

29 JUN 1997

Medicine

TEST YOUR OWN MEDICINE, MEGAT JUNID DIRECTS MANUFACTURERS

KAMPAR, June 29 (Bernama) -- The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has directed all manufacturers of pharmaceuticals to conduct random tests on their products sold nationwide, for purity and efficacy.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, said today that manufacturers had been given until Aug 28 to produce test results on samples bought randomly from various outlets including sundry and coffeeshops and those in the rural areas and Felde schemes.

He said the order was made following a meeting with manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and other consumer products widely used by the public, such as cough syrups and application creams.

It was important to ensure these medicines were genuine since many people never got well after spending a lot of money buying fake ones, he said after opening the Kampar Umno division delegates meeting here.

Megat Junid said there were about 11,000 types of medicine registered in the country of which between 10 and 15 of the more popular brands were oftenly faked.

He said manufacturers could display their genuine products as well as fake countertypes during an exhibition to mark the national-level World Consumers Day scheduled to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed on Aug 28.

Megat Junid also directed manufacturers to print posters of their products and educating the public on how to tell fakes from genuine brands.

He also warned that producers of fake medicine would be dealt with severely once the sample results had identified their numbers in the market. -- BERNAMA

LAT LS RM