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A TRADERS association in Overseas Union Garden (OUG) is questioning Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) involvement in matters pertaining to the morning market.

There are two associations managing the morning market in the township — Hujan Rahmat 2 Morning Market Traders Association and the relatively new Taman OUG Hawkers Association.

Hujan Rahmat 2 market traders association chairman Tan Kian Kok said DBKL's Licensing Department officers had been going around asking traders to state their preference on which association should manage the morning market.

"The new association has no track record, yet DBKL officers are passing around a circular asking traders to vote for the association of their choice.

"To me, this is beyond their scope of work. DBKL should only be involved in licensing and stall allotment matters. It should not get involved in these matters."

Kian Kok also complained about the reduction of trading lots, which saw old-traders' lots being reduced and the reorganisation of the lots' locations.

Nancy Tan, 70, who has been selling footwear in the area for 20 years, said she not only had her lots reduced from five to one but was directed to move to another location.

"I am in a wheelchair and the new location is not conducive for me.

"Why ask me to move after all these years?" she asked.

Clothes trader Jasudass Anthony, 51, who has been operating there for 30 years, also had his lots reduced from six to three and was told to relocate to the opposite side of the road.

"The new lot allocated to us is six metres long and six metres wide.

"They are too small. We need adequate space for our business," he said.

Soya bean drink seller Allan Chooi, 57, said he was also asked to relocate to another spot and was miffed when told that it was because of complaints made by the public.

"I have been here for 16 years and have never once received any complaints.

Rival groups seek to manage morning market

Association in Taman OUG says DBKL should not interfere in matter



DBKL is asking traders to choose between two associations involved in running the Taman OUG morning market. — SAMUEL ONG/The Star

"When I asked DBKL to furnish me with proof, they were not able to do so," said Chooi.

Kian Kok said there were about 242 traders operating there previously, but the number has since increased to 473.

"In the past two months, we have seen many new traders coming into the area and we have no idea who they are or where they are from.

"We are concerned with the increase in traders as the market has become more cramped," said Chooi.

The association is in the midst of collecting signatures to obtain members' support for them to continue managing the market.

They are also planning to lodge a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission on possible abuse of power.

Meanwhile, attempts to reach the OUG hawkers association to shed light on the issue were unsuccessful.

When contacted, Federal Territories MCA DBKL Affairs Bureau chief Banie Chin said that he was aware of the tussle between the two groups, adding that he had tried to get



Kian Kok says the number of traders has risen from 242 to 473 at the morning market.



Nancy says her lots have been reduced from five to one and she has been told to move.

both associations to sit down for a discussion.

"But no one was cooperating so I decided to drop the matter," said Chin.

DBKL Licensing and Hawker Development director Khairul Anuar Mhd Juri denied that the new licensing guidelines and allotment were interfering in any way.

"This is about reorganising the lots and nothing else.

"We will explain in detail via a statement soon," he added.

Action committee formed to protest against flyover widening project

By JAROD LIM
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A COMMITTEE has been set up to object to the proposed widening of the Jalan Yew-Jalan Sungai Besi flyover in Kuala Lumpur. The Action Committee Against the

Widening of Jalan Yew comprising 10 stakeholders, including various hawkers and traders associations, Kwong Tong Cemetery Kuala Lumpur and representatives from Choong Wan Koong temple, is against any form of road widening works in the area.

They said the proposed construction would be detrimental to the Pudu morning market traders and business owners in the vicinity.

Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said he was seeking a special meeting with Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah on the matter and hoped it would be held soon.

"Following the objection to the proposed project on Dec 9, I was made to understand that Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will study and redesign the road widening project," he told a press conference held at a cafe in Jalan Yew.

He said the local stakeholders' position was clear — they want the flyover retained as it is now.

Tan said the committee might consider further action to object to the project if DBKL did not convene a meeting with them soon.

"If the project proceeds, the shops here will suffer a similar fate to the shoplots at the Loke Yew roundabout in Kuala Lumpur and Jalan Kem in Port Klang.

"The flyovers built near both rows of shoplots in the two areas have severely impacted business operators there.

"We do not want this to happen to the traders along Jalan Yew," he said, adding that the project, which cost almost RM100mil, should be scrapped.

Previously, six business associations around the area — representing some 2,000 traders and shopowners — had signed a letter objecting to the project.

The project is estimated to take two years to complete.

Business owners feel that the project will



Business owners and traders along Jalan Yew, Kuala Lumpur are against the widening of the Jalan Yew-Jalan Sungai Besi flyover. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

only worsen traffic congestion in the area and affect businesses and residents not only in Jalan Yew, but also surrounding areas such as Jalan Pasar Baru, Jalan Pasar, Jalan Pudu, Jalan Gajah, Jalan Peel, Jalan Sungai Besi, Jalan San Peng, Jalan Loke Yew and Jalan Cheras.

Action committee chairman Yong Pock Yau said traffic congestion was not caused by the Jalan Yew flyover.

"The bottleneck occurs at the Kampung Pandan roundabout and traffic gets backlogged all the way to the flyover.

"DBKL should study the traffic congestion at the roundabout instead of widening the

flyover," he said.

Malaysian Hawkers and Traders Association Coalition president Datuk Rosli Sulaiman rapped DBKL for planning to widen the flyover when the Pudu morning market, which had existed since 1957, had not received any facelift or development.

"It has been 64 years and nothing much is done to improve the facilities at the market.

"The livelihood of the people should be given priority, especially when traders and hawkers here are struggling during this Covid-19 pandemic.

"Business owners here are against the flyover widening project," Rosli reiterated.

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