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AVOID PANIC BUYING OF COOKING OIL, SAYS DIRECTOR

ALOR SETAR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The current shortage of cooking oil in Kedah is caused by excessive buying of the commodity by consumers, a Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry official said today.

The shortage was artificial because there was ample supply and distribution of cooking oil to the shops was normal, said the ministry's enforcement director for Kedah Rashid Nabijan.

"The problem is excessive buying. Supplies sent to shops are gone in two to three hours," he said.

He said suppliers could not increase supply because they have to meet production quotas set by Porla, the palm oil registration and licensing authority.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's personal representative here, Saad Hashim urged the agriculture and the domestic trade and consumer affairs ministries to take drastic measures to solve the problem.

According to him, consumers from Perlis even came down to Jitra to look for cooking oil.

-- BERNAMA

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