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Campaign to enact Act on consumer protection

TAIPING, Tues. - A signature campaign to push for the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act was launched by the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations.

Association secretary-general N. Marimuthu said in a statement that the country's consumer laws were insufficient and outdated and needed a comprehensive Consumer Protection Act that could cope with the global changes in the economic field, electronic commerce and food technology.

"The Act will also cover the privatisation of basic public services such as water, sewerage services and electricity."

He said a draft of the Consumer Protection Bill was submitted to the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry four years ago but nothing had been done.

The campaign was launched during a World Consumers Day gathering organised by the Consumers Association of Taiping last night. Marimuthu hoped Fomca and its affiliates would collect two million signatures and submit them to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before the parliamentary session next month.

He said signature forms would be available at all consumers associations and urged consumers to support the campaign.

Marimuthu also called on consumers to ensure their rights were not eroded or exploited by the free market.

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