



Menteri Besar **Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah** (left) launching the Raya Beef Festival in Alor Star yesterday. Pic by Sharul Hafiz Zam

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Kedah MB orders extra water supply to meet Raya demand

ALOR STAR: Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah wants Syarikat Air Darul Aman (Sada) to prepare for a possibility of water shortage during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri holidays.

He said with the high number of people returning home for Hari Raya, Sada should expect an increase in water usage.

"During the state executive council meeting on Sunday, I called the Sada management to discuss the matter.

"I have directed Sada to prepare extra tankers and static tanks that will be placed in areas with low water pressure to cater to high demand

during the festive period," he said after launching the Raya Beef Festival at Darul Aman Stadium's car park here yesterday.

Bashah said Sada must be alert to complaints about water shortage, especially during the festive week.

He said the state received many complaints regarding shortage of water supply and urged Sada to take heed of the matter.

He said Sada officers should monitor the standard operating procedures of the contractors they hired to send water to affected areas.

"Make sure that the water reaches the people.

"The customer service depart-

ment must entertain all complaints immediately."

Bashah said there were many reasons for water shortage in the state, including the high volume of non-revenue water that was lost before it reached consumers.

Earlier, he said the Raya Beef festival, which offered 60,000kg of beef at 13 locations statewide, was held in accordance with the Bantuan Rakyat Kedah programme, which was launched by the state government recently.

Bashah said beef sold at the festival was RM22 per kg compared with the normal market price of between RM29 and RM32.

"In view of the high cost of living, we are providing fresh supply of beef at an affordable price."

He said 210 cows were slaughtered for the festival compared with 73 last year.

Other venues for the festival included Ladang Aman Jaya in Sungai Petani, Padang Matsirat in Langkawi, Ladang Bukit Nguan in Kuala Nerang, Ladang Bukit Perak Selatan in Pendang and Ladang Hevea Bukit Perak in Gurun.

Bashah said the one-day event would be held annually as part of the state's effort to ease the burden faced by the public, especially during Hari Raya.