

Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang Consumers Association of Penang

槟城消费人协会 பினாங்கு பயனீட்டாளர் சங்கம்

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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 meant for sale.

Our repeated survey around Penang Island showed most traders openly violating the Price Control Act. The survey showed as follows:

Type of Premises	Number of shops	Shops that did not comply the law	Number of shops that comply with the law	The Percentage of shops that violated the Law
Stalls	30	19	11	63%
Restaurants	45	35	10	80%
Sundry Shops	15	6	9	40%
Computer Parts	10	5	5	50%
Wet market stalls	60	30	30	50%
Car Spare Parts Shops	10	3	7	30%

The main offenders were the stalls where prices of the drinks and food sold by the stalls had no price list or indication of the price displayed.

Second on the list of offender were restaurants where indication of prices were not updated, unclear food price list and normally misled the consumer.

By not displaying the prices, consumers are normally being "ripped off".

According to the Act the onus is on the seller to keep the buyers informed of the price and lack of the 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 take stern action and strictly enforce the laws in accordance to Section 8(1) of the Price Control Act 1946 Amendment 1973 and bring to book all offenders.

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