



Costlier roti canai, Ramly burgers: Locals in JB tighten their belts as eateries hike prices

JOHOR BAHRU: For factory technician Muhd Nur Hidayat Abu Bakar, the rising food prices in recent months mean he has to watch his expenses closely.

Meals at his favourite haunts for roti canai, nasi campur (mixed rice) and nasi lemak around Johor Bahru have all increased in the last three months.

Initially it seemed insignificant, a couple of ringgit here and there, said Mr Muhd Nur Hidayat.

But when I saw the figures in my bank account dwindling, I started to realise that this problem may be serious, added the 28-year-old, who is saving up for a wedding in 2023.

To curb his dining expenses, Mr Muhd Nur Hidayat has recently resolved to eat simply, recounting how he eats plain rice with fried eggs in the week leading up to payday. He declined to reveal how much he earns every month.

Its shocking how (extensive) the problem has become - almost every warung, mamak shop, restaurant or cafe, their dishes are more expensive than before. And I dont think they will revert back (to the old prices) ever, he said.

Some eateries in Johor Bahru have acknowledged that indeed there has been an inevitable increase in prices of their food menu items, due to the sustained hike in costs of food products like eggs, cooking oil, flour, rice and meat.

In June, the **Department of Statistics Malaysia** said the inflation has increased by 3.4 per cent year-on-year in June, surpassing the average inflation for January 2011 to June 2022 by 1.9 per cent.

Food inflation increased by 6.1 per cent and was the main contributor to the rise in inflation in June, chief statistifican Mohd Uzir Mahidin was quoted as saying by Bernama.

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