

Kelantan warns 21 over higher priced chickens

PROFITEERING:

They have 14 days to reply to ministry

SHARIFAH MAHSINAH ABDULLAH
KOTA BARU
sharifahmah@nst.com.my

TRADERS in Kelantan have taken advantage of the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festive period to hike the prices of chicken to RM12 per kg or between RM25 and RM30 per bird.

State Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry director Datuk Abdul Ghani Harun said the ceiling price for chicken under the price control scheme for Hari Raya from June 16 to July 6 was RM7.90 per kg and traders should not charge more.

"I have received numerous phone calls from consumers since yester-

day (Friday) complaining about the prices. These traders are taking advantage of the festive season to sell chicken at higher prices, but we will not let them continue profiteering.

"Twenty-one traders were caught selling chicken at a higher price in an operation in several districts here today," he said at the end of an operation at the Siti Khadijah Wet Market here yesterday.

Ghani said the traders — 12 of them from Kota Baru, six from Kuala Krai market, two from Tanah Merah and one from Pasir Mas — were issued warning notices.

He said the traders claimed they had to sell the birds at a higher price as they were charged a higher rate by suppliers.

"We will check with the wholesalers and will not hesitate to haul them up if the claims are true. The attitude of the traders and wholesalers cannot be tolerated," he said.

He said traders who were issued with notices had 14 days to reply to the ministry or face court action if they failed to adhere to the directive.



State Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry director **Datuk Abdul Ghani Harun** (right) inspecting a stall selling chickens at the Siti Khadijah Wet Market in Kota Baru yesterday. Pic by Syamsi Suhaimi

The government price control mechanism set for Hari Raya sees the ceiling price of "super chicken" (slaughtered and dressed without leg, head, liver and gizzard) set at RM7.90 per kg in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya and

RM9.50 in Labuan.

For live chicken, the ceiling price had been set at RM6, while for standard chicken (slaughtered and dressed with leg, head, liver and gizzard), the ceiling price is set at RM7.10 per kg.