

Navy sending sugar to Sabah, Sarawak

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BUTTERWORTH: The SOS has been heard and the Royal Malaysian Navy is steaming to the rescue.

"Send us Sugar," they cried in Sabah and Sarawak and for the first time, the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has roped in the navy to get it to them, in time for Ramadan and Hari Raya.

Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal was at the port yesterday to watch the Tawau-bound *KD Mahawangsa* being loaded with 400 tonnes of sugar. It is scheduled to arrive at its destination

within the week.

Shafie said the *KD Inderapura* will take three more shipments from Port Klang, Kuching and Bintulu, in Sarawak, will receive 610 tonnes and 284 tonnes of sugar respectively, with Bintulu to get an additional delivery of 252 tonnes later.

In Sabah, Kota Kinabalu will get 700 tonnes and Sandakan 800.

Earlier, in **Kuala Lumpur**, Shafie said sugar producers had assured him that sugar output would be increased.

He said he told manufacturers not to export sugar, especially during the festive season. "We have to make sure the domestic market has enough."

Shafie also said that unscrupulous

traders were not going to have things their way for much longer as more and more organisations and groups were volunteering to become the eyes and ears of the ministry, such as the 70,000 members of Persatuan Suri dan Anggota Wanita Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia two weeks ago.

"It doesn't pay to overcharge or sell sub-standard products," he warned traders yesterday after launching the first 400 Wise Consumer Squads, which consists of Puteri Umno members who will monitor the prices of goods and services.

Gradually, all 300,000 members will be mobilised, said Puteri Umno chief Datuk Noraini Ahmad.