

Food outlets can only provide take-aways, deliveries during restricted movement order



Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi (3rd-right) and his deputy Datuk Rosol Wahid (2nd-left) launch the Tealive Putrajaya branch. -NSTP/MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Adib Povera
By Adib Povera
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PUTRAJAYA: Food and beverage services including restaurants, coffee shops and kopitiam can only operate to provide take aways and deliveries during the two-week restricted movement order.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi said eating in was not allowed throughout the enforcement of the order which will start tomorrow until March 31.

"The restricted movement order is aimed at minimising situations where large number of people congregate at one area.

"Social distancing are the key words here. During the enforcement of the restricted movement order, restaurants and coffee shops should be closed except for take-away orders or food deliveries because people need to get food," Nanta told reporters here today.

He was asked to comment on the restricted movement order announced by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to counter the spread of Covid-19.

Nanta said supermarkets and public markets as well as sundry and grocery shops could operate as usual to enable people to get essential food items.

However night markets and bazaars were not allowed to operate during this period.

"If they are still open, it does not meet the purpose of social distancing," he said.

Nanta also repeated the assurance by Muhyiddin yesterday that there was sufficient supply of essential food items as long as people do not engage in panic buying.

"From the information that we have gathered, we are confident that there is enough supply of essential food items.

"The problem will occur if panic buying continues. When everybody rushes to buy essential food items at the same time, it will affect distribution.

"We can solve a lot of problems if we do not engage in panic buying," he said.

On a related matter, Nanta said the ministry does not plan to put a cap on the number of essential food items that can be purchased by a consumer at a time during the restricted movement order period.

Earlier, he attended the opening ceremony of Tealive bubble tea brand outlet at the ministry's headquarters here. The outlet is Tealive's 506th stores and its first store at a government ministry.

Present was Loob Holding Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Bryan Loo. Loob Holding is the owner of the Tealive bubble tea brand.

