

Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs checks traders for hoarding of essential items

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Price monitoring officer Nafisah Rudin checks supply of essential items at a business premises

LIMBANG: Traders here are warned against hoarding of essential items of controlled items during movement control order (MCO) until April 14.

Head of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Limbang, Pulnama Tarah said hoarding could cause panic buying and disrupt supply.

"Traders are warned against hoarding of controlled items as it is an offence under the Control of Supplies Act 1961.

"For the first offence the maximum fine is RM1 million or three years jail or both while for the subsequent offences, the offenders will face a maximum fine of RM3 million and five years' imprisonment or both," he told the media here Thursday.

Pulnama further emphasised that corporate bodies committing offences under the Act face a fine up to RM2 million for the first offence and RM5 million each for subsequent offences.

He said to date, KPDNHEP Limbang has not received any complaint on hoarding or price hike in Limbang and Lawas districts. He advised consumers here to stay calm and avoid panic buying as there is enough supply of essential goods for the duration of MCO until April 14.

"Based on the ongoing monitoring and inspections we have found that wholesalers, supermarkets and grocery stores in both districts have given assurance and cooperation to ensure adequate supply throughout MCO," he added.

Limbang Division has 26 enforcement officers including 12 price monitoring officers as all annual leave is frozen.

For enquiries during MCO, contact KPDNHEP operation room at 085-217 414 (Limbang) and 085-283 650 (Lawas) from 8am to 6pm daily or its complaint portal at <https://eaduan.kpdnhep.gov.my>

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