

## Don't hoard essentials, supermarkets warned

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**Enforcement officials checking a supermarket in Beaufort.**

**BEAUFORT:** The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) has warned supermarkets against hoarding basic necessities to avoid action being taken against them.

At the same time, KPDNHEP Beaufort Branch Chief Fikri Lai Abdullah advised the public not to panic buy excess food items during the Government's Movement Control Order (MCO) period from March 18 to 31.

He said people were filling the supermarkets here on Tuesday to buy essential items, causing rice, coffee, sugar and cooking oil and other items to run out of stock.

"Fortunately, the suppliers are able to replenish the supermarkets with new stocks quickly and now the supermarkets are back to normal selling basic necessities.

"Panic buying is one of the reasons why food products are quickly sold out," he said, adding KPDNHEP will ensure there is no shortage of essential items at the supermarkets.

"On Wednesday, a group of KPDNHEP Beaufort enforcement officers inspected supermarkets such as Bestamart, CNY Supermarket, Servay and Y&L Marketing, and found enough essential items," said Fikri Lai.

He said the authorities were also making sure the price tags were displayed.

"If a supermarket is found to sell items at excessive prices, I urge the public to contact KPDNHEP at 017-865 2665 as soon as possible so that action can be taken against the supermarket concerned," he added.

A visit to Beaufort town showed it was quiet with no activity but the general market was still full of merchants and shoppers while the restaurants only sold ready-to-take home food and all other premises were closed.

It was also found that District Council enforcement officers appeared to be busy conducting inspections on shops to ensure they do not flout the MCO.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/149263/don-t-hoard-essentials-supermarkets-warned/>

