

Parliament: National Rice Stockpile Reaches 292,00 Tonnes - Noh Omar
Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- The government has increased the national rice stockpile to 292,000 tonnes which is sufficient to support consumption for at least 45 days, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

The Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Datuk Seri Noh Omar said apart from that, 200,000 tonnes of stockpile in the market and Padiberas Nasional Berhad (BERNAS) long term overseas contract would ensure there was sufficient supply of the food for three months.

"Following a food crisis in 2008, the government planned a National Food Security policy. Even though the policy had ended in 2010 but for staple food such as rice, all forms of assistance are given to the farmers to increase yield," he said when replying to a supplementary question by Datuk Ismail Kasim (BN-Arau) who wished to know whether the rice stockpile was sufficient should the country be hit by a food crisis.

Noh said the government was serious and committed in ensuring the supply of food in the country was sufficient as it was the main objective of the 2011-2020 National Agro Food Policy passed recently.

He said to increase the output of national food supply, the ministry had implemented several impactful projects, among them the Permanent Food Production Park, Aquaculture Industry Zone, National Feedlot Centre, contract farms and the development of agro-based entrepreneurs.

"The ministry would continue to develop a food supply chain system which would be more inclusive and strong with the involvement of the government and private sectors, farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen to link output with market demand, increase value-added activities and reduce business risk," he said.

Noh said to encourage the private sector continue its investment in food production, fiscal incentives including reinvestment and new investment would be extended to cover all production and processing activities.

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