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**KERATAN AKHBAR  
DAN MEDIA ONLINE  
UNTUK MAKLUMAN :**

**Y.B. MENTERI  
Y.B. TIMBALAN MENTERI  
Y.BHG. KSU  
Y.BHG. TKSU (PDN)  
Y.BHG. TKSU (K&P)  
SETIAUSAHA AKHBAR**

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**15 MAC 2020 (AHAD)**



KEMENTERIAN PERDAGANGAN DALAM NEGERI  
DAN HAL EHRAL PENGGUNA

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**KERATAN AKHBAR  
DAN MEDIA ONLINE  
(KPDNHEP)**

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**15 MAC 2020 (AHAD)**

# Kaji larangan eksport topeng muka

Permintaan meningkat, pengeluar diminta utama keperluan tempatan

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**Kuching:** Pengilang topeng muka tempatan akan dilarang daripada mengeksport barangan berkenaan sebaliknya menggesa mereka mengutamakan pengeluaran untuk keperluan domestik rakyat negara ini.

Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna, Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi, berkata langkah itu sedang diteliti berikutan permintaan tempatan yang semakin meningkat berikutan penularan jangkitan coronavirus (COVID-19).

Selain itu, katanya, langkah berkenaan juga dicadangkan beriku-

tan kesukaran untuk mendapatkan material atau bahan mentah bagi menghasilkan topeng muka.

"Material untuk menghasilkan topeng muka tidak diperolehi di negara kita, sebaliknya ia perlu diimport dari China dan beberapa negara Eropah.

"Kini ia semakin sukar diperolehi berikutan permintaan topeng muka yang meningkat di seluruh dunia," katanya pada sidang media selepas melakukan tinjauan di pasar raya Ta Kiong, di kompleks The Spring, di sini, semalam.

Nanta berkata, ketika ini, terdapat hanya empat pengilang yang menghasilkan produk topeng muka di negara ini.



Alexander (tiga dari kanan) memeriksa bekalan gula di pasar raya Ta Kiong di kompleks The Spring, Kuching semalam.

(Foto BERNAMA)

"Kita mahu mereka meningkatkan pengeluaran dan memberi tumpuan untuk bekalan keperluan tempatan.

"Topeng muka ini diperlukan di seluruh dunia ketika ini, namun pengilang harus mengutamakan pengguna tempatan," katanya.

Selain itu, beliau turut menggesa peniaga dan pembekal supaya tidak menjual topeng muka dalam kuantiti yang banyak ke-

pada orang perseorangan.

"Kita tidak mahu apabila individu membeli sekotak besar topeng muka, ia akan menjejaskan orang lain yang turut memerlukan barangan berkenaan," katanya.

Sementara itu, beliau turut memberi amaran kepada peniaga dan pembekal tidak mengambil kesempatan menaikkan harga topeng muka berikutan permintaan

yang meningkat mendadak.

"Topeng muka termasuk dalam senarai barang kawalan dan Kementerian tidak berkompromi dengan peniaga atau pembekal yang sengaja mengaut untung dengan menaikkan harga.

"Penguat kuasa kami akan melakukan pemeriksaan berterusan untuk memastikan tiada pelanggaran terhadap peraturan ini," katanya.



## Sufficient supply of essential goods in Sabah

By MUGUNTAN VANAR  
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**KOTA KINABALU:** There is no shortage of essential goods in Sabah, says state Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry director George Abas.

Abas said enforcement officers had conducted a two-day inspection following the recording of Covid-19 cases in the state.

"Food and other basic goods are sufficient during checks at 31 markets, 13 hypermarkets, 106 supermarkets and retail shops.

"We also found that consumers were not panic buying," he said yesterday.

Abas said nearly 300 officers and personnel had been deployed to check on the prices of goods state-wide since Friday.

He said they would ensure the supply of basic necessities, including controlled items such as sugar, cooking oil and flour, was available and items were sold at its fixed price.

Abas said since January, they had checked 11,985 premises in urban and rural areas.

"We have seized RM236,235 worth of goods and issued compounds to 438 traders for various offences, including hiking prices.

"So far, we have collected RM69,420 in fines," he said, adding that out of 395 public complaints, a total of 353 of them had been resolved while the balance was still under probe.

He warned traders that they would come down hard on profiteering activities amid fears of the virus outbreak.

Abas also urged the public not to resort to panic buying.

Following the first positive case of Covid-19 in Tawau, some supermarkets there were packed with people buying essentials.

A similar trend also occurred at supermarkets in other parts of the state.

So far, there were 15 confirmed cases in Sabah and two in Labuan.

## Consumers advised against panic buying

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry has urged the public not to panic buy due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Its head of corporate communication, Yunus Tasim, said there was no panic buying and that the situation was under control.

He said images of people supposedly panic buying at a supermarket in Kuching, Sarawak, which went viral on Friday, was not due to Covid-19.

"Our officers carried out an investigation and found out that the supermarket was having a mega sale. Hence large crowds were buying low-priced products and not panic buying due to Covid-19," he told the *New Sunday Times*.

He said the ministry had reminded people not to disseminate false information, which caused panic among the people.

"The public must not easily believe fake news and aggravate matters by sharing unverified news on social media," he said,

adding that the ministry's officers would monitor the situation.

In **Kota Kinabalu**, Sabah Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Office director Georgie Abas said enforcement officers had conducted inspections on 150 retail premises and found that the outlets had sufficient supplies of food and essential items.

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations president Datuk Dr N. Marimuthu urged the public to heed the advice of the authorities in the wake of the second wave of the novel coronavirus infection.

He said the public should not resort to panic buying, adding that it did not help the situation.

"The Health Ministry has done a good job in tackling the Covid-19 outbreak.

"The people should follow the guidelines issued by the ministry and health experts on personal hygiene practices.

"Buying essential items like toilet papers and kitchen paper towels in bulk will not solve the prob-



People shopping at a supermarket in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

lem. Traders will take advantage of the situation by hiking the prices of these items and there will be a shortage of supplies.

"So panic buying only makes the situation worse."

Consumers' Association of Penang president Mohideen Abdul Kader said there was no need for people to stock up on food and products.

"We notice large crowds in supermarkets and wet markets.

There is no shortage of food. We must face this crisis calmly and with faith. Do not panic.

"Adhere to the measures recommended by our health authorities and the World Health Organisation."

## KPDNHEP pertimbang henti eksport topeng muka

**KUCHING** - Kementerian Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Hal Ehwal Pengguna (KPDNHEP) bersedia mempertimbangkan larangan mengeksport topeng muka sekiranya berlaku kekurangan bekalan yang serius di Malaysia.

Menterinya, Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi berkata, berikutan permintaan yang tinggi untuk topeng muka iaitu

permintaan melebihi bekalan, wujud masalah bekalan yang bukan sahaja menjejaskan Malaysia tetapi seluruh dunia.

"Di Malaysia, kita ada empat pengeluaran topeng muka yang bergantung kepada bahan yang diimport untuk menghasilkannya.

"Mereka perlu mengimport bahan

### ANCAMAN COVID-19

dari China dan negara lain dari Eropah," katanya pada sidang media di sini semalam.

Beliau berkata, kementeriannya juga melihat dengan serius laporan harga topeng muka serta cecair sanitasi meningkat ketika ini berikutan kebimbangan orang ramai terhadap jangkitan koronavirus (Covid-19). - *Bernama*