

FOUR SECTIONS

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STRICT RULES FOR LORONG TAR BAZAAR

Only 832 people allowed at a time, and shoppers must check in at every stall

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THE Lorong Tuanku Abdul Rahman Aidilfitri bazaar has been downsized and returned to its original location.

The festive market began its first day of business under the new norm yesterday, with the number of stalls slashed by more than half from a peak of 450 in 2018, before its shift to Jalan Raja the subsequent year.

While there was not much of a crowd and businesses were still setting up at the bazaar, the area was packed, especially the narrow fringes outside the bazaar's fenced area.

The market was also mirrored by the pasar malam in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, which has been temporarily shifted to the main road to make way for the bazaar.

The pasar malam stalls were reduced to 200 from the 550 lots that were trading prior to movement curbs to contain Covid-19.

The New Sunday Times checks



A trader setting up his stall in the Lorong Tuanku Abdul Rahman Aidilfitri bazaar in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

yesterday found a busy night market, while the narrow pathways outside its perimeter were teeming with people.

City Hall Licensing and Business Development Department director Khairul Anuar Mohd Juri said the bazaar was returned to its original location in Lorong TAR as traders had complained that business was poor in Jalan Raja.

He said the Federal Territories Ministry understood the concerns surrounding the reopening of the bazaars.

"All stalls are 1m apart and we

have barricaded the entire perimeter to ensure no one encroaches on it.

"The bazaar is divided into four sections with entrances and exits for each section."

Khairul Anuar said visitors must check in with the MySejahtera application at every stall, despite checking in and being scanned for fever upon entry.

He said the contact-tracing application would also allow the Health Ministry to raise the alarm in the event that clusters were detected.

"Based on their advice, we will

then decide whether to close the whole bazaar or just sections of it. We have done partial closures of markets before."

He declined to comment on whether infections at the bazaar would cause the surrounding brick-and-mortar shops to close.

He said City Hall had decided to allow a maximum of 832 people at the site at one time.

"Visitors will be tagged with physical cards and each stall will be limited to two attendants. People will have to queue to get in, so if the numbers exceed 832, we will advise them to wait in line or

walk around."

He said around 50 personnel from City Hall's Enforcement Department and Licensing and Business Development Department and the police would be posted there on eight-hour shifts.

He said some of City Hall's personnel had been vaccinated.

City Hall would allow a maximum of 800 people at the pasar malam, including the two attendants at each stall.

Khairul Anuar said City Hall was attempting to control crowds by allowing the bazaars to operate for 14 hours from 10am.

He said no cars would be allowed to park on the two roads to give people more space to move.

"The next few days will be trial and error, so we will give traders and visitors reminders.

"If they fail to comply after that, we will take action," Khairul Anuar said, adding that the bazaar could be closed if there were serious violations.

He said Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa had ordered strict action to be taken against Rambos (illegal traders).

Khairul Anuar said City Hall was waiting for official authorisation, details and briefings from the Health Ministry on how it could compound those who did not comply with the standard operating procedures.

"Give us some time. We are trying our best with these measures, so hopefully there will be no clusters from here."