



# **LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA**

**AHAD / 4 OGOS 2019**

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**DISEDIAKAN OLEH :**  
**CAWANGAN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT**  
**(MADA)**

KERATAN AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

TARIKH : 4 OGOS 2019

PERKARA : ISU SEMASA

Send your letters to Letters Editor, New Straits Times, 31, Jalan Riong, 59100 Kuala Lumpur or email letters@nstp.com.my (Tel: 03-20569411). A letter must have a writer's name, signature, home address, phone and MyKad numbers. It should ideally not be more than 500 words. The editor reserves the right to edit a letter for clarity and length.

# LETTERS

WATER RESOURCES

## GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION NOT THE ANSWER



The 2016 drought affected climate and water cycle patterns, resulting in a massive decline in dam water levels and a postponement of the padi planting season. FILE PIC

**W**ATER, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar's proposal to tap into groundwater supply to meet growing water demand is baffling, considering that there are other less costly and less destructive means of meeting our water needs.

The fact that the minister pointed out forest fires in Kedah were due to drought is precisely what environmentalists and concerned citizens have been warning the authorities about for years — protect water catchment areas, gazette the Ulu Muda forest complex and end deforestation, or we risk facing a water crisis.

The drought in the northern states in 2016 had been linked to logging activities in the Ulu Muda forest complex, which affected climate and water cycle patterns, resulting in a massive decline in dam water levels and a postponement of the padi planting season.

Now that a water crisis is imminent, the minister has made the alarming proposal to drain other sources of water rather than manage the resource that best ensures a sustainable and consistent supply of water — tropical rainforests that act as vital water catchment zones.

Tapping into groundwater supply while failing to protect water catchment areas, manage water demand and end non-revenue water loss is like withdrawing funds from an overdrawn bank account.

When groundwater is continually pumped out of the earth, it can lead to the collapsing and sinking of soil, resulting in disasters such as the opening up of sinkholes and surface cavities, as seen in New Orleans, the United States, after Hurricane Katrina, the tilting and cracking of buildings in Mexico City and severe flooding in Bangkok.

We can learn from the 2015 drought and water crisis in California. In April that year, then governor Jerry Brown ordered a 25 per cent reduction in urban water use.

Amazingly, within one month of the water reduction law being implemented, California's water use went down by not merely 25 per cent, but 29 per cent.

The solution to our water problems lies in protecting key watershed areas, repairing and maintaining the water supply infrastructure to minimise non-revenue water loss, and promoting and enforcing efficient water use.

By the minister's own admission, non-revenue water loss in Malaysia is calculated to be at the rate of 5,929 million litres per day of treated water, which is sufficient to meet the water demand in Selangor (3,316 million litres a day) and Johor (1,320 million litres a day).

Surely the minister's priority is to replace leaky and damaged water infrastructure and end water theft rather than to extract water from an ever-increasing number of natural sources?

As for the argument that watershed conservation, water-saving measures and the replacement of old pipes and water supply systems to plug non-revenue water loss will burden the rakyat, it is submitted that constructing yet more dams and groundwater extraction infrastructure will cost taxpayers even more.

A responsible government is one that makes decisions that will protect the safety, health, and food and water security of its citizens, as well as environmental and ecological integrity for generations to come, regardless of who holds the political power.

**WONG EE LYNN**  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor

PAHIT MANIS

ROLLING OUT AGROPRENEURS



AHMAD A TALIB

# BODEN TO PRODUCE KNOWLEDGE FARMERS

If this country is to go big on agriculture, it is worth picking up the knowledge at Boden, a teaching centre for the future

**Z**AINAL and Fatimah cannot have a better arrangement in their lives. This couple enjoy an urban lifestyle in the federal capital but retreat to their goat farm about one-and-a-half hours away in Negri Sembilan.

They have dual lifestyles — living in an urban environment; and breathing fresh air surrounded by greens and numerous types of plants.

They commute between Kuala Lumpur and Seriting in the Jempol district tending to their home and farm.

The farm is called Boden, situated in Seriting Ilir.

A leisurely ride to the farm from Kuala Lumpur will take you pass Sri Menanti and Kuala Pilah with scenic views of beautiful padi fields.

The couple has a dream, kept at the back of their minds when both were gainfully employed.

Now in their late 60s, both retirees continue to be productive. Part of their dream has been realised but the bigger one is still a work in progress.

They started working on their dream almost 15 years ago soon

after retirement. Zainal, full name Datuk Zainal Abd Ghani, has a habit of going off on the road less travelled.

Often, he would pick seedlings which are not easily found and plant them in his garden.

His wife, Fatimah Abdullah, is a plant lover, being a landscape artist and all.

The couple has a special bond that has stood the test of time and is now manifested in their farm.

It started as a goat farm but has now grown to include many other agricultural produce.

The farm is now primed to become an agricultural training centre for those who intend to venture into agriculture.

I first visited the farm in its early years. The couple bred Boer goats, which were acquired from South Africa and Australia.

Zainal said: "Getting the goats from various parts of the world would enhance the quality of goats bred here. Every single goat produced at the farm has a birth certificate. Every birth is recorded to enable us to track its lineage. This is one way of monitoring the quality of our goats."

How did the name Boden come about? Zainal explained: "I'm from Negri Sembilan. Since they are Boer goats, we decided to name the farm Boden, 'den' being the Negri slang for 'me' or 'I'. Makes sense, right?"

Over the years, the couple expanded their operations. They now have a herb garden, which produces various types of tea, *ketulut* (honey from stingless bees) and vegetables.

Zainal used all his experience to manage the farm meticulously.

All data is computerised, operational systems put in place to ensure optimum efficiency while research and development is pursued to keep themselves up to speed with the latest in the industry.

Their passion for the farm is quite obvious, judging from the enthusiasm when they show visitors around.

Visitors include local and foreign students who are eager to know about farming and groups from church and mosques who wish to learn about agriculture.

Even tourist guides looking for eco-tourism spots to promote visited the farm, an ideal location for a healthy weekend visit.

Zainal hopes Boden could collaborate with the government. Boden has plenty to offer. This is not a normal goat farm, neither is an ordinary herb garden.

The way the couple has developed Boden, the farm is indeed an ideal setting for a model for others to follow.

Zainal said: "We hope Boden can be the first practical training farm for kampung communities. We have adopted some of technical best practices with emphasis on quality and optimisation of output. We can share our knowledge of commercial understanding of returns plus cost and productivity."

"We want to share our first-hand knowledge gathered over more than 15 years. Let us develop knowledge farmers, increase agriculture output and go big into micro enterprise where we can help value-add products."

Boden has survived almost entirely on its own resources. Per-

haps it would be timely for the government to come in as a partner in the proposed training initiative by sponsoring trainees who may include kampung folks, veterans who want to venture into agriculture and farmers who wish to take their knowledge to another level.

The government may also want to invest in equipment and tools besides its applied research findings. In fact, farming can also be made attractive to children and students where they can get acquainted with agriculture as a rich source of employment and income.

"Farm-based education for schoolchildren can really be attractive and profitable," he said.

Visit the farm when you can. The couple will be on hand to greet and assist you on Wednesdays and weekends. Walk around and enjoy the fresh air besides trying to identify the many types of herbs grown there. You can also sample the *madu ketulut*, said to have medicinal qualities.

You can visit the goat sheds and see how the goats are being fed and cared.

Cleanliness is a hallmark of Boden's goat sheds. If this country is to go big on agriculture, it is worth picking up the knowledge acquired by people like Zainal and Fatimah. Boden can be a hands-on teaching centre for the future.

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Twitter: @austpahitmanis

The writer is a former NST group editor. His first column appeared on Aug 27, 1995 as 'Kurang Manis'

**C** How did the name Boden come about? Zainal explained: 'I'm from Negri Sembilan. Since they are Boer goats, we decided to name the farm Boden, "den" being the Negri slang for "me" or "I". Makes sense right?'



(Left) Zainal and Fatimah want to take agriculture to the next level. (Right) Fatimah tending to her Boer goats. Each goat delivered at the farm has a birth certificate. PIX BY AIJAZUDIN SAAD.



60 rencana

04.08.2019

rencana 61

04.08.2019

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## MALAYSIA KAYA SPESIES MARIN

### Sebanyak 42 pulau diwartakan sebagai taman laut

**Zahra Saifi**  
zsaifi@metro.com.my

**M**alaysia memang terkenal di seluruh dunia dengan keanekaragaman hayati yang kaya dan terpelikannya. Keanekaragaman hayati ini muncul daripada alam semula jadi yang kaya dengan pelbagai spesies tumbuhan dan haiwan. Namun, keanekaragaman hayati ini semakin berkurangan akibat aktiviti manusia yang semakin meningkat. Oleh itu, kerajaan Malaysia telah mengumumkan bahawa 42 pulau diwartakan sebagai taman laut.

Kepada Kementerian Perikanan dan Kelautan, Azlan Zaidi berkata, inisiatif ini bertujuan untuk melindungi biodiversiti dan meningkatkan perikanan yang mampan di kawasan-kawasan tersebut. Beliau berkata, langkah ini adalah sebahagian daripada komitmen Malaysia untuk melindungi alam semula jadi dan meningkatkan perikanan yang mampan.

Keputusan ini adalah sebahagian daripada inisiatif kerajaan untuk melindungi biodiversiti dan meningkatkan perikanan yang mampan di kawasan-kawasan tersebut. Beliau berkata, langkah ini adalah sebahagian daripada komitmen Malaysia untuk melindungi alam semula jadi dan meningkatkan perikanan yang mampan.



**FAKTA**  
**Pulau Terumbu Karang**

• Ia merupakan habitat penting untuk pelbagai spesies haiwan laut, termasuk ikan, udang, dan moluska.

• Terumbu karang adalah ekosistem yang sangat produktif dan kaya dengan biodiversiti.

• Mereka juga berfungsi sebagai pemangsa makanan untuk pelbagai spesies ikan.

• Terumbu karang juga melindungi pantai daripada gelombang besar dan erosi.

• Mereka juga berfungsi sebagai pemangsa makanan untuk pelbagai spesies ikan.



**PERKARA**  
**Perikanan**

• Perikanan adalah sektor yang penting dalam ekonomi Malaysia.

• Ia menyediakan pekerjaan untuk ramai orang dan menyumbang kepada pendapatan negara.

• Namun, perikanan tradisional semakin berkurangan akibat perubahan iklim dan pencemaran laut.

• Oleh itu, kerajaan Malaysia telah memperkenalkan inisiatif untuk meningkatkan perikanan yang mampan.

#### SENARAI TAMAN LAUT MALAYSIA DAN TARJH

**DIWARTAKAN**

No.	Nama Pulau	Tarikh
1	Pulau Tenggol	20 Oktober 1994
2	Pulau Perhentian Kecil	20 Oktober 1994
3	Pulau Perhentian Besar	20 Oktober 1994
4	Pulau Redang	20 Oktober 1994
5	Pulau Tioman	20 Oktober 1994
6	Pulau Lingsat	20 Oktober 1994
7	Pulau Selayar	20 Oktober 1994
8	Pulau Pinang	20 Oktober 1994
9	Pulau Nias	20 Oktober 1994
10	Pulau Nias Kecil	20 Oktober 1994
11	Pulau Agul	20 Oktober 1994
12	Pulau Nipah	20 Oktober 1994
13	Pulau Tempilang	20 Oktober 1994

**PERENCANAAN**

No.	Nama Pulau	Tarikh
1	Pulau Tioman	20 Oktober 1994
2	Pulau Laban	20 Oktober 1994
3	Pulau Sipit	20 Oktober 1994
4	Pulau Japas/Pulau Guntur	20 Oktober 1994
5	Pulau Seling Bera	20 Oktober 1994
6	Pulau Ceylan	20 Oktober 1994
7	Pulau Sata	20 Oktober 1994
8	Pulau Sembayang	20 Oktober 1994
9	Pulau Sen Bual	20 Oktober 1994

**DAFTAR**

No.	Nama Pulau	Tarikh
1	Pulau Rawa	20 Oktober 1994
2	Pulau Batu Mawang	20 Oktober 1994
3	Pulau Batu Tengah	20 Oktober 1994
4	Pulau Batu Besar	20 Oktober 1994
5	Pulau Tiga	20 Oktober 1994
6	Pulau Hui	20 Oktober 1994
7	Pulau Peranggi	20 Oktober 1994
8	Pulau Hantu	20 Oktober 1994
9	Pulau Hantu Besar	20 Oktober 1994
10	Pulau Gajah	1 Februari 2008
11	Pulau Meringgi	1 Februari 2008
12	Pulau Sibu	20 Oktober 1994
13	Pulau Sibu Hilang	27 Mac 1998
14	Pulau Seenggah	27 Mac 1998

**DAFTAR PERENCANAAN LAINNYA**

No.	Nama Pulau	Tarikh
1	Pulau Meringgi	18 Ogos 2000
2	Pulau Nias Besar	18 Ogos 2000
3	Pulau Nias Kecil	18 Ogos 2000

**PERKARA** **Dirai Manti**

Manti adalah ikan yang sangat penting dalam ekosistem laut. Mereka adalah pemangsa utama untuk pelbagai spesies ikan dan membantu mengekalkan keseimbangan ekosistem.

Manti juga berfungsi sebagai pemangsa makanan untuk pelbagai spesies ikan.

Mereka juga melindungi pantai daripada gelombang besar dan erosi.

Mereka juga berfungsi sebagai pemangsa makanan untuk pelbagai spesies ikan.

**PERKARA** **Perikanan**

Perikanan adalah sektor yang penting dalam ekonomi Malaysia. Ia menyediakan pekerjaan untuk ramai orang dan menyumbang kepada pendapatan negara.

Namun, perikanan tradisional semakin berkurangan akibat perubahan iklim dan pencemaran laut. Oleh itu, kerajaan Malaysia telah memperkenalkan inisiatif untuk meningkatkan perikanan yang mampan.

KERATAN AKHBAR :SINAR HARIAN

TARIKH : 4 OGOS 2019

PERKARA : PROGRAM

AHAD 4 OGOS 2019 • SINAR HARIAN

## Pemenang Larian Merdeka@Melaka teruja terima 'pingat' buah durian



Para pemenang Larian Merdeka@Melaka menunjukkan 'pingat' buah durian yang dimenangi selepas menamatkan larian di Dataran Pahlawan, Melaka semalam.

MELAKA - Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (FAMA) Melaka menyediakan 300 biji durian untuk yang berjaya menamatkan Larian Merdeka@Melaka sempena pelancaran Bulan Kebangsaan dan Kibar Jalur Gemilang 2019 di Dataran Pahlawan, Banda Hilir semalam.

Pengarah FAMA Melaka, Che Samudin Hassan berkata, peserta diberikan durian kampung pada garisan penamat sebagai usaha agensi mempromosikan kempen makan buah-buahan tempatan.

"Kita bagi seorang sebiji durian sebagai meraikan musim raja buah ini," katanya di Dataran Pahlawan, Banda Hilir semalam.

Larian sejauh lima kilometer dari ha-

pagi itu dirasmikan Exco Komunikasi, Multimedia, Pembangunan Belia dan Sukan Melaka, Kerk Chee Yee.

Pemenang tempat pertama hingga ketiga memenangi tiga biji durian setiap seorang, manakala 297 pemenang seterusnya mendapat sebiji durian setiap seorang.

Pemenang pertama, Muhammad Azail Junaidi, 22, berkata, hadiah buah durian adalah unik kerana sepanjang penglibatannya dalam pelbagai acara atau larian, tidak pernah menerima 'pingat' sebegitu.

"Mulanya saya terkejut apabila diberikan sebungkus beg berisi tiga biji durian tetapi teruja untuk merasai raja buah ini," kata anggota tentera dari Stesen Bomba Tentera