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Barter waste for food

KL mayor launches project for PPR, public housing residents

By **BAVANI M.**

bavanim@thestar.com.my

KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has launched a barter system, whereby waste such as plastic can be exchanged for food items.

The programme, called “1 Kiosk, 1 Community”, is specifically for those living in people’s housing projects (PPR) and public housing schemes.

Residents can exchange waste like aluminium cans, paper, plastic and used cooking oil in return for points that can be accumulated and redeemed for sugar, flour, cooking oil and condensed milk.

Each item comes with a point value. For example, 1kg of aluminium cans is worth 12 points, while 1kg of used cooking oil is worth 10 points.

Residents can exchange 12 points for a packet of sugar while for 10 points, they can get a tin of condensed milk.

They also have the option of accumulating the points for more items.

The first kiosk was launched under the pilot project by mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah at PPR Seri Alam in Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

“DBKL spends about RM260mil each year on waste management.

“Imagine if we can reduce that rubbish going to the landfill, save the money and put it to better use,” said Mahadi at the launch.

“If this project works, we hope to save at least 5% of the RM260mil every year, which is RM13mil a year,” he said.

Mahadi added that if it proved to be a success, the system could be used to even redeem rental for PPR units.



A resident being briefed about the waste exchange programme during the 1 Kiosk, 1 Community event at PPR Seri Alam in Sungai Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

“Why not? It’s an idea. And if we can get people to reduce their waste in the process, it’s a win-win situation for the residents and DBKL,” he said.

Mahadi added that reducing waste was part of the city’s efforts to tackle climate change and for Kuala Lumpur to become a low-carbon city.

There are plans to open more of such kiosks at other low-cost housing schemes, along with a compost machine and weighing scale.

Resident Siti Hajar Sulaiman, 40, brought 2kg of paper waste and managed to exchange it for a packet of sugar at the launch.

“I think it’s a good idea as instead of throwing the paper away, we can keep it to be exchanged later,” she said.

A. Daud exchanged 5kg of plastic waste for flour.

“This move will definitely encourage people to be more careful of what they throw out,” he said.