

Fish 30pc cheaper at pasar tani

NST 30/7

SHAH ALAM: Fish at pasar tani under the Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (Fama) will be up to 30 per cent cheaper than that sold in the market despite the shortage that has driven up prices nationwide.

This assurance was given by Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Noh Omar yesterday.

He said the low prices would be for pelaling, hardtail scad (cencaru), scad (selar), mackerel (kembung) and sardine (selayang), which are in the "Ikan Rakyat" initiative introduced in the "Jimat Belanja Dapur" (Save On Kitchen Expenses) programme in April.

"Apart from fish, other food items including meat, chicken and selected vegetables will also be sold between five to 30 per cent cheaper in farmers' markets," Noh said after visiting the Section 13 pasar tani here.

He made the visit following complaints that fish prices had risen sharply because of the shortage of supply.

He said the shortage was because of the weather, but the situation was under control.

"However, if the shortage worsens, we may consider reducing or restricting fish exports to increase local supply.

"We will look after the interest of the local market first.

"I hope it won't come to this as long as there is cooperation from exporters and importers."

In light of the festive season, Noh said the ministry would introduce frozen beef from Sudan and had lifted the quota for meat imports.