

Kuala Lumpur

Kepong roadside hawkers fuming over Kuala Lumpur City Hall enforcement
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Employers urged to offer better deals to skilled locals to stop exodus to S'pore
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Escooter etiquette

These two-wheelers offer mobility but the benefit is overshadowed by haphazard parking in Kuala Lumpur that poses a safety hazard. City folk say there needs to be a change in attitude to ensure their safe use.



Hogging the pavement: Parked escooters taking up space on a walkway in the busy Bukit Bintang area of Kuala Lumpur. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

By **BAVANI M**
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ELECTRIC scooters have been a familiar sight in Kuala Lumpur since early 2019, particularly in Bukit Bintang, KLCC and Ampang.

They have grown more popular and many city folk can be seen whizzing around on these two-wheelers in other parts of the Klang Valley including Cheras, Bukit Jalil, Kepong, Sentul, Petaling Jaya, Cyberjaya and Shah Alam.

However, there is a consensus regarding the need for proper regulations on how to safely incorporate scooters in public spaces.

On Jan 1 last year, Kuala Lumpur police banned scooters on public roads but left Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to decide on the designated zones for their use in

parks and shopping centres.

DBKL carried out a feasibility study with the Transport Ministry, Malaysian

Institute of Road Safety Research (Miros), Road Transport Department (JPJ) and the police, but the outcome has not been revealed so far.

However, last October, the government legalised micromobility vehicles that are propelled by electricity like scooters by virtue of the Road Transport (Amendment) Act 2020.

Now, usage of these two-wheelers must be regulated by JPJ and the respective local authorities.

When contacted, a Miros representative said the organisation was still discussing

the matter with multiple stakeholders.

Selangor's local councils like Shah Alam and Sepang have allowed the use of scooters, but DBKL has not approved it.

A DBKL spokesperson from the Urban Transport Department confirmed no approval for scooters have been given as it was still waiting feedback from the Transport Ministry and Miros.

Beam, a Singapore-based electric scooter sharing service, has been working with DBKL and JPJ to share best practices around the region to help create clear guidelines on micromobility technology.

The company has permits to operate in several cities in Selangor but not Kuala Lumpur.

Beam mobility vice-president (public affairs) Isabelle Neo said they were still

having talks with DBKL.

"However, we already have partnerships with private companies like hotels and condominiums in KL to allow the scooters to be placed in their premises for residents and guests."

Sharing urban spaces

Not everyone is on board with this latest transport mode, citing the risks posed to pedestrians and other road users, especially the disabled.

> TURN TO PAGE 3

By DARISHINI PRIYAA DEVADAS
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TRADERS operating along Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1 in Kepong claim they are being unfairly treated by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) after they were issued summonses to cease operations.

They have been operating on vacant parking bays for many years.

Chan Boon Yoong, 31, who sold pau from a van, said his application for a petty trader's licence from DBKL was unsuccessful.

"I was told to either take up a food truck in this area or cease operations."

"But to operate a food truck I would have to pay almost RM1,000 monthly for the licence as well as pay RM30 for parking bay rental for a day."

"These rates are too high. I am only making between 70sen and 80sen per pau."

"I could raise my prices but I would lose customers," said Chan who started the business after losing his job during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping said it was unfair for traders who were carrying out similar activities within the same area to be treated differently.

"Why is one business considered legitimate and the other illegal?"

He added that food trucks were also monopolising parking bays.

Yee claimed the operators also blocked the entire street in the late evening with tables and chairs.

"DBKL has failed to consider that when they allowed food trucks to operate. They are taking away business from restaurants and cafes here," said Yee.

Kuala Lumpur Food Truck

Kepong traders upset over DBKL's 'unfair treatment'

Sellers operating in area designated for food trucks say they cannot afford high licence fee and daily parking rental

Entrepreneurs Association member Wan Chin Hong said DBKL had designated the area for food trucks.

"Twenty food trucks have registered to trade in Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1."

"The association members have also arranged Rela personnel to direct traffic during the evening when chairs and tables line the street," he said.

Chin Hong added that it was not fair to ask food truck operators to leave as they have applied for licences.

David Wan, 28, who sold spring onion pancakes, said as legal traders, they should be allowed to earn an honest living.

"As for blocking parking space, we have an understanding with visitors."

"When they park in our space, we ask them to leave their contact numbers on their cars so we can call them when a truck arrives to start business," said Wan.

DBKL did not respond when asked to comment.



DBKL allows only food trucks to operate at Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1 in Kepong. — ONG SOON HIN/The Star

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com

SARAWAK

Contraband worth RM17.8mil seized since January

By ANDY CHUA
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THE General Operations Force (GOF) in Sarawak scored a major success in the first four months of this year with the seizure of contraband worth RM17.8mil from 39 cases.

Deputy commander Shaikh Abdul Adzis Shaikh Abdullah said in a statement that during their operations from Jan 1 to April 12, 49 people were arrested.

They also confiscated 22 vehicles.

"Last year, the state GOF recorded 43 cases and 58 arrests involving seizure of contraband worth RM27.7mil," he said.

Shaikh said on April 6 this year, a police team from 10th Battalion Sibul seized fireworks worth RM150,500 from a 26-year-old man.

The second case on April 7 involving the 11th Battalion Kuching confiscated illegal cigarettes and beer amounting to RM26,310, where a 20-year-old was detained.

The third case on April 8 involving the 12th PGA Battalion

Limbang conducted a raid on a house which was suspected to be used as a cigarette storage area.

The team detained a 54-year-old man and seized illegal cigarettes worth RM506,912.

Shaikh Abdul Adzis said in another raid carried out by a police team from the intelligence branch of the Sarawak GOF headquarters, a local man and Indonesian male aged 28 and 37 respectively were arrested.

"During the raid, 8,400 cartons of cigarettes and 17,600 cartons of kretek worth RM1.5mil were found," he said.

In another raid on April 12, he said the team nabbed a 28-year-old local man and confiscated 1,872 cartons of cigarettes in a house in Kuching, adding that the estimated total value of the seized items was RM280,800, including tax.

Shaikh Abdul Adzis said all arrests and seizures were handed over to the criminal investigation division of the police headquarters in the relevant district for further action and investigation.

All cases are being investigated under Section 135 (1) (d) of the Customs Act 1967.

"Last year, the state GOF recorded 43 cases and 58 arrests involving seizure of contraband worth RM27.7mi"

Shaikh Abdul Adzis Shaikh Abdullah

New park taking shape in open field at Bandar Mahkota Cheras

KAJANG Municipal Council (MPK) has allocated RM61,000 to build a recreational park in Jalan Dayang 36/8, Bandar Mahkota Cheras.

The project is taking place in an area next to Bandar Mahkota Cheras community hall that had been utilised by nearby residents for farming.

MPK Corporate Planning and Public Relations Unit head, Kamarul Izlan Sulaiman said they wanted to clear the vegetable plants and fruit trees to build a children's playground and outdoor gym facilities.

"The contractor put up a signboard last month for the recreational park," he said.

MPK councillor Lim Kim Eng said a notice was issued to residents in Jalan Dayang 34/8, 36/8, 48/8 and 54/8, who were involved in farming activities to clear the site.

"The land was an open field, but several residents decided to use it for other purposes."

"The area was not properly maintained and contributed to problems like undergrowth and mosquito infestation."

"MPK wants to reinstate the area for recreational purposes by building the Jalan Dayang Section 8 Recreation Park," she said.

The project is expected to be completed by May 19.



Lim showing the area in Jalan Dayang 36/8 which was cleared to make way for a recreational park.

Abandoned two-wheelers a safety hazard

> FROM PAGE 1

Disability rights activists are now calling on DBKL to ensure that walkways are free from two-wheelers.

"When a blind person uses a pedestrian walkway, especially the ones with tactile blocks, they have an expectation that it is safe and free from obstruction," said Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) accessibility and advocacy executive Siti Huraizah Ruslan.

Agreeing with this, Independent Living and Training Centre (ILTC) Malaysia president G. Francis Siva said disabled people were already vulnerable and should not have to put up with more risks.

"As a disabled person, I can say that it is not safe for us on the streets."

"The walkways are often obstructed by tables and chairs as well as parked motorbikes and now irresponsible people are dumping their scooters there too," he said.

A check by *StarMetro* at several locations in the city showed many of these two-wheelers abandoned at several sites including parking bays and pedestrian walkways.

Some were abandoned on the streets or propped up against traffic lights, trees and bushes.

At Jalan Bukit Bintang alone, dozens were dumped along walkways, back lanes and near the Bukit Bintang MRT station.

In Bandar Menjalara, Kepong, Euston Lee posted a photo on social media showing dozens of scooters parked on space meant for cars.

At the Bukit Jalil National Stadium, many scooters were left at the entrance and along walking paths with tactile blocks heading to the Bukit Jalil LRT station.

A security guard at the stadium said the two-wheelers were dumped by visitors after they were told they could not bring them into the stadium.

Virtual docking solution

To prevent scooters from being dumped all over the city, Neo said Beam introduced Virtual Docks to educate people on how to park their two-wheelers properly.

Virtual Docks are fixed parking spots that can be created virtually, and riders can be directed to appropriate parking spots using a combination of technology, GPS, behavioural science techniques, guidance, incentives and disincentives.

She said once Virtual Docks was



This scooter was left abandoned on a road in Bukit Jalil. — SS KANESAN/The Star

established, within three months, scooter parking compliance in Kuala Lumpur increased from 44% to 90%.

"Last week, 95% of our total trips ended at designated parking spots."

"If a scooter is abandoned, the local authority will file a report and our Rapid Response Rangers team on the ground will collect the scooter."

"Those who do not park at pre-determined spots will be fined. In Shah Alam, the local authority set a RM10 fine and in Kuala Lumpur the fine is RM5."

"In some countries, we reward users with rebates but in Malaysia, we found that fines were more effective in changing attitudes," Neo said.

Beam has also created a dedicated hotline with local councils in Selangor and a 24-hour communication channel for residents to reach them, with an average response time of under 60 minutes.

"One of the key points of virtual docking is choosing parking spots that serve mobility efforts."

"Bus stops are the best places, in fact in Sepang and Cyberjaya, virtual docking next to the bus stops there is part of our agreement with

the Sepang council."

Last year, Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah said DBKL had been approached by scooter companies seeking permission for their vehicles to be used at designated zones in the city.

Mahadi reiterated that DBKL did not want a repeat of the situation it faced with oBike previously.

"oBikes proved to be a failure and a logistical nightmare as the local authority was saddled with the responsibility of collecting the abandoned bicycles dumped all over the city."

Thousands of the yellow bicycles that were collected and kept at the DBKL depot were auctioned off as scrap metal.

Boon or bane?

Kuala Lumpur folk are divided over the use of scooters in the city.

While some find this mode of getting around convenient, others view them as a nuisance that requires strict regulations.

Fatimah Johar, 18, rents an scooter when she is in the Bukit Bintang area.



Francis: The disabled are already vulnerable and should not have to put up with further risks.



Viknendran: Scooter users need to be more civic-minded.

"It gets me around from one place to another fast," said the 18-year-old from Segambut.

Samuel Lai finds the scooter to be a convenient and cheap mode of transport.

"Hailing is too expensive, especially during peak hours."

"So I use the scooter to move around," said Lai, who worked as a barista in Jalan Raja Chulan.

However, M. Viknendran from Bangsar said scooters were a menace.

"I see them everywhere, left abandoned at bus stops and taking up space."

"Scooter users need to be more civic-minded and should consider others who share the pedestrian walkways with them," he added.

Raj Kumar, a Bukit Jalil resident, thinks the scooters are good for the environment but feels users must be more responsible and not violate the rights of others like the elderly and disabled.

"We need rules to regulate their use or the same problem that happened with oBike will crop up again," Raj said.



COUNCIL MATTERS

The public can drop off their used cooking oil at Bazaar Ramadan locations in Taman Medan, Jalan PJS2/3, Jalan SS6/1, Section 4, Kota Damansara, Apartment Vista Business Centre, Damansara Damai as well as PJ Eco Recycling Plaza SS8 and Jabatan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal & Pembersihan Awam (Tingkat 20, Menara MBPJ). For details, call Petaling Jaya City Council at 03-7954 1440.

> Applications for the Petaling Jaya Community Grant 4.0 is open until June 30. Successful applicant could receive between RM5,000 and RM50,000. For details, call 03-7954 1440 or email gerankomuniti@mbpj.gov.my

TRAFFIC MATTERS

The exit ramp to Jalan Cheras (Ramp 5A) on the Besraya Eastern Extension is now open. The ramp after the Loke Yew toll plaza connects motorists (Pandan Jaya-bound) to Jalan Cheras and saves users 10 minutes of travel time. For details, call 1800-88-0999.

TOY DONATION

Donate pre-loved toys and books that are in good condition to benefit underprivileged children nationwide. New stationery is also welcome. Go to SS3 Play Toy Recycling Hub and Toy Library at No 2, Jalan SS3/52 in Petaling Jaya to drop off items.

LIBRARY MATTERS

> The Pustaka KL @ Keramat library at the Keramat Mall UTC, Kuala Lumpur is now open. Registration is free of charge. Operation hours are from 10am-5.30pm (Tuesdays to Fridays) and 10am-5pm (weekends). The library is closed on Mondays and public holidays as well as on the first weekend of the month.

> Operation hours for all public libraries under the Selangor Public Library Corporation (PPAS) is from 8.30am to 5pm throughout the fasting month. They are closed on public holidays. For details, visit the PPAS Facebook page.

PAY FOR PARKING

Those without smartphones can now buy digital coupons from GoPay agents around Selangor as parking payment is now fully digital. Motorists can also purchase monthly parking passes through these agents. All unused and valid scratch-and-pay coupons can be exchanged for credit into Smart Selangor Parking accounts until the end of April.

VIRTUAL RUN

World Vision Malaysia's #RunForChildren is back to raise awareness of children's rights and put an end to violence against them. Participants can opt to run, jog or walk indoors or outdoors for 42 minutes between May 15 and 31. Proceeds from the run will be channelled to child protection efforts in Malaysia as well as overseas. Registration fee is RM60. For details, visit worldvision.com.my

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Befrienders Ipoh will hold a training course for new hotline volunteers at its centre in Fair Park from June 11 to 19. The programme is open to those aged 21 and above. Registration ends May 31. For details, WhatsApp 012-534 0063.

Contractor clears site at Taman Goodwood after complaints

By BAVANI M

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WORK to clear a vacant plot of land that is used to store water pipes, sand and earth in Jalan Kangkong in Taman Goodwood off Jalan Kuchai Lama, in Kuala Lumpur has started.

Residents had complained that the site was contributing to mud flowing into their houses whenever it rained.

Tractors and lorries were spotted scooping earth at the site to be transported elsewhere.

"We will continue as per schedule to clear all the soil from the site," said a representative from the contractor.

On April 11, *StarMetro* in a report titled "Mudflow menace at Taman Goodwood" had high-

lighted residents' concerns over the matter.

It was reported that the contractor was using the site for storage while waiting for an Integrated Water Supply Scheme project permit from Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd.

Taman Goodwood often experiences flash floods during heavy rain.

Since the land in front of the Full Gospel Assembly (FGA) church was used to store sand and earth, the situation worsened.

Surface run-off from the exposed site would flow into residences, shophouses and drains resulting in backflow.

FGA administrator Ang Chu Peng hoped the works would be completed soon.

Residents also hoped the author-



The contractor's workers seen clearing the site in Taman Goodwood. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

ities would do something about the infrastructure of the neighbourhood which is in a bad state.

"The drains need to be cleaned and upgraded and the roads are

riddled with potholes.

"We hope Kuala Lumpur City Hall can do something about it," said Taman Goodwood resident CH Yap.

Penduduk mahu rundingan maju semula kawasan diteruskan

Wakil penduduk Kampung Sungai Baru gesa penyiaran Warta Seksyen 4, 8 ditarik balik

Oleh Muhammad Yusri Muzamir dan Awatif Hasani
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Kuala Lumpur: Penduduk Kampung Sungai Baru, **Kampung Baru** di sini, menggesa penyiaran Warta Seksyen 4 dan Seksyen 8 Akta Pengambilan Tanah 1960 ditarik balik, bagi membolehkan rundingan pembangunan semula kawasan itu diteruskan.

Ini susulan kenyataan Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan, Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim, yang mahu rundingan bersama penduduk diteruskan, bagi mencari penyelesaian berhubung kemelut berkaitan projek tersebut.

Penyiaran Warta di bawah Seksyen 4 akta itu dibuat untuk memaklumkan plot tanah mungkin diambil, manakala Seksyen 8 akta sama bagi pengisytiharan pengambilan yang dicadangkan.

Wakil penduduk di kediaman teres, Azlan Mustafa, menyifatkan penyiaran dua warta itu dibuat secara mengejut dan mendadak, selain mendakwa pandangan mereka kerap 'ditenggelamkan' sepanjang rundingan dengan pempunya sejak 2016.

Katanya, penyiaran Warta Seksyen 4 dan Seksyen 8 akta itu

dibuat selang dua hari pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) 3.0 dikuatkuasakan, masing-masing pada 18 dan 21 Jun 2021, menyebabkan penduduk tidak sempat meneliti atau mengemukakan bantahan.

Bellau mendakwa, penyiaran dua warta itu seolah-olah bertujuan mempersetujui keputusan lebih awal yang dimuktamadkan beberapa pihak, bagi projek pembangunan semula di kawasan berkenaan.

"Penilai swasta yang menilai beberapa unit rumah kami pun memerlukan sekurang-kurangnya lima hari menyediakan laporan dan belum mengambil kira tempoh ia diserahkan kepada pihak berkenaan, sekali gus menimbulkan persoalan dalam kalangan penduduk.

"Penduduk ada dengar desas-desus pembangunan semula kawasan ini membabitkan banyak pemaju, tetapi hanya satu pihak datang membawa kertas cadangan membabitkan tawaran usaha sama.

"Ia bagi menggantikan unit rumah sedia ada tanpa membabitkan jual beli tapi penduduk teres menolak tawaran ini ketika rundingan dan pemaju tidak membuat penambahbaikan ke atas tawaran," katanya di sini, semalam.

Kelmarin, Shahidan dilaporkan memberi jaminan penduduk di Flat Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS) Sungai Baru tidak akan dipindahkan dan mengosongkan kediaman masing-masing Ramadan ini, selain mahu rundingan diteruskan bagi mencari penyelesaian berhubung kemelut itu.

Isnin lalu, Jabatan Ketua Pen-



Sebahagian penduduk yang hadir pada sidang media mengenai isu pengambilan tanah Kampung Sungai Baru, di Kampung Baru, semalam. (Foto Elzairi Shamsudin/BH)

garah Tanah dan Galian menjelaskan **Perbadanan Pembangunan Kampung Bharu (PKB)** selaku pemegang hak kepada flat terabit dalam pengambilan tanah bagi projek pembangunan semula Kampung Sungai Baru, tiada halangan membenarkan bekas pemilik unit kediaman itu terus mendiami rumah berkenaan sehingga 31 Julai ini.

Sebelum ini, rancangan pembangunan di Kampung Sungai Baru dilapor membabitkan penduduk di dua jenis kediaman, iaitu flat PKNS dan rumah di tanah persendirian, dengan 264 dari-

pada 328 unit adalah flat dan selebihnya rumah teres dianggar berkeluasan 6.8 hektar.

Difahamkan, kira-kira 30 peratus penduduk tidak bersetuju dengan pampasan ditawarkan, iaitu RM240,000 hingga RM260,000 bagi unit flat dan kira-kira RM400 sekaki persegi bagi kategori rumah teres.

Azlan menafikan dakwaan berkenaan isu majoriti yang sering diketengahkan beberapa pihak mendakwa kumpulan berkenaan bersetuju dengan projek berkenaan, manakala sebahagian penduduk yang membantah adalah minoriti dan degil.

"Pembangunan semula kawasan ini membabitkan perumahan teres dan flat dengan pemaju pernah mengakui tidak boleh membangunkan projek tanpa pembabitkan penduduk rumah teres.

"Kita tak boleh samakan unit perumahan teres dengan flat.

"Majoriti ini seolah-olah usaha untuk menguburi dan menenggelamkan bantahan penduduk, apabila mendakwa hanya kumpulan kecil menolak.

"Ini salah, sebaliknya pemaju yang degil kerana penduduk sudah menolak sejak tetapi mereka menggunakan akta ke atas penduduk," katanya.

Sebuah lagi kilang disita jadi punca pencemaran

Gopeng: Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) menyita sebuah lagi kilang memproses bahan sekerap yang disyaki menjadi punca pencemaran bau, dipercayai bahan kimia di sekitar Simpang Pulai, Ipoh.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kesihatan, Sains, Alam Sekitar dan Teknologi negeri, Mohd Akmal Kamarudin, berkata ia kilang memproses sekerap dan bahan buangan terjadual kedua disita, selepas satu kilang disita, baru-baru ini.

Katanya, susulan aduan yang dibuat oleh Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Simpang Pulai, Tan Kar Hing, beliau turun ke lokasi untuk berunding dengan ADUN.

"Kita saling bekerjasama kerana agak sukar untuk mengenal pasti punca bau itu kerana terdapat lebih 100 kilang di kawasan berkenaan.

"Hasil kerjasama Pejabat ADUN dan orang ramai, alhamdulillah kita dapat juga mengenal pasti, satu kilang memproses bahan skrap sudahpun diperiksa dan disita.

"Kilang berkenaan mungkin bukan menjadi satu-satunya yang menghasilkan bau yang memedihkan mata itu," katanya.



Mohd Akmal

nya semalam.

Mohd Akmal berkata, operasi serbuan yang dijalankan oleh JAS bersama dengan agensi berkaitan daerah.

Sementara itu, Pengarah JAS Perak, Rosli Zul, berkata setakat ini hanya dua premis dikenankan tindakan sista berhubung isu terabit.

"Setakat ini kita ada dua premis yang di sita, selepas kita membuat sitaan berkenaan kita tidak lagi menerima aduan," katanya.



Kakitangan JAS menyita sebuah lagi kilang memproses bahan sekerap di sekitar Simpang Pulai, Ipoh baru-baru ini. (Foto Ihsan JAS)

MEE SOTONG BERULAT

PENIAGA DIBERI NOTIS AMARAN

Harian Metro - 16/4/22 (Sabtu) - m/s: 2

Oleh Samadi Ahmad
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Putrajaya

Peniaga mi 'ulat' viral di Bazar Ramadan Putrajaya Presint 3 di sini, sudah dikenakan notis amaran kerana gagal memastikan kawasan tapak menjaja dalam keadaan bersih.

Ia susulan tular video seorang pelanggan gerai itu yang menemui ulat berenga pada sotong dibeli bersama mi goreng untuk juadah berbuka puasa.

Pengarah Bahagian Kesihatan Persekitaran Jabatan Perkhidmatan Bandar Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj), Dr Mohd Helmi Abdul Hamid berkata, pihaknya sudah

mengadakan pemantauan dan pemeriksaan rapi di seluruh kawasan dan gerai Bazar Ramadan itu, semalam.

Katanya, pemeriksaan itu turut membabitkan gerai yang viral di media sosial dan terbabit dengan isu kebersihan.

"Peniaga gerai itu dikenakan notis amaran mengikut UUK 30(1)(c), Undang-Undang Kecil Pelesenan Penjaja (WP Putrajaya) 2016.

"PPj dengan kerjasama Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah (PKD) Putrajaya akan terus mengiatkan pemantauan serta pemeriksaan kebersihan ke atas semua lot gerai Bazar Ramadan yang terdapat di pusat pentadbiran kerajaan di sini," katanya semalam.



TANGKAP layar rakaman video menunjukkan sotong dipenuhi ulat berenga.

Kosmo • 16/4/22 (Sabtu) • m/s: 13



TANGKAP layar video tular memaparkan ayam berulat yang dijual di Bazar Ramadan dicemari ulat. - SUMBER MEDIA SOSIAL

Gerai bazar Ramadan jual ayam berulat kena amaran

PUTRAJAYA - Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj) mengeluarkan satu notis amaran kepada sebuah gerai makanan di Bazar Ramadan Putrajaya, Presint 3, di sini, susulan isu kebersihan makanan seperti yang tular di media sosial kelmarin.

Pengarah Bahagian Kesihatan Persekitaran, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Bandar, Dr. Mohd. Helmi Abdul Hamid berkata, pihaknya menge-

luarkan notis Amaran di bawah UUK 30(1)(c), Undang-Undang Kecil Pelesenan Penjaja (WP Putrajaya) 2016.

"Notis dikeluarkan bersabit kesalahan pemegang lesen gagal memastikan kawasan tapak penjaja dalam keadaan bersih," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Sebelum ini, tular satu video memaparkan juadah ayam yang dibeli di bazar berkenaan telah dicemari dengan ulat.

Brisk business:

The annual bazaar in Lorong TAR this year will operate until May 2. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

Return of shoppers' paradise

Lorong TAR Hari Raya bazaar traders in Kuala Lumpur are hopeful for better business after disruptions during the movement control order. >3



Kedah

All traders at Pekan Rabu Complex encouraged to use cashless transaction by next year >6



Selangor

Hassle-free chocolate chip banana loaf is a must-try for Easter >8



Kuala Lumpur

StarMetro's football pundit is certain there will be a victor in the Man City-Liverpool FA Cup game >9

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Upbeat about livelier bazaar scene

Traders hoping for rebound of profits as crowds return for Raya shopping

By FARID WAHAB
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SEVERAL passers-by were startled when loud music suddenly boomed in the narrow Lorong Tuanku Abdul Rahman (TAR) in Kuala Lumpur.

Soon, a few traders at the annual Hari Raya Aidilfitri bazaar began singing along to the upbeat song as they unloaded goods at their respective stalls.

Others were eagerly putting up their tents, undeterred by the blazing heat of the afternoon sun.

This was the scene at Lorong TAR last Saturday when the Raya shopping bazaar started.

About 200 stalls will operate from 10am to midnight on weekdays and 10am to 2am on weekends, until May 2.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the street market was a popular haunt among shoppers looking to buy traditional wear and dry food for Raya.

Traders were hopeful that the transition to Covid-19 endemicity would herald a return of business at this shopping hotspot.

Last year, the bazaar was ordered to cease operations abruptly following the implementation of the movement control order.

The previous bazaar was divided into four sections, and the number of visitors to each was limited to twice the number of stalls found inside.

Hopeful traders

Iskandar Rahim, 36, who sells traditional attires, feels hopeful that business at the market will be better this year.

"Last year, the tight standard operating procedure (SOP) kept customers away, which affected our sales."

"But things are different this time around."

"Economic sectors have reopened, and people are allowed to travel again," he pointed out.

Muhammad Nooraffzan Md. Noor, 23, who sold *songkok* and *samping*, hoped to clear unsold stocks from last year.

"Due to the sudden closure of the bazaar back then, we managed to sell only half of the goods that we had."

"But we are confident of making more sales this year as more people are coming out to shop now," he said.

Tiqah Reza Muhamad, 27, hoped Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) would not rescind its permission for traders to operate throughout Ramadan.

"Last year, we were ordered to pack up and leave three days before the festivity."

"My husband and I had just forked out RM5,000 for new stocks in anticipation of last-minute shoppers, but suffered losses instead," she said, adding that this time they were taking the wait-and-see approach before increasing stock.

Biscuits and tithbits seller Muhammad Syafiq Farhan, 29, who has traded at the bazaar every year since 2014, was optimistic after making RM500 sales

DBKL enforcement officers are stationed in the area to regulate traffic at Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

Muhammad Mustaqim is happy that DBKL has removed the fences surrounding the bazaar.

before noon on the first day.

"I also received several customers from Sabah, Sarawak and even Singapore," he added.

Muhammad Mustaqim Shahrudin, 29, who also sold biscuits and tithbits, said traders were glad that DBKL had removed the metal fences surrounding the market.

He added that the discontinuation of sections in the bazaar also made it easier for customers to shop as they need not queue up at each section of the bazaar.

However, headscarf seller

Usnaila Husni, 31, preferred trading at Dataran Merdeka in Jalan Raja where the bazaar was sited in 2019.

"It was more conducive as we were all placed inside a marquee that provided proper cover from the heat and rain."

"Customers also could rest and relax at the square after shopping," she added.

Scene at bazaar

A check by *StarMetro* found people moving freely in the bazaar that spanned the stretch from Campbell Complex to the Malayan Mansion in Jalan Masjid

India.

Visitors were required to scan the MySejahtera and wear the face mask, but physical distancing was lacking.

DBKL enforcement officers stationed themselves in seven makeshift tents in the area.

One of them, Effa Abu Bakar, who was keeping watch in front of the Sogo shopping centre, said they were monitoring traffic for obstruction and illegal vendors.

"There are three shifts; 8am to 5pm, 3pm to midnight, and midnight to 8am."

"Each enforcement team has two or three officers, but this depends on our manpower for

that day," she said. Last weekend also saw huge crowds as city folk came out to shop for Raya.

Among them was Borhanuddin Ismail, 32, from Ampang, Selangor, who decided to shop earlier to avoid the last-minute rush and hoping to avoid the crowd as Covid-19 was "still around".

"I expect more people will visit this bazaar in the coming days as the festival draws closer," he said. Meanwhile, some shopowners like Jamilah Mohd Syahid, 48, were especially upset with the placing of large roll-on-roll-off bins near their premises.

"There is one placed just outside my shop. Its horrid smell is keeping customers away and affecting my business," she said.

Jamilah, who runs a boutique, added that sometimes leachate leaked out of the bins in the mornings, polluting the area.



City folk have started to do their Raya shopping in Lorong TAR bazaar since last Saturday. — Photos: CHAN TAK KONG and FAIHAN GHANI/The Star



Shoppers checking out the latest deals at the Lorong TAR Hari Raya bazaar.



Visitors to Lorong TAR bazaar still have to scan their MySejahtera.

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Cooperation is key

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob launching Coopmart at the Malaysia Civil Servants Housing Programme in Putrajaya. With him are Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Tan Sri Noh Omar (second left) and Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias (third right). — Bernama