

2 November 2007

PUTRAJAYA: The Price Control Scheme in conjunction with Deepavali began today and will be in force for 15 days.

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Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal said the scheme would cover 17 price controlled items such as chicken, local beef, buffalo meat, chicken eggs, cabbage, red chili, scraped coconut and local scomber (a type of mackerel).

Their wholesale and retail prices were the same as those gazetted on Sept 13 for Hari Raya, he said.

"In terms of supply, consumers need not worry because the supply of controlled necessities is ensured," he said after an Aidilfitri celebration hosted by his ministry here.

Shafie said necessity item traders were also required to have a special licence, which could be obtained free at the ministry's offices nationwide.

For the Hari Raya and Deepavali celebrations, 59,135 licences had been issued. Those issued for Hari Raya were still valid for use during Deepavali.

He reminded traders to comply with the maximum price requirement as firm action would be taken against those who failed to do so.

He said during the enforcement of the Price Control Scheme for Hari Raya, which ended on Oct 20, the ministry conducted 239,962 checks and detected 70 cases at the wholesale level and 657 cases at retailers.

Goods worth RM126,403 were seized and compound fines totalling RM95,250 were issued.

On a plan by the Penang Muslim Restaurant Association to raise prices of flour-based items such as roti canai, capati and noodles following the increase in the price of flour, Shafie said traders selling flour above the permitted price level would face stern action.

He said the restaurant association should come to the ministry to discuss the matter. -- Bernama

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