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KLIA food outlet operators urged to reduce prices

KUALA LUMPUR. Wed. - Food outlet operators at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport were again urged to reduce their prices.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob reiterated the appeal today, saying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik had taken note of the issue at the Cabinet meeting earlier.

Megat Junid told a Press conference at his office here that his officers were still studying the matter.

Last week, Megat Junid said the prices of food and drinks sold at the KLIA departure lounge were exorbitant. Some shops were charging up to RM4 for a cup of Milo and RM3.80 for a small bottle of mineral water.

He added that traders were not to be blamed in this case as they were paying RM20,000 rental a month to Malaysia Airports Berhad and therefore a profit of about RM700 a day was needed just to cover the rental.

He said Malaysia Airports should be more sensitive in view of the economic slowdown.

"It would be terrible if people going to the airport start bringing food from home. If it is a 20 per cent increase, it is all right but I cannot accept a 200 per cent increase.

"There is a food stall that sells nasi lemak at RM4.50 and another one at RM7.50. We have to investigate why one sells it cheaper than the other."

Last Monday, Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said the Ministry had asked Malaysia Airports to carry out a study on how to reduce the prices within two months.

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