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LANGKAWI MAY IMPORT FISH FROM THAILAND

LANGKAWI, March 4 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Agricultural Ministry is likely to allow Langkawi traders to import fish direct from Thailand in a move to curb soaring prices.

Its Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Haji Abu Bakar Taib said a study was being made following reports from locals that the fish prices on the island were much higher than elsewhere in the country.

The study was expected to be completed soon.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on several occasions criticised Langkawi traders for charging high prices for goods and services, which he said could have an adverse effect on the island's tourist industry.

At present the fish supply came from the peninsula mainland, and dealers had taken advantage of the situation to charge high prices and blame it on the high transport cost, said Abu Bakar.

Abu Bakar, who is the Member of Parliament for Langkawi, said the island already had cold room storage facilities.

Abu Bakar said studies had also been made to find ways to control the poultry and vegetables prices, and one of the solutions was to encourage mixed farming on the island.- BERNAMA

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