

Govt may set ceiling price for chicken

KUALA NERUS: The government will not hesitate to impose a ceiling price for chicken if suppliers and traders keep raising prices for no good reason, says Deputy Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Datuk Rosol Wahid.

He said the ministry was aware of public complaints, with chicken being sold at up to RM9.50 per kg at some wet markets in Penang since May.

The government would be meeting industry players to make a full review of the situation, including the production costs said to be the reason behind the price hike by suppliers, he said.

"Traders claimed that they had to pay a higher price to suppliers after being told of a shortage in supply due to the movement control order. There was no supply but demand was high.

"However, should the price keep rising, we will 'lock' it. We have the authority and ability to lock the price at a reasonable rate if they are pressuring the people," Rosol told reporters after visiting Haji Din Ayam Poultry here yesterday.

Also present was ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahnrad.

Rosol said the ministry would resolve the price issue by early next month. — Bernama