



KPDNHEP assures enough face masks to meet demand

31st January, 2020

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KOTA KINABALU: The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) is keeping close tabs on retailers here profiteering from the sales of surgical masks amidst heightening fears of the global Coronavirus outbreak.

According to Sabah KPDNHEP director Georgie Abbas, based on public complaints, some 130 premises had been inspected since Jan 26 bringing to light three cases of dishonesty.

"Two of them were taken under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 for retailing at above maximum prices and the other, for not applying price tags.

"Kota Kinabalu saw seizures of 50 pieces of N95 type surgical masks worth RM375 but a case in Sandakan saw a bigger haul of 3,200 pieces of 3-ply surgical masks totalling RM2,650.

"Investigations continue for all these cases which if found guilty, its maximum penalty will not exceed RM100,000 in fines," he said in a statement.

He said reviews done at the local markets saw lack of surgical masks supplies at tourist concentrated areas near Gaya Street, Suria Sabah and Servay Hypermarket Inanam.

"There is a pharmaceutical chain here that is replenishing stocks imported from Australia and Europe since our regular supplies from Singapore and Hong Kong is currently cut off.

"Rest assured the KPNHEP is positive there is enough surgical masks going around for sale for all districts in the region including an undisrupted supply of new batches," he added.

Georgie reminds the lot of wholesalers down to its retailers not to take advantage of the current health crisis by concealing or jacking up the prices of face masks in order to make a quick profit saying stern action would be taken against the perpetrators.