

## ‘Don’t panic, essential goods in sufficient supply’

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Nanta (centre) and his deputy Datuk Rosol Wahid (third left) at the opening of the Tealive branch. — Bernama photo

**PUTRAJAYA:** The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) yesterday gave an assurance that there would be adequate supply of essential items in the country. and that the public must not engage in panic-buying.

Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi said he had ordered all the ministry's 2,500 enforcement officers nationwide to visit supermarkets and convenience stores to ensure that they would restock essential items and not raise prices.

“All consumers are advised not to engage in panic-buying. There is no need to overstock as there is a sufficient supply of essential items, based on the ministry's information,” he told reporters, after opening a Tealive branch at his ministry here yesterday.

Nanta was asked to comment on panic-buying undertaken by the public since Monday.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in a live broadcast Monday night, announced that Malaysia would impose a nationwide movement control order effective today and would run until March 31, to curb the spread of Covid-19.

This is the first time such an order has been enforced in Malaysia.

The control order was made under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 and the Police Act 1967.

Nanta said he was also seeking cooperation from the public to stop panic-buying, while grocery stores should ensure that they would restock their supplies.

Asked if the ministry would limit the number of items allowed for purchase by each consumer, he said at the moment, the ministry did not intend to impose such restriction.

“If we deem it necessary, we will take appropriate action.”

Asked about those taking advantage of the situation by selling a pack of 150 face masks for RM150, Nanta said the ministry would monitor the situation.

“At the same time, consumers also need to act smartly.

“Why make a purchase when the price is high?” he said. — Bernama

