



KERATAN AKHBAR

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When it floods, it's time to bring out the fishing nets

KOTA TINGGI: Each time there is major flooding, villagers here will lose their source of income as they will not be able to go to work in the rubber estates or oil palm plantations.

However, for a few enterprising farm workers in Kampung Mawai Baru, the floods are a godsend. The flood season is an opportunity for them to harvest the abundant supply of fish which find their way into the flooded estate areas.

According to Mohd Nazri Shaari, 45, whenever a major flood hits, he and his friends would set up several nets across the oil palm plantation near the banks of Sungai Mawai Lama.

He said if the nets were positioned well, they could catch a lot of fish. "When it started flooding five days ago, we set up over 50 nets at several strategic points around the oil palm estate," he said yesterday. He added that each net measured

between 8cm and 13cm in height, and stretched as long as 20m.

"We are able to harvest about 40kg to 50kg of fish from each net.

The catch, which includes baung, tilapia and tonggan, is sold at the Kampung Mawai Lama-Tanjung Sedili junction.

"Most of our customers are from the nearby villages and felda areas," he said adding that the baung was the most favoured by customers. Currently the baung fetches

RM25 per kg, tilapia RM15, and the tonggan, RM20 per kg.

He said profits made from the sale is evenly divided among him and his friends.

"I can earn between RM200 and RM300 a day depending on the catch.

"Thanks to this supplementary income, we are able to buy basic necessities, including paying for our children's schooling needs." — Bernama

Thanks to this supplementary income, we are able to buy basic necessities, including our children's schooling needs.

Mohd Nazri Shaari