

No hike in prices of Ramadan goodies

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PETALING JAYA — It is that time of the year again when Malaysians of different race and religions alike throng Ramadan bazaars, seeking various food and delicacies.

Although the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) since April last year has caused some costs to rise, the prices of some dishes sold at bazaars here remained the same.

A satay vendor who wanted to be known only as Man, 43, and his brother Mohd Yazid Yahaya, 24, were among those vowing against hiking the price even as raw materials became more expensive. "My elder brother has mastered

the recipe of marinating satay and I would buy them from him at 40 sen per stick," Man said when met at the Section 14 bazaar yesterday.

Man said they had been selling satay for almost 20 years and would continue with the family business.

"We have always wanted to learn the ins and outs of the business. As we came from an average family, our dad taught us about the business when we were teenagers," Man said.

Shopper Florence Kong, 45, said she had been waiting since the beginning of the year for Ramadan to arrive, just so she could get her hands on the popular popiah basah sold here.

"The spice and the sauce has a balance of taste to it and you would need to come early before

the queue gets long by 5pm," she said.

Kong is surprised to see how her favourite hawker had not increased the price despite rising costs over the years.

"I am not sure how this hawker can maintain the price as RM1.20 per piece with the same amount of ingredients," she said.

Date vendor Mohd Fadhil Muhamed, 35, admitted his goods had become more expensive in the past five years.

"I used to get them for less than RM20 per kg, but now it is RM25 per kg depending on the grade of the dates," he said, adding he only sells grade A dates.

He said non-Muslims also bought dates for him.

"Besides eating them on their own, some would mix them with

cakes and cookies," he said.

"Some would even mix dates in a salad for a sweet and chewy taste."

Bazaar frequenter Zulkifli Harun, 25, said he was looking forward to this Ramadan as it would be the first he would spend with his wife.

"I recently got married and this will be my first Ramadan with my wife. We would be celebrating here in Kuala Lumpur as we couldn't go back to my hometown," he said.

The bank officer said his wife had planned to cook for their first Ramadan but unfortunately, she ended up not being able to do so because she got caught up with work.

"She then asked me to just buy something for breaking fast," he said.