

Sprouting of roadside stalls in Taman Setapak Indah upsets residents

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TAMAN Setapak Indah residents want the number of hawker stalls along Jalan 1/23e in Setapak, Kuala Lumpur to be kept in check.

They said many stalls have sprouted in the area and customers tend to stop their vehicles by the roadside to buy from these traders, causing traffic congestion.

Andrew Chua, 35, said the area was turning into a night market.

“Vehicles double and even triple park along the main road throughout the day.

“I avoid this road when returning home because of the congestion.

“The hawker stalls used to be at a manageable number but they have increased in recent times.

“Hawkers are required to dis-

play their licence at their stalls but some of them do not do so,” he said, urging Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to conduct a check and take action against errant traders.

Since Nov 15 last year, petty traders have been allowed to operate roadside stalls after then Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa gave out temporary licences under the “free trade area” initiative.

However, the temporary licence will be approved only if DBKL finds the location stated in the application fit for trading.

But residents of Taman Setapak Indah complain that the decision to allow hawkers to set up stalls there is an inconvenience to them.

Another resident, William Yew, 59, said some hawkers were using the roads just behind their stalls to



Double-parked vehicles causing traffic congestion as people patronise the roadside stalls along Jalan 1/23e in Taman Setapak Indah.

load and unload goods.

“Some hawkers even leave their vans in the neighbourhood overnight.

“The vehicles end up blocking some of the lanes,” he added.

R. Vijeyndran, 34, said he was concerned for residents’ safety as some customers and hawkers were not adhering to Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOP).

“During peak hours, customers would crowd the stalls and some hawkers do not wear their face

mask properly.

“There is no adequate distance between stalls and the location is not able to cope with so many stalls and customers,” he said.

“The traffic congestion also makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to gain smooth access to nearby neighbourhoods,” he said, adding that he had lodged a complaint with the office of Wangsa Maju MP Datin Paduka Dr Tan Yee Kew.

Tan’s special assistant, Andre

Lai, said complaints were mostly from road users as Jalan 1/23e was the main access road to Taman Melati.

“There is too much congestion from cars parked by the roadside, causing safety issues.

“This may not be an ideal place to do business.

“I also noticed that the sidewalks built by DBKL may be damaged because traders are building structures on them for their business,” he added.