

'Super fowl' breed created

Bigger and better species achieved at Universiti Putra Malaysia

UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia has created a new breed of free range chicken (*ayam kampung*) that could lay up to four times more eggs, reported *Sinar Harian*.

The breed – known as the Akar Putra – was achieved by cross-breeding a free range chicken with a jungle fowl (*ayam hutan*).

UPM Community Transformation Centre research group head Associate Prof Dr Azhar Kasim said the Akar Putra could lay between 120 and 200 eggs a year, compared with 50 eggs by free range chicken.

"The eggs are also bigger, weighing 60g each compared with the 45g for that of the free range chicken.

"It also has a nice brownish shell," he said adding that the growth period for the new breed was also shorter.

The breed – which looked differ-

ent from the free range chicken with featherless necks, slender legs and a longer body – also had more flesh and better defence against disease.

Dr Azhar said the breed came about when a jungle fowl entered the UPM compound and mated with the chickens there.

> *Harian Metro* reported that the father of national footballer Mohamad Aidil Zafuan only knew that his son had divorced from his wife, actress Rita Rudaini, after hearing the news over the radio.

Abdul Radzak Salleh, 64, said he did not expect the bad news to come just a few days before Hari Raya.

He said his son, who lived in Johor Baru, never related his marital problems to his family and only asked about their welfare each time he called home.

"As an old man, who wouldn't feel



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sad hearing the news? But I believe that Aidil has his own reason," he said.

> *Berita Harian* reported that the high demand for firecrackers had driven some retailers and suppliers to openly sell the items in Ramadan bazaars and grocery shops.

Most of the firecrackers were smuggled in from Thailand and China.



Happier times: Aidil's (right) father only heard of his son's divorce with Rita over the radio.