

## Flour price in Sabah to increase slightly next month

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**PENAMPANG:** There would be a slight increase in the price of flour in Sabah next month but the prices of pastries will remain the same, said Sabah Confectionery and Bakery Association (Scaba) President Peter Khoo Phoo Min (pic).

He said the increase would be between RM2 and RM3 per 50kg bag, as verbally informed by three flour factories in Sabah and Labuan that supply the controlled item.

"We have yet to receive any official notification on the increase of the flour price in December this year, but the main flour factories have informed us that there will be a slight increase in the price of high protein flour presently being sold at RM65 per bag.

"When that happens, it will be the third increase (in the price of flour) in Sabah this year.

"The first was RM3 per bag and the second was the same amount," he said, adding Scaba has 108 members, including bakers and those who own cake shops.

Peter said this to reporters in a press conference to announce the hosting of the first "Sabah Bakery & Hospitality Expo 2019" at the ITCC shopping mall, here, Saturday.



The three-day expo would be held at the ITCC exhibition hall from 10am until 8pm daily on Nov 22-24.

According to Peter, there are three main factories in Sabah and Labuan that supply flour, namely Sabah Flour Factory in Labuan, Lahad Datu Flour Mill in Lahad Datu and Federal Flour Mill at the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP).

"These factories get their wheat supply from Australia and United States. The anticipated increase in the price of flour is due to poor wheat harvest in those countries," he said.

He also said the players in the industry could not simply raise the prices of their pastries like buns, pies and cakes because flour is a controlled item and the prices are monitored by the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP).

Furthermore, he said they could not set higher prices for pastries, as flour and sugar, both of which are controlled items, are the main ingredients for the items.

