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Fishermen to get modern boats to boost living standards

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry will build modern boats for use by class A and B fishermen to improve their financial and living standards.

Its caretaker Deputy Minister Datuk Ahmad Amzad Hashim said the ministry had given a grant of RM3.5 million to Universiti Malaysia Terengganu to build prototypes of modern fishing boats, which are expected to be ready in a year.

“Currently, we are still using old types of boats for class A and B fishermen, made of *cengal* wood. We know that the price of wood, especially *cengal*, is high, and its supply is depleting.

“Building modern fishing boats is faster and cheaper using new technology. The boats are lighter and do not require large engines, and if there are any repairs to be done, it can be carried out fast.”

Ahmad Amzad was speaking at a media conference yesterday.

He added that these modern boats would be equipped with fishing and satellite technologies to detect areas with high fish population, based on colour sensing from satellite images.

He said with the completion of the prototype boats, the ministry would consult the Fisheries Department to get fishermen to test the boats.

“If such boats are suitable for use, the ministry will cooperate with the Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry for a boat ownership scheme to be drawn up through the provision of an incentive for class A and B fishermen, who wish to change their fishing methods to modern ones.” - Bernama



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SUMMARIES

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