



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN
ISNIN 9 MAC 2026**

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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
9/3/2026	THE STAR	NATION	4

RM45.6mil for Mada rice mill

JERLUN: The government has approved an allocation of RM45.6mil for the development of a rice mill by the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada) as an initiative to help strengthen the country's padi and rice sector.



Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu (*pic*) said the mill, which will be built in Megat Dewa, near here, reflects the government's commitment to ensure a more organised and competitive production chain.

"The new mill will ensure the collection, processing and production of rice are carried out efficiently, increasing the value of padi yields and providing greater benefits to farmers, particularly by reducing reliance on middlemen."

Mohamad said this in his speech during the presentation ceremony for the Paddy Crop Takaful Scheme here on Saturday, reported Bernama.

Mohamad said that for 2026, Mada is targeting an average padi yield of 6.1

tonnes per hectare through the modernisation of padi field management, improvements to irrigation and drainage infrastructure, as well as the optimisation of agricultural input usage.

In line with this, the ministry is stepping up efforts to increase the country's rice self-sufficiency rate from 52.6% nationwide and 58.3% in Peninsular Malaysia to 70% by 2030 to strengthen national food security.

"The ministry will also implement the 3M approach – build, upgrade and maintain – through the Agricultural Infrastructure Strengthening Master Plan 2026-2040, which will place special focus on the padi sub-sector to address ageing infrastructure issues while strengthening production support systems."

This year, his ministry will focus on maintaining irrigation and drainage systems in 14 rice-bowl and 13 non-rice-bowl areas, in addition to upgrading 1,346km of agricultural roads.

'SITUATION UNDER CONTROL'

PADI OUTPUT HIT AS MADA DAM LEVELS FALL

Recent hot weather, inconsistent rainfall affecting water supply, says minister

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THE ongoing drought has affected water storage levels at dams under the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada), which in turn has impacted padi production for the current season.

Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu said the overall water storage level at Mada dams was currently at around 40 per cent due to the recent hot weather and inconsistent rainfall.

He said the drought, which began late last year, had also affected padi yields, although the situation remained under control.

"Although rain began falling yesterday and today, the impact remains minimal as rainfall must occur in upstream areas to increase water levels at the dams," he said on Saturday.

He was speaking at the Padi Crop Takaful Scheme (STTP) contribution presentation ceremony and a meeting session with farmers' leaders in the Mada area here.

According to data on the Mada website, up to Saturday, Pedu Dam recorded a water storage level of 42.23 per cent, 11.12 per cent at Muda Dam and 55.96 per cent at Ahning Dam, bringing

the overall water storage level to 41.55 per cent.

Mohamad said for this year's first planting season scheduled to begin in April, Mada planned to implement the dry seeding method as a measure to adapt planting activities to the current water supply situation.

He said the existing water supply was expected to be sufficient for the implementation of the method while awaiting more frequent rainfall forecast towards the end of April.

Meanwhile, Mohamad said his ministry was also monitoring developments in the West Asia conflict to assess its impact on the country's food security.

The ministry's International Division and Food Security Division has been instructed to prepare a report on the matter within a week.

Malaysia's reliance on food imports from Gulf countries remained low, as the country sourced much of its food from Asean nations such as Vietnam and Thailand, he said.

"In addition, Malaysia also sources food supplies from other countries including China, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Brazil, as well as several South Asian countries such as India and Pakistan.

"Overall, the country's food supply is currently not affected and remains sufficient."

However, he said, the government would continue monitoring the situation as prolonged

conflict could potentially lead to a rise in global oil prices, which might affect transportation costs and food prices.

He also said the supply of essential food items including beef, chicken and coconuts remained sufficient ahead of Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Meanwhile, the government has approved an allocation of RM45.6 million for Mada to develop a rice mill.

Bernama reported that Mohamad said the mill would be built in Megat Dewa near here.

"The new mill will ensure that the collection, processing and production of rice are carried out efficiently, increasing the value-added of padi yields and providing greater benefits to farmers, particularly by reducing reliance on middlemen."

Mohamad said that for this year, Mada was targeting an average padi yield of 6.1

tonnes per hectare through the modernisation of padi field management, improvements to irrigation and drainage infrastructure as well as the optimisation of agricultural input usage.

In line with this, the ministry is stepping up efforts to increase the country's rice self-sufficiency rate (SSR) from 52.6 per cent nationwide and 58.3 per cent in Peninsular Malaysia to 70 per cent by 2030.

"The ministry will also implement the 3M approach — build, upgrade and maintain — through the Agricultural Infrastructure Strengthening Master Plan 2026-2040, which will place special focus on the padi subsector to address ageing infrastructure issues while strengthening production support systems."

This year, Mohamed added, his ministry would focus on maintaining irrigation and drainage systems in 14 rice bowl and 13 non-rice bowl areas, targeting works along 2,000km of irrigation canals, in addition to upgrading 1,346km of agricultural roads to ensure smooth production and logistics in the agricultural sector.

Overall, the country's food supply is currently not affected and remains sufficient.

DATUK SERI MOHAMAD SABU
Agriculture and food security minister

	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	6:12	7:20	1:24	4:34	7:26	8:35
Penang	6:20	7:26	1:31	4:45	7:32	8:41
K. Lumpur	6:14	7:21	1:27	4:38	7:28	8:37
Johor Baru	6:05	7:13	1:18	4:27	7:20	8:29
Kuantan	6:09	7:17	1:21	4:32	7:22	8:31
Ipoh	6:17	7:23	1:29	4:41	7:30	8:39

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/3/2026	SINAR HARIAN	NASIONAL	22

Kemarau jejas bekalan air empangan MADA

Paras takungan turun sekitar 40 peratus

Oleh WAN MOHD NOOR HAFIZ WAN MANSOR

JERLUN - Paras takungan air di empangan bawah seliaan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) kini menurun kepada kira-kira 40 peratus berikutan kemarau yang melanda sejak hujung tahun lalu.

Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu ber-

kata, keadaan cuaca panas serta taburan hujan yang tidak menentu kebelakangan ini turut memberi kesan kepada pengeluaran padi bagi musim penanaman semasa.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, situasi tersebut masih berada dalam keadaan terkawal.

"Tahun ini kita berdepan kemarau yang menjejaskan pengeluaran padi. Paras takungan empangan MADA kini sekitar 40 peratus.

"Walaupun hujan sudah mula turun sejak semalam dan hari ini, kesannya masih kecil kerana air perlu turun di kawasan hulu bagi menambah takungan di empangan," katanya pada sidang akhbar pada Sabtu.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas menghadiri Majlis Penyampaian Sumbangan Skim Takaful Tanaman Padi (STTP) serta sesi perjumpaan bersama pemimpin peladang di kawasan MADA di sini.

Hadir sama Pengerusi MADA, Datuk Dr Ismail Salleh dan Presiden yang juga Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Agrobank, Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin.

Berdasarkan data di laman web MADA, Empangan Pedu mencatatkan kadar takungan air 42.23 peratus, diikuti Empangan Muda (11.12 peratus) dan Empangan Ahning (55.96 peratus) dengan jumlah keseluruhan kadar takungan air sekitar 41.55 peratus.

Dalam pada itu, Mohamad berkata, bagi



Mohamad (dua dari kanan) menyampaian STTP kepada wakil penerima Wilayah 2 MADA Jitra sempena Majlis Penyampaian STTP di Tam Teh Homestay, Jerlun.

musim pertama 2026 yang dijadualkan bermula April ini, MADA merancang melaksanakan kaedah tabur kering sebagai langkah menyesuaikan penanaman padi dengan keadaan bekalan air semasa.

Menurutnya, bekalan air sedia ada dijangka mencukupi untuk pelaksanaan kaedah tersebut sementara menunggu taburan hujan yang dijangka lebih kerap menjelang penghujung April.

"Langkah ini bagi memastikan aktiviti penanaman diteruskan walaupun berdepan cabaran bekalan air ketika ini," ujarnya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Mohamad berkata, pihaknya turut memantau perkembangan konflik di Asia Barat bagi menilai kemungkinan kesannya terhadap tahap keselamatan makanan negara.

Katanya, Bahagian Antarabangsa dan Bahagian Sekuriti Makanan Kementerian telah diarahkan menyediakan laporan dalam tempoh seminggu bagi menilai sebarang implikasi terhadap bekalan makanan negara.

"Buat masa ini, pergantungan import makanan negara dari negara Teluk adalah rendah kerana Malaysia banyak bergantung kepada negara ASEAN seperti Vietnam dan Thailand.

"Selain itu, bekalan makanan turut diperolehi dari China, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina dan Brazil serta beberapa negara Asia Selatan seperti India dan Pakistan," katanya.

Tambahnya, secara keseluruhan bekalan makanan negara ketika ini masih mencukupi dan tidak terjejas.

Bagaimanapun, beliau berkata, kerajaan akan terus memantau perkembangan semasa kerana konflik berlarutan berpotensi menyebabkan kenaikan harga minyak dunia yang boleh memberi kesan kepada kos pengangkutan serta harga makanan.

"Insya-ALLAH bekalan makanan asas termasuk ayam, daging dan kelapa juga mencukupi untuk menampung permintaan sempena Aidilfitri tidak lama lagi," katanya.

10 BERITA SINAR HARIAN PALING TRENDING
SETAKAT JAM 5 PETANG AHAD

1 AIDILFITRI JATUH PADA JUMAAT, 20 MAC DI UAE - SAASST

2 IRAN DAKWA 220 ANGGOTA TENTERA AS TERBUNUH DALAM SERANGAN TERBAHARU

3 10 PELURU BERPANDU IRAN PALING BERKUASA

4 TENTERA ISRAEL AKHLI CAGAN

10,726 pesawah terima pampasan RM24.6 juta di bawah STTP

Oleh NORLIDA AKMAR IDROS

JERLUN – Seramai 10,726 pesawah tempatan di seluruh negara telah menerima pampasan sebanyak RM24.6 juta di bawah Skim Takaful Tanaman Padi (STTP) sejak diperkenalkan pada September 2024.

Presiden/Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan Agrobank, Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin berkata, STTP adalah skim takaful yang dirangka khusus untuk menyediakan bantuan kewangan kepada pesawah yang berdaftar.

Menurut beliau, ia melibatkan pampasan yang diberikan kepada pesawah berdaftar yang mengalami kerosakan atau kerugian kekal tanaman padi akibat bencana alam, serangan makhluk perosak dan penyakit tanaman.

"Skim ini menyediakan perlindungan sehingga RM3,000 sehektar bagi setiap musim penanaman untuk kerugian akibat bencana alam, manakala bagi makhluk perosak dan penyakit tanaman, perlindungan yang ditawarkan adalah sehingga RM1,500 sehektar semusim,"



MOHAMAD SABU (dua dari kiri) bersama Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah (kiri) pada majlis penyampaian replika cek kepada wakil pemimpin Peladang di Ayer Hitam kelmarin. – SHAHIR NOORDIN

katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada Majlis Penyampaian Sumbangan STTP dan perjumpaan bersama pemimpin Peladang di Kawasan Muda di sini kelmarin yang disempurnakan Menteri Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan, Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu di sini. Menurut Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah, skim itu bukan

sahaja memberi perlindungan

kewangan kepada pesawah, malah membantu meningkatkan daya tahan mereka dalam menghadapi risiko luar jangka yang boleh menjejaskan sumber pendapatan.

"Kami menggali para pesawah untuk melengkapkan proses pendaftaran melalui Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan (PPK) serta membuka akaun

Agrobank bagi memudahkan urusan tuntutan dan penyaluran pampasan.

"Perlindungan seperti ini amat penting, khususnya dalam menghadapi musim tengkujuh dan risiko banjir yang tidak menentu. Bencana alam seperti banjir dan kemarau boleh berlaku pada bila-bila masa, justeru langkah persediaan awal ini amat penting

bagi memastikan kelangsungan sumber pendapatan pesawah terus terpelihara," ujarnya.

Tambah Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah, Agrobank melalui STTP komited untuk memperkasa sokongan kepada pesawah agar sektor penanaman padi negara kekal mampan, sekali gus menyumbang kepada ketenteraman makanan negara.

Di Kedah, seramai 18,595 pesawah masih belum mendaftar di bawah STTP dan kalangan pesawah diminta tidak melepaskan peluang itu kerana pendaftaran adalah percuma.

Banjir yang melanda kawasan Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA) di Kedah dan Perlis pada akhir 2025 telah menjejaskan lebih 11,657 hektar sawah padi dengan anggaran kerugian

mencecah hampir RM20 juta. Kerugian itu membabitkan 5,550 pesawah di Kedah dan Perlis dengan Wilayah Perlis mencatatkan kawasan terjejas paling luas iaitu 5,721 hektar.

Ia diikuti 5,648 hektar di Wilayah II Jitra, 271 hektar di Wilayah III Pendang dan 16,74 hektar di Wilayah IV Kota Sarang Semut.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
9/3/2026	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	DALAM NEGERI	31

Bekalan kelapa cukup, harga RM1.80 hingga RM2.50 sebiji

Oleh **AIN SAFRE BIDIN**
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BAGAN DATUK: Bekalan kelapa bagi memenuhi keperluan menjelang sambutan Hari Raya Aidilfitri di daerah ini mencukupi walaupun negara kini berdepan cuaca panas.

Malah, harga kelapa juga kekal stabil antara RM1.80 hingga RM2.50 sebiji bergantung kepada saiz dan kualiti.

Seorang peraih kelapa, Norman Marzuki, 41, berkata, keadaan cuaca panas ketika ini tidak menjejaskan pengeluaran buah kelapa tua yang menjadi sumber utama santan untuk kegunaan masakan tradisi Aidilfitri.

Menurutnya, kualiti buah kelapa yang dituai juga pada tahap baik dengan kebanyakannya bersaiz besar dan menghasilkan santan bermutu tinggi.

“Walaupun cuaca panas,

buah kelapa tidak melawas dan hasilnya memuaskan. Bekalan di sekitar Bagan Datuk mencukupi untuk menampung permintaan semasa Ramadan dan menjelang Aidilfitri.

“Ramai pemilik kebun memaklumkan hasil kali ini sangat baik. Kebanyakan buah bersaiz besar berbanding sebelum ini yang banyak bersaiz kecil dan sukar dijual,” katanya ketika ditemui di sini.

Norman yang juga penanam dan peraih kelapa berkata, dia mampu mengumpul ratusan ribu biji kelapa untuk dibekalkan kepada peraih lain termasuk di Kuala Lumpur, Selangor dan beberapa kawasan di Perak.

Jelasnya, bekalan seterusnya diproses bagi menghasilkan santan segar untuk kegunaan sepanjang Ramadan dan persiapan Hari Raya Aidilfitri malah

hingga Aidiladha nanti.

Norman berkata, sebelum ini perubahan cuaca serta musim hujan berpanjangan menyebabkan buah kelapa bersaiz kecil dan tidak menepati piawaian pasaran.

Katanya, keadaan itu menyebabkan berlaku lambakan apabila buah tidak dapat dijual, malah ada yang bercambah dan tidak lagi sesuai untuk diproses menjadi santan.

“Masalah itu berlaku kerana pokok kelapa lama terendam semasa musim hujan. Ketika itu bekalan agak terjejas, namun kini keadaan sudah pulih sepenuhnya.

“Setakat ini saya telah membeli antara 100,000 hingga 300,000 biji kelapa daripada pekebun sekitar bagi menampung permintaan menjelang Aidilfitri, dan jumlah itu dijangka meningkat,” katanya.



PEKERJA mengupas kelapa sebelum dijual untuk diproses menjadi santan ketika tinjauan di Tebuk Buluh, Simpang tiga di Bagan Datuk, Perak. - UTUSAN/AIN SAFRE BIDIN

Sowing seeds of success in Sook

Organic farming projects provide Sabah's rural families with enhanced food security

SABAH continues to record the highest poverty incidence in the country, with rural communities bearing the brunt of the economic divide, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia.

Deep within the state's rural interior, the need for sustainable livelihood support remains critical for women striving to break the cycle of poverty.

In Kampung Sinaron Tengah, a village in Sook, Keningau, women have long balanced household responsibilities with small-scale farming for minimal returns.

For these B40 households, the challenge has never been hard work, but limited access to the knowledge and resources needed to turn their small plots into viable income sources.

To bridge this gap, Women of Will (WoW), a non-profit organisation empowering women, implemented the Empowering B40 Women Farmers in Sabah project last year, backed by the Star Social Impact Grant (SSIG).

In a media statement, SSIG said the community-based organic farming initiative was designed to strengthen the livelihoods and confidence of rural women.

The project directly supported 25 women farmers in the village, while about 300 family and community members have



The women of Kampung Sinaron Tengah, who joined a WoW farming course, beaming with pride after their graduation.

benefited indirectly via improved food production and household resilience.

Participants underwent structured, hands-on training in organic farming, compost preparation and basic farm management.

The programme also introduced simple financial literacy and business planning, while peer learning sessions created a safe space for women to grow together.

For many, it was their first exposure to systematic farming

and income planning.

As the programme progressed, participants started cultivating their plots more efficiently.

Some produced surplus vegetables, marking their first step toward consistent income generation.

Equally important were the intangible gains.

Many women said they were more confident in managing their farms and planning future crop cycles.

In areas like Sook, where economic participation is often

restricted by geography and traditional roles, such shifts are transformative.

SSIG added that WoW's initiative complemented the government's aspirations to strengthen women's economic participation under the National Women's Policy (DWN) 2025-2030.

While progress in Kampung Sinaron Tengah is in its infancy, the momentum is palpable.

Land once used solely for survival is now being repurposed for a greater economic goal.

More importantly, the women

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behind these efforts are beginning to see new possibilities for their families.

As the world marks International Women's Day this month, the 25 women's journey is a reminder that empowerment begins with small steps.

With sustained support, the seeds planted today may grow into lasting change for rural communities across Sabah.

The SSIG is now in its sixth year.

For details, visit www.starfoundation.org.my/star-social-impact-grant.