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Sulaiman-Fish

MINISTRY TO FORMULATE GUIDELINES FOR FISH FARMING

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- The Agriculture Ministry will formulate guidelines for fish-farming projects in rivers and seashores, its minister, Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, said today.

He said the guidelines were necessary to ensure that fish-farming ventures did not pollute the environment and went according to government projections.

Speaking to reporters after a visit to the exposition site for Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day celebrations in Taman Syah Bandar here today, Dr Sulaiman expressed full support for fish-farming projects to improve the lot of fishermen, but warned that they would have to adhere to regulations set by the Agriculture Department.

Several locations had been identified for the projects to be run on a commercial scale, with Kedah and Johor agreeing to provide the site for these projects, he said.

Asked to comment on the hundreds of fish found dead in their cages in Sungai Nerus fish farms, Dr Sulaiman said he was waiting for the Fisheries and Environment Departments' reports on the cause and promised to help the farmers involved.

He however reminded farmers not to rely entirely on government subsidies, and advised them to be commercially competitive in their ventures by improving productivity and quality of their products.

On the exposition -- "Together towards improving yields and curbing inflation" -- Dr Sulaiman said it would be opened by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and would be the ideal forum for farmers not only to exhibit their products, but to learn from others who were more successful thanks to modern technology.

He also disclosed that a meeting with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be held middle of this month to discuss the latest agricultural technologies observed by the Prime Minister on his visit to Japan last week. -- BERNAMA

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