



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
KHAMIS 8 MEI 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
8/5/2025	SINAR HARIAN	NASIONAL	9

Stok penimbal beras cukup untuk 6 bulan

Bekalan beras Malaysia tidak terkesan dengan perang antara India, Pakistan

Oleh **TUAN BUQHAIRAH**
TUAN MUHAMAD ADNAN
PUTRAJAYA

Kedudukan stok penimbal beras negara direkodkan pada kadar 200,000 tan metrik mencukupi untuk keperluan negara selama lebih enam bulan.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM), Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup berkata, keseluruhan stok fizikal beras dalam negara adalah sebanyak 1,331,016 tan metrik.

“Bekalan ini cukup untuk menampung keperluan negara selama enam bulan lebih,” katanya ketika ditemui pemberita selepas merasmikan Konvensyen Kebangsaan Kejuruteraan Pertanian dan Makanan (NAFEC) 2025 di sini pada Rabu.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika diminta mengulas mengenai perang antara India dan Pakistan di Kashmir yang dibimbangi akan meluas ke seluruh kedua-dua negara berkenaan.

Data pengeluaran beras global terkini menunjukkan bahawa India kini merupakan pengeluar beras terbesar dunia manakala



“*Kita ambil (bekalan) daripada negara-negara yang lain untuk memastikan bahawa stok penimbal itu mesti ada untuk memenuhi keperluan beras negara.*”

- Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM), Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup

Pakistan berada di kedudukan ke-10.

Laporan data Jabatan Pertanian Amerika Syarikat (USDA) bagi tahun 2024/2025 menyatakan India menghasilkan sekitar 147 juta tan metrik beras, menyumbang 27 peratus daripada pengeluaran global.

Ia sekali gus menjadikan India sebagai pengeluar beras terbesar, mengatasi China yang menghasilkan sekitar 145.28 juta tan metrik.

Pakistan pula menghasilkan kira-kira 10 juta tan metrik beras, menjadikannya pengeluar ke-10 terbesar di dunia. Walaupun jumlah pengeluarannya lebih kecil berbanding negara-negara lain, Pakistan terkenal sebagai pengeksport utama varieti beras Basmati, yang mempunyai nilai tinggi di pasaran antarabangsa.

Menyentuh mengenai kebimbangan gangguan bekalan berikutan konflik geopolitik antara negara berkenaan, Arthur berkata, Malaysia mempunyai

langkah dan kaedah tertentu untuk menjamin bekalan beras negara termasuklah diversifikasi sumber beras.

“Kita ambil (bekalan) daripada negara-negara yang lain untuk memastikan bahawa stok penimbal itu mesti ada untuk memenuhi keperluan beras negara.

“Jadi negara tidak terkesan dengan konflik geopolitik,” jelasnya.

Sementara itu, dalam ucapannya beliau berkata, kerajaan memberi tumpuan khusus dalam pelbagai aspek untuk meningkatkan produktiviti pengeluaran padi dan beras negara.

Antara usaha tersebut termasuklah dengan memperuntukan sebanyak RM1 bilion kepada Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) bagi Projek Pembangunan Infrastruktur Bagi Menyokong Program Penanaman Padi Lima Musim Dalam Tempoh Dua Tahun di kawasan Muda.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
8/5/2025	THE STAR	NATION	8

M'sia has enough rice supply for six months

Arthur: We have measures in place in case of escalating India-Pakistan tensions

PUTRAJAYA: The nation's rice stockpile currently stands at 200,000 metric tonnes, sufficient to meet domestic needs for some 6.66 months.

Deputy Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Arthur Joseph Kurup said the total physical stock of rice in the country amounts to 1,331,016 metric tonnes.

"This supply is enough to sustain the country's needs for over six months," he said when met by reporters after officiating the National Agricultural and Food Engineering Convention (Nafec) 2025 here yesterday, *Sinar Harian* reported.

He was responding to concerns regarding rising tensions between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, which is feared to escalate.

According to data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for 2024/2025, India produces approximately 147 million metric tonnes of rice, accounting for 27% of global output.

This makes India the largest rice producer, surpassing China, which produces around 145.28 million metric tonnes.

Pakistan, meanwhile, produces about 10 million metric tonnes of rice, ranking it as the 10th largest producer in the world.

Although its total output is smaller compared to other countries, Pakistan is well-known as a major exporter of the high-value Basmati rice variety in the international market.

Commenting on concerns over potential

supply disruptions due to the geopolitical conflict between these nations, Arthur said that Malaysia has specific measures and strategies in place to safeguard its rice supply, including the diversification of rice sources.

He added that there is an urgent need to transform the agriculture and agro-food sector in view of the gap between agrofood imports and exports with the sector recording a high trade deficit of RM39.4bil.

Arthur said the sector could be transformed through the adoption of modern and smart technologies such as automation, mechanisation, the Internet of Things (IoT) and biotechnology to improve productivity and competitiveness.

"The agrofood sector plays a key role in the country's economic and social development, recording a GDP growth rate of 4.19% and contributing 11.52% to the national GDP in 2024," Bernama quoted him as saying at the same event.

The statement was issued by the Fisheries Department, the organiser of the convention, in collaboration with the Malaysian Society of Agricultural and Food Engineers (MSAE).

Arthur said the government remains committed to strengthening national food security through strategic policies such as the National Food Security Action Plan 2021-2025 and key programmes under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
8/5/2025	HARIAN METRO	LOKAL	10



PEGAWAI penguat kuasa Kawalselia Padi dan Beras (KPB) melakukan pemeriksaan di sebuah gudang tiada lesen dan menyita kampil padi seberat kira-kira 19,660kg dalam operasi Ops Khas yang dilakukan.

SITA 19,660KG PADI

Sorok dalam gudang

Oleh Zuliaty Zulkiffli
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Yan

Sorok lebih 19 tan kampil berisi padi di dalam gudang tidak berlesen. Tindakan itu bagaimanapun dibongkar pihak Kawalselia Padi dan Beras (KPB), Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan yang menyerbu premis itu di sini, semalam.

Pengarahnya, Mohamad

Nornizam Ramly berkata, susulan operasi Op Khas Benih Padi itu, pihaknya menyita padi dalam kampil seberat 19,660 kilogram (kg).

"Hasil pemeriksaan dilakukan mendapati gudang itu tidak mempunyai lesen.

"Pemeriksaan lanjut juga mendapati kampil berisi padi seberat kira-kira 19,660kg di dalam gudang disimpan untuk dijadikan benih dan dijual kepada petani.

"Pasukan penguatkuasa kemudian meminta dokumen berkaitan padi dalam milikan gudang itu untuk semakan lanjut namun pemilik gudang gagal mengemukakan dokumen berkaitan padi disimpan," katanya semalam.

Mohamad Nornizam berkata, selepas mengesyaki gudang itu melakukan kesalahan kerana tiada lesen, pegawainya bertindak menyita kampil berisi padi sebelum diserahkan kepada Pejabat Kawalselia

Padi dan Beras Negeri Kedah untuk siasatan lanjut.

Beliau berkata, anggaran hasil sitaan adalah sebanyak RM 31,000.

"Kes disiasat mengikut Peraturan 8(2), Peraturan-Peraturan Kawalan Padi dan Beras (Pelesenan Membeli Padi) 1997 P.U (A) 625 Akta 522 Akta Kawalan Padi dan Beras.

"Jika didapati bersalah, pemilik gudang itu boleh dikenakan hukuman denda sehingga RM25,000," katanya.

Konflik India-Pakistan tidak jejasakan bekalan beras negara

PETALING JAYA: Persatuan Penganalisis Beras Melayu Malaysia (PPBMM) memberi jaminan bekalan beras mencukupi walaupun berlaku konflik bersenjata antara India dan Pakistan.

Pengerusi PPBMM, Mohamad Termizi Yop berkata, konflik yang berlaku antara kedua-dua negara itu juga tidak menjejaskan bekalan beras negara termasuk beras putih sehingga mencetuskan krisis.

Katanya, tidak timbul setakat ini isu berkaitan kekurangan bekalan makanan tersebut walaupun kadar import beras mencecah lebih 30 peratus.

"Alhamdulillah setakat ini semuanya (bekalan beras tempatan) cukup.

"Lagipun bukan semua yang makan beras (putih dan basmati). Ini mungkin sekadar kenya-taan peribadi beliau (Mohamad Sabu). Kita tunggu esok atau

lusa (perkembangan terbaru) daripada Kementerian Sekiranya ada," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* semalam.

Kelmarin, Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu berkata, konflik bersenjata antara Pakistan dan India boleh mencetuskan krisis bekalan makanan ruji di negara ini.

Menurut beliau, kedua-dua negara menyumbang 38 peratus

import beras dengan merangkumi beras putih dan basmati.

Dalam pada itu, bekas Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Makanan II, Datuk Dr. Nik Muhammad Zawawi Salleh berkata, Malaysia perlu memperluaskan sumber import beras dari negara lain di rantau Asia Tenggara bagi mengatasi kekurangan bekalan.

Menurut, ia sebagai langkah sementara untuk memenuhi ke-

perluan penduduk di negara ini.

"Kita tambah import dulu beras jenis tertentu dari negara terdekat seperti Thailand atau Kemboja dahulu," jelasnya.

Tambah Nik Muhammad Zawawi, konflik di kedua-dua negara tersebut tidak menjejaskan kadar eksport beras negara berkenaan ke Malaysia.

Ini kerana konflik hanya melibatkan daerah tertentu, bukan keseluruhan negara terbabit.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
8/5/2025	SINAR HARIAN	NASIONAL	13

Durian premium Pulau Pinang raih perhatian, harga cecah RM130 sekilogram

GEORGE TOWN

Tupai king, durian bangsawan termahal negara

Durian jenis tupai king yang 'dilahirkan' di Pulau Pinang kini semakin mendapat perhatian dalam kalangan peminat raja buah itu selepas ia digelar durian bangsawan kerana kualiti premium, rasa luar biasa dan aroma yang unik.

Malah, harganya juga meningkat sehingga RM130 sekilogram, sekali gus menjadikannya durian tempatan termahal ketika ini mengatasi jenis durian lain yang turut terkenal antaranya musang king dan duri hitam atau 'black thorn'.

Pengusaha kebun durian, Eric Yeap berkata, durian tupai king dengan kulit berwarna hijau keperangan mempunyai ciri-ciri buah berbentuk bujur seperti telur dengan pangkal membulat dan hujung menajam.

"Durian tupai king telah ada sejak lima atau enam tahun lepas, namun mula dikenali dan dicari peminat raja buah sejak dua tahun kebelakangan ini kerana isinya berwarna jingga kekuningan dengan aroma, kepahitan, tekstur dan berkrim pada tahap sederhana."

"Bukan sahaja menarik minat penggemar tempatan tetapi pembeli dari luar negara seperti Singapura dan China. Apabila mereka tahu musim durian sudah bermula, ada yang menghubungi saya bertanya mengenai durian tupai king."

“

Sekarang ini saya ada 20 pokok durian tupai king dan dalam perancangan untuk tambah lagi varieti itu kerana mendapat permintaan tinggi."

- Eric

katanya ketika dihubungi pada Rabu.

Eric bagaimanapun berkata, pengeluaran bagi durian tupai king masih rendah berikutan kebanyakan pengusaha raja buah itu baru menanamnya termasuk beliau sendiri yang bermula sejak lima tahun lepas, dan memperoleh hasil tiga tahun kemudian.

Beliau yang mempunyai tujuh kebun durian berkeluasan 53.4 hektar (132 ekar) dengan 200 pokok durian di sekitar lereng bukit di Teluk Bahang ke Balik Pulau berkata, selain dijual untuk pasaran tempatan, durian tupai king juga dieksport ke luar negara terutama Hong Kong kerana permintaan tinggi serta harga berlipat

kali ganda.

"Sekarang ini saya ada 20 pokok durian tupai king dan dalam perancangan untuk tambah lagi varieti itu kerana mendapat permintaan tinggi."

"Durian tupai king sudah ada pelanggan setia dan rata-rata 'hantu' durian mengakui kombinasi rasa manis dan pahit yang tajam memberikan kenikmatan sebab itu ada pembeli dari Singapura sanggup datang terus ke kebun kami," ujarnya.

Tambahnya, pengeluaran durian tupai king dijangka berskala lebih besar dan komersial tiga hingga empat tahun lagi berikutan ramai pekebun durian dari seluruh negara telah mula menanam anak pokok durian berkenaan.

Sementara itu, Eric memberitahu, pengeluaran durian dijangka menurun sehingga 30 peratus di kebunnya berikutan perubahan cuaca terutama hujan yang kerap akan menyebabkan bunganya gugur lebih awal.

Beliau juga tidak menolak kemungkinan akan berlaku peningkatan harga, namun ia masih berpatutan dengan kualiti durian yang ditawarkan kerana memang diketahui durian dari Pulau Pinang, terutama kawasan Balik Pulau antara yang terbaik berikutan rasa, tekstur dan aroma yang unik.

"Selalunya kami mampu mengutip sehingga satu tan durian sehari, namun tahun ini selain musimnya sedikit lambat iaitu baru bermula sekarang berbanding April, hasil buahnya berkurangan dan kami juga mengeksport 20 peratus hasil ke luar negara," jelasnya.

Ujarnya, terdapat pelbagai jenis durian di tujuh kebunnya termasuk jenis kampung hingga ke musang king, duri hitam dan tupai king yang dijual bermula RM8 hingga RM130 sekilogram. - Bernama



Isi durian tupai king berwarna jingga kekuningan dengan aroma, kepahitan, tekstur dan berkrim pada tahap sederhana.

Ramai pekebun durian dari seluruh negara telah mula menanam anak pokok durian tupai king.



Pengusaha gerai durian Cap Tupai, Chee Wan (tengah) telah mendaftarkan durian tupai king pada 28 Januari 2021 dengan gelaran nama 'Tupai 226'.

- Durian tupai king mula ditemui pada tahun 2003 oleh Chew Chee Wan, seorang pengusaha gerai durian Cap Tupai.
- Merujuk kepada portal Jabatan Pertanian Pulau Pinang, durian tupai king telah didaftarkan oleh Chee Wan pada 28 Januari 2021 dengan gelaran nama 'Tupai 226'.
- Pokok tupai king hanya ada di Pulau Pinang dan harganya tinggi kerana dibawa keluar dari negeri berkenaan.
- Harga anak pokok durian tupai king boleh mencecah RM150 bagi ketinggian 0.31 meter (m).
- Sebatang pokok durian matang boleh menghasilkan antara 100 hingga 300 biji durian.
- Durian tupai king dengan kulit berwarna hijau keperangan mempunyai ciri-ciri buah berbentuk bujur seperti telur dengan pangkal membulat dan hujung menajam.
- Ia mempunyai purata berat 2.1 kilogram (kg) dengan purata sebanyak sembilan biji (ulas) bagi setiap buah dan purata berat isi 0.7kg.
- Isinya berwarna jingga kekuningan dengan aroma, kepahitan, tekstur dan berkrim pada tahap sederhana selain tahap kemanisan dengan bacaan purata brix 33.
- Durian tupai king boleh mencecah harga RM130 sekilogram.



Eric menunjukkan durian tupai King yang semakin mendapat perhatian dalam kalangan peminat raja buah itu.

Promosi makan durian tarik pelancong ke Pulau Pinang

Georgetown: Pulau Pinang meningkatkan promosi makan durian di beberapa negara baharu seperti India, Australia, Eropah dan Timur Tengah untuk menarik lebih ramai pelancong datang ke negeri ini, terutama sepanjang musim raja buah itu bermula Mei hingga Ogos.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pelancongan dan Ekonomi Kreatif Pulau Pinang Wong Hon Wai berkata, melancong ke Pulau Pinang ketika musim durian menawarkan peluang untuk me-

lancong dari negara berkenaan juga sangat sukakan durian dan mereka mahu menikmati di sun atau kebun durian kerana ingin suasana serta boleh bergambar di situ," katanya.

Beliau berkata pihaknya dengan kerjasama Persatuan Pekebun Buah-Buahan Pulau Pinang turut menghasilkan risalah mengenai durian bagi memberikan maklumat lebih lanjut kepada pelancong dalam dan luar negara, selain turut ditetakkan di Lapangan Ter-

bang Antarabangsa Pulau Pinang.

Selain Balik Pulau, Wong berkata kawasan dusun durian berkualiti tinggi di Pulau Pinang ialah di Teluk Bahang, Bukit Mertajam, Sungai Bakap dan Seberang Perai.

Beliau memaklumkan pihaknya juga bekerjasama dengan pemilik dusun durian dan hotel untuk menawarkan pakej makan durian kepada pelancong.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi

Persatuan Hotel Malaysia Pulau Pinang Datuk Tony

Goh berkata selain menawarkan pakej makan durian di dusun, pengusah hotel di kawasan pantai turut menyediakan pakej makan durian di kawasan terbuka di hotel mereka sepanjang musim raja buah itu.

Beliau berkata, harga pakej makan durian di dusun yang ditawarkan adalah lebih murah iaitu antara RM80 dan RM100 seorang kerana pihak hotel bekerjasama terus dengan pe-

milik kebun durian.

"Ketika musim durian terutama dari Jun hingga Julai permintaan hotel meningkat 40 peratus hingga 50 peratus dalam kalangan pelancong asing terutama dari China, Singapura dan Indonesia yang datang untuk menikmati durian di Pulau Pinang.

"Mereka membeli pakej sama ada makan durian di kebun atau menikmati raja buah itu di hotel secara terbuka seperti di tepi pantai atau tepi kolam renang," katanya. - Bernama

MK 2025 pemangkin peningkatan industri mempelam Kedah

YAN: Penganjuran Fies-ta Mempelam Kedah (FMK) 2025 berpotensi menjadi pemangkin kepada peningkatan ekonomi, khususnya dalam menambah pendapatan pengusaha dan penjual buah mempelam di negeri Kedah.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pertanian, Perladangan dan Penguatkuasaan, Dzwahhir Ab Ghani, berkata penganjuran ini juga dapat membantu memenuhi kehendak serta keperluan pasaran semasa, di samping mempromosikan produk berkualiti keluaran tempatan.

Berslogankan 'Jom Makan Mempelam Kedah', katanya, fiesta ini bukan sahaja mem-

lam Kedah, para pengunjung juga boleh menikmati kelazatan mempelam Harumanis Kedah," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam ucapan perasmian Fies-ta Mempelam Kedah 2025 yang diadakan di Pusat Teknolo-gi Mempelam Kedah, Sala Ka-nan, pada Sabtu, 3 Mei lalu.

Menurut Dzwahhir, FMK 2025 merupakan program ter-besar anjuran Jabatan Per-tanian Negeri Kedah setakat ini, dalam usaha mendukung hasrat kerajaan negeri un-tuk memajukan serta mem-promosikan produk pertanian tempatan.

Tambah beliau, Pusat Tek-



Dzwahhir (kanan) ketika melawat ladang mempelam di Pusat Teknologi Mempelam Kedah, di Sala Kanan, Yan.

bantu para pengusaha, malah turut menjadi daya tarikan ke-pada penggemar mempelam

dari seluruh negeri dan luar negara.

"Selain daripada mempe-

nologi Mempelam Kedah juga telah dipilih sebagai salah satu destinasi Agropelancongan dalam kalendar Tahun Melawat Kedah 2025 (TMK 2025).

Dalam usaha memperluas pengeluaran Harumanis Kedah, sebanyak 109.24 hektar tanah telah disediakan untuk tujuan penanaman di pusat tersebut.

"Sehingga tahun 2025, dari-pada jumlah keluasan itu, ka-wasan seluas 72.76 hektar telah mengeluarkan hasil," jelasnya.

Berdasarkan anggaran sama-sa, hasil pengeluaran mem-pelam Harumanis dari kawasan tersebut dijangka mencecah 232 metrik tan, dengan nilai diang-garkan RM4.64 juta.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
8/5/2025	HARIAN METRO	BISNES	27



DURIAN tupai king ditawarkan pada harga sehingga RM130 sekilogram.

Tupai king makin popular

Georgetown: Durian jenis tupai king yang 'dilahirkan' di Pulau Pinang kini semakin mendapat perhatian dalam kalangan peminat raja buah itu selepas ia digelar durian bangsawan kerana kualiti premium, rasa luar biasa dan aroma yang unik.

Malah, harganya meningkat sehingga RM130 sekilogram, sekali gus menjadikannya durian tempatan termahal ketika ini mengatasi jenis durian terkenal lain seperti musang king dan duri hitam atau *black thorn*.

Pengusaha kebun durian Eric Yeap berkata, durian tupai king dengan kulit berwarna hijau keperangan mempunyai ciri-ciri buah berbentuk bujur seperti telur dengan pangkal membulat dan hujung menajam.

"Durian tupai king sudah ada

sejak lima atau enam tahun lalu, namun mula dikenali dan dicari peminat raja buah sejak dua tahun ini kerana isinya berwarna jingga kekuningan dengan aroma, kepahitan, tekstur dan berkrim pada tahap sederhana.

"Bukan sahaja menarik minat penggemar tempatan, tetapi pembeli dari luar negara seperti Singapura dan China. Apabila mereka tahu musim durian sudah bermula, ada yang menghubungi saya bertanya mengenai durian tupai king," katanya.

Yeap bagaimanapun berkata, pengeluaran bagi durian tupai king masih rendah berikutan kebanyakan pengusaha raja buah itu baru menanamnya termasuk beliau sendiri yang bermula sejak lima tahun lepas, dan memperoleh hasil tiga tahun kemudian.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
8/5/2025	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	29

Tempahan lembu korban Jamal Abdillah laris

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BAGAN SERAI: Penyanyi, Datuk Jamal Abdillah yang mengusahakan ternakan lembu secara komersial di Bukit Merah dekat sini sejak 2023 menyediakan 200 ekor lembu untuk ibadah korban tidak lama lagi.

Menurut seniman berusia 66 tahun itu, kebiasannya beliau menerima tempahan untuk tujuan ibadah korban daripada pihak korporat, jabatan dan agensi kerajaan serta orang perseorangan.

"Alhamdulillah tempahan lembu korban sangat baik tahun ini. Kebanyakan mereka terdiri daripada pelanggan yang sebelum ini pernah membeli lembu dengan saya.

"Biasanya mereka ambil sekali banyak, lebih daripada lima ekor supaya mudah untuk dihantar. Mereka terdiri daripada pelanggan tetap yang sudah biasa membeli lembu dengan saya, bukan sahaja lembu untuk sembelihan korban tapi juga untuk jualan hari biasa.

"Kalau ikutkan bilangan lembu di tempat saya bukannya banyak sangat tapi mereka membeli dengan saya kerana

mahu memberi sokongan kepada saya yang baharu menceburi bidang ini," katanya ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia*.

Mengenai penglibatannya dalam bidang ternakan, Jamal berkata, beliau mahu menyahut seruan kerajaan untuk memperkasakan keterjaminan makanan negara.

Katanya, dalam masa sama beliau juga tidak mahu bergantung sepenuhnya kepada bidang nyanyian sebagai sumber pendapatan.

Jelas Jamal, bermula dengan hanya 25 ekor lembu dan ladang seluas dua hektar, kini ternakannya semakin bertambah lantas memberi semangat kepadanya untuk meneruskan perniagaan itu.

"Saya juga menyertai jualan murah di beberapa tempat termasuk di Pusat Transformasi Luar Bandar (RTC) Gopeng sejak seminggu lalu dengan kerjasama Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) Perak yang menawarkan harga daging lembu di bawah harga pasaran.

"Keprihatinan pelbagai agensi kerajaan membantu saya dalam bidang ini terutama segi khidmat nasihat untuk menjadi penternak yang berjaya dan maju," katanya.



JAMAL Abdillah memberi makan lembu di ladang ternakannya di Bukit Merah, Bagan Serai, Perak. - UTUSAN/AIN SAFRE BIDIN

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8/5/2025	NEW STARITS TIMES	NATION	2

A rice and food story

How to make Malaysia food-secure

WE have neglected our agriculture sector for so long that the neglect is now coming back to haunt us. Take our staple food, rice. We only produce about 60 per cent of the country's needs, and most of this comes from Kedah. The rest is imported. From 80 to 70 to now 60 per cent is a depressing Malaysian rice story. The padi farmers in Kedah have gone to great pains in reaching out to the authorities, telling them individually and through associations that things are not going their way. Padi farmers elsewhere, even in productive Sekinchan, are unhappy with the state of the industry. If nothing is done, and quickly, too, things can only get worse. Malaysia would be blessed if it could continue to produce the 60 per cent or so of its rice needs as it does now, given the yearly decline in production.

Looks like we have to rely on other countries to supply us with our staple food. The danger is that the exporting countries can decide to stop selling rice to Malaysia for any reason of their choice, and we can't do anything about it. Food security, climate change, war and the like can all cause the flow of rice to stop. We saw this happen two years ago when a drought hit India. It restricted white rice exports to Malaysia, causing a price increase in the local market. Today, another risk is rearing its ugly head: a war between India and Pakistan, two nations that together supply 38 per cent of our

We should not have sacrificed the agriculture sector to fulfil our industrial dream, but that is crying over spilt milk.

rice. For sure, the war hasn't happened yet, but the battle cries are getting louder. How is Malaysia going to source such a huge supply on short notice? From rice exporters like Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam? Cambodia may have excess supply for now, but for how long? And at what cost, too? Ditto Thailand and Vietnam. Desperation comes at a price. Setting up mills there or elsewhere doesn't eliminate the risk of supply disruption.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions in rice supply. We should have learned from this.

We cannot control what happens in India, Pakistan, Cambodia or anywhere else, but we can control what happens here. We should focus on making Malaysia not only rice-secure but also food-secure. The risk of supply disruption shows the importance of getting our agriculture sector back on track. We should not have sacrificed the agriculture sector to fulfil our industrial dream, but that is crying over spilt milk. We are just three steps away from making Malaysia food-secure. First is to make more land available for rice and food production. According to media reports, there are eight million hectares of agricultural land, a big chunk of which is devoted to oil palm and rubber plantations. This leaves one million hectares for rice growing and other agro-food production. More land doesn't just mean to big companies, but also to small-scale farmers. After all, we are a nation of small things. Second is to help farmers adopt technology to increase their yields. But affordability is standing in their way. Finally, talent. There are enough universities producing agro-business graduates, but there just aren't enough incentives for them to embrace agriculture as their future.

Odyssey of mother turtles

UNDER a moonlit sky, close to midnight on Aug 13, 2022, the soft whispers of waves greeted a nesting marine turtle. She was a green turtle, one listed as "endangered" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species.

Pok Jamil, one of our dedicated local turtle guardians, watched as she emerged from the sea, dragging her heavy shell onto the sands of Telaga Papan Beach in Setiu, Terengganu.

Her turtle tag read "MY(TGG)1030" - MY for Malaysia, TGG for Terengganu and 1030 was her unique identification code. But for this story, we'll call her Melur.

She was born on this beach and has now returned to give birth to the next generation. With great care, she dug a nest and laid 70 precious eggs - each one a fragile promise of new life.

Due to the stringent monitoring efforts of our turtle guardians, every single egg was protected and brought back to the hatchery, giving them the best chance to hatch safely.

In time, 66 out of 70 turtle eggs hatched - a remarkable 94% hatch success rate. Melur's tiny hatchlings emerged, scurrying on the sandy beach, guided by the horizon and waves, embarking on their perilous journey into the deep ocean.

Unbeknown to Pok Jamil, Melur had been here almost exactly four years earlier. On Aug 2, 2018, she had nested on this same beach, laying 68 eggs. Of those, 61 hatchlings had made it to the sea. Safe to say Melur is a resilient and devoted mother turtle, but her return is not always guaranteed.

Perilous path

Melur's nesting activities are not only testaments to the resilience of marine turtles but also a reminder



Coastal erosion, spurred by climate change and human activity, threatens nesting beaches like Telaga Papan. - PIC COURTESY OF WWF-MALAYSIA

of the immense threats they face. Turtle poaching, egg harvesting and unsustainable coastal development continue to endanger these ancient mariners.

Poachers seek turtle eggs for sale and consumption, disrupting an already fragile life cycle. Without protection, countless eggs would be lost, diminishing the number of turtles that might one day return to nest.

This is why nesting monitoring is crucial. By safeguarding nests, we prevent poaching and give hatchlings the highest chance of survival. Climate change also poses a growing threat - rising sand temperatures can skew the sex ratio of hatchlings, leading to fewer males and making it harder for marine turtles to breed in the future.

To counter this, the hatchery's temperature is monitored to facilitate a balanced development for future marine turtle populations.

Importance of tagging

Marine turtles like Melur are highly migratory, often travelling thousands of kilometers across oceans. By tagging nesting mothers, we gain critical insight into their lives.

These records help

conservationists track their return journeys and, in the unfortunate event of poaching or accidental capture in foreign waters, they help identify affected populations.

Melur's return to Telaga Papan is not just a personal journey - it is a beacon of hope. But the question remains: Can she and future generations continue to find sanctuary on this nesting beach?

Future of turtles

Coastal erosion, spurred by climate change and human activity, threatens nesting beaches like Telaga Papan. Development along coastlines, pollution and unsustainable tourism further disrupt nesting activities.

Plastic pollution poses an additional silent killer - entangling newborn turtles or disrupting turtle nesting. WWF-Malaysia, alongside the Department of Fisheries Terengganu and our dedicated turtle guardians like Pok Jamil, work tirelessly to combat these threats.

Through nesting monitoring and coastal rehabilitation efforts - such as planting native vegetation for shading, beach profiling to monitor erosion and advocating stronger habitat protections - we strive to ensure that nesting beaches remain safe havens for

generations of turtles to come.

Mother turtle's legacy and our role

A mother turtle lays countless eggs in her lifetime, yet only one in a thousand hatchlings will survive to adulthood and return to nest.

Each egg, each hatchling and each nesting mother is precious. As we celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, let us remember the odyssey of turtle mothers, like Melur, who against all odds, return to continue the cycle of life. But they cannot do it alone. We must stand as their guardians.

Here is how you can help:

- 🚫 Never consume turtle meat or eggs.
- 🗑️ Keep beaches clean - do not litter.
- 🌙 Avoid visiting nesting beaches at night to prevent disturbing nesting mothers.
- 🤝 Support conservation efforts and responsible ecotourism.
- 📞 Report to the Fisheries Department if you witness marine turtle poaching or stranding: Call 03-8870 4058.

Melur has nested twice between 2018 and 2022. Perhaps in 2026 or 2027, she will return once more. With the unwavering efforts of turtle guardians and your support, we can continue to welcome and protect these remarkable mothers.

As we honour mothers everywhere, let us also safeguard our mother turtles. Together, we can nurture a future where marine turtles continue to thrive alongside humankind, just as generations of mothers have before us.

This article is contributed by the Marine Programme, WWF-Malaysia. Its mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

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'Tupai King' the new aristocrat of durians

► Penang's golden-hued sensation dethrones Musang King with soaring demand, elite flavour and a RM130 price tag to match

GEORGE TOWN: On the misty hills of Penang, a new king is rising - one with a creamy bite, a golden hue and a name that's stirring excitement among durian devotees near and far.

Known as the "Tupai King", this premium variety of the "King of Fruits" is fast earning the nickname "the aristocrat of durians", thanks to its exceptional flavour, rich aroma and exclusive price tag.

With prices reaching up to RM130 per kilogramme, Tupai King now claims the title of the most expensive local durian on the market, surpassing even household favourites such as Musang King and Black Thorn.

Durian grower Eric Yeap, who manages seven orchards across 53.4ha from Teluk Bahang to Balik Pulau, described the Tupai King as egg-shaped with a greenish-brown husk, rounded at the base and tapering to a point.

"Although Tupai King trees have been around for about six years, its popularity has truly soared in the last two," he explained in a recent interview.

Yeap said the fruit's striking orange-yellow flesh delivers a balanced mix of bitterness, creaminess and aroma - traits that durian lovers find irresistible.

"The appeal has gone international. Fans from Singapore and China now actively seek out Tupai King, with some even contacting me directly once the durian season begins. Some buyers fly in just to taste it at the source."

Despite its rising fame, supply remains limited, Bernama reported.

Most growers, including Yeap, have only recently begun cultivating Tupai King.

"I started five years ago and my first yield



Yeap said fans from Singapore and China now actively seek out Tupai King with some contacting him directly once the durian season begins.

was just two years back. Right now, I have about 20 Tupai King trees," he said, adding that expansion is underway to meet growing demand.

He is also exporting to Hong Kong, where prices are significantly higher, but ensures part of the harvest remains available locally for loyal customers.

He said there is already a base of regular buyers, and among true durian fans, who relish the sharp sweet-bitter profile.

Yeap expects commercial-scale production to take another three to four years as more farmers nationwide begin cultivating this high-end variety.

"It's a long-term investment but the payoff looks promising."

However, recent climate changes have posed challenges.

Heavier-than-usual rainfall is affecting flower blooms and could reduce this season's yield by up to 30%.

"The season started later this year and overall fruit production is down," he said.

On average, his orchards typically produce up to a tonne of durians daily, with 20% destined for export.

Even with potential price hikes, Yeap believes the quality justifies the cost.

"Durian from Penang, particularly Balik Pulau, is famous for its unique taste, texture and aroma. You're not just buying fruit, you're buying an experience."

In addition to Tupai King, his orchards offer a full spectrum of durians, from kampung varieties to best-sellers such as Musang King and Black Thorn, priced between RM8 and RM130 per kilogram.

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'Consult dept before releasing fish into public waters'

SEREMBAN: The Negeri Sembilan Fisheries Department has urged the public against releasing foreign fish species into public waters without consulting the department.

Its director Kasim Tawe said the department received a complaint regarding several individuals from an NGO which released fish into a drain at Jalan Lee Sam here on Friday.

He said an inspection found that the fish released were African catfish, a foreign species considered a threat to native fish and the surrounding riverbed ecosystem.

"My team visited the location with representatives from the NGO and found around 50 non-native fish in the area, with water flowing into Sungai Linggi.

"We informed them that African catfish are an invasive species and should not be released into public waters as they pose a threat to native aquatic life."

He said based on the water quality in the area, only *puyu* (climbing perch) and *haruan* (snakehead) are naturally suited to survive there.

He advised those who wish to release fish into public waters to first refer to the Fisheries Department website for information on which species are permitted or prohibited.

State Local Government Development, Housing and Transport Committee chairman J. Arul Kumar said the Seremban City Council has been instructed to temporarily close off the area with immediate effect.

"The public cannot arbitrarily release foreign fish or construct structures for that purpose in public waters without permission. While the intention may be good, this is a public area and all activities must comply with established rules and procedures."

Earlier, a video showing a group of NGO members releasing non-native fish into the drain was widely spread. - Bernama