



# Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang Consumers Association of Penang

檳城消費人協會 பிளாங்கு பயனீட்டாளர் சங்கம்

Websites:  
[www.consumer.org.my](http://www.consumer.org.my)

10 Jalan Masjid Negeri, 11600 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia  
Tel: 604-8299511 Fax: 604-8298109  
email: [consumerofpenang@gmail.com](mailto:consumerofpenang@gmail.com)

## Press Statement

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### PRICE TAGGING LAWS MUST BE ENFORCED

The Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) calls on the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism to enforce the Price Control Act 1946 Amendment 1973, Section 8 (1) which requires traders to display price tags on goods that are meant for sale.

Our repeated survey around Penang Island showed that any traders are blatantly flouting the Price Control Act. The results of the survey are as follows:

Type of premises	Number of shops	Number of shops that did not comply to the law	Number of shops that comply to the law	Percent of shops that violated the law
Food stalls	85	28	57	33%
Restaurants	20	8	12	40%
Sundry shops	15	6	9	40%
Computer peripheral shops	10	5	5	50%
Car spare part shops	10	3	7	30%

The main offenders were the stalls where prices of food and drinks sold by stalls had no price list displayed. Sometimes they posted up price lists that are written entirely in Chinese.

Second on the list of offenders were restaurants that did not update their price lists.

Many of the food outlets have their price list located some distance away from where the food is placed. Therefore, it is difficult for a customer to know the price of food placed on his plate and often costing more than his budget.

Generally, consumers are often overcharged in these cases and they have no price list to fall back on to argue about the charges on their bill.

According to the Act, the onus is on the seller to keep the buyers informed of the prices and the lack of enforcement has hindered the effectiveness of the law.

In view of this, CAP calls on the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-Operatives and Consumerism to conduct a nationwide checked and strictly enforce the laws in accordance to Section 8(1) of the Price Control Act 1946 Amendment 1973. The offenders should be booked immediately.

**S. M. Mohamed Idris**  
**President**  
**Consumers Association of Penang**