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Megat-Import

STOP IMPORTING LESS POPULAR GOODS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed a list be compiled for imported goods that do not sale well, said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob today.

He said the directive was aimed at encouraging purchase of local goods and stopping import of less popular goods to stop the outflow of the Ringgit.

The imported goods included foodstuff and other items, still found in large quantities in supermarkets, he said when met at his office here.

He said these items included 50 types of butter, wines and canned food.

Megat Junid said he had directed the ministry's secretary general to meet importers concerned to advise them to stop importing such goods.

On price hike of foodstuff, he said this was due to increase in price of ingredients like onions.

He said enforcement officers had also been directed to intensify checks to ensure the situation would not get out of hand.

Megat Junid also urged consumers to spend wisely as there were alternatives to each item.

Taking onions as example, he said there were five types of imported ones, the cheapest being from Thailand which was being retailed at RM4 per kg.

He also said the cabinet committee on essential goods under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would hold a meeting tomorrow to discuss amog others measures to overcome increase in prices of such goods. --BERNAMA

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