

## Naccol to monitor price of 100 essential items



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By AFIQ AZIZ / Pic By TMR PIC

THE National Cost of Living Council (Naccol) is expected to monitor the progress of Basic Necessities project (BA100), a programme initiated by The National Malaysian Co-operative (Angkasa) with the aim of reducing prices of consumer items.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (*picture*) said the project is also under the purview of the Ministry of Entrepreneurs Development and Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry.

“It would help farmers and fishermen to produce and sell their own products to the cooperatives, therefore eliminating or reducing the role that middlemen play in business,” she told the press after chairing the third Naccol meeting in Putrajaya today.

Dr Wan Azizah said the programme covers the entire supply chain system including wholesaling, retails, and agricultural segment.

As it is, the country’s co-operative sector now has some 6.1 million members who could be part of the movement that could help the government in alleviating the rising high cost of living.

At the retail and wholesale levels, we could further strengthen and stabilise the distribution centres. The programme would also cover areas of farming, fisheries, fruits, vegetables as well as agricultural input.

Last year, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) listed some 27 items under its monitoring system, each with a suitable ceiling price.

"Today, Naccol accept the MED proposal to leverage their strengths and network to provide outlets that sell 100 essential items at a lower price.

"The idea is good and the pilot project already started last May," KPDNHEP Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said.

He said that the Ministry of Entrepreneurs Development now has about 14,000 registered cooperatives that run 2,500 outlets nationwide which could be part of the programme.

The BA100 programme is expected to establish about 3,000 shops that would offer basic necessities that are priced 10% to 20% lower than the overall market rate.

Dr Wan Azizah said that the government had managed to reduce the price of goods during the recent Hari Raya period, in line with the Festive Season Maximum Price Control Scheme (SHMMP) programme.

"Based on data collected from May 21 to June 19, 2019 by KPDNHEP, the price of chicken dropped to RM6.80 from RM7.42 last year. Exported beef is at RM20.40 compared to RM24.29 and dry chillies are at RM14.13 compared to RM19.50 last year," she said.

She added that the council has agreed to expand the QFish programme to stabilise the price of fish.

"We are pushing the Q-Fish programme which is to increase the production of fish from 561 metric tons to 3,500 metric tons per year.

"This will be done by using the Individual Quick Freezing (IQF) technique to ensure quality and freshness," she said.

