

SIMPLE PROCESS *New Straits Times, 22/11/2020, M/S 10*

MANY SIGN UP FOR CITY HALL FTA PLAN

More than 750 apply online for temporary trading licence since launch of initiative on Nov 15

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CITY Hall received an overwhelming response to its Free Trade Area programme launched on Nov 15.

City Hall Licensing and Business Development Department director Khairul Anuar Mohd Juri said that within four days, the department had received more than 750 online applications.

He said the process was simple and it allowed any Malaysian above 18 to obtain a temporary trading licence via the website in a short period.

"Those interested are required to choose a location, take a photograph of the place, provide the address (location plan) and a copy of their MyKad on our website.

"If the space chosen is on private land, we will need an approval letter from the landowner to be attached to the online application."

Khairul Anuar said there was no limit to the number of applicants from a household.

"The permitted space for each applicant is 8 by 8 sq ft.

"It is compulsory for operators to make sure the stalls are erected according to the pandemic standard operating procedures and kept clean always.

"There must be at least a 1.5m gap between one stall and another."

Traders must ensure that their



A. Kalliamah selling nasi lemak at Muhibbah People's Housing Project, Kuala Lumpur.

premises do not obstruct traffic flow or walkways.

As cleanliness is a concern, traders must not leave anything behind when they close shop for the day.

"Anyone who fails to maintain cleanliness will first be given a warning. Stiffer penalties will be imposed for subsequent violations.

"Operating hours are from 7am to 10pm. After the pandemic or Movement Control Order (MCO), we may consider extending the operating hours to midnight."

Four categories of businesses — food and drinks, dry, wet and raw items — are allowed.

Those selling food and drinks must obtain a typhoid injection, he said.

A. Kalliamah, 32, from Muhibbah People's Housing Project, snapped up the opportunity.

The single mother and sole breadwinner of her family sells nasi lemak and soft drinks at a stall.

The RM30 to RM60 she earns



Traders selling food at stalls set up in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur, after the launch of the Free Trade Area programme. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

daily from the stall helps her to get by, as she has monthly bills and rent to pay, besides giving her daughter pocket money for school every day.

"I have an 11-year-old daughter and my elderly parents are ill. I cannot depend on them to support our family. That is why I started my stall.

"In the past, I was issued warnings and summonses for operating in an undesignated area without a City Hall licence.

"But with the latest announcement, I can continue running my stall."

She began selling nasi lemak below her block after her tailoring business slowed down since April due to the MCO.

When asked why she hadn't applied for a licence from the authorities, Kalliamah said she tried to do that a few years ago when she wanted to open a food stall.

However, the process was cumbersome and some of the criteria for the trading location were too strict.

"Now it's quite a relief, even though the free-trading permission is only temporary."

Mohd Nor Abdullah, 28, who was born with no arms, is also taking part in the initiative.

"My place of trade is near the Cheras LRT station.

"I began in July, and I take nasi lemak orders and sell them at my stall. I sell a packet of nasi lemak for RM1.50. I make a 50-sen profit for each nasi lemak I sell.

"For me, the programme is a good initiative.

"Instead of confiscating stalls, the authorities can give hawkers and small traders a fair chance to trade.

"That way, the authorities too can conduct compliance checks and ensure the cleanliness of the area.

"They will know who to punish if things go wrong, especially when it comes to litterbugs.

"I hope everybody who wants to conduct small-scale businesses will apply for the permit," he said.

Applicants can search for the application page on E-Lesen DBKL online, or call the City Hall Licensing Department at 03-20282541 or 03-20282538 for details.