

Just too much to swallow

METRO NEWS

Monday, 24 Jun 2019

by Intan Amalina Mohd Ali



A customer checking the price of the mineral water at the shop in Penang Hospital.

BOTTLED water allegedly sold at double the normal retail price at a shop on Penang Hospital premises has left several consumers fuming.

Penang Hindu Association president P. Murugiah claimed that a particular brand of 500ml drinking water that is sold for 60sen elsewhere is priced at RM1.20 at the shop while a 1500ml bottle that is available at RM1.20 at supermarket, is being sold there for RM2.50.

He said the hospital together with the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry should inspect the shop to ensure there was no profiteering.

"It is unfair to overcharge poor patients and their families," he said in a statement.

He urged consumers to report to the ministry if they considered the prices of items sold at shops on hospital grounds to be overpriced.

A check by The Star showed that a 500ml bottle of drinking water at the shop was tagged at RM1 while a 500ml bottle of mineral water was priced at RM1.30.

The 1500ml drinking water was priced at RM2 while the 1500ml mineral water costs RM2.30.

An employee of the shop, who declined to be named, said the prices were clearly stated and customers could opt for the drinking water which is slightly cheaper than the mineral water.

A kiosk opposite the shop was also found selling bottled water at similar prices.

A ministry spokesman, when contacted, said bottled water is not a controlled item but advised the public to file a complaint if they felt shortchanged.

The public can call the ministry's toll free number (1-800-886-800) or send an email via <http://e-aduan.kpdnhep.gov.my>

Penang Hospital deputy medical director Dr R. Premalosingi said the hospital would release a statement in due time.

Read more at <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/06/24/just-too-much-to-swallow/#z1qByxRzbEtOJkeE.99>

