

Awang Tengah: We have enough supply for festive season

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KUCHING: There is enough supply of essential food items for the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri and Gawai celebrations in Sarawak, said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.

He said the state Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry had given assurance that the present stock of eggs, chicken, beef, cooking oil, flour, sugar and rice was sufficient to last for three months.

"Monitoring and supervision at various points of sales will be continued rigorously by the ministry to ensure there is adequate supply of these essential food items.

"The ministry will also ensure suppliers do not take advantage of the movement control order (MCO) to increase their prices," he said yesterday.

Awang Tengah said the state produced an average of 1.85 million eggs a day, while the average daily production of chicken was 91,000 heads.

He said the average daily production of other food essentials included 158 metric tonnes of cooking oil and 350 metric tonnes of flour.

"The current stock of sugar of the nine major wholesalers in Sarawak stands at 2,800 metric tonnes, while Bernas has a combined stock of 32,352 metric tonnes of rice in Kuching, Sibul and Bintulu, " he added.

On the state's food aid programme, Awang Tengah said 380,887 beneficiaries had received assistance during the MCO period.

He said the recipients comprised households in rural and remote areas, the urban poor and those without income due to the MCO.

"The main source of the assistance is from the Sarawakku Sayang food aid programme allocation of RM16.4mil, whereby each state constituency was allocated a sum of RM200,000, " he said.

In addition, Awang Tengah said the Federal Government allocated RM3.1mil under its B40 special assistance programme, which benefited 40,000 households.

"To date, 39,088 households have received their food aid while the distribution to the remaining 912 households is in progress, " he said.

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