

CAUSING INCONVENIENCE

TRADERS: NEW FOOD COURT A LETDOWN

They complain newly built site not disabled-friendly, lacks loading area for food stalls

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THE newly built food court in Bandar Tun Razak has been drawing flak for lacking disabled-friendly facilities and amenities for hawkers and patrons.

Anjung Selera Bandar Tun Razak was completed earlier this year next to the site of the old building. Although the new building has high ceilings for good ventilation and uses solar panels, it is a let-down for food traders there.

Fruit stall owner Sahar Pandak, who moves around on crutches, said he had to walk all the way from the main entrance to his stall located at the rear of the building.

"There are stairs near my stall, but there is no railing and can be dangerous for the disabled or elderly people.

"It is not an issue for able-bodied



Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias (second from left) distributing a goodie bag to a trader during a walkabout at Anjung Selera Bandar Tun Razak in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

people, but it is difficult for me to get to my stall.

"I have raised the issue with DBKL (Kuala Lumpur City Hall) several times and hope it will be rectified soon," said the 60-year-old trader.

Chicken rice seller Muhammad Zafran Zainal Abidin, 41, said the

stalls were not built with rear doors for unloading.

"Because of this, we have to bring our ingredients from the main entrance and unload them in front of the stalls.

"This has greatly inconvenienced us. Due to the lack of parking, I have to be here as early

as 5am. Even then, it is difficult for us to find a spot as some residents from a new apartment nearby also park their cars here," said Zafran, who pays a monthly rental of RM400 and RM100 maintenance fee to City Hall.

Sahar and Zafran are among the 16 long-time operators at the

old food court on Jalan Jujur 3, which is popular among residents for its affordable dishes.

During a walkabout at the food court yesterday, Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias promised to get the issues rectified.

"City Hall will build a proper access at the rear of the food court for the disabled and is in the midst of building an open car park next to it.

"I visit food courts such as this to find out the issues that we can address, especially in upgrading the facilities for the benefit of traders and customers."

On a separate matter, Jalaluddin said City Hall had carried out 10 initiatives to help hawkers and petty traders whose incomes were affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to a RM30 million reduction in revenue.

He said the 50 per cent discount on rental rates for petty traders, which was imposed between January and June, would be extended until December.

"It involves 5,766 accounts operating in City Hall's market buildings and centres for petty traders, with a reduction in revenue of about RM3 million.

"The ministry and City Hall hope that this initiative will help to ease their burden and help them to optimise their business operations."