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Effendi-Farm

MAY 10 LAUNCH FOR SATELLITE FARM CONCEPT

ALOR GAJAH, March 24 (Bernama) -- The satellite farm concept which enables consumers to purchase agriculture produce direct from farms will be launched on May 10.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi said the concept, mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, utilised high technology cultivation methods.

"The satellite farms will be opened daily and enables consumers to buy essential goods like vegetables, fish and livestock," he said after visiting the Kampung Paya Rumpit satellite farm, Masjid Tanah near here today.

Effendi said the Agriculture Ministry picked the Kampung Paya Rumpit farm for the national-level launch of the concept as it was planted with various fruits and herbs.

The 15.3-hectare farm is operated by 29 farms.

He said another 400-hectare area in the Peninsula had been identified for the satellite farm programme.

Effendi said the 12 agencies under the ministry's had been directed to ensure that the programme was a success.

He said the ministry emphasised on three aspects to make the concept a success.

"Our focus is on fresh cultivation which is also free from pesticides apart from being cheaper when compared elsewhere," he said.

He said the concept could also draw tourists who could bring along their families to sample the fruits, vegetables and herbs grown at these farms.

"We are studying the possibility of holding homestay programmes for tourists," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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