

**Shallowing Of Sungei Kelantan Due To Logging, Sand Mining Activities**  
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KOTA BAHARU, July 22 (Bernama) -- Continued logging and sand mining have been said to be the main factors for the shallowing and sedimentation of the Sungai Kelantan to the extent of hampering work to irrigate the padi fields in the state.

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said that of greatest concern was the reduction in padi production annually which resulted in the padi farmers incurring losses due to the problem.

"This is not created deliberately to bring down the Kelantan government, and if the state doesn't cooperate with the federal government to tackle the issue, it will not end and the people of Kelantan will continue to be the victims.

"I have been briefed that each year we dig out the mud opposite the pump house involving hundreds of lorries and I urge the state government to work together to assist the people in the state and not to depend on the federal government alone to do it," he told reporters after listening to the agriculture briefing and breaking of the fast at the Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority (KADA), here Sunday evening.

Also present were KADA general manager Ibrahim Mat and Kok Lanas State Assemblyman Datuk Md Alwi Che Ahmad.

Ismail Sabri said total padi production under the supervision of KADA had now dropped from 205,000 metric tons previously to 192,000 metric tons and this had not only affected the farmers but also the state and country.

He said his ministry would endeavour to find the best approach to resolve the problem.

Yesterday, more than 3,000 farmers in the KADA area were reported to have lost their source of revenue amounting to about RM60 million when 10,000 hectares of the total of 18,900 hectares of padi fields could not be cultivated due to the drying of the water source from Sungai Kelantan.

They comprised farmers in three districts namely Pasir Puteh, Bachok and Kota Baharu.

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