



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
KHAMIS 3 JULAI 2025

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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
3/7/2025	SINAR HARIAN	NEGERI	22

Padah pindah 80 kambing tanpa kebenaran

KUALA KANGSAR - Seorang pemandu lori didenda RM10,000 oleh Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Kangsar pada Rabu selepas mengaku bersalah memindahkan 80 kambing tanpa kebenaran Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Perak pada Januari lalu.

Tertuduh, R Surenthiran, 28, membuat pengakuan tersebut selepas pertuduhan dibacakan di hadapan Majistret Mohd Shazmeer Zamhari.

Mahkamah turut memerintahkan tertuduh dipenjara selama enam bulan sekiranya gagal membayar denda berkenaan.

Mengikut pertuduhan, Surenthiran didakwa memindahkan 80 kambing hidup dari Taiping ke Klang, Selangor dengan menggunakan kenderaan lori tanpa mendapat kebenaran bertulis daripada Pengarah JPV.

Kesalahan itu dilakukan di tepi Lebuhraya Utara Selatan arah selatan berhampiran susur keluar Tol Kuala Kangsar jam 8.24 malam, 22 Januari lalu.

Mahkamah turut memerintahkan tertuduh dilucutkan hak hasil jualan kambing berkenaan berjumlah RM31,178.40 manakala lori dikembalikan selepas denda dibayar.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
3/7/2025	HARAKAH	SG4: TERENGGANU	15

RM40,000 laksana kajian penandaan peralatan nelayan darat



Dr Azman (tiga dari kiri), Pang (dua dari kiri) dan Mohd Zawawi.

KUALA TERENGGANU: Kerajaan Negeri Terengganu memperuntukkan RM40,000 bagi melaksanakan kajian penandaan peralatan nelayan darat bertujuan memperkukuh pengurusan sumber dan penguatkuasaan perikanan di perairan darat.

Pengarah Jabatan Perikanan Negeri, Pang Nyukang, berkata kajian itu akan membangunkan sistem penandaan sah bagi peralatan seperti pukatan tahan, rawai, taut dan jala, selain menunjukkan pemilikan sah oleh nelayan darat.

Menurutnya, Kajian akan dijalankan oleh Institut Penyelidikan Perikanan Kampung Acheh (FRIKA), Perak, meli-

batkan 20 nelayan dari Sungai Dungun dan Tasik Kenyir.

“Ia juga bertujuan memperkemas sistem pelesenan dan penguatkuasaan, serta dijadikan asas kepada sebarang pindaan fi lesen pada masa depan,” katanya selepas Program Pelepasan Benih Ikan, Penyerahan Bantuan Peralatan dan Insentif Input Akuakultur serta Pelancaran Kajian Penandaan Peralatan Nelayan Darat di Sungai Terengganu, Kampung Temir, baru-baru ini.

Program pelancaran disempurnakan di Kampung Temir itu turut dihadiri Dato’ Dr Azman Ibrahim, Dr Sukati Sakka, dan ADUN Telemong, Mohd Zawawi Ismail.

AGROBANK is welcoming entries for the Agro Biz Awards 2025.

In a statement, the bank said the awards are aimed at recognising excellence and outstanding contributions by industry players in the agricultural community, who play a key role in strengthening the nation's food security agenda.

The awards were launched by Agriculture and Food Security Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Isham Ishak.

Also present at the event was Agrobank group president and chief executive officer Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin.

Agro Biz Awards 2025 targets businesses and entrepreneurs across various agriculture community sectors, and features five main categories.

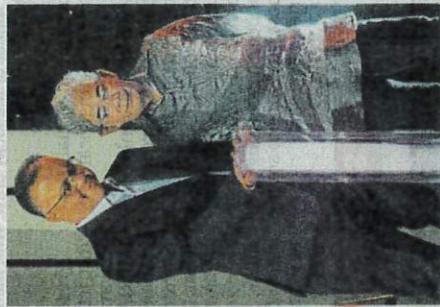
They are Agrobank SME of the Year, which recognises small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that demonstrate excellence in their business operations.

The Agrobank Biz Women Award recognises female entrepreneurs who pioneer and mentor other women involved in business activities across the entire food supply chain.

The Agrobank Biz Youth Award recognises young entrepreneurs aged between 18 and 40 years who are pioneers and mentors in efforts to increase the involvement of young people in the agricultural and agri-food sectors.

The Agrobank Biz Innovation Award recognises individuals, companies or organisations that have demonstrated outstanding

July 31 deadline for Agro Biz Awards with cash prizes of RM70,000 up for grabs



Isham (left) launching the Agro Biz Awards 2025, with Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah next to him.

innovation in enhancing productivity in the agricultural and agri-food sectors.

The fifth category is the Agrobank Biz Disability Empowerment Award which recognises entrepreneurs with disabilities (PWD) in appreciation for their contributions and achievements in the agricultural and agri-food sectors, the bank said.

Agrobank is offering cash prizes totalling up to RM70,000

TARIKH

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THE STAR

EVENT

6

Submission Deadline 31st July 2025

for all award categories.

Interested participants can download the entry form via www.agrobank.com.my. Alternatively, application forms are also available at Agrobank branches nationwide.

Completed application forms must be submitted to the nearest Agrobank branch along with the required supporting documents.

Participants are required to submit a comprehensive achievement report demonstrating the positive impact of their businesses in the agricultural and agri-food sectors.

As supporting material, a participation video not exceeding three minutes must also be provided, the statement said.

Shortlisted candidates will be

contacted to attend interview sessions and presentations to strengthen their applications.

All eligibility criteria and nomination procedures are subject to established terms and conditions.

The application deadline is July 31. For more information, call 1-300-88-2476, visit www.agrobank.com.my or the nearest Agrobank branch.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
3/7/2025	HARAKAH	SG4: KELANTAN	10

Danau Tok Uban pacu industri akuakultur Kelantan

Oleh MUHAMMAD ARIF ISMAIL

KOTA BHARU: Ladang solar terapung yang diintegrasikan dengan zon industri akuakultur di Danau Tok Uban, Pasir Mas dekat sini menjadi mercu tanda utama bagi pembangunan sektor perikanan di Kelantan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Industri Agromakanan dan Komoditi, Dato' Tuan Mohd Saripudin Tuan Ismail berkata, projek tersebut memberi manfaat besar terutamanya kepada nelayan tempatan.

Menurut beliau, pada tahun lalu, zon industri akuakultur itu menghasilkan pengeluaran ikan air tawar sebanyak 227 tan metrik, serta menjana pendapatan sebanyak RM1.8 juta kepada kerajaan.

"Sekitar 86 penternak bimbingan Jabatan Perikanan Kelantan telah mendapat manfaat dari peruntukan yang disediakan pihak kerajaan negeri dan juga Kerajaan Persekutuan menerusi agensi masing-masing.

"Usaha ini dilihat tidak memberi sebarang masalah penternakan ikan di sini, malah ia membantu pembiakan ikan air tawar ini dengan lebih baik di bawah pulau solar yang dibina terapung," katanya.



Menteri Besar melepaskan ikan air tawar ke dalam Danau Tok Uban yang menjadi zon akuakultur.

Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Selising itu juga berkata, projek itu merupakan kerjasama antara Kelantan Utilities Mubarakkan dan Cypark Resources Berhad dengan pelaburan RM500 juta.

Beliau juga menaruh harapan agar lokasi tersebut menjadi pusat pengeluaran ikan air tawar terbesar di Kelantan dan diwartakan sebagai Taman Kekal Pengeluaran Makanan (TKPM) dalam sektor penghasilan ikan.

Dalam pada itu sektor perikanan menjadi sebahagian elemen yang menjadi penyumbang terbesar pembangunan ekonomi di Kelantan selain sokongan kerajaan negeri sentiasa memperkukuh-

kan aktiviti tersebut.

Secara keseluruhan pengeluaran sektor itu terus meningkat, pada tahun 2023 sebanyak 60,031 tan metrik dengan nilai RM643 juta berbanding 2022 sebanyak 55,083 tan metrik bernilai RM548.9 juta.

Sementara pengeluaran ikan air tawar di seluruh negeri juga menunjukkan trend peningkatan sama iaitu mencatatkan jumlah sebanyak 5,933 tan metrik dengan nilai berjumlah RM43.2 juta pada tahun 2023.

Kerajaan negeri juga giat melabuhkan tukun tiruan sepanjang 96 kilometer perairan Kelantan bermula di Tok Bali Pasir Puteh sehingga Pengkalan Kubor, Tumpat ber-

hampiran perbatasan negara dan Thailand.

Inisiatif yang dilaksanakan sejak tahun 2007 itu dibuat bersama kerajaan negeri dan Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia yang melabuhkan sebanyak 300 unit tukun tiruan dengan peruntukan sebanyak RM5.85 juta.

Menurut Tuan Mohd Saripudin, langkah tersebut dibuat bagi memastikan ikan menjadi sumber protein negara kekal mampan serta memastikan keterjaminan makanan negara sentiasa mencukupi pada masa hadapan.

Sektor perikanan di Kelantan terus rancak apabila kerajaan negeri menerusi Majlis Pembangunan Wilayah Ekonomi Pantai Timur (ECERDC) membangunkan Taman Perikanan Bersepadu Tok Bali (TBIFP) di Pasir Puteh.

ECERDC sehingga Jun 2021 telah memperuntukkan sejumlah RM297.7 juta bagi melaksanakan pembangunan Tok Bali yang akan menjadi pemangkin satu lagi pembangunan baru di Kelantan selepas Bandar Baru Tunjong.

Ia membabitkan TBIFP yang menelan belanja sebanyak RM67.7 juta di samping pembinaan Taman Industri Tok Bali berjumlah RM200 juta serta menaik taraf Jalan

Tok Bali Pasir Puteh yang bernilai RM30 juta.

Kemudahan yang dibangunkan dalam tanah seluas 17 ekar tanah milik Lembaga Kemajuan Ikan Malaysia (LKIM) kini dalam proses pembinaan, bakal menjadi pemangkin terhadap sektor perikanan negeri itu.

Pembangunannya melibatkan penyediaan lot-lot industri yang lengkap dengan infrastruktur asas seperti rangkaian jalan, sistem perparitan berserta kolam tadahan, lampu jalan, tangki air dan sebagainya.

TBIFP dibina berhampiran jeti LKIM yang memudahkan urusan melibatkan industri perikanan termasuk pembinaan kilang air batu yang bernilai RM10 juta dan kilang sardin dengan peruntukan RM16 juta.

Kerajaan negeri juga maklumkan sebelum ini terdapat beberapa buah syarikat yang menyatakan hasrat dan minat untuk melabur di TBIFP dengan jumlah pelaburan dianggarkan bernilai sebanyak RM36.4 juta.

Pelaburan syarikat dalam bidang pemprosesan ikan sejuk beku, otoshimi dan surimi serta pemprosesan ikan tuna itu dijangka dapat menyediakan 207 peluang pekerjaan kepada anak muda tempatan.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
3/7/2025	HARAKAH	SG4: KELANTAN	10

Ayam nanas Aqina pacu ternakan lestari

KOTA BHARU: Lawatan ke Pusat Ternakan Ayam Nanas Aqina yang terletak di Pontian, Johor telah membuka perspektif baharu penternakan ayam pedaging skala besar khususnya di Rong Chenok, Pasir Mas.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Industri Agromakanan dan Komoditi, Dato' Tuan Mohd Saripuddin Tuan Ismail berkata, kaedah penternakan tersebut menggunakan unsur nanas untuk dijadikan makanan haiwan.

"Kami diberi pendedahan teknologi penternakan lestari yang mana ayam diberi enzim nanas dan ini merupakan satu inovasi yang unik hasil gabu-



Dato' Tuan Mohd Saripudin melihat ayam yang ditenak dan diberi enzim nanas di Pusat Ternakan Ayam Nanas Aqina.

ngan sektor pertanian dan penternakan.

"Lawatan ini membuka perspektif baharu potensi in-

tegrasi nanas dengan penternakan ayam secara holistik serta memberi inspirasi untuk meneroka agroindustri berse-

padu dan bernilai tinggi," katanya.

Terdahulu, Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Selingit itu bersama 30 peserta dan pengusaha tanaman nanas turut mengunjungi Projek Kelompok Tanaman Nanas Jemampine di Parit Jerman, Pontian.

Ia merupakan sebahagian aktiviti lawatan ke Johor sempena Hari Nanas Malaysia 2025 di Dataran Angsana Mall, Johor Bahru yang telah dirasmikan oleh Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Dato' Seri Mohamad Sabu.

Turut serta dalam lawatan itu ialah Pengarah Lembaga Perindustrian Nanas Malaysia

Negeri Kelantan, Muhammad Fauzan Mohd, yang meninjau perkembangan dan perusahaan tanaman nanas terbesar di negara ini.

Media sebelum ini melaporkan kerajaan negeri telah melancarkan reban ternakan ayam tertutup di Rong Chenok, Pasir Mas bernilai RM1.4 juta dan mampu memuatkan 25,000 ayam bagi setiap pusingan ternakan.

Selain itu, tanah seluas 30 ekar di Kelantan Bio Valley (KBV), Pasir Puteh turut dijadikan lokasi penanaman 70,000 pokok nanas MD2 secara komersial yang diusahakan syarikat tempatan, Golden Noor.

Harumanis Al Falah jadi produk premium Kelantan

Oleh **RIZAL TAHIR**

BACHOK: Kelantan kini sedang membangunkan jenama Harumanis Al Falah sebagai produk buah premium negeri itu untuk membusi pasaran nasional dan antarabangsa.

Usaha ini merupakan sebahagian daripada strategi kerajaan negeri dalam menjadikan sektor pertanian sebagai pemacu utama ekonomi luar bandar.

Timbalan Menteri Besar, Dato' Dr Mohamed Fadzi Hasan berkata, projek tanaman harumanis di Kampung Kuala Rekang, Melawi telah membuktikan potensi besar pertanian strategik di negeri ini.

Katanya, jenama Harumanis Al Falah sedang diperkukuh melalui pendekatan penjenamaan, pembungkusan dan perancangan eksport.

"Dengan hasil antara 30 hingga 50 tan sehektar dan harga pasaran sekitar RM25 hingga RM45 sekilogram, potensi pendapatan mampu memecah RM50,000 bagi setiap ekar semusim," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika mengadakan lawatan



Dr Mohamed Fadzi teruja ketika mengadakan lawatan ke kebun harumanis milik Mohd Redzuan di Kampung Kuala Rekang.

ke kebun harumanis milik Mohd Redzuan Jusoh di Kampung Kuala Rekang.

Menurut beliau, kejayaan projek komuniti tanaman Mangga Harumanis Fasa 1 membuktikan tanah terbiar dapat dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya dengan penglibatan aktif masyarakat setempat.

"Mangga harum manis bukannya sekadar hasil pertanian bermusim. Ia adalah komoditi strategik yang terbukti mampu menjana pendapatan

ramai 10 peserta baharu turut menyertai projek ini dan kerajaan negeri akan bekerjasama rapat dengan Jabatan Pertanian bagi memastikan bekalan baja mencukupi untuk penghasilan buah sepanjang tahun.

Beliau juga memaklumkan bahawa sebuah pusat pengumpulan dan jualan akan dibuka di Melawi bagi memudahkan urusan pemasaran ke peringkat yang lebih luas.

Katanya lagi, Harumanis Al Falah akan dijadikan penanda aras penghasilan buah paut terbaik di negeri ini.

"Kita yakin, dengan rasa yang harum dan manis, produk ini mampu menjadi johan di seluruh Kelantan," ujarnya.

Turut hadir, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pelaburan, Perindustrian, Sumber Manusia, Perdagangan dan Keusahawanan, Mejar (B) Md Anizam Abdul Rahman; ADUN Pantai Irama, Mohd Huzaimy Che Husin; Pengerusi Besar Kementerian Pertanian Kelantan Berhad, Mohd Mukhlis Mukhtar dan Ketua Jajahan Bachok, Mohd Zaki Yusof.

Tambah beliau, walaupun pengeluaran buah-buahan negara meningkat daripada 1.68 juta metrik tan pada 2021 kepada 1.88 juta metrik tan pada 2023, negara masih bergantung kepada import buah-buahan berkualiti.

"Sudah sampai masanya kita bertanya pada diri sendiri, apa lebihnya mereka daripada kita? Kita ada tanah, cuaca, tenaga kerja dan kesungguhan; yang penting ialah perancangan dan pelaksanaan yang berstrategi," jelasnya.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Industri Asas Tani, Bioteknologi dan Teknologi Hijau, Dato' Tuan Sartipuddin Tuan Ismail berkata, projek tersebut telah menerima pelaburan sebanyak RM120,000 dalam tempoh tiga tahun.

"Setakat ini, kita sudah menanam pokok dan telah tiga kali ia berbuah. Kawasan ini sangat berpotensi dan sudah banyak 8,000 biji buah telah dibalut daripada 100 pokok, menunjukkan hasil yang baik dan lebat," katanya.

Beliau menyatakan, se-

tinggi," katanya lagi. Beliau turut menegaskan kepentingan pembangunan pertanian premium dalam konteks keselamatan makanan negara, ketika Malaysia masih mengimport makanan bernilai lebih RM65 bilion setahun.

"Isu sekuriti makanan sangat kritikal, bukan hanya kerana kekurangan wang untuk membeli, tetapi juga kerana situasi global seperti peperangan boleh menjejaskan beka-

Nurturing future agricultural leaders

AGRICULTURE in today's world is more than just growing food; it is also about growing solutions. It is among the frontrunners demonstrating that the right integrated system can generate solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges—resource scarcity, environmental degradation, labour shortages, and food security.

The key lies in plantation technology and modern plantation management, which are becoming the foundation for a resilient, profitable, and environmentally responsible agricultural industry.

This will enable the development of more regenerative systems, aimed at protecting lands, empowering farmers, and securing food systems for generations to come.

To support this goal, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) now offers the Bachelor of Plantation Technology (Management) with Honours programme under the Faculty of Science (FSc).

This is part of its effort to nurture leaders capable of transforming agriculture from an extractive industry into a regenerative force for people, profit and the planet.

FSc's Department of Agricultural and Food Science head Dr Ali Yassoralipour said, "Plantation technology and management are more than just enhancing plantation productivi-

ty and sustainability.

"It is also about developing talents with the right technical knowledge, digital skills and sustainability mindset to modernise and manage plantations.

"With this in mind, our programme encompasses knowledge and skills on modern plantation science, digital technologies and eco-friendly practices to nurture future-ready professionals who can transform plantations into efficient, profitable and environmentally responsible enterprises—locally and globally."

The Bachelor of Plantation Technology (Management) with Honours programme emphasises equipping students with knowledge on sustainable plantation management that will provide them the understanding on agronomic principles for major plantations crops.

Agricultural technology integration in the programme gives students hands-on training in digital farming tools and exposes them to mechanisation and automation used for harvesting, fertilising and pest control.

Besides that, students will also be trained to analyse and interpret real-time data for better operational decisions.

Additionally, the inclusion of crop production and biotechnology knowledge will enable students to contribute to improving crop productivity, climate resilience and disease resistance.

Ali explained, "The programme



Hami Ecofarms Sdn Bhd founder Aw Chee Choy (left) with Dr Ali at the UTAR Greenhouse, which houses the collaborative muskmelon farming project.

also provides students with real-world learning through active involvement in innovative research and field projects.

"One key project focuses on sustainable disease management in economically important plantation crops, such as Eucalyptus hybrids and oil palms.

"Students explore integrated strategies to manage foliar diseases of Eucalyptus as well as basal stem rot and bagworm infestations of oil palms using biological control agents and responsible application of chemical fungicides. This hands-on

experience equips students with essential skills in plant protection and sustainable agriculture."

He highlighted, "The programme's broad-spectrum focus on key skill areas, such as precision agriculture, digital tools, mechanisation, biotechnology, soil and water and sustainability reflects the university's commitment to nurturing students into global change-makers in agriculture."

"It also equips our students to be future plantation professionals with digital, data-driven and

ecological skills that replace outdated, environmentally harmful practices with smart, sustainable methods, contributing to fewer resource wastage, reduced chemical use and higher biodiversity conservation.

Equipped with these skills and knowledge, students gain a competitive edge in the workforce and may qualify for roles such as plantation manager, agribusiness consultant, research scientist, sustainable agriculture specialist, supply chain manager, government and regulatory roles and even entrepreneur.

UTAR offers over 140 programmes from Foundation Studies to bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in Accounting, Business, Finance and Economics, Actuarial Science, Mathematics and Process Management, Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Chinese Studies, Creative Industries, Digital Animation, Multimedia and Design, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

■ For more information, go to www.utar.edu.my or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar campus), 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long campus). Visitors can walk in or call for any enquiries on weekdays from 9am to 5pm (closed on public holidays).

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
3/7/2025	NEW STRAITS TIMES	LIFE & TIMES	12

Preserving animal health and welfare

THE health and welfare of humans and animals are intertwined in many ways. Pets offer us companionship, livestock help to provide sustenance and biodiversity protects entire ecosystems.

Quite simply, we need them, and we need to know how to care for them properly — even livestock destined for the slaughterhouse deserves to exist with as little suffering as possible. That's where bioveterinary science comes in.

While well established in many parts of the world, it is relatively new as a field of study in Malaysia. It combines medical knowledge such as anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and pathology with animal care and management.

At its core, bioveterinary science supports the ethical and responsible treatment of animals.

This also serves to protect public health by maintaining levels of hygiene and other standards that reduce environmental contamination and help prevent zoonotic diseases that can infect humans, explains IMU University school of veterinary medicine dean Professor Dr Malaika Watanabe. Much of the world continues to rely heavily on animals and animal-based products. Global meat production has more than tripled over the past 50 years.

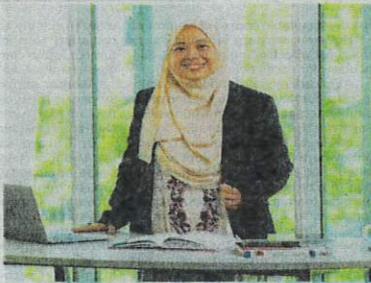
Meanwhile, the emotional connection humans share with companion animals has contributed to a booming pet industry, which was valued at over US\$246 billion worldwide in 2023 and



Livestock management that prioritises animal health reduces the risk of disease and culling. PICTURE CREDIT: SENIVPETRO — FREEPIK



IMU University school of veterinary medicine dean Professor Dr Malaika Watanabe says that when you work to ensure animal health, you are also supporting environmental health and, by extension, human health. PICTURE CREDIT: IMU UNIVERSITY



projected to surpass US\$427 billion by 2032.

This growth is reflected locally as well. More than 50% of Malaysians own pets, contributing to a 25% increase in the pet care sector in 2022.

This includes services, pet sales, and veterinary care.

"When you work to ensure animal health, you are also supporting environmental and, by extension, human health," says Dr Malaika.

Owners have the responsibility to deworm their dogs and cats — this is because infected animals can shed parasitic eggs in the environment. This can put humans at risk, especially children in playgrounds, who could get infected and become seriously ill.

Being a responsible pet owner is also part of being responsible for public health — it all comes full circle.

Meanwhile, livestock management that prioritises animal health

reduces the risk of disease and culling.

Managing livestock efficiently and ethically is essential for food security, which is critical in many countries, so it is important to make it as sustainable as possible.

Keeping animals healthy also helps prevent unnecessary or indiscriminate use of antibiotics, which can have repercussions on humans.

meera@nst.com.my

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
3/7/2025	NEW STRAITS TIMES	NEWS	2

Ensure Gig Workers Bill delivers

It must balance workers' welfare and business interests

THERE is finally some clarity about the long awaited Gig Workers Bill after Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said it is expected to be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat in August or September. But several concerns about this future economy have to be sorted out.

Chiefly, the bill has to balance worker protection with business viability and sustainability. The bill is designed to safeguard the gig economy and create a social protection framework for the 1.12 million Malaysians working in the sector. The bill is also meant to provide equitable protection that builds a fair, inclusive and resilient future. Zahid has touted the bill as a world's first and that the International Labour Organisation was keen to learn from Malaysia's experience. However, despite its importance, industry players are adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude. The gig economy is a major economic contributor and a source of employment to youngsters. A key question about the bill is on whether it addresses career advancements. The bill also has

Nevertheless, the bill is a global pioneering legal framework for gig workers, espousing a fair, inclusive and resilient future economy.

place in the Education Ministry's effort to stem Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia absenteeism, as more students are forfeiting the examination to become riders and drivers for quick and easy money. The Department of Statistics Malaysia conducted a study in 2022 and found that the majority of p-hailing riders are aged between 15 and 30 and earn about RM2,500 a month.

Major industry players maintained that the bill offered little clarity because no regulatory impact assessment has been done.

Over the years of deliberations, the industry hasn't seen dispute resolution, deactivation compensation and wage requirement resolved. It's clear that more industry consultations and inclusivity is needed in the bill's drafting, especially discussions with platforms, gig workers, academics and experts.

There are other worries: will there be spikes in operational costs, more entry barriers, disruptions in business models and higher consumer costs? Gig worker associations are uneasy with excessive regulations that may stifle innovation, discourage platform investment, reduce job opportunities and harm economic benefits. They are asking: Will the bill clearly define gig workers, provide practical mechanisms for dispute resolution, income protection and social security? This is why there have been multiple postponements to the bill's tabling. Nevertheless, the bill is a global pioneering legal framework for gig workers, espousing a fair, inclusive and resilient future economy.