



A trader arranging the last stock of face masks available at his store in Kuala Lumpur recently. The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has met face mask manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers to ensure adequate supply of the product. FILE PC

Manufacturers agree to increase production of face masks

KUALA LUMPUR: Face mask manufacturers have agreed to increase production to meet the high demand for the product in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak, said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

He said the decision was made during a meeting between the ministry and industry players, including face mask manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers.

“Checks and visits at face mask factories have also been conducted to see the production process and to ask them to increase production,” he said in a statement yesterday.

The ministry, he said, would continue to work with industry players to address any problem to ensure that there would be adequate supply to meet consumer demand.

Saifuddin said the ministry had issued compound notices involving fines totalling RM57,400 and

seizures worth RM4,255.50 during inspections on outlets selling face masks from Jan 21 to Sunday.

“A total of 2,103 premises were inspected and 17 offences were detected,” he said.

“They comprise 14 cases of selling face masks above the ceiling price and three cases of failing to display the price tag.”

He added that enforcement officers from the ministry would intensify checks to prevent traders from increasing the price of face masks. **Bernama**