

By DARISHINI PRIYAA DEVADAS
metro@thestar.com.my

TRADERS operating along Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1 in Kepong claim they are being unfairly treated by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) after they were issued summonses to cease operations.

They have been operating on vacant parking bays for many years.

Chan Boon Yoong, 31, who sold *pau* from a van, said his application for a petty trader's licence from DBKL was unsuccessful.

"I was told to either take up a food truck in this area or cease operations.

"But to operate a food truck I would have to pay almost RM1,000 monthly for the licence as well as pay RM30 for parking bay rental for a day.

"These rates are too high. I am only making between 70sen and 80sen per *pau*.

"I could raise my prices but I would lose customers," said Chan who started the business after losing his job during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping said it was unfair for traders who were carrying out similar activities within the same area to be treated differently.

"Why is one business considered legitimate and the other illegal?"

He added that food trucks were also monopolising parking bays.

Yee claimed the operators also blocked the entire street in the late evening with tables and chairs.

"DBKL has failed to consider that when they allowed food trucks to operate. They are taking away business from restaurants and cafes here," said Yee.

Kuala Lumpur Food Truck

(18 April 2022) The Star sp. 2

Kepong traders upset over DBKL's 'unfair treatment'

Sellers operating in area designated for food trucks say they cannot afford high licence fee and daily parking rental

Entrepreneurs Association member Wan Chin Hong said DBKL had designated the area for food trucks.

"Twenty food trucks have registered to trade in Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1.

"The association members have also arranged Rela personnel to direct traffic during the evening when chairs and tables line the street," he said.

Chin Hong added that it was not fair to ask food truck operators to leave as they have applied for licences.

David Wan, 28, who sold spring onion pancakes, said as legal traders, they should be allowed to earn an honest living.

"As for blocking parking space, we have an understanding with visitors.

"When they park in our space, we ask them to leave their contact numbers on their cars so we can call them when a truck arrives to start business," said Wan.

DBKL did not respond when asked to comment.



Watch the video
TheStarTV.com



DBKL allows only food trucks to operate at Jalan Rimbunan Raya 1 in Kepong. — ONG SOON HIN/The Star