



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA

ISNIN / 8 JULY 2019

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DISEDIAKAN OLEH :
CAWANGAN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT
(MADA)

KERATAN AKHBAR : UTUSAN MINGGUAN

TARIKH : 8 JULY 2019

PERKARA : PERTANIAN

12 **DALAM NEGERI**

Um 8.7.19.



SALAHUDDIN AYUB (duduk, tengah) bersama peserta Persidangan Tahunan Pengairan dan Saliran (Manco) kali ke-23 di Johor Bahru, Johor, semalam. - UTUSAN/ BAAZLAN IBRAHIM

Masalah pengairan, saluran pertanian meruncing

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■ JOHOR BAHRU 7 JULAI

MASALAH pengairan dan saluran dalam bidang pertanian di negara ini kini semakin kritikal berikutan perubahan iklim dan persekitaran yang semakin ekstrem.

Menteri Pertanian dan Industri Asas Tani, Datuk Salahuddin Ayub berkata, pihaknya akan mengoptimalkan semua agensi dan jabatan dalam menggunakan kepakaran yang ada bagi menyelesaikan masalah tersebut.

"Kita juga akan memohon bajet tambahan sekiranya per-

lu dalam usaha mengatasi masalah pengairan dan saluran di kawasan pertanian bagi memastikan pengeluaran bahan makanan negara tidak terjejas.

"Permohonan ini akan dihantar sebelum berunding dengan pihak Kementerian Hal Ehwal Ekonomi. Bajet ini untuk mendapatkan contohnya tambahan pam dan peralatan-peralatan, sekarang ini kita tidak cukup bajet," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sidang akhbar selepas merasmikan Persidangan Tahunan Pengairan dan Saliran (Manco) kali ke-23 di Hotel KSL di sini hari ini. Yang turut hadir Pengerusi Persatuan Kebangsaan bagi Pengairan dan Saliran Malaysia (Mancid), Ir. Ahmad Idrus.

Salahuddin berkata, pihaknya juga sedang mencari jalan berdepan musim banjir pada hujung tahun ini yang dijangka merosakkan kawasan pertanian.

"Musim kemarau telah pun berlalu dan selepas ini kita akan berdepan masalah banjir. Kita sudah ada pengalaman pada masa lalu dalam menangani masalah ini dengan mewujudkan kerjasama. Kemarau atau banjir isu ini akan kita dapat atasi sebaik mungkin," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau berkata, projek Jeniang Transfer untuk bekalan air untuk penduduk dan kegunaan pertanian di Kedah kini sudah siap 30 peratus dan akan memasuki fasa yang baharu tidak lama lagi.

Kata Salahuddin, projek berkenaan akan siap dalam tempoh 10 tahun lagi dan akan membekalkan sumber air yang cukup untuk kawasan jelapang padi di bawah Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Muda (MADA).

Selain itu katanya, bagi mengatasi masalah bekalan air untuk kawasan pertanian di bawah Lembaga Kemajuan Pertanian Kemubu (KADA) di Kelantan, perkara tersebut berpunca daripada sumber air di Sungai Kelantan.

Jelasnya, pihak kementerian sedang dalam usaha menyelesaikannya dan beberapa langkah sudah pun dikenal pasti bagi memastikan kawasan KADA mempunyai bekalan air yang mencukupi.

FAMA sasar RM5 juta jualan JTDL

PERMATANG PAUH 7 Julai - Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) menyasarkan nilai jualan sebanyak RM5 juta melalui program Jualan Terus Dari Ladang (JTDL) pada tahun ini berbanding RM3 juta tahun lalu.

Pengerusi FAMA, Ishak Ismail berkata, sehingga Jun tahun ini, nilai jualan JTDL telah mencatatkan jualan yang mem-

berangsangkan sehingga mencapai jumlah RM3.5 juta.

"Kita optimis nilai jualan RM5 juta menerusi program JTDL ini berjaya dicapai memandangkan sehingga Jun ini sahaja kita berjaya mencapai nilai jualan sebanyak RM3.5 juta.

"Program JTDL ini juga diperluaskan sehingga ke 380 lokasi di seluruh negara dan ia mampu memberi faedah kepada pembeli

serta pengeluar produk buah-buahan tempatan untuk memasarkan produk mereka," katanya selepas merasmikan Kempen Jom Lebihkan Makan Buah-Buahan Tempatan di Tapak Ekspo Seberang Jaya di sini baru-baru ini.

Menurutnya, program JTDL itu menawarkan harga buah-buahan tempatan yang lebih rendah sehingga 25 peratus daripada harga pasaran kepada pengguna.

UM 8.7.19.

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StarMetro NORTH

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EVENTS
Local celebrities wow fans at Super Group's Raya event >4

PROPERTY
Check out upcoming seafront project at four-day StarProperty.my Fair >5

New houses for old

Mahsuri flats residents in Bayan Baru will be selling their units to Penang Development Corporation to receive new low medium-cost or affordable homes to be built under an urban regeneration pilot project that will later involve several other low-cost flats in Penang. >3



Thorny delight

The Retau Agrotourism Park in Penang, which has over 220 durian trees of about 40 species, is selling the cloned durians at a flat rate of RM5 per kilo and high-quality kampung durians at RM2 per kilo. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star >2

STAR METRO INFO BASE

PENANG

EMERGENCY

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FIRE	999
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY	103
ENQUIRIES/FAULTS	100
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FIRE & RESCUE DEPT

PENANG (BATU KAWAN) 504 7222

PUBLIC SERVICE

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TAXI WELD QUAY	265 5721
BEFRIENDERS	281 5161
CANCERLINK PENANG'S	012 457 4912
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CHILDREN'S PROTECTION	829 4046
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CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION	829 9511
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INFORMATION DEPARTMENT	262 2123
LABOUR DEPARTMENT	262 5536
PENANG LIBRARY	229 3555/397 1058
PENANG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	634 0111
PENANG ISLAND CITY COUNCIL	263 7637 / 263 7000 (24 HOURS)
SEBERANG PRAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL	5497 5555



Ahmad Razali (left) and Relau Agrotourism Park supervisor Firdaus Abdul Lahak checking the low hanging D15 durians that have yet to drop at the park in Relau, Penang. — Photos: CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

Sweet deals for durian lovers

King of Fruits selling for as low as RM2 per kilo at park in Relau

By ARNOLD LOH

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FRESH cloned durians at just RM5 per kilo and high-quality kampung durians at just RM2 per kilo.

It is Penang's best kept durian secret: buying good durians straight from the Penang Agriculture Department at prices no commercial stall will give.

The department has over 220 durian trees of about 40 species. Mostly planted between 1986 and 1990, the trees are nurtured for the sake of keeping a durian gene bank and also for research.

Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Sim Tze Tin recently expressed pride that despite the scarcity of land on Penang island, the department has been able to build a durian gene bank.

When durian season comes, the harvest from this gene bank is sold to the public.

"We have Ang Heh, Hor Lor, D15, D101, D10, D11, D24, 600, 808 and even the ones which are not yet officially listed as clones such as Kacang Hijau and Alskrim," said the island's area agriculture officer Ahmad Razali Abdul Razak.

He assured that all these wondrous varieties are sold by the department at a flat rate of just RM5 per kilo.

In durian stalls, such clones are sold at between RM20 and RM45 per kilo.

Ahmad Razali said the durians are sold from about 10am to noon at the department's Relau Agrotourism Park.

"Sometimes, so many people come that we have to limit the sales to 5kg per person so that everyone can go home with some of our durians," he said.

The orchard has yet to have any Musang King or Black Thorn.

"Those are new clones. The department's trees were planted in 1986 and some of the clones here



A D24 durian has a teeny-weeny thorn surrounded by a cluster of four large thorns as shown by the knife-tip while the Duri Landak clone (right) is bristling with long, ultra-sharp thorns that curve at the darkened tips.



Most of the cloned durians have fallen and the fruits still on the trees are mostly of the D15 variety.

are so old that we don't have official names for them," said Ahmad Razali, adding that clones from all over the country were brought to Penang to be planted here back then.

When the state government has a durian event to host, then the department will not sell the durians to the public and reserve the fruits for such events.

Ahmad Razali said buyers usually drop by at around 10am daily to see if the department had any for sale.

And if all durians look the same to you, Ahmad Razali shared one tip on how to recognise a D24 clone.

"All around the D24 shell, you will find clusters of four large thorns surrounding a single teeny-sweet thorn," he said.

When you find many clusters of four-long-one-short thorns, you can be sure you are holding a D24 durian, he guaranteed.

To show the stark contrast, Ahmad Razali showed an old Perak clone called Duri Landak

(Porcupine Thorns).

This variety sports long, vicious-looking thorns that curve at the end of the darkened tips.

Ahmad Razali offered another durian tip: If you ate the best Musang King you ever tasted, and want to plant its seed on your land to get the fruit, forget it.

"You will either end up with kampung durian, or inferior half Musang King fruits, and it will take many years for such a tree to flower," he said.

But if you have a kampung durian tree on your land, the Agriculture Department can help you to have the tree cut down and then graft the stem of a Musang King onto it.

Then you might get your personal, true-blue Musang King tree in three to four years.

This method, he said, was ideal because the root system of the hardy kampung durian tree would provide the best possible nutrients to the grafted stem.

Ahmad Razali explained that all cloned durian trees are created using the stem grafting method because that is how the original genetics of famous clones are preserved.