



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
JUMAAT 21 MAC 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
21/3/2025	MALAYSIA KINI	ONLINE	

Over 2.6m bags of local white rice distributed since March 1 - Mat Sabu



A total of 2,621,248 bags of local white rice have been distributed throughout the peninsula since March 1, said Agriculture and Food Security Minister Mohamad Sabu.

He said the rice supply had been distributed to almost all supermarkets and mini-markets in urban areas throughout the peninsula.

"The rice may have not reached...

type to start searching

GENERAL

Over 2.6 Mln Bags Of Local White Rice Distributed In Peninsula Since March 1- Mohamad

🕒 20/03/2025 09:28 PM



TAPAH, March 20 (Bernama) -- A total of 2,621,248 bags of local white rice (BPT) have been distributed throughout the peninsula since March 1, said Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu.

He said the rice supply had been distributed to almost all supermarkets and mini markets in urban areas throughout the peninsula.

"The rice may have not reach some areas in the interior. We hope the PPK (Regional Farmers' Organisation) will play a role so that we

"Our machinery will try to (distribute) including to distributors such as businessmen so that they can deliver to the community for consumers to buy at a cheaper price, especially in the interior areas," he said.

He told reporters at the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security's Engagement Programme with Farmer Leaders in Perak here today.

Mohamad said the number is targeted to be increased to 24 million bags over the next five months.

On Feb 25, the media reported that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (KPKM) had guaranteed that 24 million 10-kilogramme bags of subsidised BPT would be in the market throughout the peninsula starting March 1.

-- BERNAMA

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KEYWORDS

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RM22m to benefit 14,000 Sabah fishermen

SANDAKAN: A total of RM22 million has been allocated for the benefit of about 14,000 fishermen in Sabah this year.

Fisheries Development Authority of Malaysia chairman Muhammad Faiz Fadzil said the allocation involves fishermen's living allowances, as well as other initiatives.

"The allocation is also for the construction of a small jetty and repairing 50 fishermen's houses," he said after completing the *Madani* Ramadan friendly *Rahmah* programme with members of the Libaran Fishermen Association here on Wednesday.

Muhammad Faiz also reiterated that Sabah fishermen should not abuse the diesel fuel subsidy provided by the government, and that the raw material subsidy is only to be used for fishing.

"We are also concerned about the diesel oil leakage issue and will take strict action against anyone involved in the sale of the fuel, such as cancelling the licence or suspending the receipt of subsidies, as well as closing the jetty used for such activity," he said.

Muhammad Faiz said a total of 110 members of the Libaran Fishermen Association, as well as *asnaf* individuals received food baskets and *duit raya* of RM100 each. – Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
21/3/2025	THE STAR	ONLINE	

Fama ups coconut supply by 40% to meet Aidilfitri demand

GEORGE TOWN: The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) has increased the coconut supply by 30 to 40 per cent to meet the high demand ahead of the upcoming Aidilfitri celebration, said Fama director-general Abdul Rashid Bahari.

He said the move is part of its proactive measures to ensure sufficient supply for domestic use during the festive season.

"The (coconut) supply is becoming more stable, and prices have dropped slightly by five to 10%. Although the reduction is not significant, the important thing is ensuring a stable supply.

"...despite the current global supply constraints, we can still secure enough supply to meet the needs for Aidilfitri," he said at the launch of the Agrofiesta Aidilfitri 2025 here on Thursday (March 20), which the Penang Agrotechnology, Food Security and Cooperative Development Committee chairman Fahmi Zainol officiated.

Abdul Rashid said coconuts were obtained from Sabah and Sarawak and imported from Indonesia.

"There are two types of imports: one facilitated by Fama through its subsidiaries and existing import entrepreneurs. The other type involves manufacturers who process grated coconut, coconut powder, and packed coconut.

"Although Indonesia and Malaysia have high demand for coconuts, thanks to the longstanding cooperation between the two countries and experienced importers, we can still secure a stable supply," he said.

He said Fama is also offering special discounts for coconut milk and selling ingredients at lower prices at 42 special pre-Aidilfitri farmers' markets starting March 29, which Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu would launch.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rashid said Fama is targeting RM1mil in sales during the ninth edition of Agrofiesta Aidilfitri 2025 from Feb 28 to March 30.

He said the Agrofiesta Aidilfitri, which is being held at two shopping malls in Penang, features 40 local entrepreneurs and promotes food industry products, including traditional snacks, biscuits, and essential Aidilfitri items.

Fama also presented the Agrobazaar K-Shoppe grants and Product Image and Packaging Improvement assistance totalling RM95,000 to 13 entrepreneurs at the event. – Bernama

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
21/3/2025	THE STAR	NATION	5

Coconut supply enough for Raya, says Fama

GEORGE TOWN: The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) has increased coconut supply by 30% to 40% to meet the high demand ahead of the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration, says its director-general Abdul Rashid Bahari.

He said the move is part of its proactive measures to ensure sufficient supply for domestic use during the festive season.

"The (coconut) supply is becoming more stable and prices have dropped slightly by 5% to 10%. Although the reduction is not significant, the important thing is to ensure a stable supply.

"Despite the current global supply constraints, we can still secure enough supply to meet the needs for Hari Raya," he said at the launch of the Agrofiesta Aidilfitri 2025 here, Bernama reported.

According to Abdul Rashid, the coconuts were obtained from Sabah and Sarawak as well as imported from Indonesia.

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21/3/2025

BERITA
HARIAN

NASIONAL

27

Harga kelapa turun 5 hingga 10 peratus

Georgetown: Bekalan kelapa di pasaran semakin stabil dengan sedikit penurunan harga sekitar lima hingga 10 peratus di sesetengah tempat berikutan langkah meningkatkan import kelapa.

Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Pemertanian Persekutuan (FAMA), Abdul Rashid Bahri, berkata FAMA bersama anak syarikat turut membantu meningkatkan pengeluaran produk berasaskan kelapa dalam bentuk paket, serbuk, kelapa parut dan sebagainya.

Selain itu, katanya, FAMA turut membawa masuk kelapa dari

Sabah dan Sarawak bagi menampung permintaan di pasaran. Se-menajung yang menunjukkan peningkatan menjelang Aidilfitri ini.

"FAMA sendiri meningkatkan lebih kurang 30 hingga 40 peratus bekalan sedia ada walaupun dalam keadaan bekalan agak ketat buat masa ini di peringkat dunia.

"Paling penting bekalan sudah semakin stabil setelah kita meningkatkan import dari Indonesia walaupun sama-sama merutukan bekalan tinggi disebabkan musim perayaan.

"Atas kerjasama dua negara dan pengimport yang sudah lama

berkerjasama, kita masih mendapat bekalan dari Indonesia," katanya kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri Agrofiesta Aidilfitri 2025, di sini, semalam.

Mohd Fauzi berkata, FAMA buat jujung kali akan menawarkan santan segar pada potongan harga istimewa di Pasar Tani Khas Pra Aidilfitri membabitkan 42 lokasi di seluruh negara bermula 29 Mac bagi meringankan beban pengguna.

"Kita akui harga (santan) ketika ini agak tinggi sikit dan memang ada gangguan bekalan (kelapa), bukan sahaja di Malaysia, tetapi peringkat dunia, namun

keadaan sudah semakin baik sekarang.

"Jadi kita mahu memberi sedikit kelegaan kepada pengguna dengan menjual santan pada potongan harga istimewa. Maklumat lanjut akan diumumkan kemudian," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Fahmi berkata, seramai 40 usahawan menyertai Agrofiesta Aidilfitri 2025 di pusat beli-belah 1st Avenue di sini dan Sunway Carnival di Seberang Jaya, melibatkan industri makanan, kraftangan, kosmetik dan pakaian dengan sasaran nilai jualan RMI juta.

Beliau berkata, FAMA optimis mencapai sasaran dengan nilai jualan tunai dan dalam talian direkodkan setakat kelmarin mencecah RM700,000 dan dijangka melepasi RMI juta dalam tempoh berbaki kira-kira 10 hari lagi menjelang lebaran.

"Penganjuran program ini sudah memasuki tahun kesembilan bagi membantu usahawan tempatan meningkatkan pendapatan. Kita tidak kenakan sewa tapak, cuma awalnya saja kita minta bayaran komitmen RM350, akan dipulangkan selepas tamat program," katanya.

Pada majlis terbabit, FAMA turut menyerahkan insentif dan Geran Agrobazaar K-Shoppe serta Bantuan Pembaikan Imej dan Pembungkusan Produk kepada 13 usahawan terpilih melibatkan penyaluran dana RM95,000.



Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Agroteknologi dan Keterjaminan Makanan dan Pembangunan Koperasi, Fahmi Zainol (belakang, tiga dari kiri) dan Abdul Rashid (belakang, tiga dari kanan) bersama penerima bantuan pada majlis perasmian Agrofiesta Aidilfitri 2025 di Georgetown, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

Jualan murah hasil tani RCAV bantu rakyat

Oleh **MUHAMMAD ARIF ISMAIL**

KOTA BHARU: Hasil pertanian dari Rong Chenok Agro Valley (RCAV), Pasir Mas dijual pada harga lebih murah di Pasar Rakyat Kelantan (Pasar KelAgro) sebagai inisiatif untuk membantu rakyat yang kurang berkemampuan membeli bahan makanan.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Industri Agromakanan dan Komoditi, Dato' Tuan Mohd Saripudin Tuan Ismail, berkata jualan murah tersebut telah berlangsung selama dua hari di 10 jajahan.

Menurutnya, pelaksanaan program tersebut bertujuan

untuk menyambut bulan Ramadan dan memberi peluang kepada golongan berpendapatan rendah mendapatkan bahagian makanan pada harga yang lebih berpatutan.

"Sempena bulan Ramadan 2025, Pasar Rakyat KelAgro diadakan buat pertama kalinya di lima jajahan secara serentak pada 14 Mac dan 15 Mac 2025.

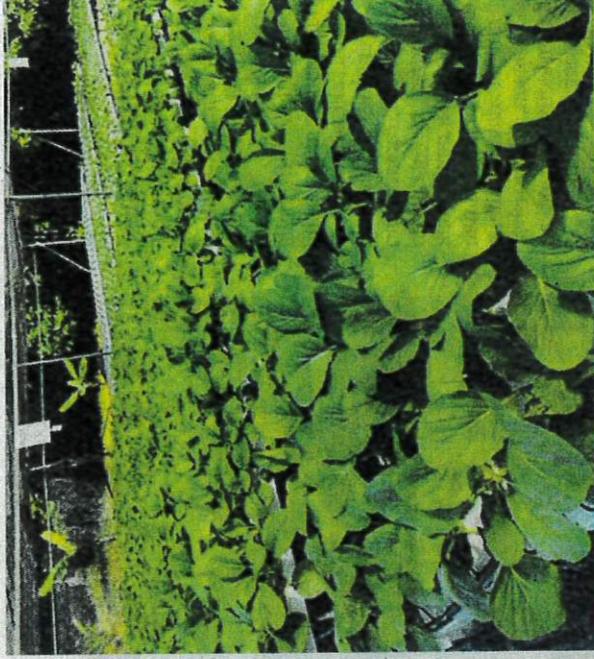
"Barangan basah segar dan barangan dapur akan ditawarkan pada harga istimewa yang mampu milik," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Pada 14 Mac (Jumaat), Pasar Rakyat KelAgro telah diadakan di Kota Bharu, Machang,

Gua Musang, Tumpat dan Jeli; manakala pada 15 Mac, jualan di Bachok, Pasir Puteh, Kuala Krai, Pasir Mas dan Tanah Merah, bermula dari jam 8 pagi hingga 12 tengah hari.

KelAgro merupakan inisiatif daripada Perbadanan Kemajuan Pertanian Negeri Kelantan (PKPNK), yang menawarkan harga subsidi kepada rakyat Kelantan.

Beberapa agensi kerajaan turut terlibat dalam program ini, antaranya Jabatan Pertanian Negeri, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar, Jabatan Perikanan Negeri dan Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA).



Tanaman hidropnik di ladang RCAV, Pasir Mas Kelantan.

Rakyat Terengganu nikmati tembikai pada harga lebih rendah



Hasil tanaman tembikai di Setiu, Terengganu.

KUALA TERENGGANU: Rakyat Terengganu berpeluang menikmati tembikai pada harga yang lebih rendah berbanding dengan harga di kawasan bandar besar seperti Selangor dan Kuala Lumpur.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Industri Asas Tani, Keterjaminan Makanan dan Komoditi negeri, Dr. Azman Ibrahim berkata, sebagai negeri pengeluar utama hasil pertanian, Terengganu menawarkan harga yang lebih berpatutan kepada penduduknya.

"Alhamdulillah, orang Terengganu boleh menikmati tembikai dengan harga relatif rendah berbanding warga kota-kota besar di negara ini," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Dalam pada itu, Dr. Azman turut meluahkan rasa kurang senang dengan pihak yang mengaitkan isu harga tembikai yang lebih mahal di Selangor dengan kemampuan kerajaan negeri Selangor dalam mentadbir.

Dalam pada itu, beliau juga menjelaskan bahawa hal yang sama berlaku apabila harga ikan yang lebih mahal di Terengganu turut dipersoalkan.

"Mungkin terlupe nak tan-

ya, tembikai di Selangor mari (datang) dari mana?" soalnya.

Menjawab persoalan berhubung harga tembikai yang lebih mahal di negeri pengeluar seperti Terengganu berbanding di Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Azman menjelaskan bahawa kerajaan negeri Terengganu telah merancang dengan teliti bagi memastikan hasil pertanian seperti tembikai dapat dinikmati dengan harga yang lebih rendah oleh penduduk tempatan.

"Perancangan rapi, pertanian negeri telah menjadikan Terengganu antara pengeluar tembikai utama di negara

ini dengan kadar cukup sara diri tembikai kini melebihi 300 peratus," jelasnya lagi.

Tambah beliau, tembikai Terengganu juga berjaya dipasarkan ke Lembah Klang menerusi usaha pelan pemasaran yang dilaksanakan oleh agensi kerajaan dan pekebun tempatan.

Dalam pada itu, Dr. Azman mengakhiri kenyataannya dengan merujuk kepada kisah Lukman al-Hakim dan anaknya sebagai analogi bagi menggambarkan betapa isu harga yang dibangkitkan sering kali tidak relevan dan mengelirukan.

Watermelon prices fall due to lower demand

PRICES of watermelons and strawberries have plummeted due to lower demand this month, *Sin Chew Daily* reported.

According to fruit farmers, watermelon prices would usually rise during the fasting month due to demand for buka puasa.

However, orchard owner Chen Ya Fu said there had been a glut as farmers had grown more fruits in anticipation of higher demand.

A survey showed that watermelon, which used to cost RM4 per kilo, dropped to RM3.50 at the start of Ramadan, before falling to just RM2.50 this week.

As for wholesale strawberry prices, fruit farmer Dong Bao said it had dropped by 88%.

"Right now, the wholesale prices for strawberries are about RM6 to RM7 per kilo only. Usual prices



Watermelon and Ramadan:

Nasir Mokhtar preparing watermelon to be sold at Teluk Pulai, Klang priced between RM10 and RM30 per fruit. — KK SHAM/The Star

who is willing to walk every path and face every high and low together with me in this life.

Su's manager said she met him while on a trip to Shanghai to visit her maternal grandmother.

Fans were keen to know the identity of the husband but Su chose to keep mum.

"Thank you everyone for caring, I've received all of your wishes," she said.

Gao, a Taiwanese-Canadian, was reported to have suffered a cardiac arrest after filming for 17 hours for a variety show that focused on physical tasks in 2019 in the Chinese city of Ningbo. He was 35.

Gao - whose mother is from Malaysia - was the first Asian male model to appear in a Louis Vuitton ad campaign.

> Model Bella Su has married, six years after the death of her model-actor boyfriend Godfrey Gao, the daily also reported.

Su, 29, who had said she needed time to mourn Gao's death, announced the marriage on Instagram.

"I am married now to someone

are around RM40 to RM50," said Dong, who is based in Cameron Highlands.

According to her, 90% of her income was from Muslims visiting Cameron Highlands.

Due to the fall in tourist numbers during Ramadan, she said it is common for prices to drop.

21/3/2025

UTUSAN

DALAM

11

MALAYSIA

NEGERI



Memerah keringat

PENYADAP nira, Azman Husein,

54, sibuk mengumpul air manisan nira dari bekas plastik yang dilitkat pada mayang pokok kelapa ketika tinjauan di Kampung Jerang, semalam.

Setiap kali Ramadan, pengusaha air nira kelapa atau lebih dikenali sebagai air tuak oleh penduduk Terengganu, tidak menyang tangan memenuhi permintaan pelanggan. Minuman ini menjadi pilihan utama untuk berbuka puasa kerana rasanya yang manis dan menyegarkan.

Menurut Azman, proses mendapatkan nira memerlukan ketelitian, kerana mayang pokok kelapa perlu dipotong dengan teknik tertentu bagi memastikan

aliran nira berkualiti. Air tuak asli tanpa campuran sangat diminati kerana rasanya yang lebih segar.

Selain dijual secara segar, air nira kelapa juga boleh difermentasi menjadi cuka atau produk lain. Bagi masyarakat Terengganu, minuman ini bukan sekadar pelepas dahaga, tetapi juga sebahagian daripada tradisi berbuka puasa yang diwarisi sejak turun-temurun.

■ NIRA kelapa atau lebih dikenali air tuak oleh penduduk Terengganu merupakan hidangan wajib ketika berbuka puasa, diperoleh daripada mayang pokok kelapa. - UTUSAN/PUQTRA
HAIRRY



(From left) Subramaniam, Wong, Mohd Salleh, Junaidi and Mohd Zaidy promoting Kedah's charms. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

By VIJENTHI NAIR
vijenthi@thestar.com.my

The upcoming MATA Fair in Kuala Lumpur will highlight attractions in Kedah.

Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) president Nigel Wong said the northern state had been named as Malaysia's Favourite Destination for the 56th edition of the travel fair set for April 18 to 20.

Wong described Kedah as rich in heritage with many stunning natural attractions just waiting to be discovered.

"There are the emerald-green padi fields in Kampung Sungai Pau, the breathtaking peaks of Gunung Jerai and the deep blue waters of Langkawi, among others," he said at a press conference on the fair to be held at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (Mitec).

Organisers are expecting 210,000 visitors to the fair themed "Experience Kedah".

Spotlight on Kedah history, culture, food

KL MATTA fair in April will have 1,700 booths, with networking event for tourism players

"We will have about 1,700 booths, 200 more than at last September's fair.

"This means MATTA Fair is getting bigger and travel and tourism are very healthy in Malaysia," Wong said, adding that more than 30% of transactions during MATTA fairs were from domestic tourism sales.

Kedah tourism, culture and entrepreneurship committee chairman Daruk Mohd Salleh

Saidin said the state was proud of the recognition.

In conjunction with Visit Kedah Year 2025, 170 events including 45 major ones are being held throughout the state.

"Tourist arrivals to Kedah are also promising," said Mohd Salleh.

"Langkawi received 300,000 visitors in January 2025 compared to 250,000 in the same month last year.



Langkawi cable car with view of azure seas. — Filepic

"Initiatives are being carried out to tap into the tourism potential of the mainland.

"The focus will be on diverse offerings such as historical, cultural and agricultural attractions and gastronomic tourism.

"We believe Kedah will attract a lot more tourists this year and will be better prepared for Visit Malaysia 2026," said Mohd Salleh.

Also present at the press conference were MATTA Kedah/Perlis chairman Subramaniam Punusamy, Kedah economic planning division director Junaidi Abdul Rani@Abdul Ghani and Kedah Tourism general manager Mohd Zaidy Omar.

MATTA Fair will open from 10am to 9pm. Free shuttles will be provided to and from KL Sentral and Sunway Putra Mall in Kuala Lumpur.

On April 17, Mitec will host MATTA Connect to link international tourism players with local travel agents.

21/3/2025

THE STAR

EVENT

8

PENANG

Hatching plan for balanced turtle genders

Pantai Kerachut rangers regulate egg temperature to ensure healthy mix of male and female hatchlings

By N. TRISHA
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HERE is a cool fact about sea turtles: the incubation temperature of their eggs determines their offspring's gender.

"So if turtle eggs buried in Penang beaches are allowed to incubate naturally, almost all the hatchlings would be females because it is really warm in the sand here," said turtle ranger Muhammad Ezzat Hidayat Elias.

To ensure an equal number of male and female baby turtles, rangers at the Fisheries Department's Turtle Conservation and Information Centre in Pantai Kerachut have to help Mother Nature along. Nearly all turtles lay eggs in the still of the night.

Come morning, turtle rangers walk along the beach, especially Pantai Kerachut, to collect the eggs.

"We keep 70% of the eggs in our hatchery that has a controlled temperature.

"The remaining 30% is left behind," Muhammad Ezzat said at the centre which is located at Penang National Park on the island.

He said this ratio was decided on because 20% to 30% of hatchery eggs would still yield females.

"For a hatchling to be male,



"We release the hatchlings after about a week."

Muhammad Ezzat Hidayat Elias

the incubation temperature must be between 25°C and 29.5°C

"For hatchlings to be above the temperature must be above those ranges.

"In Penang, the temperature in natural turtle nests will almost always be above 29.5°C."

Muhammad Ezzat said they could help determine the gen-



(Top) Turtle hatchlings, less than a day old, at the conservation centre in Pantai Kerachut.

(Left) The turtle egg incubation process being monitored.

Photos: CHAN BOON KAI/The Star



der of the hatchlings within the first 24 hours of the eggs being laid.

It takes 45 to 50 days for females to hatch, and 60 to 65

incubation days for the males.

"We release the hatchlings after about a week," he said.

While in captivity, the hatchlings will feed off the remainder

of the yolk they were born in.

This gives them time to get stronger, which increases their chances of surviving in the wild.