

Cracking the whip

DBKL enforcement officers, numbering around 2,500, have the challenging task of living up to expectations of knowledgeable city folk. Last year proved to be 'action-packed' as the department cracked down on a multitude of offences ranging from traffic matters to illicit activities. >2



All toughened up: DBKL's new enforcement officers will have to be prepared to maintain law and order in the rapidly growing capital city. — Photo: AZMAN GHANI/The Star



Nor Hisham (third from right) presenting a trophy to a trainee for his performance. Looking on are DBKL executive director for socioeconomic development Datuk Ibrahim Yusof (on his right) and DBKL Enforcement Department director Azmi Abdul Hamid (second from right).

By FARID WAHAB
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

LOOKING dapper in their dark green outfit with leather boots and beret to match, 166 new enforcement officers of Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) proudly marched in perfect unison at Padang Astaka in Taman Tasik Titiwangsa.

This marked the end of their three-month training course meant to familiarise them with DBKL and its enforcement department.

The course was also to prepare these men and women mentally and spiritually for the tasks ahead, as well as to be equipped with knowledge about the laws.

DBKL has more than 2,500 enforcement officers who have to shoulder the hopes of Kuala Lumpur residents who entrusted them with the maintenance of law and order in the city.

City dwellers are a knowledgeable lot who have high expectations. This alone will be a great challenge for the enforcement officers to handle.

StarMetro looks at how DBKL's enforcement division has managed the city that covers 243sq km with about 1.9 million residents, including the actions taken and compounds issued last year.

Actions taken in 2019

DBKL enforcement officers played a pivotal role in the city's maintenance, ranging from traffic control to hawkker management and monitoring of cleanliness, among other things.

Mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said last year alone DBKL received 2,249 complaints, one third of which were traffic-related offences.

This was followed by complaints on development projects at 459, abandoned vehicles 311, and 145 against hawkkers.

Its enforcement department, he said, had stepped up efforts to improve traffic management in the city through computerised traffic lights system and by providing sufficient parking and loading bays.

Action was taken against motorists who violated traffic rules, for which 2,463,108 compounds were issued last year totalling RM9.96mil.

"Meanwhile, 6,701 vehicles were towed with compounds totalling RM469,950," he added.

Nor Hisham said DBKL also worked with other government agencies last year to carry out 34 traffic joint operations against private and commercial vehicles that obstructed traffic.

Among agencies involved were the police, Land Public Transport Agency, Road Transport Department and Department of

Kept on their toes by well-informed KL folk

2,249 complaints last year alone saw City Hall enforcement officers step up efforts, says mayor

Environment (DOE).

"A total of 3,838 compounds were issued and 19 vehicles were towed away," said Nor Hisham.

DBKL also brought down the hammer on foreign hawkkers in the city last year, confiscating 5,475 items.

"Foreign hawkkers pose cleanliness problems while also being potential carriers of diseases, because they do not get the necessary vaccination," said Nor Hisham, adding that their stalls were also an unsightly presence.

Like its traffic management, DBKL participated in 35 joint operations with the police, Immigration Department, National Registration Department and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

A total of 390 items were confiscated, with six structures torn down and 98 foreigners detained.

Keeping the city clean was a major task of DBKL's enforcement officers.

The public and hawkkers who littered, and lorries that dirtied roads and found dumping construction waste were not spared.

"A total of 1,612 compounds were issued on such litterbugs," said Nor Hisham, adding that action was taken under Section 47 of the Road, Drainage and Building Act 1974.

"Another 1,418 compounds were issued on lorry drivers who dirtied roads and failed to keep their vehicles clean," he added.

A total of 1,652 construction sites were inspected and compounds issued to 198 who failed to comply with cleanliness standards.

Also 2,703 abandoned vehicles were towed away.

DBKL collected RM73,964 from Operasi Anti-Kotor carried out last year, after issuing 828 compounds to those who littered and 660 who spat in public.

Eateries also faced action with 77 premises ordered to close and 1,916 compounds issued.

DBKL also cooperated with the police to reprimand lorry drivers who failed to prevent construction materials from falling off their vehicles.

"Thirty-three operations were carried out with 606 compounds



DBKL enforcement officers issuing summonses to motorists in Little India Brickfields for illegally parking their vehicles. — Filepic

Complaints received by Kuala Lumpur City Hall in 2019

Types of complaint	Amount received
Traffic offences	758
Hawkkers	145
Illegal structures	59
Blockades	142
Dirty roads	91
Cleanliness	45
Abandoned vehicles	311
Development projects	459
Businesses	124
Vandalism	16
Children's playground	15
Flags, posters and banners	6
Crows	8
Illegal parking attendant	68
Miscellaneous	2
Total number of complaints	2,249



issued on owners of 284 cement trucks and 312 lorries carrying soil," added Nor Hisham.

Also on DBKL's radar were illicit activities at entertainment centres, massage parlours and

gambling premises.

"Over 240 premises were checked from the 21 special operations, of which 138 compounds were issued and 1,346 items confiscated," he said.