

Prices Of Goods At Farmers' Market To Remain Unchanged After GST Implementation - Ismail Sabri

Bernama

Mar 31, 2015

PUTRAJAYA, March 31 (Bernama) -- Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has given assurance that the prices of goods at 580 farmers' markets nationwide will remain unchanged even after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) takes effect tomorrow.

In fact, he said the 'Lower Prices at Farmers' Markets' programme, which began last month to enable consumers to enjoy price reduction of between five and 20 per cent, would proceed even after the GST implementation.

"I hereby announced that the pre-GST prices of goods at farmers' markets will remain unchanged.

"Traders who are found to have raised the prices will face stern action, including being delisted from farmers' markets," he told reporters when visiting the Farmers' Market here today.

Meanwhile, the minister said the programme had so far increased the number of visitors to farmers' markets by 20 per cent, and sales of main commodities by 13 per cent.

Seventy-three agro-products, including standard processed chicken, Grade B eggs, potato, local red chili, long bean, round cabbage, lime, coconut milk and ikan kembung, were listed in the programme.

However, Ismail Sabri said Premier Grade agro-products, such as ikan tenggiri, udang galah and bawal putih, were not included in the list of goods involved in the programme.

He said the ministry could only take action on unscrupulous traders at farmers' markets who were found to have raised the prices at their whims and fancy.

For action to be taken against unscrupulous traders in other markets, reports must be lodged to the Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism Ministry, while those in morning or night markets, reports must be made to the local authorities, he added.

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