

Ministry studying better way to distribute goods

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BUTTERWORTH: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry is conducting a study to improve the distribution system of controlled items in the country.

Its minister Datuk Shafie Apdal said the study would find out the types of transportation that could be used to distribute the items apart from the existing transport.

"For example, the sugar produced by Malayan Sugar Manufacturing (MSM) in Prai is now sent by train to its distribution centre in Shah Alam. The wholesalers who are in Kuala Lumpur then obtain their supply in Shah Alam for distribution in Petaling Jaya," he said.

"The train is an affordable mode of transportation but it

is slow. So, we want to look at the alternative type of transportation system available," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after inspecting K.D. Mahawangsa, a Royal Malaysian Navy vessel, which would carry 400 metric tonnes of sugar to Tawau in Sabah today.

Shafie said the consignment to Tawau was the first of four sugar shipments to be sent from the ports in Butterworth and Klang.

"The four shipments with a total of 2,894 metric tonnes of sugar, which are allocations from the ministry, will be delivered in stages to Kuching and Bintulu in Sarawak, and Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, and Tawau in Sabah," he said.

The sugar, supplied by MSM, Central Sugars Refinery Sdn Bhd, Gula Padang Terap Berhad, and Kilang Gula Felda Perlis Sdn Bhd, was to cater for the needs of the coming festive seasons, he said.

The first shipment will reach Tawau on Sept 29.

Earlier in Kuala Lumpur, Shafie launched Puteri Umno's Intelligent Consumer Squad.

The squad, set up jointly by the movement and the Federation of Malay Economic Bodies, has 400 members from Puteri Umno branches nationwide.

In his speech during the launch, Shafie called on Malaysian consumers to take their rights as consumers seriously and not accept sub-standard goods.