

# Poultry price in Kelantan drops to below RM10

**KOTA BARU:** The price of chicken in Kelantan has dropped from RM12 per kilo to RM9 following continuous monitoring by the state Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry.

Head of the Kelantan Anti-Profitteering Unit, Shamsuri Hamzah, said the monitoring was carried out since last Thursday following public complaints.

"The department will continue to monitor chicken sellers in the wet markets in the state to check profiteering," he told reporters after checking the chicken price at several markets here yesterday.

During the festive season, Shamsuri said 46 anti-profitteering cases were recorded, with RM10,440 worth of goods seized and RM11,000 in compounds issued.

He said it was not true that the price of chicken had soared due to an infectious bronchitis (IB) epidemic.

"So far, the IB epidemic has not affected

poultry in Kelantan," Shamsuri said.

Meanwhile, in Pontian, Johor, National Farmers' Association chairman Datuk Seri Saipolbahari Suib said the hot weather during the past few months had slowed down the maturity period of chicken, thus affecting production throughout the country.

He said in a press conference that the usual maturity period for a chicken weighing 1.8kg was between 32 and 34 days, but with the prolonged hot season, it could only reach 1.2kg in 32 days.

As such, the rearers had to add another 10 days for the chicken to reach the standard weight.

"Generally, chicken production by our farmers is normal.

"Thus far, there are no reports of Newcastle Disease, IB or sore throat.

"Production was slightly affected because the maturity period had to be extended and we had to bear the 30% extra cost," he said.



**Spot check:** Officers from the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism checking on the weight and price tags of chicken at the Pasar Besar Siti Khadijah in Kota Baru. — Bernama