

## Price Control Scheme for 11 items



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The festive season's ceiling price is pertinent to accommodate higher demands despite CMCO

by AFIQ AZIZ/ pic by RAZAK GHAZALI

THE Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) yesterday unveiled 11 items which will be subjected to price control in conjunction with the upcoming celebrations of Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Kaamatan Festival and Gawai Festival.

In a statement, the ministry said the ceiling price for the listed items is pertinent to accommodate higher demands despite the country still undergoing the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO).

The items are varieties of chicken, eggs, beef, pork and coconut.

In the list for Peninsular Malaysia are live chicken at RM6.20 (per kg), standard chicken (RM7.50) and "super chicken" or dressed chicken without leg, head, liver and giz (RM8.40).

Also subjected to price control are grades A, B and C eggs which cost 40 sen, 39 sen and 38 sen respectively.

Imported buffalo meat and local beef will be tagged at RM20 and RM34 per kg respectively.

Another item is coconut, both grated and whole. Meanwhile, for the Gawai and Kaamatan Festivals, the baskets also include pork.

“Although we are in the CMCO period to break the chain of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Maximum Price Scheme should be implemented as public demand for specific daily necessities for these festivities is high,” KPDNHEP said.

However, the ministry could not guarantee that price hikes will not occur in the markets even with sufficient supply of necessities.

The price control implementation is intended to ensure that prices of selected goods are regulated by ceiling pricing at wet markets and small hawkers, which are normally the main sources for consumers during festive seasons.

However, commodity prices are generally more regulated due to different business models, competition and better economies of scale.

KPDNHEP said the implementation of the scheme for the three festivals is undertaken with several adjustments of time and goods.

“This is to give traders some opportunity to recover their businesses following the several phases of the MCO which had disrupted supply chains and business operations since the past two months,” it added.

The ministry also ensured that the price control will be enforced without compromising the importance of users and sellers.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri is expected to fall on May 24 nationwide and the scheme is expected to be enforced from May 20 to June 3, which is for 15 days.

Meanwhile, the Kaamatan Festival will be celebrated in Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan on May 31.

Gawai Day will be celebrated in Sarawak on June 1.

“Accordingly, the price scheme for the latter festivals will be for a period of seven days from May 28 to June 3.

“The total duration of the price scheme implementation for these three festivals is 15 days,” the ministry said.

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