

333 violations of price scheme throughout festive period — Saifuddin

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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 333 cases involving various offences by traders were recorded by the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry since the Festive Season Maximum Price Control Scheme (SHMMP) came into effect on May 21.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, said the cases were detected from checks on more than 5,600 premises nationwide in conjunction with the Aidilfitri, Keamatan and Gawai celebrations in May and June.

“From those checks, compounds totalling RM41,850 were issued on errant traders, involving more than 300 violations, who failed to display the pink price tags or not having any put up at all.

“Another 12 cases involved hiking prices and breaching the maximum price, and I can conclude that with so few cases, consumers have benefited from the effectiveness of this (SHMMP) scheme.

“The wholesalers and the retailers were very disciplined as well and in the end, the consumers had benefited from all these,” he told Bernama at Wisma Bernama Monday night.

Saifuddin said this when met after his interview on Bernama News Channel's (BNC) “Ruang Bicara” programme to discuss the effectiveness of the SHMMP scheme.

He said this year, the ministry had worked together with the Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry (MOA) to ensure food supplies were sufficient.

“The number of items in the SHMMP list this year also was increased to 27 compared to 21 items before this and among the new ones included were groundnuts and fish,” he said.

At the same time, he said the government's move to extend the SHMMP period from 15 to 30 days (till this Wednesday) was also successful in reducing the number of violations, especially during the festive period. Meanwhile, Saifuddin acknowledged that the hike in red chilli prices this festive season was due to short supply which forced traders to import them. — Bernama