

## KERATAN AKHBAR

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### Malaysia's inflation rises at slower rate to 3.3pc

#### STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April increased to 3.3 per cent with the index points at 130 from 125.9 in the same period a year ago, said the Statistics Department yesterday.

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said this was driven mainly by restaurants and hotels (6.6 per cent), and food and non-alcoholic beverages (6.3 per cent).

Nevertheless, the slower increase in the transport group (2.3 per cent) offset a further rise in inflation to a certain extent, he added.

"The increase in inflation was also due to the rise in furnishings, household equipment and rou-

tine household maintenance (3.0 per cent); miscellaneous goods and services (2.5 per cent); health (2.1 per cent) and recreation services and culture (1.8 per cent)."

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels and education recorded an increase of 1.6 per cent.

Mohd Uzir said the food and non-alcoholic beverages group contributed to 29.5 per cent of total CPI, noting that out of the 230 items, 84.3 per cent recorded price increases as compared to April last year.

The implementation of the Festive Season Maximum Price Scheme on April 15-30 had eased inflation to a certain extent, he added. **Bernama**