

Government Instructs FAMA To Purchase Agricultural Produce At Floor Price
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BERA, March 14 (Bernama) -- The government has directed the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) to purchase agricultural products produced by farmers at set floor prices to guarantee that these products can be marketed well.

Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri said the move would indirectly prevent prices of farm products to be played around with by middlemen and also overcome dumping of agricultural products.

He stressed that it would help stabilise farmers' incomes so that they do not have a problem when prices of agricultural products drop or when there was a glut.

"FAMA will initiate a program to purchase all agricultural output according to set floor prices beginning from the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), after some important things regarding the prices of goods are settled.

"FAMA has already started purchasing agricultural products at ceiling prices for some types of local fruit produce like durians," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after launching a seminar on the development of entrepreneurs in agriculture, fisheries, livestock breeding and food products at the FELDA community hall in Tementi, near here, Saturday.

Ealaborating further, Ismail Sabri said that for example, if prices of durian fell by fifty cents each, FAMA would buy them at a higher price.

He said to reduce the problem of dumping of agricultural produce, FAMA had also beed asked to provide fruit processing programmes to make them into snacks, drinks, and so on.

In the meantime, he said the ministry would seek additional provisions to allow for more agricultural development programmes, especially involving livestock breeding projects and fisheries in 11MP.

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