

# Daily Express

## Ensuring prices of goods under control

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Ministry is implementing Ops Catut 6.0 for seven months beginning Dec 1 to ensure there is no uncontrolled increase in prices.

Its Sabah Director, Georgie Abas said this is in line with the implementation of the Petroleum Subsidy Programme (PSP) from Jan 1 which is expected to have an indirect impact on the prices of goods.

He said the Ministry is aware that the prices of goods are now seen as increasing and impacted by various factors such as demand and supply, competition, weather, rising costs, including raw material prices, wage rates and supply from countries of origin, among others.

"In this regard, the Ministry has taken pro-active action by implementing Ops Catut 6.0 (PSP) to address the issues following the implementation of new Government policies.

"The PSP is carried out under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering (a mechanism for Estimating Unreasonable High Profits) 2018, Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act (AKHAP) 2011 on supply and distribution chains.

"Therefore, inspection, monitoring and enforcement will be carried out at all levels of business across the country, including manufacturers, general marketing, distributors, wholesalers and retailers and taking into account six categories of goods, including food and beverages, household goods, textiles, furniture, footwear and electrical goods," he said, Wednesday.

According to Georgie, the implementation period of the PSP will be from Dec 1 to June 30, 2020 in three phases.

"First phase is from Dec 1-31 where officers will check and collect information on prices, costs and percentage of mark ups or margins.

"Phase 2 will be from Jan 1-May 31 where a further monitoring of traders is ongoing to determine whether or not the increase occurred. At the same time, the submission of the Written Notice under Section 21, AKHAP 2011 will also be carried out by traders identified as increasing the price during the first phase.

"In the final phase from June 1-June 30, the focus is more on providing special PSP reporting," he said.

Traders were once again warned not to take advantage of the extra benefits that came with the PSP implementation.

Georgie said the Ministry hopes that prices of goods and services are stable and that the impact of the implementation of the PSP can be enjoyed by the targeted groups.

According to him, if any dealer is found guilty of trespassing, the dealer may be sued in court.

"For corporate organisations, they can be fined not more than RM500,000 for the first offence and for subsequent offence not exceeding RM1 million.

"For individuals, they can be fined not more than RM100,000 or imprisonment up to three years or both and, for subsequent offence, fine not exceeding RM250,000 or jail term of up to five years, or both," he said.

He said enforcement will continue to be enhanced and prompt action will be taken against any party who raise prices unreasonably.

