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Sulaiman-Report

SUBMIT ACTION PLANS TO BOOST FOOD OUTPUT, STATE GOVTS TOLD

SUNGAI PETANI, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud today asked state governments to submit to the ministry reports on their action plans to boost food production.

He said the reports would facilitate better coordination between the ministry and state governments with regards to increasing food output and cut down on imports.

The ministry was adopting an integrated approach by roping in all state governments to realise the government's objective to increase food production and reduce imports, he told reporters after visiting a tapioca plantation, here.

He said the reports would be used as a guide by the ministry to study the production, processing and marketing aspects of food products.

The reports would also help prevent over supply of certain goods in some areas and short supply in other areas, he said.

Dr Sulaiman said the ministry would also assist companies involved in maize cultivation and cattle-rearing to ensure they did not incur losses.

He said the ministry was encouraging more companies to venture into food production and processing industries and would help them secure financial assistance if they complied with the stipulated conditions.

Asked on the 1999 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Dr Sulaiman said it is a well-planned budget to stimulate the economy.

He said the RM131 million allocated for padi fertilizer subsidies next year should motivate padi farmers to boost rice production.

-- BERNAMA

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