

Ministry monitoring panic buying by Singaporeans in Johor

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PUTRAJAYA: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) has been conducting surveillance in Johor since Saturday (Feb 8), to ensure there is no panic buying of essential food or household items by Singaporeans in the state.

The ministry in a statement on Monday (Feb 10) said inspections were carried out around Johor Bahru, Iskandar Puteri, Pasir Gudang and Kulai, to ensure controlled items, food and other basic items were sufficient for Malaysians.

It said 604 premises had been inspected involving 60 enforcement officers in the two-day operation.

"The data received by the ministry from wholesalers related to stock of controlled items such as sugar, cooking oil and flour were sufficient for consumers in Johor," the statement said.

Monitoring was also conducted to ensure that there was no hiding of controlled goods among retailers and the selling prices were according to the prices set by the government.

1 According to the statement, surveillance was carried out following a video clip showing panic buying in Singapore, after the government there raised its Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) level from Yellow to Orange (its second highest alert level) for the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak.

On the sale of face masks, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry's statement said its state office in Johor was still conducting investigations, after getting 65 complaints.

The statement said from 187 inspections carried out, two premises had been selling the controlled item at a higher price from the price set and they were compounded RM500 and RM10,000 respectively.

