

Price of essential food items to be controlled during coming festive period

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PUTRAJAYA: The price of essential food items will still be controlled by the government during this festive season despite the difficulties brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi (pic) said demand for food items such as chicken, eggs and beef continues to be high for the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Pesta Kaamatan and Hari Gawai celebrations.

“Even though it is still within the conditional movement control order (MCO) period, the price control scheme for Hari Raya, Pesta Kaamatan and Hari Gawai has to be implemented. This is because the demand for certain food items for those festive occasions is still high,” he said at a press conference here.

The price control scheme for the Hari Raya season will take effect from Wednesday (May 20) to June 3.

For the Pesta Kaamatan price control scheme, which applies in Sabah and Labuan, it will be from May 28 to June 3.

The Hari Gawai price control scheme will also take effect from May 28 to June 3 and is implemented in Sarawak.

The ministry has identified 10 food items that will be controlled with ceiling price set for Hari Raya, as well as 11 items for Pesta Kaamatan and 11 items for Hari Gawai respectively.

These include live chicken, standard chicken, super chicken, chicken eggs and imported beef.

Nanta said stern action will be taken against retailers who commit offences under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering 2011 Act, such as selling items above ceiling prices or failure to display price tags of controlled items.

Individuals who are found guilty of marking up the prices of controlled goods can be fined up to RM100,000 or jailed up to three years.

Those who do not display price tags could also be slapped with a fine of up to RM10,000.

Nanta said the ministry's enforcement officers will be on the lookout at supermarkets and wet markets to ensure the price control scheme is adhered to.

"Traders must always obey the orders given by the government and be ethical in managing their businesses. Consumers must also know their responsibilities and rights.

"I also urge manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers not to increase their prices drastically after the end of this scheme. This scheme can only succeed if everyone plays their part," said Nanta.

The minister also urged consumers to lodge a report with the ministry if they discover traders who do not adhere to the scheme.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/05/19/price-of-essential-food-items-to-be-controlled-during-coming-festive-period>