

Financial aid for wet market traders

Stall operators affected by fire in Sentul can request for temporary site

By FARID WAHAB

faridwahab@thestar.com.my

THE Federal Government has allocated RM250,000 to rebuild the stalls at the Sentul wet market that were razed in a fire on Dec 31.

Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad said the work would be completed by mid-March this year.

"The traders whose stalls were destroyed agreed to stop operating temporarily while waiting for the repairs to finish.

"However, if they want to resume their business, they can submit a proposal for a temporary site, which will be subject to approval from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL)," he said.

On the cause of the fire, Khalid said the ministry was still waiting for the report from the Fire and Rescue Department, where estimated losses were at RM150,000.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan hoped the project could be expedited.

"We will try to get it done within a shorter period," he said.

Meanwhile, Khalid said plans were in the pipeline to develop a

wet market costing RM30mil at the existing site in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur.

"But we need to iron out some issues first, such as securing agreement from the traders for their temporary relocation to a transit site," said Khalid, adding that this could take up to 18 months.

He announced this after handing out aid to the affected traders at Menara DBKL 1 in Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur.

The 19 traders also received monthly financial assistance of RM3,000 for three months from DBKL, Federal Territories Foundation (YWP) and Batu MP P. Prabakaran.

Also present were YWP chief executive officer Zaizalnazam Zainun and Prabakaran.

On Jan 1, The Star Online reported that the Fire and Rescue Operations Centre received a distress call at 9.33pm on Dec 31, where a row of stalls within 185 sq m were destroyed by a fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire at 10.24pm.

Sixteen stalls were destroyed and no injuries or casualties were reported.



Khalid (standing, fourth from left) with the affected traders at Menara DBKL 1 in Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur.