

**Rice Millers Urge Government To Withdraw Rice Buying Permits From Middle-men  
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ALOR SETAR, April 22 (Bernama) -- The Sino-Malay Padi Millers Association and the Kedah Perlis Padi Millers Association have appealed to the government to withdraw permits of large-scale padi buyers who do not have millers.

Sino-Malay Padi Millers Association chairman Datuk Chew Giok Jun claimed the issuance of such permits had caused millers to suffer losses.

"The middle-men are virtually monopolising the purchase of padi from Kedah and Perlis farmers."

"We feel there is no need to create middle-men as we already have Bernas (Padi Beras Nasional Berhad) and the existing rice millers...they are more than sufficient to meet the requirements of farmers in the two states," he told reporters here Sunday.

Chew claimed that since the government started giving padi buying permits to individuals, rice miller purchasing centres and the area farmer's organisation, almost 50 per cent of the padi millers had closed down.

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