

RM298k goods seized in Sabah during MCO

Published on: Wednesday, May 13, 2020



KOTA KINABALU: The State Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) had seized RM298,077.15 worth of goods following the inspection of controlled items at 13,444 business premises throughout the Movement Control Order (MCO).

Its Director Georgie (pic) said the monitoring was conducted from March 1 to May 11 in both urban and rural areas, which resulted in 37 cases.

"16 cases have already been compounded and the amount collected is RM7,100. Out of the 16 cases, three are offences made by traders for charging goods above the price cap set by the Government.

"The other 13 involved offences of failing to display the price on items being sold. Both of these offences violate the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011," he said in a statement on Tuesday.

According to Georgie, some 200 enforcement officers and 90 price monitoring officers from the KPDNHEP state office and eight branch offices were involved in the inspection.

He added that the KPDNHEP had also received a total of 278 complaints from the public throughout the MCO, where the two highest categories of complaints were related to prices and online transactions.

Georgie said of the 278 complaints, 231 have been resolved and 47 are still under further investigation.

He stressed that offenders who take advantage of the MCO and found guilty of hiking prices will be charged under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011.

“Any person convicted of an offence under this act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding RM100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to both.

“For corporate bodies convicted of an offence under this act, they shall be liable to a fine not exceeding RM500,000,” he said.

Meanwhile, Georgie assured that the supply of essential goods are sufficient, stable and obtainable, following an inspection on producers, suppliers and traders during the MCO period.

“Besides that, KPDNHEP Sabah is also ensuring that the price standardisation programme is running smoothly throughout this MCO,” he said.

He added that in light of the upcoming Aidilfitri and Harvest Festival celebrations, inspections on eateries would be intensified to ensure that goods are supplied sufficiently and priced accordingly.

In another development, Georgie said the KPDNHEP is now involved in enforcing compliance with the MCO based on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the National Security Council (MKN) and Malaysian Health Ministry (KKM).

He said KPDNHEP would conduct special daily inspections collaboratively with the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM).

“During the inspection, KPDNHEP enforcement officers will ensure that the business premises operating will provide hand sanitisers, maintain one-meter social distancing, provide contactless thermometers at the premise’s entrance, ensure employees wear face masks and prepare a customer or visitor registration book, among others,” he said.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news/152514/rm298k-goods-seized-in-sabah-during-mco/>

