



## Coronavirus: Melaka KPDNHEP detects masks sold at exorbitant prices

**MELAKA, Feb 10** -- The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) of Melaka has issued compounds against two outlets while a third was referred to the deputy public prosecutor for selling face masks over the stipulated price and for not displaying the price tag.

Its director, Norena Jaafar said the first case involved a retail shop in Ujong Pasir on Jan 28 which was issued with a compound of RM500 for selling face masks at RM1 each compared to the retail price of 80 sen each.

She said the second case was a pharmacy in Taman Seri Mangga on Jan 31 which compounded RM200 for not displaying price tags while the third case (Feb 7), a petrol station in Semabok, for selling over the permitted price, which was referred to the deputy public prosecutor.

"We believe the cases under Section 11 of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 take place because traders are taking advantage of panic buying or the action of consumers in buying the product compared to normal times following the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) currently," she said.

She said this at a media conference after a Melaka KPDNHEP Exhibit Disposal Programme here which was also attended by its chief enforcement officer Muhammad Aizudin Mohd Said.

Commenting further, Norena said the public who were confronted by problems of hikes in prices of face masks or hand sanitisers at ordinary retail outlets or online could lodge a prompt report so that enforcement actions could be taken.

In the meantime, she said the supply of face masks in the state was expected to stabilise in a week, following complaints of difficulty in obtaining the item.

"KPDNHEP has met manufacturers nationwide to boost the productions of face masks," she added.

-- BERNAMA