

Kuala Lumpur

Drug addicts accused of vandalising and throwing rubbish at public facilities in Kuala Lumpur >2



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New lease of life:
Upgrading works on Bazar Melawati food court is set to take 16 weeks. — LOW LAY PHON/The Star

Food courts need spicing up

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council will give the 20-year-old Bazar Melawati in Taman Melawati a makeover in June but it is not the only one in the area in dire straits. >3

By FARID WAHAB
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THE Malaysian Institute of Public Works (Ikram) has been appointed to identify why part of the retaining wall at a construction site in Taman Pertama, Cheras, failed, resulting in a house next to it collapsing.

Its chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Taufik Haron said a review of the wall designs and specifications was also under way.

He explained that some 40% of the 65m-long wall shifted by one metre on Sunday, heavily damaging a two-storey house.

Apart from the damaged house, which was in the midst of renovation and unoccupied at the time, occupants of six nearby houses were also ordered to evacuate over safety concerns.

Ikram to investigate retaining wall failure in collapse of Taman Pertama house

"A discussion with the developer on the matter is also ongoing. They have been asked to provide the relevant data," he said.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah, who visited the site yesterday, said a stop-work order had been issued to the developer, with remedial works to commence immediately.

"Ikram has been tasked to oversee the works. Details of their findings will be announced later," he told reporters.

Mohd Taufik said the wall would be fortified with earth berms (narrow ledge or shelf at the top or bottom of slope) to be supported with concrete blocks.

"But the volume of soil needed for this is yet to be ascertained. We are looking at around 2,000 cubic metres of soil."

"We are also still deciding on the new height of the wall, between 4m to 8m, to ensure that it is stable," he said, adding the timeline had yet to be decided.

"We need to first collect relevant data including on project designs, as well as the construction sequence at the site," he said.

Mahadi said the residents of affected homes were relocated to a nearby hotel, with the cost to be borne by the developer.

"Electricity and water supply to the houses have also been discontinued out of safety concerns."

"Continuous monitoring at the site will be done by the **Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL)**," he said.

It was earlier reported that the two-storey terrace house collapsed due to a landslide.

However, Mahadi disputed this, and reiterated that the incident was caused by the retaining wall shifting.

According to a DBKL statement, the project site in Jalan Selangor involved the construction of a serviced apartment.

Also present during the mayor's visit was Cheras MP Tan Kok Wal.

KL facilities marred by drug addicts

Volunteers, homeless say those under the influence responsible for acts of vandalism

By BAVANI M.
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DRUG addicts have been blamed for the destruction of public facilities and beautification projects in Kuala Lumpur's side lanes and alleys.

Volunteers feeding the homeless and Alam Flora workers claimed they had seen individuals who were high on drugs breaking flowerpots and vandalising street lights and book kiosks around Lebuhraya Pudu and Jalan Tun HS Lee.

The homeless community in the area agree with that observation. A homeless man, who declined to be named, told *StarMetro* that he was fed up of people blaming the homeless for acts of vandalism.

"I live here, it's my home. So, I will not destroy the things here," said the man who has been living on the streets for over a year.

Another homeless man who stays around Lebuhraya Pudu said he liked sleeping on benches at night and was aware that the local authority had been beautifying the back lanes.

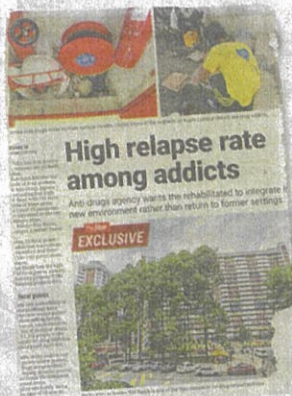
"It is nice and clean here now. I will not destroy anything," he said.

A woman, who did not want to be named and only goes to Lebuhraya Pudu to collect food and freebies for her family, said she did not think the homeless were vandals.

"I come in the mornings at 8am and only leave at 8pm."

"The homeless people, who are my friends, are happy here and will not destroy things," she added.

She claimed the ones breaking public facilities were addicts who



StarMetro's article on May 23.

were high on drugs.

A beautification project by Think City and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) at Lorong Bandar 11 was damaged recently.

Someone had deliberately pulled out the newly installed bollards from the ground.

The bollards placed along side lanes to prevent people from parking their cars were destroyed while still at the construction stage.

The contractor has not handed over the project to DBKL yet.

A Think City employee, who declined to be named, said he found out from the homeless that it was the work of drug addicts under the influence.



This clock outside a shop near Central Market was damaged by irresponsible people.

However, this incident was not the only time individuals high on drugs had destroyed public facilities.

An Alam Flora worker told *StarMetro* that he once saw a man breaking flowerpots in the area.

"He was shouting and cursing, so I did not understand what he was saying," he said.

Similarly, C. Nan, a manager of a Chinese medicine shop near Central Market, said someone had damaged an old clock outside the premises.

"We do not know who did it, but that clock is sentimental to us."



Vandalised security bollards at Lorong Bandar 11.

"My father installed it 20 years ago when he renovated the shop, which has been here for 30 years."

"We don't plan to repair the clock out of fear that it will get damaged again," he said, adding that he planned to remove it.

Meanwhile, National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK) deputy director-general (Operation) Datuk Dr Muhammad Sade Mohamad Amin said individuals who damage public facilities could be under the influence of drugs.

"We will not know unless we do a urine test."

"But drug use can affect the

brain and disrupt a person's physical and mental states."

"For instance, *syabu* (slang for methamphetamine) affects the brain's neuron functions and can cause depression, aggressive behaviour and hallucinations with long-term use," he said.

He added that 30% of prison inmates who are serving time for drug-related crimes were taking the drug when arrested.

Muhamad Sade advised the public who spot someone who could be under the influence of drugs to call the AADK hotline at 03-8911 2233 or WhatsApp 019-626 2233.



By AIDA AHMAD
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PETALING Jaya City Council (MBPJ) is upgrading street lights in the city to LED lighting.

Among the advantages of LED lighting are that it is energy-saving, has a long lifespan and increases road users' safety.

In a statement, MBPJ said the number of street lights under its maintenance schedule until 2021 was 16,867 units.

So far 9,953 light units have been replaced with LED lamps.

MBPJ aims to upgrade 1,760 street light units to LED by the end of the year.

"This means the remaining street lights that have not been upgraded by the beginning of 2023 is 5,154, which is equivalent to 31% of lights."

"MBPJ expects to have 100% LED street lights in less than three

All LED street lights in PJ within three years

years, according to the allocation received via the city council, the Malaysian Road Records Information System (Marris) and the Safe City Programme," the statement said.

The MBPJ Engineering Department will also focus on replacing the lamps to the LED type and carry out minor repair work, according to site requirements, to improve their illumination.

LED upgrading work along Lorong Utara Kecil near Astaka Sports Complex is expected to be completed by May 31.

At the same time, LED lighting

upgrading work is also underway at Taman Tasik Komuniti Kelana Jaya. This project is also expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Other areas that will be upgraded to LED lighting include Jalan 17/21, Jalan 5/46 and Jalan Cempaka; Persiaran Meranti, Persiaran Margosa, Persiaran Industri, Jalan PJU 7/1, Jalan PJU 7/15, Jalan PJS1/15, Jalan Sri Manja, Jalan PJS 1/35, Jalan PJS 1/50 and Jalan PJS 1/52; Jalan PJU 1A/29, Jalan PJU 1A/29A, Jalan PJU 1A/29B and Jalan PJU 1A/29C.

MBPJ is carrying out LED street light upgrading work at Lorong Utara Kecil, near the Astaka Sports Complex.

SARAWAK

Adhere to ceiling price for goods this festive season, says minister

By ANDY CHUA
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EIGHT items have been listed under the Festive Season Maximum Price Control Scheme (SHMPP) for Kaamatan and Gawai celebrations this year.

The prices for the items will be enforced from May 27 to June 2 for the former and May 29 to June 4 for the latter.

The items on the Kaamatan list are chicken wings, dried chillies, imported buffalo meat (India), shallots (India), garlic (China), live pig (maximum price at farm-level only), pork stomach as well as pork meat and fat.

For Gawai, the items are *ayam tua hidup* (mature chicken), chicken wings, garlic (China), imported round cabbage, dried chillies, pork (maximum price at farm-level only), pork stomach as well as pork meat and fat.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi revealed the lists at the launch of Rancak Hari Gawai Malaysia Sales Programme for Song and Kapit at the Song waterfront recently.

He said the maximum price was based on information from several sources, including price monitor-

ing in all districts nationwide from last year to May this year.

"Apart from that, the price was also determined after obtaining the views of relevant government agencies such as the Malaysian Agriculture Department, Veterinary Services Department and Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority, as well as information from manufacturers, importers, suppliers and wholesalers," he said.

Nanta warned that the ministry enforcement officers would be conducting inspections to ensure strict compliance by traders.

"Stern action will be taken against traders who fail to comply with the Kaamatan and Gawai SHMPP under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011, which provides a maximum fine of RM100,000 or imprisonment of up to three years or both or compound of up to RM50,000."

"For companies, the maximum fine is RM500,000 or compound of up to RM250,000, while for failing to display the pink price tag on price-controlled items, individual can be fined up to RM10,000 or compounded up to RM5,000 while for a company, the fine is up to RM20,000 or compound of up to RM10,000," he said.

Bazar Melawati food court is located in a busy commercial area but fails to attract customers because of its neglected condition. — Photos: LOW LAY PHON/The Star



By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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FADED paint, rubbish-filled drains and cracked floor tiles greet the eye when walking into Bazar Melawati food court in Taman Melawati, Ampang, Selangor.

The 20-year-old food court has not undergone any major renovation nor upgrades and visitors comprise mainly those going to the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) branch office on the premises.

The first floor of the two-storey building comprises food stalls while several tailors, handicraft stores and other assorted businesses are found on the upper floor.

However, *StarMetro* found most of the shops closed during a recent visit.

Gombak MP Datuk Seri Azmin Ali had announced that upgrading works were to start in December last year.

Operators were hopeful that this would help attract customers.

But it has been six months since the announcement was made and work has yet to start.

At the time, Azmin who is also International Trade and Industry Minister said RM4mil would be allocated to MPAJ for upgrading works at the food court in Jalan Negara.

A stall operator who wanted to be known only as Munasarah, 42, blamed the building's poor state for driving people away.

"Only those wanting a cheap and quick meal will visit this place."

"Drains overflow when it rains, flooding the centre court and we have to quickly move our belongings," she said, adding that she had been operating there for two decades.

She said the low RM300 rental was the only reason businesses were able to survive.

Munasarah hoped that MPAJ would make improvements to the stalls' interior so it would be more conducive for operators.

It is obvious that the food court is in need of a fresh coat of paint and repairs.

Stall operators have taken to cooking outside their premises near the drains, most of which are filled with grease and rubbish.

Tailor Abdul Hamid, who has a shop on the second floor of the building, said many operators had either moved or closed shop because of low foot traffic.

"They could not sustain their businesses, especially during the past two years with the Covid-19 pandemic."

"This is a great location as it is in the centre of the Taman Melawati commercial area, but people do not like to come here because it is not in good condition," the 56-year-old said, adding that the toilets were in a particularly sorry state.

Seamstress RB Hashim, 69, said

Yearning for new look for old food courts

Outlets not popular as facilities are run-down and unhygienic



Abdul Hamid says many operators have either moved or closed their businesses at Bazar Melawati.



RB Hashim says Bazar Melawati is no longer drawing the crowds.

the food court's ageing infrastructure and poor stall occupancy were factors keeping people away.

She said she relied on regular customers to keep her business alive.

Several other operators said while they were glad upgrading works were in the pipeline, they expressed concern if this meant an increase in rental was also imminent.

They also hoped that they would not be required to move out when upgrading work starts.

Long-time Taman Melawati resident Mohd Ismail Mohd Nordin, 43, said it was difficult for the food court traders to compete with restaurants nearby.

"There are also many hawkers stalls nearby which are more accessible."

"People would rather buy from other restaurants nearby for the variety," he added.

A regular visitor to Taman Melawati, K Gunaseelan, 33, said fixing this place up would be bene-



The broken pavement outside Medan Selera Lama Taman Melawati is a safety hazard. This food court is in dire need of an upgrade as well.

ficial for both traders and visitors.

"Sometimes I pass by the area, so I will have a bite to eat at the Bazar Melawati."

"The food is generally tasty, but the cleanliness is lacking," he said.

Not far away from Bazar Melawati is Medan Selera Lama Taman Melawati, which is also in urgent need of repairs.

While this spot along Jalan Bandar is popular with locals for its affordability and variety, many have complained of its run-down condition.

Stalls here are haphazardly laid out, with cracked drainage and pavement around the property.

Resident K.C. Tan, 32, said he was tempted to try out the stalls but was put off by the lack of hygiene and poor food practices at the place.

"I have seen many rats running around the place, even in the daytime. And most of the stalls leave food on the counters, so I am hesitant to eat here," he said.

Regular customer Muhammad Aiman, 22, said he was willing to overlook the negatives as the food was tasty and cheap.

"I try not to look too closely at the surroundings but customers would definitely feel more comfortable if improvements are made," he added.

He also acknowledged that many of the facilities and fixtures, includ-

ing the fans and lighting, needed to be cleaned and fixed.

When contacted, MPAJ said upgrading work at Bazar Melawati was expected to start next month, once the tender process was completed.

Its press relations officer Norhayati Ahmad said works would involve repainting the premises, repairing the roof as well as upgrading the clean water supply system and surrounding drainage.

The food stalls will also be redone with grease traps installed, while electrical works will be carried out.

"We are not demolishing and rebuilding the property, but carrying out improvements to the 88 lots. As such, we will try to ensure there is minimal disruption to operators and they will not have to move out during the works," she said, adding that preliminary discussions had been carried out with operators.

The upgrading project is expected to take 16 weeks and MPAJ is in the final stages of engaging contractors.

For Medan Selera Lama Taman Melawati, Norhayati said the council currently did not have plans to upgrade the place but would look into the possibility of improving it once the work at Bazar Melawati was completed.



TRAFFIC MATTERS

> There will be a temporary road closure to facilitate road repairs along Jalan Klang-Teluk Intan in Pasir Penambang, Kuala Selangor until June 30. For details, call 03-3289 1173/1040 (Kuala Selangor Public Works Department).

> Temporary lane closure and traffic diversion on the flyover at Lebuhraya Bandar Utama, heading to BU11 and BU12 to facilitate LRT3 project-related works, 10pm to 6am until June 10. During the closure, motorists turning to BU11 and BU12 from Lebuhraya Bandar Utama (Klang bound) will be diverted to the immediate right lane. For details, call 1-800-182585 (LRT3 hotline).

INPUT ON BUDGET

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is gathering public input for the draft of its budget for 2023. Among issues being considered are city cleaning, roads, drainage, public housing maintenance, hawkers management and recreational facilities. Submit feedback at <https://sites.google.com/view/ideabelanjawan2023> until May 31. For details, call 03-2617 9000 or hotline 1-800 88 3255.

SURVEY ON DISASTERS

The Communications and Multimedia Ministry is conducting a survey on people's awareness about new government policies related to early warning of disasters. Those above 18 can participate via www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPLSiiri1_2022

FEEDBACK WANTED

The Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department is seeking feedback on the public's perception of forest management in peninsular Malaysia. Visit <https://bit.ly/3Px5WP0>

MENTAL HEALTH

D'Home Mental Health Association in Bayan Lepas, Penang, is organising a two-day free virtual programme on understanding mental illness and advocacy via Zoom from 10am to 4pm on May 21 and 28. Pre-registration is required. For details visit shorturl.at/dxTU6 or call 012-425 1600 (Jia En)

BLOOD DONATION

> KTM Bhd is organising a blood donation drive at its headquarters (One Stop Centre) along Jalan Sultan Hishammuddin in Kuala Lumpur from 10am to 4pm today and tomorrow (May 24-25).

> Simpli Solar is holding a blood donation drive at The Mines shopping centre in Seri Kembangan, Selangor, from 10am to 4pm on May 28 and June 18. For details, visit <https://bit.ly/3wh1Fry>

SELANGOR JOB FAIR

The state youth, sports and human capital development committee will organise the Selangor Mega Job Fair at the MBASA Convention Centre, Shah Alam on June 11 and 12 from 9am-5:30pm. More than 100 companies and employers will participate in the fair with over 20,000 job opportunities. For details, visit www.selangorjobportal.com.my or call 03-5521 2407/ 2480/ 2279.

EXCEL TRAINING

New Era University College and Klang Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry are hosting a free webinar on how to use Excel dashboard, a one-page document that tracks critical key performance indexes to help managers and business leaders make better decisions from 9am to 11am on June 30. Register at <https://bit.ly/3wGCa1w> by June 15. For details, visit <https://www.newera.edu.my/cped/> or call 019 3838066.

Ismail Sabri bawa misi kukuhkan hubungan, kerjasama dua negara

SHAH ALAM - Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob akan mengadakan lawatan kerja rasmi ke Jepun selama enam hari bermula Isnin hingga 28 Mei ini.

Wisma Putra dalam kenyataan memaklumkan, Ismail Sabri dijadualkan akan bertemu rakan sejawatnya, Fumio Kishida bagi membincangkan inisiatif memperkukuh hubungan antara Malaysia - Jepun serta kerjasama dalam pelbagai bidang.

"Ini merupakan pertemuan bersemuka pertama antara kedua-dua pemimpin sejak menyandang jawatan pada tahun

2021.

"Antara perkara yang akan dibincangkan termasuk memperingati Ulang Tahun ke-40 Dasar Pandang ke Timur (DPT), pengekuan hubungan antara rakyat dan kerjasama pasca Covid-19.

"Kedua-dua pemimpin juga akan bertukar-tukar pandangan mengenai kepentingan ketenteraman antarabangsa dan kestabilan serantau," menurut kenyataan itu pada Isnin.

Perdana Menteri turut dijadualkan bertemu wakil komuniti perniagaan di Tokyo, selain akan meraikan sambutan Hari

Raya Keluarga Malaysia bersama diaspora rakyat Malaysia di negara itu. Selain itu, Ismail Sabri akan menghadiri Persidangan Antarabangsa ke-27 mengenai Masa Depan Asia di atas jemputan daripada Nikkei Inc.

Persidangan tersebut merupakan perhimpunan tahunan pemimpin politik, ekonomi dan industri dari rantau Asia Pasifik dan beliau akan menyampaikan



ISMAIL SABRI

ucapitama dengan tema *Redefining Asia's role in a divided world*.

"Penyertaan Perdana Menteri di Persidangan Nikkei ke-27 ini akan menjadi platform untuk Malaysia berkongsi idea serta melibatkan diri dalam pelbagai inisiatif yang bertujuan membangunkan kerjasama ekonomi yang lebih erat antara negara di rantau ini.

"Lawatan ini mencerminkan kepentingan hubungan dua hala Malaysia - Jepun, selaras dengan sambutan memperingati ulang

tahun ke-65 hubungan diplomatik dan ke-40 DPT yang disambut pada tahun ini," menurut kenyataan itu.

Lawatan kerja rasmi Perdana Menteri turut diiringi antaranya Menteri Luar, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah; Menteri Kanan Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali; Menteri Sumber Manusia, Datuk Seri M Saravanan; Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan, Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim dan Menteri Belia dan Sukan, Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu.

The Sun. 24/15/22 (Tue)

Consultant to identify cause of collapse

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur City Hall has appointed Public Works Institute of Malaysia as an independent consultant to identify the cause of structural movement of the contiguous bore pile wall at the project site of a serviced apartment block in Jalan Selangar, Cheras here on Sunday.

Mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah said City Hall has issued an immediate stop-work order to the developer, with only repair work allowed until the site is safe.

"We found that almost one metre of the entire existing retaining wall had shifted, and an estimated over 2,000 cubic metres of soil was brought to the site to stabilise the area."

"The developer has been instructed to carry out immediate work on reinforcing the retaining wall with earth beams and concrete blocks," Mahadi said yesterday.

One of the victims, Robin Loh, 85, is grateful to be safe after a two-storey terrace house collapsed.

In the incident, the terrace house that was still under renovation collapsed. Occupants of six houses were ordered by the Fire and Rescue Department to evacuate. — Bernama



City Hall has issued a stop-work order to the developer after a double-storey terrace house collapsed while undergoing renovation. — **BERNAMAPIX**