daripada Hari Kebajikan Haiwan, promosi kesedaran dan undang-undang ketat yang kita laksanakan," katanya kepada pemberita selepas Majlis Perasmian Hari Kebajikan Haiwan Tahun 2024 di Kampung Agong, Penaga di sini.

Majlis berkenaan dirasmikan oleh Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Agroteknologi dan Keterjaminan Makanan dan Pembangunan Koperasi Pulau Pinang Fahmi Zainol.



Akma berkata anjuran Hari Kebajikan Haiwan itu juga mendapat sokongan badan bukan kerajaan (NGO) yang turut sama menjalankan kempen dan promosi kebajikan serta keprihatinan terhadap haiwan.

Mengenai Hari Kebajikan Haiwan 2024, beliau berkata buat julung kalinya, sambutan tersebut diadakan di luar ibu pejabat iaitu Pulau Pinang dan tahun ini dianjurkan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (DVS) dengan kerjasama DVS Pulau Pinang, Fakulti Perubatan Veterinar Universiti Putra Malaysia, Murni Ekspo dan Kampung Agong.

Beliau berkata Hari Kebajikan Haiwan diadakan bertujuan mempromosikan kebajikan haiwan seterusnya meningkatkan kesedaran masyarakat berhubung pemilikan bertanggungjawab, ehsan, kasih sayang dan keprihatinan terhadap haiwan.

Antara aktiviti menarik sempena Hari Kebajikan Haiwan 2024 ialah *Animal Welfare Fun Run*, reruai pameran kebajikan haiwan di Pet Ekspo Pulau Pinang, *Animal Welfare Fun Game* dan pertandingan mewarna.

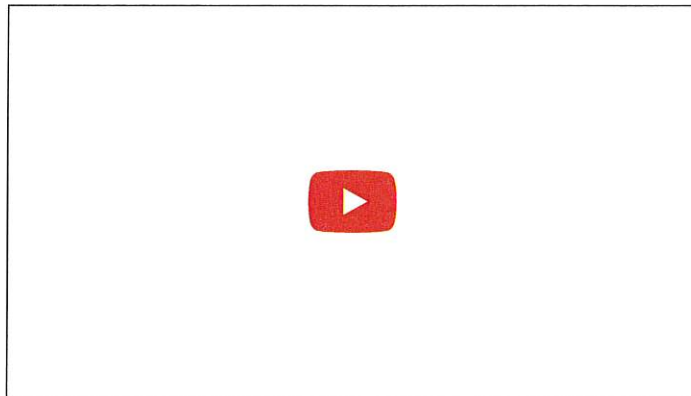
Selain itu, menjelang Hari Kebajikan Haiwan Tahun 2024, turut diadakan pengisian seperti pertandingan pidato sekolah menengah, pertandingan melukis doodle dan mewarna secara dalam talian dan pertandingan fotografi peringkat pelajar universiti.

Sementara itu, DVS dengan kerjasama Murni Expo pula akan menganjurkan Pet Ekspo pada 27 hingga 28 Julai ini di Spice Arena, Bayan Baru dekat sini.

Akma berkata DVS juga sentiasa komited melaksanakan hebahan dan inisiatif kepada orang awam dalam memupuk serta meningkatkan kesedaran berkaitan kebajikan haiwan di negara ini.

Beliau berkata DVS turut menasihati individu atau persatuan berkaitan haiwan untuk menyalurkan terus aduan berhubung kebajikan haiwan kepada pihaknya melalui pautan sistem dalam talian awa.dvs.gov.my (MyAnimalwelfare).

-- BERNAMA



BERNAMA menyediakan informasi dan berita terkini yang sahih dan komprehensif yang disebarkan melalui Wires BERNAMA; www.bernama.com; BERNAMA TV di saluran Astro 502, unifi TV 631 dan MYTV 121 dan Radio BERNAMA di frekuensi FM93.9 (Lembah Klang), FM107.5 (Johor Bahru), FM107.9 (Kota Kinabalu) dan FM100.9 (Kuching).

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KATA KUNCI

hari kebajikan haiwan kesedaran kebajikan haiwan
aduan haiwan akma nash hamid

Surveyors for sustainability

Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) completes its outreach programme for remote communities

THE Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) under the Quantity Surveying (QS) Division for 2024/2025 completed the Surveyors' Social Responsibility (SSR) Orang Asli Outreach Programme, held at Royal Belum, Gerik, Perak Darul Ridzuan earlier this month.

The event was held in collaboration with Politeknik Sultan Azlan Shah, Behrang, Perak (PSAS) and Kolej Komuniti Gerik, Perak (KKG). This event from July 4-6 focused on supporting the local orang asli community and promoting sustainable development practices with the following objectives:

- > Raise awareness about sustainable development and water resources.
 - > Learn best practices in lake and river management.
 - > Promote sustainable practices in project management.
- Some 40 volunteers from RISM, PSAS, KKG and relevant sponsors were involved in this event.

The event commenced with the release of 40 bags of fish seeds (ikan lampam) into Tasik Royal Belum and was officiated by RISM president Sr Dr Ahmad Sanusi Che Cob, followed by the RISM deputy president Sr Wan Alnon Zuraiha

Wan Abdul Khalid and all volunteers. A total of 48 packs of essential items were distributed to the orang asli community at Kampung Klewang and goodie bags to the children.

In addition, 40 Mempelam Madu trees have been planted and three park benches have been installed at the same village, which was greatly appreciated by the residents of Kampung Klewang. Ahmad Sanusi also officiated the event by releasing the aforementioned fish seeds into Tasik Royal Belum.

The QS Division is proud to announce the implementation of three innovative carbon capture practices aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Among these practices is the unique initiative of feeding ikan kelah at the Sungai Ruok Sanctuary. Ikan kelah, also known as the Malaysian Mahseer, is a species that plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of freshwater ecosystems.

By enhancing the health and population of these fish species, we can contribute to the overall vitality of our aquatic environments, which in turn supports carbon sequestration

in freshwater habitats.

MARA chairman and TVET national committee member Datuk Wira Dr Asyraf Wadji Dasuki had also attended the closing ceremony on July 6.

He gave the closing speech, signed a plaque and donated three grass-cutting machines to three orang asli villages.

The sponsors of the QS division's recent initiatives include: Yayasan

Feruni, L2 i-CON Sdn Bhd, Elerat Communications, GTA Vision Sdn Bhd, MKRS Group (M) Sdn Bhd, KH Alliance Quantity Surveyors, MCM Value Sdn Bhd and Speedbrick Sdn Bhd.

Their event partners, PSAS and KK Gerik, also aided with support with logistics; organising essential items for distribution to the orang asli community in Kampung Klewang.



RISM president Dr Ahmad Sanusi Che Cob officiated the event by releasing fish seeds into Tasik Royal Belum.



Distribution of essential items to the Tok Batin of Kampung Klewang.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
26/7/2024	THE STAR	NEWS	1



War of the *fishes*

As the ecology of Selangor's rivers is threatened with increasing number of fish not endemic to them, the state Fisheries Department is increasing the population of native species in the water bodies to counter the problem. >2&3

Reel threat: Participants of a Fisheries Department programme capturing invasive alien fish species in Sungai Langat. (Inset) Over 700kg of invasive ikan bandaraya caught in three hours, while only 1kg of native fish were caught in the same time frame at the river. — Photos: CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

Alien fish species found in Selangor rivers

2020:

Taman Putra Perdana Puchong

- >Parrot fish (*Amphilophus* sp.)
- >Ikan bandaraya (*Hypostomus plecostomus*)
- >Spotted tilapia (*Parachanna* sp.)
- >African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*)
- >Mayan cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*)
- >Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*)

Mozambique tilapia
(*Oreochromis mossambicus*)

2022:

Empangan Sungai Langat:

- >Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*)
- >Parrot fish (*Amphilophus* sp.)
- >Java barb (*Barbonymus gonionotus*)

Redhump eartheater
(*Geophagus steindachneri*)

Empangan Semenyih:

- >Redhump eartheater (*Geophagus steindachneri*)
- >Pacu (*Serrasalminae*)
- >Zebra tilapia (*Butterkoferi cichlid*)
- >Java barb (*Barbonymus gonionotus*)

Empangan Sungai Tinggi Bukit Tagar:

- >Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*)

African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*)

Sungai Selangor:

- >Redhump eartheater (*Geophagus steindachneri*)
- >Peacock bass (*Cichla monoculus*)
- >African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*)
- >Asian redtail catfish (*Hemibagrus wyckiooides*)
- >Black ghost knife fish (*Apteronotus albifrons*)
- >Rohu (*Labeo rohita*)

2023:

Sungai Batang Si/Sungai Tekala:

- >Nile tilapia
- >Zebra tilapia

National Botanic Gardens Shah Alam (Bukit Chera Forest Reserve):

- >Tilapia hitam (*Tilapia cichlid*)
- >Mayan cichlid (*Cichlasoma urophthalmus*)
- >Spotted tilapia (*Pelmatolapia mariae*)
- >Java barb (*Barbonymus gonionotus*)

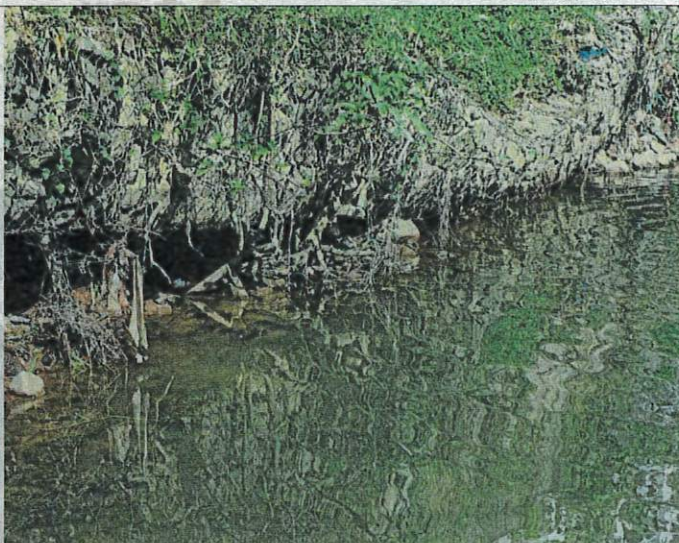
2024:

Sungai Langat:

- >Java barb (*Barbonymus gonionotus*)
- >Mozambique tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*)
- >Iridescent shark catfish (*Pangasianodon hypophthalmus*)
- >Ikan bandaraya (*Hypostomus plecostomus*)

Source: Fisheries Department

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Damaged riverbank along Sungai Kuyoh near the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur. — Courtesy photo

Alien fish species invading ecosystem

Fisheries Department combating non-native aquatic life affecting riverbanks in Selangor

By MEGAT SYAHAR
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ONCE teeming with aquatic life, Sungai Langat, near Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), in Bangi, Selangor, is now filled with invasive alien fish that threaten the ecosystem.

The suckermouth catfish (*Hypostomus plecostomus*), also known as *ikan bandaraya* and originally from South America, has multiplied there and in other waterways within the state in recent years.

This fish, which mainly eats algae and keeps aquariums clean, may be useful to those with fish tanks but in the wild, it becomes territorial and breeds rapidly.

Often, when these fish grow too large to manage, fish tank owners release them into the waterways instead of killing them.

As such, efforts are being made to reduce the species' dominance in rivers and restore the ecological balance.

On June 9, the state Fisheries Department with the help of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Selangor government removed 700kg of the invasive catfish from the once popular fishing spot along Sungai Langat.

Angler and maintenance worker Ahmad Nawawi Husin, 31, said he had stopped fishing there and moved to other spots, such as Sungai Dengkil and another part of Sungai Langat near Kampung Sungai Buh.

He said the abundance of invasive catfish in the river posed a



Noraisyah says some bunds across Sungai Langat have been damaged by invasive fishes.

challenge for anglers trying to catch native species such as *ikan baung*, also known as *mystus*, which are highly sought after but scarce.

"I had to change my fishing method to one that allows me to target specific fish," Ahmad said.

Before the proliferation of invasive species in the river, he could catch at least RM2,500 worth of fish in a month, but now, the most he could get was RM1,000 on a good day.

Ahmad said during his last visit to Sungai Langat, he fished from midnight to dawn but only caught *ikan bandaraya*.

Mohammad Khairul Amri, 26, said before this, anglers like him could typically catch at least 3kg of *ikan baung*.

However, in recent years, he said there had been times when they could catch only one native fish per outing, and on particular



Prof Mohammad says 'ikan bandaraya' burrow into riverbanks or ponds.

ly bad nights, none at all. "During those times, the fish that we catch is only for personal consumption," he added.

Anglers are able to get up to RM35 for 1kg of *ikan baung*, depending on size.

Mohammad Khairul noted that some urban locations such as Sungai Klang near Mid Valley, Sungai Midah in Bukit Jalil and Sungai Langat near UKM, had seen a rise in the invasive fish population.

The anglers suggested implementing state infrastructure and agriculture committee chairman Izham Hashim's idea of putting a bounty on the heads of alien fishes. At the time, he had said that the price would be RM2 per fish.

In response, Selangor Fisheries Department director Noraisyah Abu Bakar said whether the bounty was \$0.50, RM1 or RM2 per fish, she fully supported the

Over a million native fish released to replenish Selangor rivers

ALIEN fishes lurking in our rivers threaten the existing ecosystem, says Universiti Putra Malaysia Faculty of Science Biology Department lecturer Prof Dr Mohammad Noor Anwar Azmai.

He said *ikan bandaraya* had characteristics such as rapid growth, prolific breeding rate, lack of predators and tolerance to lower water quality.

To combat the issue, the Fisheries Department releases native fishes into the environment.

Over the past five years, it has released more than 1.1 million native fishes into rivers.

So far, four operations have been initiated this year, resulting in the release of 218,000 native river species, including freshwater prawns and *ikan lampam* (tin foil barb).

The year 2022 saw the highest number of native species released, which was 355,450 across 10 species including tin foil barb, freshwater prawns, golden belly barb (*kerah*), silver catfish (*patin*) and mahseer (*kelah*) at 13 locations.

Selangor Fisheries Department director Noraisyah Abu Bakar said they were tackling non-native fish and invasive non-native fish.

The invasive species are those that impact other species negatively and to an extent, its surroundings.

Ikan bandaraya, *ikan bang ekor merah* (Asian redtail catfish) and peacock bass are



About 10,000 tin foil barb fish fry being released into Sungai Langat during a programme. — CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

among the species the department has identified as invasive.

"Aquarium owners are unaware of the size a fish can reach and may feel bad about killing the animal," she said.

For these owners, the only option was releasing them into a river but Noraisyah said this impacts the environment.

"Recently, we found an African catfish and when the Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) cut it open, it had freshwater prawns in its stomach."

Noraisyah said a man had once contacted the department about two arapaima fish in his keeping.

He was told that it was illegal to release the fish into the river, but could not bring himself to kill them.

"We visited the man's house and the arapaima was brought to Akurium Tunku Abdul Aziz Rahman (AkuaTAR) in Batu Maung, Penang," said Noraisyah.

At AkuaTAR, a special section is dedicated to invasive fish. "His arapaima is now an educational resource for visitors to study. If necessary, the department will take the invasive fish and place them somewhere that does not upset the balance in the ecosystem."

"We have a district fisheries department to address issues like this," she said, adding that there were quarantine centres for invasive fish.

She said fish owners could contact with the department to get clarity on such issues. — By MEGAT SYAHAR



Ahmad fishing along Sungai Klang in Kuala Lumpur. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star



Ikan bandaraya gets dumped into drains and freshwater areas once they have grown too big. — Filepic

initiative to reduce the number of alien fishes within Klang Valley rivers.

Rehabilitating rivers

Noraisyah said it was important for people to consult with the department before releasing fish into waterways.

"No one is allowed to release any alien fish into rivers as this could damage our rivers' ecosystem," she explained.

She was unhappy to learn that Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) had released nearly 400kg of *Chao Praya* catfish, an invasive species, into a river on June 29.

"The Fisheries Department is currently refining the state's river fisheries regulations to allow for action to be taken."

"These rules will provide a detailed framework under the authority of the Fisheries Act 1985 (Act 317)."

Noraisyah said the draft proposed licensing of fishing activities (river fisheries), listing prohibited fishing equipment, prohibition of fish releases (both native and alien fishes) without permission, establishment of resource management areas and the prohibition of capturing protected fish species.

The rules, she added, were aimed at regulating fishing activities in public inland waters and ensuring the sustainability of inland fisheries resources, particularly native fish species.

"It will help with the monitoring of fishing activities through licensing, reporting of catches and providing government support (if available) to genuine anglers," she said, adding that it included implementing conservation activities and controlling the release of fish into public inland waters.

She said the department monitored aquarium shops and

enforced regulations there.

"We will take action against a shopowner for having any foreign fish without a permit."

"We can take action under the Fisheries Act 1985 which prohibits imports and we have made some arrests," said Noraisyah.

Every year, the department conducts an inventory programme to collect data on specific rivers depending on its allocation. "The data can assess the condition of the river, determining whether it is still healthy based on the presence of native fish or if it has been overtaken by invasive fish."

"This will help us decide what is necessary and if needed, we will remove the invasive fish or release native fishes into a river."

"Additionally, we will collaborate with NGOs (such as Ikan Bandaraya Hunters and River Monster Hunters) on programmes and run periodic campaigns on

Fish releases by Selangor Fisheries Department

2020

> Kolam Takungan Part 4, Sungai Hal Doran - 20,000
> Sungai Pangsaun - 5,000
> Sungai Karang - 10,000
> Ban Canal, Sabak Bernam - 5,000
> Sungai Langat - 20,000
> Sungai Teng - 50,000
> Tasik Darul Quran, Ampang Pecah - 5,100
> Sungai Klang - 5,000
> Santuari Ikan, Sg. Chiling - 935
> Kolam Takungan Kg. Hang Tush - 15,000
Total: 136,035

2021

> Sungai Chiling - 750
> Sungai Karang - 72,000
> Sungai Pangsaun - 10,000
> Sungai Teng - 6,000
> Sungai Langat - 6,000
> Sungai Selangor - 125,000
> Sungai Bernam - 51,000
> Sungai Langat - 1,000
> Kolam Takungan Air Hitam - 500
> Sungai Sepang Besar - 2,900
> Sungai Inki - 22,500
Total: 297,650

2022

> Empangan Sungai Karang - 200
> Sungai Ban Canal - 70,200
> Tmn Desa Angerik - 300
> Sungai Selangor - 50,000
> Sungai Bernam - 50,000
> Taman Rekreasi Wawasan - 20,000

> Denai Sungai Kebangsaan, Bangi - 31,000
> Santuari Ikan, Sungai Chiling - 500
> Tasik Darul Quran JAKIM - 16,000
> Tasik Shah Alam - 250
> River nearby Kolam Pandang Sri Bayu - 20,000
> Tasik Eco Damansara - 5,000
> Sungai Kampung Kemensah - 12,000
> Sungai Langat - 50,000
> Sungai Bernam - 30,000
Total: 355,450

2023

> Tasik Lindungan Burong UNISEL - 5,000
> Santuari Ikan, Sungai Chiling - 700
> Sungai Langat - 30,000
> Sungai Selangor - 16,000
> Sungai Bernam - 20,000
> Sungai Karang - 10,000
> Sungai Batang Si - 5,000
> Sungai Semangkis - 2,000
> Sungai Panjang - 1,200
> Tasik Taman Botani Negara Shah Alam - 10,300
> Sungai Selangor - 7,500
Total: 107,700

2024

> Sungai Bernam - 100,000
> Sungai Selangor - 100,000
> Sungai Batang Si - 15,000
> Sungai Langat - 3,000
Total: 218,000

Source: Fisheries Department

The Star graphics

Alien fish species alert

Characteristics

> High reproduction rate
> Adaptable food requirements
> Tolerant to poor water quality
> Flexible habitat preferences

Impacts

Affects the environment, microorganism and economy
Erodes the riverbanks
Disrupts the food chain by outcompeting native fishes for space and food
Degrades water quality

What can the public do?

Report sightings of people releasing non native invasive species into rivers
Educate yourselves on the dangers of invasive species
Do not release these species into our waterways
Do not use these species as bait

The Star graphics

social media," she added.

Noraisyah said riverbanks and bunds at Sungai Langat and Sungai Klang had also been damaged by invasive fish, which could grow up to 50cm.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Faculty of Science Biology Department lecturer Prof Dr Mohammad Noor Anwar Azmai said the invasive fish had a habit of burrowing into the ground, riverbanks or ponds.

"These burrows, which can be several feet deep, act as nests and mating places for the fish. They can weaken riverbanks or ponds."

"Fish farmers also dislike their presence because they dig up the pond, causing pond banks to collapse and this results in losses for the farmers."

According to Prof Mohammad, a single female *ikan bandaraya* could produce from 1,200 to 12,000 eggs at one time.

He said if the country wanted

to preserve its aquatic heritage, then a collaboration between the government, NGOs and the public was needed to accomplish this goal.

He added that the government and farmers should also promote local fish for ornamental and recreational purposes as well as aquaculture and reduce dependency on alien fish.

StarMetro reached out to Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to find out about the extent of the damage done by *ikan bandaraya* to riverbanks, but it was unable to respond by press time.

A Fisheries Department researcher, when approached, said studies had not been conducted following discussions with DID.

When asked about riverbank erosion studies, Noraisyah said such a task was under the purview of DID.