



LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA

AHAD / 18 NOVEMBER 2018

- 1. NASIB PENOREH GETAH DIBERI PERHATIAN**
 - **MINGGUAN MALAYSIA**

- 2. LAHIRKAN PETANI BERMINDA USAHAWAN**
 - **SINAR HARIAN**

- 3. 50 VARIASI BERAS TEMPATAN DI MAHA**
 - **SINAR HARIAN**

- 4. RETURNING TO HIS ROOTS**
 - **SUNDAY STAR**

DISEDIAKAN OLEH :

CAWANGAN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT

(MADA)

TARIKH : 18 NOVEMBER 2018

PERKARA : PERTANIAN

Nasib penoreh getah diberi perhatian

■ JELEBU 17 NOV.

KEMENTERIAN Industri Utama sedang mengambil perhatian tentang nasib penoreh getah berdasarkan kedudukan harga getah sekarang.

Menteri berkenaan Teresa Kok berkata kementerian telah membawa perkara itu kepada Kabinet untuk penelitian Jemaah Menteri.

Menurutnya, beliau telah memaklumkan kepada Jemaah Menteri pada Jumaat mengenai implikasi kos sekiranya kerajaan menaikkan paras harga pengaktifan Insentif Pengeluaran Getah daripada paras sedia ada iaitu RM2.20 sekilogram.

“Semalam dalam mesyuarat Kabinet, saya telah memberitahu para anggota Kabinet tentang keadaan yang dialami oleh penoreh getah kita. Dan saya juga telah membentangkan kepada mereka bahawa sekiranya kerajaan memberikan apa-apa bentuk bantuan, apakah kos yang terlibat,” katanya selepas melawat Pusat Mengumpul Ge-

tah (PMG) PRIMINIS Lembaga Getah Malaysia di sini hari ini, Teresa menarik perhatian bahawa paras harga (pengaktifan) kini ditetapkan pada RM2.20 sekilogram.

“Jadi, kalau harga getah jatuh di bawah RM2.20, LGM (Lembaga Getah Malaysia) akan *top up* bagi mereka sehingga RM2.20. Jadi, mengikut pengiraan yang saya ada, sekiranya kesemua penoreh getah hari ini menuntut perbezaan sekiranya harga jatuh di bawah RM2.20 sekilogram itu, kerajaan kena adakan peruntukan sebanyak RM294 juta untuk dibayar kepada semua penoreh getah untuk membayar perbezaan harga getah itu.

“Jadi, ini adalah sistem Insentif Pengeluaran Getah. Ini adalah apa yang kita boleh lakukan sekarang,” kata menteri itu.

Menurutnya, jika ada pekebun kecil yang tidak berpuas hati dengan menyatakan kadar RM2.20



TERESA KOK

itu masih rendah, kementerian telah membuat pengiraan.

“Jika kita tingkatkan paras harga kepada RM2.50 (sekilogram), jadi, kerajaan perlu membayar RM657.54 juta kepada semua (yang terlibat). Ini memang satu angka yang sangat besar.

“Kita harus juga ingat kita ada pekebun kecil yang menanam tanaman lain macam sawit dan pekebun kecil yang lain juga mengalami keadaan yang susah sekarang. Jadi ini adalah kos yang perlu dibayar,” katanya.

Teresa berkata, beliau telah membentangkan pengiraan itu kepada Kabinet dan Kementerian Kewangan telah menyatakan akan mengkaji perkara itu.

“Oleh kerana kita tahu keadaan persekitaran ekonomi kita sekarang ini kurang baik, jadi bagi Kementerian Kewangan saya rasa mereka perlu membuat pengiraan yang lebih teliti,” katanya. - BERNAMA

KERATAN AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

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Lahirkan petani berminda usahawan

PENDANG - Projek tanaman pokok kelapa varieti SGG merupakan salah satu usaha khas untuk melahirkan petani berminda usahawan.

Presiden Nusa Global Heritage Network, Al Jeffery Ibrahim berkata, ini adalah projek pertama yang diwujudkan di Kedah.

Katanya, projek ini dilaksana bagi membolehkan petani yang tidak mempunyai pendapatan lain meningkatkan ekonomi hidup mereka.

"Sebanyak 200 benih pokok kelapa varieti SGG diperuntukkan buat kali

pertama untuk beberapa Dun sekitar Kedah.

"Antara Dun yang terlibat ialah Sungai Limau, Tokai, Sungai Tiang, Belantik, Jeneri dan Kupang," katanya.

Menurut Al Jeffery, ini adalah peringkat permulaan dan petani perlu menunggu selama 24 bulan untuk melihat hasil.

"Insya-ALLAH hasil yang pertama ini kita akan jadikan sebagai anak benih bagi membolehkan ramai petani menceburi tanaman ini.

"Kita yakin pendapatan sampingan ini mampu bantu petani menjana pendapatan

lumayan memandangkan permintaan kepada kelapa sangat tinggi," katanya.

Katanya, petani perlu bijak mengawal masa depan mereka tanpa mengharapkan bantuan daripada pihak lain terutama kerajaan.

Tambah Al Jeffery, sekiranya ada permintaan daripada petani pihaknya akan membekalkan benih secara percuma kepada mereka yang layak.

"Kita akan berikan kepada petani yang susah, yang kalau dia menoreh pun dia hanya ambil upah pokok orang," katanya.



Kelapa SGG ditanam di Kampung Alor Beral sebagai simbolik perasmian.

KERATAN AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

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50 variasi beras tempatan di MAHA

PADIBERAS Nasional Berhad (BERNAS) sekali lagi menyertai pameran Pertanian, Hortikultur dan Pelancongan Agro (MAHA) 2018 di ruang pameran A214 di Dewan A dan juga di Laman Padi di Taman Ekspo Pertanian Malaysia (MAEPS).

Pameran dwi-tahunan yang masih mengekalkan tema "Makanan Kita, Masa Depan Kita" akan diadakan selama 11 hari, bermula dari 22 November sehingga 2 Disember 2018 di MAEPS.

Dalam satu kenyataan media, pada penganjuran tahun ini, BERNAS akan memperkenalkan lebih 50 variasi beras tempatan dan juga beras dari negara-negara serantau.

Antara jenis beras yang akan dipamerkan termasuklah 20 jenis beras tempatan dari Sabah dan Sarawak serta 30 jenis beras - beras dari negara Indonesia, Thailand, Kemboja, Myanmar, Vietnam, Korea Selatan, Jepun, India, Pakistan dan juga Bangladesh.

Ruang pameran ini juga akan dijadikan platform perkongsian maklumat menarik mengenai tugas dan tanggungjawab BER-

NAS dalam membangunkan industri padi dan beras negara seperti Skim Pengilang Bumiputera, Pengurusan Pengagihan Subsidi Harga Padi, Pemutuan Padi dan maklumat beras plastik.

Pelbagai aktiviti menarik seperti 'Wheel of Possibility,' pertandingan Badang dan juga pertandingan menganggar berat beras akan turut diadakan di ruang pameran ini. Tambah menarik, hadiah bekalan beras selama setahun juga bakal dibawa pulang oleh pengunjung yang bertuah.

Selain itu, Laman Padi juga akan dimeriahkan dengan penyediaan

juadah bubur lambuk yang amat sinonim dengan BERNAS ketika pameran MAHA dijalankan.

Menariknya tahun ini, bubur lambuk yang disediakan akan menggunakan pelbagai jenis beras seperti beras merah, beras putih tempatan, beras perang, beras wangi dan lain-lain lagi.

Tidak hanya tertumpu kepada juadah bubur lambuk, BERNAS juga menyediakan beberapa jenis makanan lain yang berasaskan beras seperti Putu Mayam, Inang-inang, Pongal dan juga bubur Congee kepada pengunjung di Laman Padi.



BERNAS
PADIBERAS NASIONAL BERHAD

KERATAN AKHBAR : SUNDAY DAY

TARIKH : 18 NOVEMBER 2018

PERKARA : PERTANIAN



My Minister *Salahuddin Ayub*

Returning to his roots

As a former farmer, the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister promises to get his hands dirty on the ground to boost production in the local agricultural sector.

“This is my life now in this ministry, to ensure that we provide enough food for our country. We must make it a reality, not just a dream.”

Stories BY **SIM LEE LEOI**
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NO one can ever accuse Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Salahuddin Ayub of not knowing something about farming. Known more for his political exploits – first as PAS Youth chief and then, in vice-president, and now as Parti Amanah Negara’s deputy president – Salahuddin used to grow rice in the early 1980s on a 10-acre farm back in his village, Kampung Jerlak, Pontian, a town famed for its seafood on the southwestern coast of Johor.

Of Malay-Chinese heritage, he received his early education in British Malaya before finishing his secondary studies in SMK Sri Perhentian, Pontian, and IIMB, Johor Bahru.

“At that time, I believe that I would stay in my kampung. I wanted to be a commercial farmer. In Pontian, I bought fish from the fisherman and sold it at a small market,” reminisces the PUIA MP who defected from deputy House Member Datuk Nur Jaitin Mohamed with a 28,318-vote majority in the last general election.

In contrast now to those of his father years as a commercial farmer, Salahuddin even built a small house at the orchard for his family. “This is a real story,” he says, though with a laugh, during a recent interview at MAZS in Seremban, where he had just come from a briefing on the Malaysia Agricultural, Horticulture and Agri-business Show.

“We leave our roots because of the drought. It’s a blessing in disguise because I joined politics when that,” says Salahuddin, chuckling a little at how it all started for him. The crop failure wasn’t completely a waste though. As a farmer, the 56-year-old learned to get his hands dirty, in to say, learning about fertilisers, soil profiling, plant disease, crop diseases and even marketing – all of which now stands him in good stead with his appointment as minister in May 23 this year under the Pakatan Harapan government.

Indubitably, Salahuddin has gone back to what he once wanted to do – farming.

He knows that, not being that because of his past experience. It is far more experience than others with the struggles and toil of the ordinary farmer. “At very least, I might look back at my path and it’s helping me with my experience, hardi (determination) better,” he points out. So much so that Salahuddin, a graduate of both Tunks Aliah Sultan Hassan University College with a diploma in business administration and Universiti Putra Malaysia in Bachelor of Science (Human Resource Management), has vowed to spend up to 70% of his time in office – well, not in his actual office in Putrajaya but on the ground.

“That is my way,” he stresses, adding that he wanted to make sure that farmers and in fact, all stakeholders in the country’s agricultural sector, feel his and embrace his mission. For Salahuddin has set for himself – in between juggling his duties as Linggajaya amebidiyawan in Johor – the grand mission of increasing productivity in the local agricultural sector, providing, among others, higher milk yields and more fresh milk and beef, and consequently, cutting the country’s beef import bill, which now comes in at a staggering RM11 billion.

“This is our duty now. This is my life now in this ministry, to ensure



Down to earth: Salahuddin surveying the Fresh Plantation Vegetables Garden in Sempang Beach.

that we provide enough food for our country.

“And how can we do it slowly gradually and make it tangible so that we can address it.”

“This must” make it a reality, not just a dream,” he says. Salahuddin aims to hike Malaysia’s rice yields by another 3% from the current self-sufficiency level of 70%, at which it has stuck stubbornly for years, from 50% to 100%, represented with such as better and pugher from 7% to between 13% and 20%, and beef from 20% to between 30% and 35%.

And he especially impressed with the idea of using drones to map the farm land and profile soil types to ensure that only the right fertilizer is used for the right type of soil and

is hoping to rope in research and development from the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI).

Asked if his targets were feasible as that had been the oft-repeated promise of almost every incumbent under the previous administration, only to have it fail, Salahuddin says: “Give me five years.”

Labeling this his “new direction” for the ministry, for it only has seven of four ministers, the plan is and thanks to the government, now will be to get everyone in the field behind it.

“My greatest challenge now is to ensure that I can build all my three feet in my office.”

“My biggest challenge is to get all the relevant support from all levels of the ministry – the EOC (the secretary-general), the TRM (the deputy),” he says.

“Let them be part of my mission,” he says. In Salahuddin, it is important that he is not moving toward his

ministry’s goals alone.

“We must work together and the stakeholders must understand – the farmers and the fishermen – on the ground – and embrace my mission.”

“That’s very important and that is the great challenge to make sure that I am not alone.”

The failure of rice is also making over the price of the ministry in a time when conditions cannot be more challenging.

On top of the headache of ensuring that local British farmers are ready to export fresh fruits to China by year end – the ministry officers are currently working on the ways to brief players on all the quarantine requirements imposed by the Middle Kingdom – the minister has to deal with the effects of climate change, which 2018 witnessed Japan, with digital wealth or patterns, bringing with it droughts, floods and diseases that have crippled crops.

In Malaysia, for instance, the



On a mission: Various initiatives are in the works to cut the country's food imports, from modern farming methods to the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism Show, which opens this Thursday.

emergence of Panama disease, a plant fungus, has proved deadly to many banana plantations while Kedah, Malaysia's rice bowl, was stricken with prolonged drought early last year. Salahuddin knows something about the crop failure – after all, he has had to abandon his cocoa farm over a fungal outbreak – and has pledged to clamp down on biosecurity and biosafety issues such as diseases by tightening existing regulations and rules on a “case-by-case basis.”

“To ensure that quarantine procedures must be followed – that's very important.

“All the species and varieties that come in and out of the country must follow all the procedures. No bribes, no corruption,” declares Salahuddin.

To a query on whether enforcement of regulations had been lax in the past, he says, “To be sure, I think so. There were some loopholes.”

On June 26, the ministry's Department of Malaysian Quarantine Inspection Services (Maqis) announced that it has gazetted 57 exit and entry points for the surveillance of items brought in and out of the country.

This, said its director-general Datuk Mokhtaruddin Husain, had come in the wake of two sardine brands imported from China, via the North Butterworth Container Terminal, that were found to contain worms.

The question of biosafety and biosecurity is important, Salahuddin reiterates, especially if Malaysia hopes to continue exporting its fruits and vegetables into the international market, as shown by the stringent quarantine procedures put into place for durians, even for one as mad for Musang King as China.

The memorandum for the export of whole fruits instead of just frozen pulp previously was

signed during Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Beijing in August.

“We will follow all the procedures,” he pledges.

Besides Maqis, Salahuddin says all the departments under his ministry have their own biosafety or biosecurity divisions as well.

For the mitigation measures against the effects of climate changes, Salahuddin is optimistic about an opportunity to work with the World Bank on its concept of “climate smart agriculture”.

The concept touts an integrated approach to managing cropland, livestock, forests and fisheries that will address the challenges of food security and climate change.

Besides increasing productivity and enhancing resilience in crops, it aims to do all this with less impact on the environment.

“We had a briefing from the World Bank that day.

“I think we can follow some of the recommendations and some of the things we can anticipate in the future in terms of climate change or protect our crops,” he says, adding that Malaysia could also try asking for funds from the World Bank in event of a collaboration.

While his ministry's new direction has yet to be officially launched, the farmer in Salahuddin is already raring to go.

And yes, he still has his farm, now planted with oil palm.

“My brother looks after it now,” he says.

Watch the video
thestartv.com

