

## Warning to traders who raise prices of masks

**PETALING JAYA:** Stern action will be taken against traders who increase the prices of face masks unreasonably during the current haze spell, said the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, said there were five types of face masks categorised as controlled items under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011, that traders have to abide by.

"Action will be taken against anyone found breaching this Act in relation to the five types of face masks," he said yesterday.

According to Saifuddin, the five face masks are the single ply (ear loop) face mask that retails at RM7 per box, two-ply (ear loop) with a retail price of RM10 per box, three-ply face mask (ear loop) at 80 sen per piece, three-ply face mask (tie-on) at 80 sen per piece and the N95 face mask, which retails at RM6 per piece.

"Other than these five masks, the ministry also has the authority to take action against the sale of other types of masks, if the prices are unreasonably high."

Saifuddin added between Sept 12 and 18, enforcement officers conducted checks on



Pharmacy assistant Noor Hashima Sihab explaining the qualities of an N95 face mask to a customer in Seri Manjung in Lumut yesterday. - BERNAMAPIX

1,115 premises selling face masks nationwide.

Of this, he said three warning notices had

been issued and action had been taken against one outlet, with a RM200 fine issued and RM30 worth of items seized.