

Alexander 'schools' Anwar on chicken prices claims

By Teh Athira Yusof - May 22, 2020 @ 6:25pm



Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi.

KUALA LUMPUR: Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi has refuted a claim by PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim that the ministry was slow in controlling the prices of essential items for the current festive season.

Alexander said Anwar's allegations, made during the latter's recent live broadcast, were baseless and misleading which could lead to criticism against the ministry's officers and enforcement officials who have been working tirelessly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I am also disappointed by the allegation made by Anwar stating that the alleged price of chicken during the festive season (Hari Raya Aidilfitri) under the Pakatan Harapan (PH) government was priced at RM3 per kilogramme, compared to the current price of RM7.50 per kilogramme.

"I would like to jog his memory that checks on the previous gazetted record found that the maximum price of chicken was set at RM7.50 per kg, similar to the maximum set price in the current Festive Season Maximum Price Control Scheme (SHMMP).

"Perhaps, he could also ask former KPDNHEP Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail for certainty as the previous SHMMP was signed by the latter," he said in a statement.

Alexander added that the pricing of consumer goods is not political, but uses certain mechanisms set by officials of various government agencies, a similar mechanism used by the former PH administration.

He said for this festive season's scheme, KPDNHEP has increased the number of controlled items by 35 compared to 27 items by the PH government in 2019.

The minister also said it is unfair to make comparisons with the relatively lower price when the Movement Control Order (MCO) was first implemented as demand declined and daily activities were forced to a halt.

"This led to a surplus of supply, which had forced traders and suppliers to lower the prices of goods.

"The situation is slightly different now after the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) was enforced, where most economic activities and people's lives have slowly returned to normal.

"While claims made by certain quarters that the price of goods including chicken is on the rise is a matter of perception, it is in fact based on the basic theory of the economics of demand and supply," he said.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/politics/2020/05/594700/alexander-schools-anwar-chicken-prices-claims>

