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Megat

MEGAT AND RAFIDAH MEET IMPORTERS TOMORROW

TELUK INTAN, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- The government meets importers tomorrow to identify only necessary items that merit importation, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said.

The meeting would also identify supplier countries which could offer the items comparatively cheaper, he told reporters after breaking fast at Kampung Sungai Kuching, 30 km from here last night.

Megat Junid said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and he would meet the importers.

He said: "We don't need to import too much butter, beverages, designer apparels and furniture which are sometimes left unsold. This causes currency immobility since these items are imported using the US dollar."

The meeting would enable the government source imported items to cheaper supplier countries like onions from Thailand and potatoes from Indonesia, he said.

Its outcome would be forwarded to the National Economic Action Council chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for further action in efforts to reduce importation of unnecessary items, he said.

Megat Junid also said that Asean countries were expected to hold special talks soon on intra-Asean trade using local currencies, a move which he said would benefit members of the regional grouping.

Megat Junid said he was confident that Malaysia's neighbours in Asean would be receptive to the proposed scheme which could help especially those whose currencies had depreciated steeply against the US dollar.

Asean groups Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.-- BERNAMA

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