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GET CHEAPER BUT QUALITY ALTERNATIVES, SAYS MEGAT

TELUK INTAN, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob has urged the public to use cheaper but quality alternatives to minimise the effects of rising prices.

He said imported butter for cake-making, especially during the festive season, could be substituted with cheaper locally-produced margarine.

Traders could also do likewise by importing cheaper onions from Thailand instead of Indian or Chinese varieties, he told reporters here last night.

He said cheaper Thai onions could be retailed at RM4 per kg compared to the Indian variety sold at RM6 per kg.

On the proposal to legislate price control as suggested by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last September, Megat Junid said his ministry was monitoring traders' response to the introduction of ceiling price for bottled, packaged and canned items.

Initially, as for bottled drink, a ceiling price of 70 sen and RM1.30 sen have been fixed for small and larger bottles respectively, he said.

He said traders' response was encouraging and next the ministry would introduce the ceiling price for packaged and canned items.-- BERNAMA

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