

10% waste increase in KL from bazaars

Twice daily rubbish collection employed while S'gor sticks to once-a-day routine

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DOMESTIC waste in Kuala Lumpur is expected to increase by 10% this month because of the presence of Ramadan bazaars, says Alam Flora Sdn Bhd.

Alam Flora chief operating officer Azahari Zainal Abidin said the increase in domestic waste was expected based on previous years' figures.

He said cleaning works at Ramadan bazaars had been stepped up to ensure orderliness and hygiene before traders start business and after they close shop.

"Although many people are not eating and drinking during the day, they tend to buy more food for the break of fast.

"This increase in consumption is resulting in an uptick in the amount of plastic and paper waste being generated," he told *StarMetro*.

Azahari said rubbish collection at 93 bazaars in Kuala Lumpur would be done twice daily — between 3pm and 3.30pm and from 8pm to 10pm — to cater to the higher waste production.



Azahari: Hawkers are advised not to discard food waste into drains, to prevent blockage.

"We have placed several 240litre bins at these bazaars for traders' use.

"RoRo (roll-on roll off) bins are provided at larger bazaars, subject to Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) request.

"These bins can only be placed at certain bazaars as they require a bigger space," he added.



Alam Flora workers cleaning up the Ramadan bazaar site in Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star

Azahari reminded hawkers not to discard food waste such as used cooking oil and plastic wrappings into drains, in order to prevent blockage.

"We have noticed this problem is happening although it is not widespread.

"Such irresponsible behaviour raises flood risks, especially during a downpour," he stressed.

DBKL, in a statement to *StarMetro*, said bazaar traders were advised to place rubbish in plastic bags before throwing them out.

"A collection schedule has been drawn up with the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation and collection will be carried out by Alam Flora," it added.

In Selangor, several councils said KDEB Waste Management cleaned and collected

rubbish once a day after the bazaars shut operations.

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) said cleaning works, at 18 sites under its jurisdiction, started at 9pm and ended before midnight daily.

"No RoRo bins are provided as the rubbish is collected by trucks," said MBSJ Corporate and Strategic Management Department deputy director Azfarizal Abdul Rashid.

Selangor Municipal Council, which oversees 28 bazaars this year, said rubbish collection must be done before midnight every day.

Its Corporate Department deputy director Ahmad Fauzi Ishak said bazaar organisers had to ensure that rubbish was put in one designated spot for KDEB workers to pick up.

Rebranded fest off to good start



By **EDWARD RAJENDRA**
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THERE was a cheerful buzz in the air as Muslims thronged the annual Putrajaya Ramadan Festival.

They happily shopped for new clothes and other festive necessities offered by 135 vendors under a large air-conditioned tent.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim

launched the festival which was rebranded as "Ihya' Ramadan Putrajaya (IRP) 2022".

IRP 2022 at Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 3 operates from 10am to midnight until May 2.

The organisers are expecting 500,000 visitors.

Shahidan was pleased to see so many parents and children engrossed in their shopping for Hari Raya.

"This event will help foster family ties.

"The rebranding exercise is aimed at giving a boost to traders who are the economic engines of Putrajaya," he said.

There are also 160 stalls operating in the area around Putrajaya

Corporation office and Dataran Putrajaya from 3pm to 8pm, selling cooked food items.

Among the activities taking place during IRP 2022 are educational talks by popular speakers and the Santai Petang@Ihya' Ramadan every Saturday at Masjid Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin.

"Putrajaya Corporation is committed to making Putrajaya a choice destination for tourists and visitors, especially during Ramadan," said Shahidan.

IRP 2022 has four main components, namely the Ramadan Bazaar, Anjung Syawal, Kiblat Walk and Laman Iftar, all located near Dataran Putrajaya.



Shahidan and wife Datin Seri Shamsiah Mohd Yassin (left) admiring sampin songket at a stall at IRP 2022. — LOW BOON TAI/The Star