

*For immediate release*

## **INSPECTIONS OF 3 STARS PREMISES UNDER THE PRICE CONTROL ACT**

1. On 10 February 2020, MTI issued a letter of demand to 3 Stars pursuant to Section 11 of the Price Control Act (“the Act”) for information relating to their pricing charges for masks. 3 Stars is required by law to provide complete information and documentation explaining the basis of their selling prices including invoices and sales receipts. Members of public have continued to complain of 3 Stars outlets taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation to profiteer.
2. Despite repeated exchanges with 3 Stars, the information furnished remained incomplete and its pricing practices have not changed.
3. MTI has therefore exercised powers under the Act to conduct inspections on 17 February 2020 at 3 Stars’ registered business address and warehouse, as well as 5 of its retail outlets. MTI will assess the need for further action after reviewing 3 Star’s responses and the information gathered during the inspections.
4. Failure to fully comply with information required under the Act is an offence which is liable on conviction to penalties. We urge businesses to exercise corporate social responsibility and not take advantage of the increased demand to raise prices unreasonably. Consumers can report any errant sellers to CASE at 6100 0315.
5. The Government has been closely monitoring retail practices and complaints from consumers on profiteering. If there is suspicion of profiteering, we will issue letters of demand to the retailer.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
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**For media queries, please contact:**

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