

## Profiteering traders to be given notice, face fine and jail

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has identified premises that have raised the prices of vegetables and promises action would be taken against them.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, said its price control officers were assessing the trend and had obtained the details of the errant traders following a recent complaint by the Consumers Association of Penang.

"The ministry's enforcement officers have been instructed to issue Notice 21 under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 to obtain an explanation from premise owners on the reasons for the price hike," he said.

"Action will be taken under the act against businesses found to raise prices of items without justifiable reasons."

Saifuddin said more than 2,300 enforcement officers would be deployed to ensure traders complied with the festival's price control scheme for 16 main essential items, enforced between Jan 20 and Feb 2.



*Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail*

"The ministry will not compromise on anyone who profiteers or does not comply with the Chinese New Year's price control scheme. Errant businesses will face seizure as well as stringent action, which include fines and jail terms," he said.

The full list of 16 essential items under the price control scheme is available at <http://bit.ly/SHMM-PCNY2020>.