

## 59 complaints on face masks, hand sanitisers since start of MCO

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**The allegedly overpriced face masks sold at the premises in Jalan Song.**

**KUCHING:** The Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs in Sarawak has received 165 complaints from the public since the start of the movement control order (MCO), of which 59 involved face masks and hand sanitisers.

Its enforcement section chief Hanizam Kecek said from the start of the MCO on March 18 until April 7, the ministry has issued 15 notices against business owners for profiteering.

"On April 7, a team conducted a check on a premises in Jalan Song, Kuching which was allegedly selling overpriced face masks.

"A notice under Section 21 of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 was issued to the premises owner to enable further investigation to be carried out," he said in a statement yesterday.

He added that if the premises is found to be selling face masks above the ceiling price, action can be taken against the owner under Section 11 of the same Act.

Hanizam also reminded individuals and business owners against taking advantage of the MCO by unreasonably hiking up the price of their goods for profit, saying the ministry will continue to carry out checks to ensure consumers will be able to purchase items at a reasonable price.

On another note, he said the ministry has carried out checks on 12,981 business premises in Sarawak between Jan 1 and April 7.

From these inspections, a total of 387 cases were recorded involving seizure of goods worth RM2,409,179.71 and compounds totalling RM71,150 issued, he added.

"Of these cases, 212 came under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 involving total seizure of RM17,689.27 and compounds of RM37,500," he said.

Meanwhile, Hanizam assured that essential items are well-stocked in the market and there was no need for anyone to resort to panic buying.

Public complaints can be filed with the ministry through its hotline (1-800-886-800), e-aduan portal (<http://e-aduan.kpdnhep.gov.my>) or WhatsApp (019-2794317).

In Sarawak, complaints can be made directly between 8am to 6pm daily via its operations room in Kuching (082-466052), Sri Aman (083-323836), Sarikei (084-657751), Sibul (084-329202), Kapit (084-799678), Bintulu (086-332176), Miri (085-412862), Limbang (085-217414), Mukah (084-872726) and Lawas (085-283650).

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