



KEMENTERIAN PERDAGANGAN DALAM NEGERI
DAN KOS SARA HIDUP

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KEMENTERIAN PERDAGANGAN DALAM NEGERI
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KERATAN AKHBAR

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FOREIGN-OWNED BUSINESSES

'No compromise on violation of licensing conditions'

THE local authorities will not compromise on any violation of licensing conditions and provisions by foreign-owned businesses, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Fuziah Salleh said foreigners were never allowed to apply for or to own hawker licences, small business licences or business premises, including for grocery stores, eateries, workshops and markets, in line with the subsidiary legislations on hawkers and trade industrial businesses under the Local Government Act 1976.

She added that firm action would be taken against those who violated licensing conditions, which included premises

confiscation, imposing fines, as well as revoking or terminating licences.

"Local authorities do not recognise or allow foreigners as hawkers and small traders under the subsidiary legislation of hawkers.

"Similarly, local authorities do not permit the employment of foreign nationals as workers or assistants under hawker licences.

"This is because rental rates (on-premises) set by local authorities are below the market price, as they are aimed at providing business opportunities for Malaysians.

"Under the subsidiary legislation on trade industrial business-

es, business licences are only issued to Malaysians. It allows foreigners to be employed as workers or assistants with the condition of owning valid work passes and permits," she said in the Dewan Negara yesterday.

Fuziah was responding to a question from Senator Ahmad Ibrahim on the readiness of local authorities to eradicate the influx of unlicensed traders, particularly by illegal immigrants.

She added that local authorities had revoked 26,108 licences since 2022, from 2,031 enforcement operations on foreign-owned businesses following violations of licensing conditions as well as transferring of licences and permits to foreigners.

Teething problems predicted for SKDS 2.0

PETALING JAYA: The subsidised diesel control system 2.0 (SKDS 2.0), which was introduced to tackle the misappropriation and smuggling of subsidised diesel, has gotten off to a rough start since commencing its pilot phase on Feb 1, say analysts.

UOB Kay Hian Research (UOBKH Research) said although the SKDS 2.0 initiative was introduced with good intentions, potential teething issues could persist until the second half of 2024 (2H24) as diesel subsidy retargeting may have been "messy".

"Ideally, the utilisation of the new fleet card system should have started on April 1 to be on track for a full June 2024 implementation, although there are some teething issues, especially in the multi-layered application process," it said in a note on the oil and gas (O&G) sector yesterday.

The research outfit highlighted concerns regarding the SKDS 2.0, including Sabah and Sarawak's exclusion from the SKDS 2.0 due to the widespread use of

diesel in the states.

Secondly, UOBKH Research said the SKDS 2.0 requires a two-layered application process that places undue burden on petroleum companies, potentially hampering efficiency.

"This may be a reason why Radius - Shell's current fleet card manager in the United Kingdom - was chosen to manage Shell Malaysia's fleet cards, as shown in Bank Negara's approved licensed fleet card players for the purchase of petroleum products," it added.

UOBKH Research highlighted that the first application process for SKDS 2.0 involves submitting company details, permits and vehicle information to the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry for subsidy authorisation.

This process lasted from March 7 to March 31, with approval typically obtained within one to three days.

Only then can the applicant apply for fleet cards from a list of five petroleum

companies, where the process may take between two and four weeks, according to UOBKH Research.

"An interesting catch is that only a maximum of two petroleum companies can be chosen, alongside the percentage allocation that needs to be set by the applicant.

"An applicant who wishes to change petroleum companies will have to apply using a designated request form, and can only change a maximum of three times in a year," it said.

UOBKH Research foresees the diesel subsidy to result in short-term volatilities for Petron Malaysia and PETRONAS Dagangan Bhd. This is as both are exposed to refineries and fuel stations business outlook in Malaysia.

On a broader market outlook, UOBKH Research highlighted that the O&G sector, as represented by the KL Energy Index, showed trading outperformance until the first quarter of 2024, driven by increasing rates for vessels and O&G manpower rates.

Subsidised goods for Raya

RM2mil channelled to food sales programme in Johor

By MOHD FARHAAN SHAH
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JOHOR BARU: Some RM2mil has been channelled to subsidise goods for the Jualan Kasih Johor programme that's being held in time for the Hari Raya celebration.

"With Hari Raya Aidilfitri upon us, the state government, through the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama), is holding the Jualan Kasih Johor programme," said state agriculture, agro-based industry and rural committee chairman Datuk Zahari Sarip.

"It is being held at 58 locations within 56 state constituencies throughout Johor with operating hours between 7am and 12pm.

"Among the items offered at Jualan

Kasih Johor are dressed chicken, eggs, fish, meat and cooking oil." Other food items include vegetables and fruits, he added.

Zahari said the programme, which began on Monday, would run until April 9.

He said the RM2mil allocation for Jualan Kasih Johor could help ease the people's financial burden, especially those celebrating Hari Raya.

He urged the public to take the opportunity to visit Jualan Kasih Johor to buy food for their festive preparations.

Meanwhile, Johor Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry director Lilis Saslinda Purnomo said 22 items would be listed under the ministry's price control list, which would be announced tomorrow.

Among the items in the list are local beef not including sirloin, imported beef and buffalo, ikan kembung (mackerel), ikan selayang (mackerel scad), ikan tongkol (mackerel tuna), tomatoes, round cabbages, red chillies and many more, she said.

"So far, we have not received complaints from consumers about sellers hiking up prices of vegetables and meat in view of the hot weather," she said.

Asked whether the presence of Singaporeans coming here to shop have affected food supplies, Lilis maintained that stocks are still adequate in Johor.

She urged consumers to lodge a report with the ministry if they find a disruption in food supply and the Johor office would carry out inspections immediately.



KEMENTERIAN PERDAGANGAN DALAM NEGERI
DAN KOS SARA HIDUP

KERATAN AKHBAR AGENSI



UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT

Positive impacts of competitive rice market

CARTELS pose a significant threat to fair competition and food security in Malaysia. These illicit groups manipulate markets, often through price fixing agreements, stifling innovation and harming consumers through artificially high prices.

Cartels not only hurt ordinary Malaysians but also disadvantage honest businesses that are struggling to compete.

The Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) plays a crucial role in tackling cartels by imposing fines and taking action against their fraudulent practices. However, complete eradication of cartels remains difficult due to their complex ownership structure and a potential culture of collusion.

At present, there are allegations about potential rice cartels and middlemen making more profits than padi farmers (*pic*) and retailers. Transparent investigations into these allegations must be carried out and the findings must be made public.

If evidence of food cartels manipulating rice prices is found, those involved must face severe consequences as this directly impacts Malaysians' fundamental right to food.

Farmers also raise concerns about rice manufacturers colluding to lower the price of padi. While a proper investigation is necessary, the Bumiputera Rice Association's claim that Bernas is



withholding the supply of white rice suggests potential irregularities.

Bernas, the sole national rice importer, has a concession agreement lasting until 2031. While some advocate cancelling this agreement, Bernas' role in managing rice supply shortages remains relevant.

However, a comprehensive feasibility study should be conducted to assess whether engaging a single importer like Bernas is the best solution compared to having a more open market with multiple importers.

A competitive rice market would significantly benefit consumers through:

- > Lower prices: Competition drives prices down to near production costs, making rice more affordable;
- > Innovation: Competition

incentivises companies to innovate and improve efficiency to stay competitive;

> Product choice: A competitive market offers a wider variety of rice options, catering to diverse consumer preferences; and

> Fairness for farmers: Competition ensures that farmers receive fairer prices for their padi.

In order to improve the current operations of Bernas, the government should consider:

1. Strengthening anti-cartel efforts by increasing MyCC's resources and investigative powers to help combat cartels more effectively;
2. Ensuring transparency in Bernas' operations by making data on rice imports and pricing readily available; and
3. Exploring the implementa-

tion of a competitive import market. This would involve carrying out a feasibility study to analyse the potential benefits of allowing multiple rice importers alongside Bernas.

By addressing these issues, a more resilient and dynamic rice market can be unlocked in Malaysia. This would translate into several key advantages for Malaysians namely:

1. A competitive market fosters a stable supply of rice, reducing reliance on imports and potential supply disruptions;

2. Increased competition can drive down prices, making rice more accessible to all Malaysians;

3. Focus on competitiveness encourages innovation and efficiency, potentially leading to higher quality rice varieties and processing methods; and

4. A thriving rice market supports local farmers, boosting rural economies and livelihoods.

This expansion provides a clearer picture of the positive impacts a competitive and secure rice market would have on Malaysia's food security, affordability, quality and rural development.

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KEMENTERIAN PERDAGANGAN DALAM NEGERI
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KERATAN AKHBAR **UMUM**

Terengganu hosts Agro Madani Sales in 14 locations

KUALA TERENGGANU: Agro Madani Sales will be held at 14 locations throughout Terengganu in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, says the Farmers' Organisation Authority (LPP).

Its Terengganu director Hasmila Abas said it was to help the public get food and necessities at lower prices.

She said among sought-after products ahead of Hari Raya Aidilfitri were local meat, local white rice, chicken and eggs, which are 30% to 50% cheaper at the sales.

"We have so far organised three Agro Madani Sales around Kuala Terengganu. The public can follow LPP's social media to find out the location of the next event in other districts," she told a press conference here yesterday.

Hasmila said LPP has targeted 5,000 visitors with sales of around RM100,000 at each location, reported Bernama.

Since its launch last year, the programme has benefited Terengganu residents, particularly those who earn medium and low incomes, she said.

Hasmila cited the programme that was held on Tuesday, which attracted 10,000 visitors and recorded gross sales exceeding RM100,000.

"This programme not only benefits visitors, but also helps our members market their agricultural products directly to customers," she said.

Chicken trader Mohd Al Kahuri Rosli enjoyed brisk business, selling a tonne of chicken within an hour.

He said people came as early as 6.40am to get chicken at RM7.60 per kg, cheaper than the normal price of between RM10 and RM10.50 per kg.

Visitor Siti Munirah Jamil said the programme has helped her save on daily expenses, as fresh produce such as chicken and local meat were cheaper here.

Jamal Abdillah sahut inisiatif Payung Rahmah

Ipoh: Menyahut inisiatif Payung Rahmah, penya-nyi Datuk Jamal Abdillah akan menjual hasil per-usahaan ternakan lembu-nya pada Jualan Rahmah Jamal Abdillah Farm, se-lama dua hari bermula Ahad ini.

Pemilik nama sebenar Jamal Ubaidillah Mohd Ali, 64, itu berkata, se-jumlah 12 ekor lembu di-sediakan dan bilangannya akan ditambah sekiranya tidak mencukupi.

“Di samping bersede-kah dan juga menyahut seruan kerajaan untuk inisiatif Payung Rahmah, saya juga ingin memper-kenalkan dan melancar-kan syarikat Jamal Abdil-lah Farm untuk orang ra-mai tahu saya ada per-u-sahaan lembu,” katanya semalam.

Pelantun lagu Kekasih

Awal dan Akhir itu ber-kata, beliau merancang untuk membesarkan lagi ladang ternakan lembu-nya di Bukit Merah, Ke-rian pada masa hadapan.

“Selepas ini, rancangan saya untuk membesarkan lagi ladang saya ini, se-kurang-kurangnya dapat menampung pasaran atau untuk keterjaminan makanan agar tidak ada isu kekurangan maka-nan,” kata Jamal.

Jualan RAHMAH Jamal Abdillah Farm dengan usaha sama Perbadanan Pembangunan Pertanian Negeri Perak (Perak SA-DC) bakal berlangsung pada 7 dan 8 April ini bermula jam 9 pagi di Da-taran Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI) di sini, yang menawarkan harga da-ting lembu di bawah har-ga pasaran.

Normalisasi harga siling gula dijangka berperingkat

MIDF Research dapatti harga runcit naik hanya 1 sen sepanjang sedekad lalu

Oleh Mohd Zaky Zainuddin
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Normalisasi harga siling bagi gula dijangka dilaksanakan secara berperingkat, sebaik sahaja langkah subsidi bersasar diperkenalkan pada separuh kedua tahun ini, demikian menurut penganalisis.

MIDF Research dalam satu nota penyelidikan berkata, Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) akan membolehkan kerajaan menye-

laras bantuan kepada penerima yang layak, sambil menstruktur semula harga siling gula.

"Penstruktur semula harga siling gula yang sedia ada rendah secara tidak rasional adalah sejajar dengan harga pasaran barang berkenaan," katanya.

MIDF Research berkata, gula kasar (CGS) di Malaysia dijual pada harga rendah berbanding negara jiran lain seperti Singapura, iaitu RM6.11 hingga RM6.79 sekilogram, Kalimantan (RM4.50 sekilogram), Sumatera (RM4.20 hingga RM4.50 sekilogram) dan Selatan Filipina (RM8.50 hingga RM9.50 sekilogram).

"Apa yang nyata adalah harga siling gula tidak pernah melebihi RM2.85 sekilogram untuk gula kasar dan RM2.95 sekilogram untuk gula halus," katanya.

Berdasar kajian firma penyelidikan itu, harga runcit gula meningkat hanya satu sen sepanjang

sedekad lalu, daripada RM2.84 sekilogram pada 2013 kepada RM2.85 sekilogram ketika ini.

Untung MSM diunjur naik

Baru-baru ini, disebabkan cabaran kewangan berpunca dari pada kos input utamanya, iaitu gula NY11, pengeluar gula tempatan, MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd (MSM) menerima sokongan kerajaan sejak November 2023 untuk memastikan kestabilan operasi yang berterusan.

Ia disalurkan dalam bentuk insentif berjumlah RM1,000 bagi setiap tan. Sebagai balasan, MSM bertanggungjawab membekalkan 24,000 tan gula ke pasaran tempatan setiap bulan.

"Walaupun menjangkakan insentif itu tidak akan berterusan memandangkan keadaan fiskal dan subsidi, kami berasaskan normalisasi harga siling gula akan berlaku secara berperingkat.

"Berdasarkan analisis sendiri kami, kenaikan harga gula sebanyak 10 sen pada tahun ini akan meningkatkan keuntungan MSM kepada RM304.4 atau RM25.4 juta sebulan," tanya.

MIDF Research berkata, naiknya harga siling gula akan kepada landskap serantau la, bahagian pasaran kekal ketenteramatan kerana kebanyakan petani makanan dan minuman (FMCG) serantau membeli secara langsung, menikmati harga pintu gerbang rendah dari negara peluar yang berasal dari Brazil, Thailand dan India.

"Bagaimanapun, disebab oleh keadaan cuaca tidak menyertai sejak dua tahun lalu yang mengakibatkan kejatuhan harga mendorong India untuk menaikkan larangan eksport (yang masih berterusan setakat ini) dalam usaha untuk melindungi gara itu," katanya.

Perdana Menteri arah semua menteri turun padang pantau harga barang

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengarahkan semua Jemaah Menteri ‘turun padang’ dan meninjau sendiri isu harga dan kuantiti barang di pasaran.

Menteri Komunikasi, Fahmi Fadzil berkata, arahan itu disampaikan Perdana Menteri kepada semua menteri pada mesyuarat Kabinet semalam.

Beliau berkata, Perdana Men-

teri juga mahu semua menteri meluangkan lebih banyak masa untuk melihat sendiri situasi kos sara hidup dihadapi rakyat.

“Ini susulan maklum balas diterima Perdana Menteri pada siri program dihadiri beliau sebelum ini,” katanya dalam sidang akhbar pasca mesyuarat Kabinet di sini, semalam.

Sebelum ini tular klip video di media sosial seorang wanita

menegur Anwar pada siri lawatan beliau dalam satu program di Perlis, baru-baru ini.

Video berdurasi 22 saat itu menyaksikan wanita itu merungut dan meluahkan kepada Anwar berhubung harga barang keperluan yang semakin mahal di pasaran.

Arahan oleh Perdana Menteri itu bukan kali pertama disuarakan, malah beliau telah menga-

rahkan agensi berkaitan supaya memantau harga makanan di pasaran termasuk aspek pengaruhnya perlu ditingkatkan susulan kenaikan harga makanan pasaran ketika ini.

Malah, beliau mengakui ke naikan harga makanan di pasaran dan ia dilihat membebani rakyat sedangkan harga gula terkawal manakala, harga ayam pula sudah turun.



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BERITA ONLINE KPDN



UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT

BERITA ONLINE BERTARIKH 4 APRIL 2024

TARIKH	TAJUK	PAUTAN	MEDIA
4-Apr	Langgar syarat: PBT sudah batalkan 26,108 lesen perniagaan	https://berita.rtm.gov.my/nasional/senarai-berita-nasional/senarai-artikel/langgar-syarat-pbt-sudah-batalkan-26-108-lesen-perniagaan	BERITA RTM
4-Apr	20 variasi perisa kini tersedia	https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2024/04/1076672/20-variasi-perisa-kini-tersedia	HARIAN METRO
4-Apr	KPDN kuatkuasa harga maksimum Aidilfitri selama 15 hari	https://www.suarakeadilan.my/post/kpdn-kuatkuasa-harga-maksimum-aidilfitri-selama-15-hari	SUARA KEADILAN
4-Apr	Dewan Negara: Tidak benar penamatan subsidi punca harga barang naik	https://www.tvsarawak.my/2024/04/03/dewan-negara-tidak-benar-penamatan-subsidi-punca-harga-barang-naik/	TV SARAWAK
4-Apr	Mantai Rayo tawar daging RM36 sekilogram	https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/658047/edisi/melakans/mantai-rayo-tawar-daging-rm36-sekilogram	SINAR HARIAN
4-Apr	Daging murah sempena Mantai Rayo 2024	https://www.hmetro.com.my/mutakhir/2024/04/1076961/daging-murah-sempena-mantai-rayo-2024	HARIAN METRO
4-Apr	Stesen minyak tanpa subsidi di Rantau Panjang 80 peratus siap	https://www.sinarharian.com.my/article/658077/edisi/kelantan/stesen-minyak-tanpa-subsidi-di-rantau-panjang-80-peratus-siap	SINAR HARIAN
4-Apr	KPDN KELANTAN JAMIN BEKALAN PETROL, DIESEL CUKUP SEPANJANG AIDILFITRI	https://www.bernama.com/bm/am/news.php?id=2285505	BERNAMA
4-Apr	Navigating rising food cost	https://thesun.my/opinion_news/navigating-rising-food-cost-012292927	THE SUN
4-Apr	18 food items listed under Aidilfitri price control scheme	https://dayakdaily.com/18-food-items-listed-under-aidilfitri-price-control-scheme/	DAYAK DAILY