



# LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA

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**Utusan Malaysia** PEMIKIRAN BAHARU

# Ke mana hilang beras tempatan?

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**KANGAR:** Isu ketidaaan bekalan beras tempatan di pasaran menimbulkan tanda tanya ke mana hilangnya hasil yang dikehluarkan para petani negara ini yang jumlahnya sekitar 1.6 juta tan metrik setahun.

Orang ramai tertanya-tanya ke mana perginya beras yang dihasilkan dari kawasan Lembaga Pembangunan Pertanian Muda (MADA), Sekinchan dan lain-lain yang sepatutnya menampung lebih

Setiap tahun Malaysia keluar 1.6 juta tan metrik namun bekalan tiada di pasaran

60 peratus daripada keperluan negara. Senario sekarang seolah-olah menggambarkan Malaysia mengimport beras 100 peratus kerana yang dijual dikedai semula dilabelkan sebagai import. Sedangkan realitinya beras import hanya sekitar satu juta tan metrik atau kira-kira 40 peratus.

Rata-rata rakyat pula mengeluh kerana jika dahulu boleh beli beras tempatan pada harga RM26 bagi kampit 10 kilogram, kini ia hampir tidak lagi kelihatan kerana yang ada di rak-rak pasar raya dan kedai runcit sejak setahun lalu semuanya dilabelkan sebagai beras import.

**Bersambung di muka 2**

**IKKI BUKA 24 JAM**  
Marhaban Ya Ramadhan! Semoga kita dapat menjalankan ibadah puasa dengan baik.

## Ke mana hilang beras tempatan?

### Dari muka 1

Tinjauan di beberapa negeri seperti Selangor, Kedah dan Perlis pada hari pertama Ramadan kelmarin mendapat, bekalan beras import memenuhi rak di pasar raya-pasar raya dan kedai-kedai runcit. Harga beras import pelbagai jenama dijual RM40 hingga RM65 bagi kampit 10 kilogram.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pengurus Gabungan Pengilang-Pengilang Beras Malaysia, Marzukhi Othman berkata, masalah ketidaaan beras tempatan sejak setahun lalu diyakini terus berlarutan selagi tidak diselaraskan gred tunggal beras import dan tempatan.

Katanya, agensi-agensi yang membantu membekalkan beras tempatan kepada peruncit antaranya seperti Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) jika dilihat sebenarnya tidak cukup dan tidak sampai satu peratus.

Menurut beliau, berikutnya masalah tersebut, rakyat terpaksa menggunakan beras import dengan harganya jauh lebih mahal berbanding tempatan.

"Sebab itu kena selaras satu gred beras sahaja dan ditetapkan satu harga. Isu ketidaaan bekalan beras tempatan di pasaran ini bukan baharu malah sudah hampir setahun.

"Sebagaimana yang saya selalu ulang, punca ketidaaan bekalan beras tempatan ini apabila pemborong-pemborong besar mencampur beras tempatan dan import seterusnya dijual pada harga beras import bagi mengaut lebih keuntungan.

Jadi, mereka juga tidak kisah untuk membeli padi dengan harga lebih tinggi me-



BERAS import memenuhi rak di pasar-pasar raya manakala beras tempatan boleh dikatakan jarang ditemukan sejak setahun lalu. - UTUSAN/IZLIZAN OTHMAN

lebih RM1,300 per tan metrik. Beli harga padi dengan harga melebihi RM1,300 memang sukarlah menghasilkan beras berharga RM26," dakwanya.

Pada 2019, Malaysia merekodkan pengeluaran 1,516,341 tan metrik beras putih tempatan manakala beras tempatan pada 2020 sebanyak 1,624,468 tan metrik, 2021 pula sebanyak 1,686,368 tan metrik, tahun 2022 sebanyak 1,574,960 tan metrik dan sehingga Oktober 2023 adalah 1,181,911 tan metrik.

Sementara itu, seorang pesawah, Mohd. Nazri Subuh,48, berkata, sudah lama kelarganya menggunakan beras import dengan harga lebih mahal berikutan kesukaran mendapatkan beras tempatan di pasaran.

Malah katanya, bagi Ramadhan kali ini, zakat fitrah yang ditetapkan di negeri ini adalah RM7 bagi yang menggunakan beras tempatan dan RM10 bagi penggunaan beras import.

"Kebanyakan penduduk sekarang makan beras import kerana kesukaran mendapatkan beras tempatan, jadi perlu membayar zakat fitrah pada kadar RM10," katanya.

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## NACCOL OFFICIAL ASKS IF PM GETTING RIGHT INFO

DATUK Syed Abu Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal, the National Action Council on Cost of Living (Naccol) food cluster task force chairman, raises this question after his team found 30 locations in the peninsula that did not have stocks of local white rice. At a recent Naccol meeting, an officer also told the prime minister that there were enough rice stocks in the market, but a hypermarket representative said otherwise. Syed Abu Hussin says this means that the officer is not providing the right information to the PM.

» REPORT ON PAGE 4

### Higher prices as Ramadan begins

CONSUMERS at the Chow Kit market say they're feeling the pinch from the increase in the prices of meat, spices and seafood. Traders say they are struggling to strike a balance between soaring costs and maintaining prices.

» REPORT ON PAGE 6

### Kapar air crash: Plane irregularly maintained

THE preliminary report on the Feb 13 incident also finds that the aircraft was overloaded.

» REPORT ON PAGE 7

### ISRAELI DATES SEIZED IN PORT KLANG WAREHOUSE

» PAGE 4

**BUSINESS TIMES**

**IN DIRE STRAITS**

FBM KLC can exceed 1,700 tonnes with better storage fund released, says analyst

Bukit Air says tickets issued before June 1 are honored at current PSC

Mill expected to record higher revenue this year

NewStraitsTimes . THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

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## COMPLICATED ISSUE

## 'IS PM GETTING THE RIGHT INFORMATION?'

Naccol food cluster task force chief says checks show no stocks of local white rice

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A MEMBER of parliament has asked if prime minister and National Action Council for Cost of Living (Naccol) chairman Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has been supplied with the correct information on the stock and supply of local white rice in the country.

In an interview with the *New Straits Times*, Naccol food cluster task force chairman Datuk Syed Abu Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal raised the question after saying his team learned of the real situation three days ago.

He said checks by the task force's monitoring team at 30 locations in the peninsula found that there were no stocks of local white rice in the market.

"It is unfortunate that the prime minister had to take the blame and be reprimanded for this, when the issue is also about

whether the officers from the authorities responsible had provided him with accurate information or otherwise during the Naccol meeting.

"During one of the Naccol meetings, the padi and rice control director-general told the prime minister that rice stocks are available and enough in the market, but a representative from a hypermarket said otherwise.

"This means that the officer responsible is not providing the right information to the prime minister. This situation has made the issue more complicated," said Syed Abu Hussin, who is Bukit Gantang MP.

He said he wanted the director-general of the Padi and Rice Control Division to be held responsible for the situation relating to the supply of local white rice.

If the enforcement agencies responsible do their job accordingly, consumers will likely still enjoy buying white rice at RM20 (per pack). But over the past six months, people have had to fork out more money to buy a packet of rice," he said.

Syed Abu Hussin also stood by his proposal for the proposed

Madani white rice to be sold at RM30 for a 10kg packet.

The proposal, he said, was made after taking into consideration the interest and views of all stakeholders, including millers and padi farmers, as well as consumers.

He claimed that rice millers had expressed willingness to buy padi at RM1,500 per metric tonne, which was RM200 more than the ceiling price.

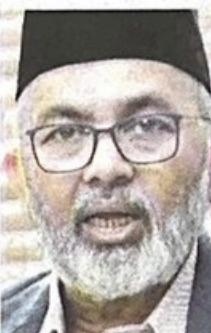
"I have asked four major rice millers in the country about my proposal (for a pack of 10kg white rice to be sold at RM30).

"These rice millers said that they are willing to buy padi at RM1,500 per metric tonne from farmers."

Syed Abu Hussin said he was also aware of the grouses by padi farmers for the government to increase the ceiling price of padi to RM1,700 per metric tonne.

"The government, at present, is subsidising RM500 per metric tonne."

"My proposal is that if we want to create a win-win situation for farmers without burdening consumers, perhaps the government could increase the amount of subsidy by another RM200 (per metric tonne)," he said.



Datuk Syed Abu Hussin Hafiz Syed Abdul Fasal

KEMUBU AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

# CAP: Fix Kelantan padi farming woes before production worsens

**GEORGE TOWN:** The Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) wants the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry to take immediate action to resolve problems faced by padi farmers under the Kemubu Agricultural Development Board (Kada) in Kelantan.

This, it said, was necessary to boost their income and national rice production.

CAP president Mohideen Abdul Kader said besides poor infrastructure being one of the causes of decline in rice yield by Kada, the loss of padi fields to development projects had also contributed to the decrease in rice production.

He said other contributing factors included floods, droughts, pest attacks and loose soil.

While the rice yield in Kada's fields exceeded the national average of 4.1 metric tonnes per hectare, he said the board still lagged behind Selangor's yield of 4.32 metric tonnes, the Muda Agricultural Development Authority's (Mada) 4.24 metric tonnes, and Penang's 5.05 metric tonnes per hectare.

"The imperfect irrigation system and its ineffective functioning have caused Kada padi fields to face drought and flood threats. Many rice stalks are stunted or destroyed.

"In May last year, 7,800ha of rice crops in the area were affected due to the hot weather in Kelantan. And in December the same year, Kada suffered a RM17 million loss after rice stalks were inundated.

"In 2022, due to problems with the drainage system, 1,000ha of padi land became loose and Kada lost 4,200 metric tonnes of rice.

"This incident is of great concern to CAP and if it is not dealt with immediately, more padi land will not be cultivated and abandoned."

Therefore, Mohideen said in order to save the future source of income and livelihood of 7,648

padi farmers and maintain the 25,149 hectares of padi fields under Kada, CAP hoped that the ministry would take action on the problems.

CAP, Mohideen said, also urged the departments and agencies involved to pay attention to the effects of pesticides and usage of heavy machinery that could threaten the environment and affect padi fields.

"CAP believes that if the problems continue, not only will Kada padi farmers experience hardship, but the food supply for the people and the country's agricultural sector will also be affected," he added.

It was reported last month that Kada had taken the proactive step of providing an additional 150 units of pumps to overcome the anticipated water supply challenges caused by El Nino.

Kada chairman Muhammad Husin said these pumps would be deployed according to farmers' current needs, covering 26,000ha of padi fields across six padi planting districts.

In October last year, the Auditor General's Report recommended a review of the Ladang Merdeka Project after RM4.36 million in padi proceeds were distributed to unverified representatives of participants.