

SALES CONTROL

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'LIQUOR LICENCE NOT ABOUT RELIGION'

City Hall studied measures in other countries, including S'pore, before devising guidelines

KUALA LUMPUR

THERE is nothing unusual about the guidelines for liquor licence applications issued by Kuala Lumpur City Hall as they have been introduced in other countries, including in Europe, said Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa yesterday.

He said surveys were conducted on guidelines used in other countries, including Singapore, prior to their introduction here.

"We also looked at the rules applied in other countries where the purchase of liquor is very controlled in terms of the time and place it can be sold.

"So it has nothing to do with religious or racial issues."

He said this after the presentation of donations to Kuala Lumpur residents' associations under the Wilayah Cakna 3.0 programme, which was attended by his deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Santhara Kumar.

Annuar said the guidelines were aimed at regulating the sale of alcohol following public complaints on the sale of illegal liquor, as well as of alcoholic beverages in small packets at sundry shops and mini-market chains.

"There are also those who sell liquor to minors and school students."

City Hall introduced new guidelines for the application of a liquor licence, which stipulate that sundry shops and convenience stores will no longer be allowed to sell liquor from Oct 1.

The move met with mixed reactions from various quarters, with some linking it to issues of race and religion.

Meanwhile, the Federal Territories Ministry has allocated RM39.75 million to implement

the Wilayah Cakna 3.0 initiative for city dwellers impacted by the Conditional Movement Control Order.

"The government cares about the Kuala Lumpur community, especially the less fortunate and the needy, amid the pandemic."

In **Kota Baru**, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Ahmad Marzuk Shaary said the government had not ruled out the possibility of expanding the ban on the sale of liquor at sundry and grocery shops, convenience stores, as well as Chinese medicine shops to other states.

"The matter does not only involve religious demands, but also received positive feedback from civil society, including Muslims and non-Muslims."

He said this after presenting a house key to single mother Rashidah Semail, 48, under the Malaysian Islamic Economic Development Foundation's MyHaus Inspiration Programme in Kampung Parang Puting, Pengkalan Chepa here yesterday.

Marzuk said Malaysia was



Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa (right) talking to one of the recipients of donations under the Wilayah Cakna 3.0 programme in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

slightly behind in terms of liquor sales control.

"If we look at our neighbour Singapore, it has stricter rules.

"However, this is a good start, even though it is implemented only in the Federal Territories.

"Hence, this is part of the government's strategy that needs to be supported by all citizens, regardless of religion, race and political affiliation.

"This is not a political agenda," he added. **Bernama**