

Almost RM60k in compounds issued for inflating prices of face masks

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PETALING JAYA: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has issued 17 compounds amounting to RM57,400 to traders for offences relating to the sale of face masks.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (*pic*) said that they had been conducting checks on traders selling masks since Jan 25, with 2,103 business premises checked so far.

He said that 17 offences were detected with compounds worth RM57,400 issued and items worth RM4,255.50 seized.

Of the cases, 14 were for selling masks above the maximum price and another three cases were for not displaying price tags.

In a statement, Saifuddin said face masks are controlled items under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011.

The maximum price for face masks are RM7 for a box of 100 one ply (earloop), RM10 for a box of 100 two-ply (earloop), RM0.80 for a three-ply face mask (ear and head loop), RM0.80 for a three-ply face mask (tie-on), and RM6.00 for an N95 mask.

Saifuddin hoped the traders would obey relevant laws and urged consumers to lodge a complaint with the ministry, including WhatsApp at 019-279 4317 if they come across instances of price hikes for face masks.

He added that face mask manufacturers have agreed to ramp up productions due to the outbreak.