

Mee Siam

SERVES 4 **PREP TIME** 45 MINS

INGREDIENTS

250g rice vermicelli

1 cup water

500g locally farmed prawns (shell and heads set aside)

100g locally farmed bean sprouts

1 deep-fried tau kwa (cut into small cubes)

2 tau pok (cut into small cubes)

4 stalks chives (cut into 3cm long)

4 hard boiled locally farmed eggs

8 calamansi

Rempah (spice paste):

1/4 cup oil

100g shallots

8 cloves garlic

1 stalk lemongrass (just the white portion)

15g belacan (toasted)

80g dry shrimps (soaked in water)

100g dried chilli paste

100g fresh chilli paste

Stock:

2 tbsp oil

Prawn heads and shells

2 litres ikan bilis stock

2 tbsp tau cheo

1/4 cup assam paste (1 tbsp assam pulp to 80ml water)

2 tbsp sugar (adjust to taste)

METHOD

- 1. Blend rempah ingredients into a smooth paste in a food processor.
- 2. Fry the rempah paste in a pan until fragrant and the colour starts to darken. Set aside.
- 3. In a stock pot, add oil and stir fry prawns heads and shells until fragrant. Add ¾ of the rempah followed by 2 litres of ikan bilis stock.
- 4. Add tau cheo and assam paste and season with sugar to taste. Bring to boil and let it simmer for 20 minutes.
- 5. Blanch rice vermicelli for 1-2 minutes. Drain and set aside.
- 6. Remove prawn shells from stock and blanch prawns in stock for 2-3 minutes until cooked. Drain and set aside..
- 7. In a pan, add the remaining rempah with 1 cup of water and mix well. Next, add in soaked rice vermicelli and stir fry until it's well coated with the rempah.
- 8. Add rempah spiced rice vermicelli in a bowl along with some blanched bean sprouts.
- 9. Scoop one to two cups of mee siam stock.
- 10. Add toppings of deep-fried tau kwa and tau pok cubes, followed by blanched prawns and hard boiled egg.
- 11. Serve with chopped chives and calamansi on the side.