

Sugar refiners will ensure steady supply despite volatile raw sugar price

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sunbiz@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Local sugar refiners, MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd (MSM) and Central Sugars Refinery Sdn Bhd (CSR), today said they will continue to engage with the relevant parties in ensuring steady sugar supply despite the volatile raw sugar price, while committing to reducing the retail ceiling price of white sugar by 10 sen per kilogram effective Sept 1, 2018.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail confirmed the Sun's report earlier this month, in announcing a 10 sen reduction in sugar price.

MSM and CSR reiterated that retail sugar price in Malaysia remain amongst the cheapest in the world, as gazetted under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011.

At the revised retail rates of RM2.85/kg for coarse grain sugar and RM2.95/kg for fine granulated sugar, the price is even lower than the prices in sugar-producing countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as countries with lower per capita income such as Cambodia and Myanmar.

The sugar industry is continuously challenged with illegal activities such as sugar smuggling and infiltration of illicit sugar, on top of higher operational costs in the form of natural gas tariff, electricity tariff, oil prices and minimum wage.

In this regard, local sugar refiners said they are positive towards the government's commitment to completely abolish refined sugar import permits (AP) and curb sugar smuggling activities which are threats to matters concerning 'halal', quality control and other mandatory certification requirements.

The sugar industry is a cyclical business and it is currently in a surplus mode which has resulted in a reduction of global raw sugar price. However, when faced with a challenging market scenario, in particular higher raw sugar price and unfavourable exchange rate, local refiners have continued to absorb the impact to consumer by ensuring a steady sugar supply to the nation.

As responsible Malaysian corporations, MSM and CSR encourages Malaysians to consume sugar in a moderate and responsible manner in line with the government aspiration to lead a healthy lifestyle.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/2018/08/28/sugar-refiners-will-ensure-steady-supply-despite-volatile-raw-sugar-price>