

## Database poised to help forecast pricing trends

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**PUTRAJAYA:** By next year, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry will have a database of over 40,000 consumer goods created by its own people, who are being trained 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 yesterday.

The information would also guide the ministry in programme and policy initiation, he said.

On the implementation of the targeted subsidy for RON95 fuel, he said the ministry was in the final phase of preparing a Cabinet paper, which would be submitted next month for approval.

"The outline, mechanism and implementation methodology was finalised with the Finance Ministry last week," said Saifuddin.

He added that if it was approved, it could get under way this year.

— Bernama

