

Ministry To Hold Meeting With Industries On Price And Supply Of Essential Goods
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SEREMBAN, July 6 (Bernama) -- The Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry will strengthen cooperation with manufacturers, suppliers, importers and trade associations over the prices and supply of essential goods.

Its minister Datuk Hasan Malek said towards this end, a meeting would be held with these sectors this Monday to get their commitment to cooperate with the ministry in controlling the prices of goods in the market.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the national-level "Ops Harga 2013" (Operation Price 2013) at the Seremban Main Market, here, Saturday. The operation was launched simultaneously throughout the country.

Besides being an enforcement measure to tackle the issue of price increase of essential goods during the Aidilfitri festive season, Ops Harga 2013 is also aimed at curbing traders from manipulating prices and to adhere to the trade laws.

Hasan said 1,845 enforcement staff nationwide would be deployed in implementing 'Ops Harga 2013' so as to intensify monitoring and inspection of all levels of trading.

He said the ministry's 1,071 price monitoring officers would meanwhile also be looking out for price increase of essential goods.

Hasan said the consumer squads comprising penghulu, community leaders and representatives of non-governmental organisations would also be involved in price monitoring and to report on unhealthy trade practices for action to be taken.

"The ministry has been putting up consumer service counters and weighing machines at the main markets throughout the country since July 1 for the benefit of consumers, especially in seeking advice, lodging complaints and knowing the actual weight of their purchases.

"The counter staff will make daily checks at these markets to ensure traders' adherence to the domestic trade laws," he said, adding that consumers could also direct their complaints to the ministry.

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