

## Warning over chicken price hikes as complaints grow

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Alor Star market chairman Fauzi Sharif (left) inspecting chicken prices yesterday. -NSTP/ ZULIATY ZULKIFFLI

**SABAK BERNAM:** The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry will nab chicken retailers who raise the price of chicken.

Deputy Minister Datuk Rosol Wahid said the ministry had received many reports on chicken price hikes up to RM9.60 a kilogramme in several locations, including Terengganu.

"I received so many reports via Facebook private messaging from the public calling for investigations."

He said this after a visit to Hai Seng Huat Fishery Frozen in Bagan Sekinchan here, yesterday.



In a Bernama report, Rosol said he had instructed enforcement officers to identify chicken retailers taking advantage of customers before the government announced the implementation of a price control scheme in conjunction with Hari Raya.

He added that the ministry had listed 11 items under the price control scheme to be announced by Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi next Tuesday.

**In Alor Star**, chicken prices have risen since last week to between RM8 and RM9.50 per kg.

A supplier at the Alor Star market, Mohd Zuhair Zahir, 36, said this was because suppliers had increased the price for the past few weeks, citing the Movement Control Order (MCO) as a reason for the low supply.

He said he usually paid RM4 for a kilogramme of chicken to be sold at the market, but now had to spend as much as RM8 per kg.

"I had no choice but to increase the price. Think how much profit I make after paying my workers," he told the New Sunday Times.

Zuhair said before the MCO, the price of chicken was between RM5 and RM6 per kg.

Market chairman Fauzi Sharif said he and other traders had checked on the chicken supplier daily and were told the price hike was due to a low supply.

**In Kuantan**, traders said the increase in chicken prices was due to a price hike at farms.

A check at markets in the district found out that chicken was sold at between RM9 and RM9.50 per kg, instead of RM7 and RM7.50 as before.

Trader Ahmad Sulaiman, 56, who works at the Kuantan market, said he had no choice but to increase the price.

"The price of chicken has increased five times during Ramadan.

"Suppliers are giving so many excuses for the increase, with many saying the MCO affected them.

"We buy the chicken from the supplier at RM8 to RM8.50 per kg, so I have to sell it at RM9 to make a profit."

**In Gua Musang**, the price of chicken has increased since the implementation of the MCO, from between RM3 and RM5 per kg to RM6 and RM8 per kg.

Chicken supplier Kamarul Azli Mat Ali, 41, said he had to process frozen chicken to meet the market demand due to a shortage of chicken.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/05/593247/warning-over-chicken-price-hikes-complaints-grow>