

Checks on over 7,000 premises

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KPDNHEP enforcement officers inspecting the LPGs displayed without price tags in Tg Aru.

KOTA KINABALU: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) have inspected 7324 premises and issued RM5,050 worth of compounds throughout the duration of the Movement Control Order (MCO) statewide.

Its Deputy Director cum Chief Enforcement Officer, Taha Julai, said KPDNHEP performed the operation from March 18 to April 20, resulted in 17 cases being filed in the State involving a total seizure of RM22, 117.

“For all 17 cases, the State KPDNHEP imposed compounds for selling goods beyond the controlled price and supply cases related to violations under the Supply Control Act 1961 among others.

"Throughout the MCO period, nearly 200 complaints were received by KPDNHEP including one case in Tanjung Aru," he said, when contacted, Monday.

According to Taha, the retail premise was compounded RM1,000 for not adhering to the scheme under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011 after failing to display a price tag on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

"Traders should always abide by the law especially during this MCO period, failure to place a price tag may result in the consumer being exploited.

"As a result of inspections done by three KPDNHEP Enforcement Officers, the items were confiscated with a seizure value of RM 375.

"The control price designated for a 14 kg LPG is RM26.60, excluding delivery," he said adding that KPDNHEP will continue to carry out inspections and monitoring to ensure that all control items and goods are available in the market and sold at reasonable prices.

Taha said the focus was more on ensuring adequate supply, especially during the MCO period.

"However, despite the instructions and warnings given by the government, there are still traders who blatantly ignore it.

"From now on, we will never compromise with those who have done wrong.

"So with daily monitoring throughout Sabah, we want to make sure that these traders do not raise prices according to their will, unless there is a reason for them to raise prices such as for imported goods that they can justify," he said.

Taha also advised owners of premises to comply with the MCO's authority regarding social distancing and the need to put a mask on.

"In addition, all dealers must clearly display prices, use certified and accurate weighing tools and make sure they are not selling expired goods.

"At the same time, traders should not only think of profit, especially at the moment as they are also considered providers of essential goods.

"Consumers can file a complaint with the local KPDNHEP office or branch throughout the state," he said.

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