

## Pharmacy compounded for hiking price of face masks

BY SAMUEL AUBREY ON FEBRUARY 19, 2020, WEDNESDAY AT 5:15 PM



**A KPDNHEP personnel shows some types of face masks under price control.**

**KUCHING:** A pharmacy in Kuching was compounded RM10,000 by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) after it was found selling face masks RM1 more than the maximum gazetted price.

KPDNHEP Sarawak chief enforcement officer Mohd Hanizam Kecek said the pharmacy was found to have committed the offence after an enforcement team went there at 3.30pm on Tuesday (Feb 18) upon acting on a public complaint.

There, they found the outlet was selling N95 face masks at RM7 per unit, which is above the RM6 per unit price fixed by the ministry.

Hanizam said the pharmacy was penalised under Section 11, Price Control and Anti Profiteering Act 2011 for selling or offering to sell controlled item not according to the gazetted maximum retail price.

It was learnt that the proprietor of the pharmacy has already paid up the compound.

“The Ministry is taking stern action against traders who are taking opportunity to sell face masks at unreasonable prices, at a time when there is greater public demand for these masks due to the Covid-2019 outbreak.

“There are provisions under this Act where legal actions which can be taken against the offenders. For an individual offender, he or she can be fined by the court up to RM100,000 or jail term of not more than three years or both, or compounded up to RM50,000.

“For offences involving companies, the company can be fined up to RM500,000 or compounded up to RM250,000,” he said in a statement issued today.

According to a previous news report, five types of face masks now come under price control.

The maximum price of ear loop one layer-type face mask is at RM7 per box containing RM100 pieces, two-layer type ear loop face masks at RM10 per box and cost 20 sen each, three-layer type head and ear loop is at 80 sen each, three-layer type tie-on face mask at 80 sen and the N95 mask at RM6 each.

As such, Hanizam called on consumers to report any cases of traders selling the masks beyond the control price to immediately report the matter to KPDNHEP operations rooms in offices throughout the state.

They can contact the Kuching operations room at 082-466012, Sri Aman (082-323836), Sarikei (084-657751), Sibul (084-335622), Kapit (084-799678), Mukah (085-412862), Bintulu (086-332176), Miri (085-412862) and Limbang/Lawas (085-217414).

Alternative, they can contact the KPDNHEP call centre at 1800 886 800, or email to e-aduan@kpdnhep.gov.my or aduan2kpdnhep.gov.my, or submit the complaint through the app called Ez ADU or sent through whatsapp at 019-279 4317 using their mobile phones

“You can come to any of the nine KPDNHEP offices in Sarawak to lodge the report,” he added.

