

Report: Malaysian Edible Bird Nest To Capture 40 Pct Of Global Market By 2020
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The government aims to capture 40 per cent of the global market for edible bird nest in 2020 by increasing production and downstream industries.

The annual global market for the swiftlet nest is RM10.2 billion, of which Malaysia is currently the world's second largest producer, with RM1.5 billion sales, says the Treasury in the 2010/2011 Economic Report released today.

Despite growing strongly at 20 per cent a year, there are few challenges faced by the industry such as the bulk of the current products are sold or exported as raw material without traceability system.

There is also shortage of research for productivity improvement and downstream uses of edible bird nest, it said.

Meanwhile, lack of coordination in regulation and enforcement had resulted in some unscrupulous operators exporting adulterated edible bird nests, it said in the report released in conjunction with the tabling of the 2012 Budget in Parliament by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is also Finance Minister.

To address these issues, the government is establishing 8,500 additional bird nest premises in Sabah and Sarawak and 4,500 in Peninsular Malaysia.

Introduction of Swiftlet Industry Guidelines on Jan 19 this year will allow registration of bird houses and enable certification of Malaysia Bird Nest to help increase the value of edible bird nest in the national market.

The Treasury said edible bird nest operators and exporters must register their premise locations and business particulars with the Veterinary Services Department.

To date, 936 bird houses have been registered with the department, it said.

The report also said edible bird nest exporters (exceeding one kilogramme) must obtain export permits and Veterinary Health Certificate from the department.

In research and development, the department is working with Universiti Putra Malaysia in nutritional aspects and development of downstream products.

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