

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 22 OGOS 2022

AKHBAR : THE EDGE MARKETS

MUKA SURAT : <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2022/08/23/ministries-tasked-with-presenting-holistic-study-of-food-supply>

Ministries tasked with presenting holistic study of food supply

PUTRAJAYA: The Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry (Mafi) and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) have been directed to study the country's food supplies, said the Special Task Force on Jihad Against Inflation committee member Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said in a press conference yesterday that it will cover innovative farming strategies, land use for padi crops, meat supply and the increasing price of mackerel.

Mustapa, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy), said that the committee had heard a presentation from the Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC) about the study of five food items: cabbage, mackerel, sawi (mustard leaves), baby formula and meat.

"The study has been presented.

"Our only suggestion is that KPDNHEP's views be combined with Mafi's.

"For example, for smart agriculture and (that) related to padi, efforts need to be implemented to ensure that areas of padi cultivation do not decline," he said.

Regarding mackerel, he said the MyCC also made a presentation regarding price increases as there are members of the public who cannot afford to buy this "ikan rakyat".

He said that Malaysia depends on 40% of the mackerel that is caught locally and 60% of the fish that is brought in from other places, like fresh fish from Thailand and frozen fish from China.

"It (fish prices) concerns the country's fishery resources. The action taken is to increase the supply of frozen fish because it is much cheaper than fresh fish," he said, adding that efforts need to be made to increase Malaysians' interest in eating aqua fish, or freshwater fish.

In other developments, Mustapa said the supply and price of local chicken were stable, with the average at RM8.57 a kg, lower than the ceiling price of chicken set by the government at RM9.40 a kg in Peninsular Malaysia.

“There is no issue (of oversupply) for eggs; the price is in line with the price set by the government, which is 45 sen per egg for Grade A ones,” he said.

Mustapa said that as of last week, 120 of the more than 600 state legislative assembly constituencies had benefited from the Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family) Cheap Sale (JMKM) programme. “The Special Task Force on Jihad Against Inflation will continue to mobilise all five leading ministries to ensure that JMKM reaches all state assemblies at least twice a month so that as many people as possible can benefit from the JMKM initiative in reducing the cost of living,” he said.

In addition to KPDNHEP, the four leading ministries that work together towards implementing the JMKM programme are Mafi, Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Ministry, Rural Development Ministry and Federal Territories Ministry.

The programme, which provides consumers with essential goods at 10% to 20% less than market prices, is set to run for 18 weeks until the end of the year. — Bernama