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Raya-Shopping (Pix)

BARGAINS GALORE DURING LAST MINUTE SHOPPING

By: Chandrawathani Sathasivam

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- It has been a trend for Malaysians to shop at the last minute during festive seasons to get better bargains and choices to complete their preparations for the "big-day".

This year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration, which is just hours away, is no different with Malaysians of various races thronging favourite shopping spots in the city such as Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman and Masjid India.

"We shop at the last moment because during the earlier part of the month of Ramadan, it was too crowded. Now, we still have the same choices and can get better bargains especially when we do the last minute shopping," said an engineer, Noorazlifah Amir Sutan, 27.

However, she noted that this year the crowd had increased compared to last year with roads crowded as many of Muslims had opted to celebrate Hari Raya in the city.

But for retired government servant, Herman Abdullah, 52, who began his shopping three days ago, the prices of clothes and goods had remained the same very year.

The last minute shopping was not confined to Muslims as non-Muslims also took the opportunity to grab their favourite goods at discounted prices.

One of them was Kumaran Ramasamy, 27, who was seen at Lorong Masjid India buying T-shirts with his wife.

The insurance agent felt that it was a good opportunity for other ethnic groups to shop around for goods at a cheaper price.

"Prices tagged for Hari Raya are much cheaper compared to other festive seasons like Deepavali," he said.

Asked whether he was encouraged by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for Malaysians to spend more to spruce-up the economy, Kumaran said: "Well it depends on individual's spending capacity."

As for Arnd Manzewski, 31, a tourist from Germany, he said local products were cheaper compared to other countries.

"I only bought some stuff but no gifts. When we look at branded goods, they carry the same price in my country," he added.

A check by BERNAMA also revealed that taxi drivers did not want to take passengers to several shopping complexes and shopping spots in the city due to massive traffic congestion.

A driver whom declined to be named said that he seldom took passengers who wanted to go to Sogo Shopping Complex or Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, situated in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's shopping district.

"I rent the taxi for 10 hours, but I get stuck in the jam for more than two hours. So that is why we, taxi drivers, hardly take passengers to these particular areas in the city," he explained.

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