

PADI SUBSIDY RATE INCREASED

Farmers to receive at Least RM1,700 per metric tonne for padi production, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday announced an increase in the Padi Price Subsidy Scheme (SSHP) rate from RM360 to RM500 per metric tonne of padi production, effective today.

He said with the increase, padi farmers would receive at least RM1,700 per metric tonne for their padi production, giving them a better income and providing them relief, especially considering the high costs involved due to price hikes for fertiliser and pesticides.



“This is the biggest increase in history. The rate was increased when I was finance minister a long time ago. Alhamdulillah, now that I am finance minister again, I can increase it again.

“I announce it today (yesterday), tomorrow (today) it will be increased,” he said at the launch of Sentuhan Agromadani Perak at Dewan Kerian Eermai.

Present was Agriculture and Food Security Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu.

Anwar said the increase in the rate would involve an additional annual expenditure of RM1 billion.

He said, to address the issue of grading and classification of rice grains, discussions would be held with Mohamad’s ministry to deploy officers to private rice mills.

These, he said, would enable

the process to be monitored and prevent manufacturers from doing it without adhering to established standards.

“There have been complaints about the grading and classification. Sometimes it’s correct, but sometimes (there have been cases where) the price should have been cut by five per cent but is instead cut by 10 per cent.”

Anwar also said the Finance Ministry would consider increasing allocations for the implementation of the five-season padi cultivation within two years.

“The RM3 billion allocated for building waterways and related matters is not enough. We need to add more. We will try to do our best for the farmers,” he said.

Anwar also announced a total assistance package of RM21.8 million for 28,295 padi farmers in Perak.

The assistance was presented to Perak Farmers’ Organisation chairman Datuk Sham Mat Sahat and representatives of area farmers’ organisations.