

Parliament: Over RM581 Million In Food Production Incentives Given Between 2008 And Last Year
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Funds amounting to RM581.752 million were allocated through the Food Production Incentive between 2008 and last year, during a food crisis and to ease the burden of farmers, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar said contributions through the Food Supply Guarantee Policy were divided into several sectors, namely plantation crops, livestock and fisheries.

He said incentives paid for plantation crops (vegetables and fruits) in 2009 for claims made in 2008, totalled RM116.9 million while RM47.3 million was paid for claims in 2009.

"For livestock, RM208 million was given in 2009 for claims made a year earlier, and RM84.15 million for claims in 2009. For fisheries, RM108.84 million was paid out for 7,594 claims in 2008, and RM16.56 million for 706 claims in 2009," he said during a question-and-answer session.

Noh said this in response to a question from Mohd Nor Othman (BN-Hulu Terengganu) who wanted to know the amount of agricultural incentives paid out in 2009 and last year, as well as how it helped increase production.

On agriculture production, the minister said it increased by 19.7 per cent in 2009, as compared to 2008; eggs and fruits (6.4 per cent each), rice (4.6 per cent), beef/buffalo meat (10.3 per cent) and milk (10.9 per cent).

Besides that, he said padi incentives were continued with over RM400 million to keep the Food Supply Policy going. Monthly cost of living allowance for fishermen was also maintained.

Noh said Malaysia had no plans to export pork despite having more than self-sufficient production in the country.

"However, we will allow imports for the Chinese New Year, for example, to stabilise local prices of pork which are usually sold at higher price," he said in answer to Chong Eng's (DAP-Bukit Mertajam) supplementary question.

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