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Fomca-War

DON'T PANIC IF WAR BREAKS OUT, FOMCA TELLS CONSUMERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 18 (Bernama) -- Consumers should not rush into panic buying of food and other provisions if war breaks out in Iraq, said the Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (Fomca).

Fomca president Datuk Prof Dr Hamdan Adnan said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had assured Malaysians that food supply in the country was adequate if such an eventuality happened.

"With the impending US attack on Iraq, Fomca urge Malaysian consumers not to indulge in panic buying.

"This can only aggravate the situation, if consumers rush to buy essential items to prepare against shortage of supplies or price hikes," he told Bernama here today.

Prof Hamdan told consumers to immediately lodge reports if traders tried to take advantage of the situation by increasing the prices or hoarding of goods.

"Consumers and traders are advised that under existing laws hoarding of large quantity of essential items is an offence," he said.

Prof Hamdan called on the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry to conduct more enforcement checks to ensure no manipulation of prices in the current situation.

"Fomca also calls on the Agriculture Ministry to ensure enough supply of food at all times and at affordable prices. The ministry should also activate the green book plan which encourages Malaysians to grow their own food," he said.

-- BERNAMA  
SSA AHH ZUL