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Megat-Act

ANTI-PROFITEERING LAWS ON THE CARDS

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- A new law to check profiteering will be enacted to protect consumers from being duped by traders, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said today.

He said the law would be incorporated into the relevant existing Act.

He said he would consult his ministry officials and legal advisers to draw up the law to serve as a deterrent to traders who over-charge consumers.

Megat Junid said he was asked by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday to study incorporating appropriate actions against profiteers into the existing Acts.

" Profiteering is common in the sale of mineral water and bottled drinks," he told reporters after launching the Genting Highlands Pemadam (National Association Against Drug Abuse) Unit, here.

He said it was for this reason that he had asked mineral water manufacturers to display distributors' price tag on mineral water bottles to enable consumers to make price comparison.

If the move proved to be effective, manufacturers of cooking oil, detergents and milk powder would be asked to do likewise, he said.

Asked on reports that Sarawak had exhausted its mineral water supply, Megat Junid said action had been taken to replenish the depleted stock.

He said the state ran out of supply as consumers bought mineral water more than their requirement following rumours that the water supply in the state was contaminated due to the haze.

" Such rumours are baseless," he said.

Megat Junid said Sarawak had adequate supply of essential goods to meet local demand.

However, should there be a shortage, the relevant agencies had been alerted to respond to the situation promptly. -- BERNAMA

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