

Dewan Rakyat approves Food Donors Protection Bill



The Food Donors Protection Bill 2019 was approved by Dewan Rakyat. - NSTP/File pic

By Nuradzimmah Daim, Teh Athira Yusof
October 9, 2019 @ 10:59pm

KUALA LUMPUR: The Dewan Rakyat today approved the Food Donors Protection Bill 2019, aimed at encouraging the public to donate food without fear of being sued while supporting the government's Food Bank Programme.

It covers those donating food "without any payment or and form or consideration" as well as volunteers or those involved in the distribution of such food.

Domestic Trade and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail in his winding-up speech said it was important to ensure that there was no shortage of food supplies under the programme.

Under the new law, corporations, foundations, government entities, manufacturers, suppliers, wholesalers, hypermarkets, supermarkets, hotels, restaurants, agricultural producers and charitable organisations are protected against civil action.

This covers any personal injury, disease or death by those who had consumed the donated or distributed food.

However, the protection is not absolute and a donor could still be liable if it could be proven that the occurrence was due to their negligence and wilful misconduct.

The protection is not applicable to donors who fail to comply with legal food safety and hygiene requirements before donating or distributing the food.

The Food Bank Programme has seen overwhelming response with 45,850 households having benefited from its pioneer project launched in Penang, last year.

It was carried out to help ease the burden due to the rising cost of living faced by the poor and hard core poor while reducing food wastage.