



Enforcement officers dismantling an illegal stall in Kuala Lumpur that is blocking a five-foot way.



DBKL personnel sorting the seized tables and chairs used to block parking bays and pedestrian walkways. — Photos: CHAN TAK KONG and SAMUEL ONG/The Star

Dealing with mountains of seized assets in Cheras

DBKL storage facility filled with goods from daily city raids

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THE growing mountain of items seized in raids across the capital city is now a serious problem for Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

As part of efforts to stem the spread of Covid-19, the local authority has been conducting daily operations to stop foreign traders from trading illegally in the city.

Enforcement officers have seized hundreds of thousands of ringgit worth of assets. The bulk of these will be destroyed or auctioned off to free up space at the city's storage facility in Jalan Lombong in Cheras.

DBKL estimates that hundreds of mobile food stalls along with thousands of tables, chairs, traffic cones, green recycling boxes, bicycles and illegal banners and bunting were seized in raids since the movement control order was implemented on March 18.

"Most of these items were seized from foreigners and local traders who were doing business without a valid permit and for causing obstruction in a public area," said DBKL Enforcement Department senior deputy director Mohd Zulhainan Mohd Isa.

"Goods confiscated from illegal foreign traders will not be returned but disposed of.

“Since January this year, a total of 1,275 items were seized in operations carried out all over Kuala Lumpur.

Mohd Zulhainan Mohd Isa



“Local traders are given notice to collect their items after the fine is paid.”

The goods, said Zulhainan, were seized under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 and Licensing Hawkers and Stall (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) By-laws 1989 and Section 101 (1) (v) of the Local Government Act 1976.

Cause of pile-up

Zulhainan explained that since January, 1,275 items were seized in

operations carried out in Kuala Lumpur. Out of this number, 345 items were seized from illegal foreigners operating in city markets.

“The goods are from traders who operated on sidewalks, public walkways, highways and construction sites — basically places with foot traffic,” he said.

Relating an incident involving an operator who rented out bicycles in Taman Tasik Titiwangsa without a permit, Zulhainan said rows and rows of the two-wheelers had been placed along the roadside, taking up parking bays and blocking walking paths in the area.

“We received complaints from residents and confiscated the bicycles.

“These guys are repeat offenders,” he added.

Among the hotchpotch of items found at the DBKL depot were hundreds of tables and chairs confiscated from restaurant owners who used them to block parking bays and pedestrian walkways.

“Some of these items are not claimed as the restaurant operators simply block the paths again with other tables and chairs that they have in stock,” he said.

Although DBKL has cancelled restaurant licences in the past for repeatedly causing obstructions, Zulhainan said the perpetrators continued breaking the law.

In addition, DBKL has come

under fire from complaints of its officers being “cruel” for taking away livelihoods.

Zulhainan, however, maintained that the rule of law must be upheld.

“People see only videos showing DBKL officers taking away stalls and aunties crying as they feel they are being treated unfairly. We take it as part of the job,” he said.

“What people do not see are instances where profanities are hurled at officers. Some even throw hot water at the officers.”

Some officers were slashed while carrying out their duties, he added.

“People also don’t see the mess left behind by the traders, the rubbish and gunk from food waste disposed into drains and pollute rivers as well as myriad environmental and social problems that follow,” Zulhainan said.

Goods for auction

Another headache DBKL is saddled with is managing the staggering amount of goods seized in raids.

Keeping track of the items in inventory is no easy feat and each item must be accounted for.

Nevertheless, the amount of money spent on carrying out raids is equally staggering as the manpower, logistics and vehicle fuel



Hundreds of stalls have been confiscated during DBKL raids.



These recycling bins were seized as they were in areas that were not permitted by DBKL.