

(12 November 2020) The Star, p. 3

DBKL to relax requirements for issuance of licences

By FARID WAHAB
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

THE Federal Territories Ministry has agreed to relax the location requirements for the issuance of licences to small traders and hawkers in Kuala Lumpur.

Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa said this was due to the applicants' urgent need to start earning an income amid the worsening economy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said those who had lost their jobs and were eager to start their own business could apply for a temporary licence from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

"The licence will be issued immediately. I have urged DBKL to be flexible and let people trade at locations that were off limits previously.

"As long as the stall does not obstruct traffic or cause public nuisance, it should be allowed," he said, adding that some 2,000 locations in the city had been identified for hawkers to trade.

"If small traders have other venues in mind, they can also apply for a temporary licence to trade there."

Annuar said he was aware of the implications in relaxing requirements for hawkers as it would pose a challenge for enforcement.

"We need to understand that we are in the midst of a crisis and these people need to start their businesses as soon as possible.

"They cannot wait for two to three weeks to get their licence approved," he said, adding that no fee would be levied upon traders for the licence.

In a separate press conference on Nov 10, Annuar said the licence would be valid for six months starting Nov 15.

He also said that the Federal Territory Residents Representative Council (MPPWP) had been ordered to work closely with residents associations to identify the needy in their respective areas for distribution of food aid.

"They have also been ordered to engage some 250 schools in the Federal Territories to identify some 25,000 students from needy families.

"We want to give school supplies to these students before the new school session starts in January next year," he said.



Annuar was met after a ceremony at Wisma Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan (YWP) in Jalan Raja Abdullah, Kampung Baru, where food aid was given to 40 taxi drivers.

The items comprised cooking oil, noodles, rice and flour packs as well as biscuits and bottled sauces.

Also present was YWP chief executive officer Zaizalnizam Zainun.

Annuar said the initiative was made after he learned of the plight of the taxi drivers, who were struggling to make ends meet since the conditional movement control order took effect.

Annuar (in suit) helping to load the food aid into a taxi during the event at Wisma Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan in Jalan Raja Abdullah, Kampung Baru.

"Many reported that the number of passengers had dropped significantly and that their cost had exceeded the profits.

"As a result, they are unable to service their taxi rentals. I hope this aid will help to lighten their burden in these trying times," he said.