

**Price Control On 12 Essential Goods During Deepavali
Bernama
October 16, 2011**

RAUB, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- The Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism will be announcing 12 items under the Festive Season Price Control Scheme tomorrow in conjunction with Deepavali on Oct 26.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the announcement on the prices was important to avoid traders from taking advantage of the festival to raise prices of essential goods.

"The ministry guarantees that there will be sufficient supply of essential goods during the Deepavali week," he told reporters after handing over a 'Caring Squad' van to Bera Umno Wanita here, today.

Ismail said all wholesalers, suppliers, traders and retailers had been given ample time to stock up of the items.

He said his ministry would also monitor the prices of control items under the scheme 10 days before and after the festival.

Meanwhile, at another event, the minister urged the people not to make panic purchases as there was sufficient stock of rice in the country even though floods had affected major rice producing countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia now.

Ismail, who is also the MP for Bera, said the national rice stockpile was sufficient to accommodate demand for at least six months.

"Malaysia produces 70 per cent of its own rice and only 30 per cent is imported from these countries.

"Nonetheless, my ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries will hold discussions and cooperate to overcome the possibility of a shortage of rice in the country," he told reporters after opening a Parenting Education Enhancement Programme organised by the Bera Parliamentary Community Development Council at the Bera Umno division hall here, today.

Ismail Sabri said should the situation of rice importing countries worsen, various alternatives would be considered including importing rice from India and Indonesia.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=620228>