

**Government Willing To Consider Re-issuing Class `A' Boat Licence For Fishing,  
Says Muhyiddin  
Bernama  
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ALOR SETAR, April 5 (Bernama) -- The government is willing to consider re-issuing the Class 'A' boat licence for fishing which was frozen seven years ago, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said this was because the government appreciated the contributions of fishermen towards national development and wanted to see the industry grow.

The government would also continue supporting the fishing industry so as to ensure there was enough fish supply in the county and fishermen's livelihood was assured, he said at a meeting with some 2,000 Kedah fishermen at the LKIM complex in Kuala Kedah near here Thursday.

Earlier, Kedah Fishermen's Association (NEKAD) chairman Ahmad Rudin Hussin in his speech had urged the government to consider lifting the freeze and approve the association's application to get 600 Class 'A' boat licences.

This licence is for fishing in special zones more than five nautical miles from shore. Currently there are about 800 such boats operating in Kedah.

The deputy prime minister also gave the assurance that the federal government which is administered by the Barisan Nasional (BN) would continue giving various forms of assistance to fishermen, including subsidies and cost of living allowances (Cola).

According to him, Cola for about 9,600 fishermen in Kedah cost the government RM10 million annually.

At the function, Muhyiddin also announced a RM1 million allocation to build a hall for fishermen at the LKIM complex.

Also present were Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Johari Baharom, Kuala Kedah Agriculture Development Council chairman Datuk Latt Shariman Abdullah and Kedah Umno chief Datuk Paduka Ahmad BASHah Md Hanipah.

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