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`Rice price may drop after harvest season'

CONSUMERS may see a reduction on the price of rice after the current harvesting season, Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said yesterday.

"I have met the Wholesalers and Retailers Association to discuss the matter and have been given the assurance that the price of rice will go down after the harvesting season," Megat Junid told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after the opening of the Love Malaysia 98 Expo by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On the price-controlled items such as flour, sugar and mineral water, Megat Junid said the prices of these items are under control.

The minister also said that he has directed the ministry's enforcement officials to check the prices of goods at the KL International Airport at Sepang following complaints that retailers there are excessively charging consumers, especially food items. He suggested that a special canteen be established for KLIA staff. "The average salary of KLIA staff is about RM1,000. If they have to spend about RM20 a day on food alone, how can they survive.

"I suggest that a special canteen be set up for KLIA and government staff ... one that sells food at prices affordable to them," he added.

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