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MUHYIDDIN-PRICE

GOVT ASSURES DIESEL INCREASE WILL NOT RAISE PRICES OF GOODS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- The government has given its assurance that the 10 sen increase in retail price of diesel and petrol will not cause a hike in prices of retail goods in the country.

Minister of domestic trade and consumer affairs Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said that the diesel and petrol price increase should not be an excuse for retailers to raise prices.

He hoped that the public who obtained information on any increase in prices of goods would report it to the ministry for action to be taken.

Muhyiddin said this in officiating the Petronas customer service centre here today.

In the 2002 Budget tabled on Oct 19, Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the 10 sen price increase of petrol and diesel effective Oct 20.

Muhyiddin said that the ministry has directed its officers to carry out an investigation on the prices of goods in the country.

"To-date we have not received any reports on any extraordinary increase of prices of goods and considered the move effective in assisting to keep prices stable," he said.

He said that the government also needed detailed and accurate information to avoid taking hasty actions without concrete proof.

As for the monitoring function of Jarimas, Muhyidin stressed that the government was not involved with it, but it supports such an action.

Jarimas, comprising Federation of Malaysian Consumer Association (FOMCA) Malaysian Trades Union Council (MTUC), CUEPACS, Malaysian Youth Council (MYC), National Council of Women's Organisation (NCWO) and the National Writers Association (Gapena), was set up to monitor prices of retail goods.

The government supported Jarimas action to monitor shops which increase their prices but hoped that it would not go overboard in its action.

Meanwhile, Petronas Dagangan managing director and chief executive officer Anuar Ahmad said that MESRA LINK, a one-stop service centre, had been introduced to customers, trading partners and the public in stages nationwide since Feb 2.

The integrated network provides speedy communication without any barrier between the telephone system and internal data base to enable MESRA LINK staff to answer questions and see to applications efficiently.

Through the service centre, customers, suppliers, sales representatives and the community could get in touch with Petronas Dagangan at any time.

"They can lodge complaints, give views and feed back or obtain more information from us through the telephone, fax and e-mail," he said.

Customers can get in touch with MESRA LINK at tel no: 1-300-88-8181 or 1-300-88-8282, fax: 1-300-88-8383 or e-mail: mesralink@petronas.com.my. --

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