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Mahathir-Prices

MAHATHIR: GOVT TO INVESTIGATE CAUSES OF PRICE HIKES

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will investigate to identify the reasons and causes of price increases of goods.

" I want to know the reasons," he told a news conference at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang on his return from attending the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) leaders' summit in Tehran.

He said the government might be compelled to enact laws to prevent certain groups from profiteering like what happened during the Emergency period before.

This is to curb spiralling prices of goods, he said when asked to comment on price increases of other items besides sugar, flour, condensed milk and full cream milk which would be sold at a new government-fixed price from Feb 1.

A local newspaper reported today that many traders had taken advantage to sell cooking oil between five sen and 60 sen more than its ceiling price fixed by the government which will come into force next Tuesday.

Prices of other essential items like flour and chicken had also gone up though the government-approved new price would be effective only on Feb 1.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob announced on Wednesday that prices of sugar, flour and filled milk would be raised by between 10 and 25 sen effective Feb 1.

From that date, sugar will be sold at RM1.45 a kg, (up 25 sen), flour RM1.20 (up 20 sen) while a 397gm tin of filled milk will cost RM1.60 (up 10 sen) and 525gm tin RM2.05.

A 397gm tin of full cream milk will cost RM1.75 and RM2.20 for 525gm tin.

Sugar and milk will be sold at 10 per cent more in Sabah and Sarawak from the new price in Peninsular Malaysia due to the transportation cost.

The farm price of chicken had also been raised by 15 per cent a kg.

The government-approved price for a kilogramme of cooking oil (pure olein for cooking) is RM3.30 and RM3.60 for blended. The new price will come into force on Tuesday. -- BERNAMA

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