



FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Klang will hold a talk on family life, themed Positive Meaningful Relationship in Families, from 2pm to 5pm on Feb 1, at 1st Floor Dewan Murphy. For details call, Noel at 019 283 5316 or Sharon at 012 393 1583.

CENTRE CLOSURE

● The Perak Urban Transformation Centre (UTC) will be closed until today in conjunction with Chinese New Year. Operations will resume tomorrow.

● The Ipoh Tourist Information Centre will be closed from Feb 1 to May 2 for renovations.

KLANG IRB BRANCH

The Klang Inland Revenue Board investigation branch office has relocated from Wisma Sunway to Level 16, Menara Port Tech, Jalan Tiara 3, Bandar Baru Klang, since Jan 2. For details, call 03-3361 4633 or visit www.hasil.gov.my

CANCER TALK

Prince Court Medical Centre (PCMC) will be having an event open to the public in conjunction with World Cancer Day on Feb 15, at PCMC's Auditorium at Level 1, Jalan Kia Peng, Kuala Lumpur, from 9am to 1pm. The event will feature testimonies from cancer survivors, caregivers, and talks from specialists to help on the management of cancer. Limited to 100 pax. Attendance is free, however, registration is required by Feb 7. To register, call 03-2160 0344.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

● The Kuala Lumpur Arul Nilayam (KLAN) is calling for volunteers to help serve free food and drinks to devotees during Thaipusam at Batu Caves from 8am on Feb 7 until 8pm on Feb 8. Volunteers will be tasked to cook and serve a vegetarian meal to an estimated 30,000 people. Those interested can call 016-293 5856 (Vicky) to register.

● Pertubuhan Sri Agathiar Sanmarka Gurukulam Malaysia is calling for volunteers to cook and serve food and drinks for 100,000 devotees at Batu Caves on Feb 7 and 8 during Thaipusam. The public can also donate food items such as rice, sugar, Australian dhal and cooking oil. For details, call 03-61876773.

FOREST RUN

FRIM is organising a Forest Run on March 7 at FRIM Kepong in conjunction with International Day of Forests 2020. There will be a 3km, 5km or 10km route and participants will be able to run through the forest trails amongst the man-made forest with a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. Registration is now open. Visit www.jomrun.com or its Facebook page FRIMKepong.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

IOI City Mall, Putrajaya, will have acrobatic lion dance, LED acrobatic lion dance, wushu, traditional acrobatics and Chinese face changing show on weekends throughout January and the first two weekends of February. For details, visit www.ioicitymall.com.my

LANTERN FESTIVAL

The annual Fo Guang Shan Dong Zen Temple Chinese New Year Lantern and Floral Festival returns with the theme 'Every journey in this world is a path to happiness'. It will be held until Feb 9 at the temple in Jalan Sungai Buaya, Kampung Jenjarom, Kuala Langat, from 10am-10pm. Admission and parking are free. For details, go to FGS Dong Zen Temple on Facebook.



A DBKL officer checking on back lanes finds many illegal extensions put up by restaurants.

Multiple infringements in KL's back lanes

TheStar Exclusive

DBKL enforcement team identifies several hotspots, including Brickfields

Stories by **BAVANI M**
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OWNERS of commercial shops in Kuala Lumpur who have installed unauthorised extensions and structures on their premises will be given a grace period to take them down or face enforcement action.

Following numerous complaints from agencies like waste regulator Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp), waste company Alam Flora and LA21 secretariat, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) issued

notices to business owners who carried out extensions or built structures to their properties without approval.

StarMetro learned that SWCorp received numerous complaints from Alam Flora on difficulties faced in cleaning drains due to the obstructions by the eateries.

As a result, DBKL issued warning notices ordering owners to demolish the extensions or face the consequence.

An enforcement team has identified several hotspots in the city and Brickfields is one of the areas.

The area identified is the back

alley of Jalan Thambipillay where officers found multiple infringements.

Shoplots, especially restaurants, have fixed grilles, built steps over drains, installed exhaust fans and sinks that take up a huge portion of the road and obstruct traffic.

Alam Flora contractors constantly complain about facing difficulties in gaining access to back roads due to these obstacles which affect their productivity.

A DBKL enforcement officer, who preferred anonymity, said all building owners had been notified about the demolition exercise.

"A meeting was held recently to prepare for the operation before a date is locked down for the demolition exercise.

"They (business owners) have been warned and we would prefer if they remove the extensions themselves, but we are not tolerating this (illegal extensions) any longer," he said.

Local Agenda 21 secretariat and coordinator A. Ghani Mohamed hoped that in the future DBKL would incorporate into its standard operating procedure (rules regarding application for licences) to ensure there were no infringe-



Concrete steps (left) at a back alley are blocking the drain, while (right) multiple obstacles have been identified at this premises.

IT LOOKS like it is the end of the road for Ali Cafe Tomyam Seafood restaurant at Jalan Pantai Baru in Bangsar as the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office (PPTGWP) has agreed for it to be demolished by the end of February.

The popular eatery which has dodged several attempts by the authorities to demolish it in the past decade, despite being illegally built on government land, has finally run out of luck.

A Kuala Lumpur City Hall spokesman told *StarMetro* that the decision was made at a post cabinet meeting recently.

The spokesman said Ali Cafe Tomyam's operating licence had expired and DBKL was waiting for the temporary licence of another stall, operating nearby, to expire before demolishing both structures.

An enforcement officer from DBKL said a demolition exercise was planned a few years ago but it was halted at the eleventh hour.

The officer said they were ordered to leave the scene and DBKL's Licensing Department was instructed to ensure that the eatery's licence was approved no matter what.

Last year, Federal Territories Minister, Khalid Abdul Samad highlighted cases involving illegal buildings built on government-owned spaces during the previous government's administration.

Ali Cafe started off as a small stall under a tree 20 years ago and throughout the years gained

Popular cafe to be demolished soon



Ali says he spent RM3mil to build the place.

popularity resulting in the owner, Ali Syed Mohamed, extending the stall into a double-storey building.

Ali told *StarMetro* last year that he spent RM3mil to upgrade the place after getting the go-ahead from a high-ranking government official even though it was not approved by PPTGWP.

The restaurant came under fire as it is built on a road divider, occupying several parking bays.

The building is located next to the Pantai fire station, prompting more questions as to its legality.

Last year, the PPTGWP issued a notice under Section 425 (1) of the National Land Code 1965, for occupying government land illegally and were told to vacate



Ali Cafe Tomyam Seafood restaurant in Jalan Pantai Baru is located on a road reserve.

the premises.

If the owners fail to move out, they can be fined up RM500,000 or jailed for not more than five years.

The DBKL spokesman said that

the local authority was going on a blitz to demolish illegal structures in the city, and it needed to set an example.

"We cannot be telling people to demolish their illegal structures

but yet allow some people to get away with it," the spokesperson added.

"To those who have put up illegal structures, my advice is remove it or we will do it."



Illegal structures include grilled up cages for gas tanks and a mounted stand for the air-conditioning compressor.



Example of obstacles at the back alley of a commercial area in Lucky Garden, Bangsar.



Illegal extensions along drains make it very difficult for waste contractors to do their job.

ments of rules and by-laws.

"Eateries that fail to instal grease traps and operators who carry out illegal extensions should not be allowed to have their business licences renewed when it expired.

"That way, those who have broken the rules can rectify their mistake by dismantling the illegal structures so they can get their licence renewed," Ghani said.

StarMetro took a stroll along the city's back lanes and found hundreds of infringements in all manner and shape.

The illegal structures were indirectly or directly causing the drains to be clogged with gunk from fat, oil and grease as it was getting increasingly difficult to clean the drains.

There are many areas including Bangsar, Plaza Damansara and Sri Petaling where communities complained of illegal extensions, clogged drains and lack of grease traps by commercial units which have not been addressed by the authorities.

We saw drains that were cemented over and obstructions placed on them making it difficult



Another example of multiple infringements in Lucky Garden, Bangsar.

for utility and waste companies to carry out cleansing work.

Some establishments like hotels even constructed steps at the back, while it was common to see caged compartments for gas tanks built by restaurants which are obstruc-

tions that take up space.

Even the illegally installed exhaust fans not done according to specification were seen.

In some places the fans were spewing water directly into the drains and messing up the area.



Drains here are blocked and clogged with oil and grease.