

New database can help KPDNHEP forecast pricing trends

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PUTRAJAYA (July 2): By next year, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) will have a database of over 40,000 consumer goods created by its own people who are being sent for training to become adept database builders.

"With the data, the ministry can forecast patterns, as well as the rise and fall of prices based on location, district, state and season," its minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail told reporters today at a ministry press conference.

He said the information would also guide the ministry in programme and policy initiation.

On the implementation of the targeted subsidy for RON95 fuel, he said KPDNHEP is in the final phase of preparing a Cabinet paper which will be submitted next month for the greenlight.

"The outline, mechanism and implementation methodology was finalised with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) last week," Saifuddin said, adding that if approved, could get under way this year.

On the subject of unpaid compounds, Saifuddin called on corporates to take advantage of the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) automatic discount table launched on July 1 which reduces a penalty based on the time that has lapsed and could be as high as 85 per cent (1-40 days).

On the political front, Saifuddin, who is also PKR secretary-general, questioned PAS deputy president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man's use of a hadith to reject a special motion in Parliament yesterday, compelling members of Parliament (MPs) to declare their assets.

He said that before this, the Kubang Kerian MP had challenged government ministers — including former Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, and wife — to declare theirs.

The motion tabled by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Liew Vui Keong, and debated by 26 lawmakers was passed unanimously in the end. — *Bernama*

