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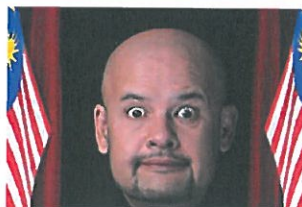
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Hike on raw sugar ceiling price, Domestic Trade Ministry weighing request

BY RIZALMAN HAMMIM (/AUTHORS/RIZALMAN-HAMMIM) - 24 NOVEMBER 2016 @ 5:17 PM

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JOHOR BARU: The Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Ministry is currently studying a request from sugar refiners to increase the ceiling price of the commodity following the rise in global raw sugar price.

Its minister Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin said the sugar refiners have a justification to request for the increase as the price of raw sugar have increased since 2013, the last time sugar price was raised.

"The price of raw sugar has increased from about US\$0.16 per pound three years ago to about US\$0.26 per pound at the moment. We are currently monitoring the price to make sure that it is not caused by trends like the climate that might reduce the supply of the commodity.

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"We also want to make sure that the supply of sugar in the country is not affected regardless of whether we would increase the price or not. We want to balance between the price and supply," said Hamzah.

He was speaking to the media after attending the Hawkers and Petty Traders Consultation Council Meeting at M Suites Hotel here.

On Monday, MSM Malaysia Holdings Bhd said it has appealed to the government to raise the current RM2.84 per kg ceiling price of sugar by between 20 and 30 per cent.

Its president and group chief executive officer Mohamad Amri Sahari said the appeal was made as the world price for raw sugar has gone up by almost 40 per cent and this has affected its profit margin.

Hamzah said the request was made to the ministry about a month ago but he did not say when the ministry would make a decision on the matter.

"We will make an announcement when the time comes."

On the meeting with the hawkers and petty traders, Hamzah said one of the issues raised during the meeting was the problem of illegal immigrants who have opened businesses in the state, competing directly with local hawkers and traders.

"We will discuss with the Home Ministry and the local councils on how to come up with a solution to this issue," said Hamzah.

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(Football) Mourinho charged by FA after dismissal (/news/2016/11/192696/football-mourinho-charged-fa-after-dismissal)

LONDON: Jose Mourinho has been charged with improper conduct by the Football Association (FA) after being sent to the stands during Manchester United's 1-1 draw with West Ham United on Sunday, it was announced on Monday.

(Football) Icardi double helps Inter thwart 10-man Viola (/news/2016/11/192690/football-icardi-double-helps-inter-thwart-10-man-viola)

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The Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism Ministry is currently studying a request from sugar refiners to increase the ceiling price of the commodity following the rise in global raw sugar price. Pix by Ahmad Irham Mohd Noor

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