

Anger over six-month extension for food trucks

Kepong businesses want DBKL to review decision due to traffic, safety and cleanliness concerns

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KUALA Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) decision to grant a six-month extension for food truckers to operate at the Laman Rimbunan commercial area in Kepong has upset shop proprietors there.

They want the authority to review its decision, saying that the food truck operation was causing various problems such as traffic congestion as well as safety and cleanliness issues.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping, who spoke on behalf of nearby businesses, questioned DBKL's reluctance to order the food truck operators to move out of the area.

"The parking situation here is a nightmare and motorists often have to jostle for the limited number of bays.

"The area also tends to get congested, raising safety concerns among motorists and road users," he said.

StarMetro learned that DBKL had approved a six-month extension, starting from Feb 1, for the food truckers to operate in the area from 10am to midnight daily. The extension ends on Aug 31.

There are two shifts – from 10am to 6pm and 6pm to midnight – with each shift having between 15 and 20 trucks.

Yee urged DBKL to consider his proposal for the trucks to be allowed to operate only on weekends and at night.



A sign on the operating hours of the food trucks in the Laman Rimbunan commercial area.
— RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

"They must also not close the road as this will force motorists to take a long detour to get to the area," he said.

He stressed that although the food truckers had the right to earn an income, this should not come at the expense of public safety and convenience.

Yee was met after a visit with DBKL officers and a representative of the food trucks at the site. The officers declined to speak to the media.

The food trucks' operations in Laman Rimbunan was part of a three-month study by City Hall beginning last November to assess the suitability of the site and if any improvements were needed.

DBKL came under pressure in recent

weeks after shopowners in the area urged the authority to retract its approval for the trucks.

Kuala Lumpur Food Truck Entrepreneurs Association chairman Muhammad Azlan Abas welcomed the extension while saying that measures had been taken to address traffic concerns.

"The police have advised us to station People's Volunteers Corp (Rela) personnel on-site to regulate the traffic.

"DBKL has also agreed to place signs in the area notifying motorists of the road closure during certain periods of a day," he said.

Azlan explained that the site had been divided into two areas, with one closer to the commercial area and another on the other side of Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1.

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