

# Chicken traders raise prices

Sellers taking advantage of festive period to increase rates and rake in huge profits

By **TEOH XIU JONG**

newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Traders have taken advantage of the festive period to increase the price of chicken, raising it over the ceiling prices allowed.

The price of "super chicken" (slaughtered and dressed without leg, head, liver and gizzard) has been raised past the RM7.90 per kg ceiling set by the Domestic Trade and Industry Ministry in Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya (RM9.50 in Labuan), with some charging RM8.50.

For live chicken, the price has increased from RM5.70 to RM6.40 (ceiling price set at RM6).

For standard chicken (slaughtered and dressed with leg, head, liver and gizzard), the ceiling price of RM7.10 per kg has been increased past RM8.

Malaysian Muslim Restaurant Owners Association president Noorul Hassan Saul Hameed said it was usual for chicken traders to rake in profits during festive occasions.

"They will take advantage to increase prices to earn maximum profit," he added.

A *nasi kandar* restaurant owner, who declined to be identified, said supply was also hard to come by.

"I am only able to obtain half the amount of chicken I ordered from my supplier," he lamented.

He said previously, there was only an increase of 10sen to 20sen for chicken per kg.

"Now, the price has gone up by almost RM1," he added.

Another restaurant owner, who wished to be known as Leong, said chicken was a price control item during festive periods.

"Action should be taken by the government to curb profiteering," he said.

Chicken seller Wong Hen Seng, 43, said he had no choice but to increase prices due to higher rates charged by his supplier.

"Last week, I charged customers RM7.50 per kg but now it has gone up to RM8 for live chicken," he added.

Malaysian Indian Restaurant Owners' Association deputy president J. Suresh pledged not to increase the price of chicken dishes.

"We will try to absorb the price increase instead of passing it on to customers," he added.



**Hot item:** A worker splashing water to cool off chickens. Prices of live and dressed chicken have spiralled upwards in spite of the ceiling set by the Domestic Trade and Industry Ministry for the festive period.