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HARI RAYA BAZAAR

LORONG TAR BUSTLES WITH SHOPPERS

KL mayor calls for use of public transport to ease congestion, says 420 enforcement personnel will monitor bazaar security

NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

SHOPPERS thronged Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Lorong Tuanku Abdul Rahman (Lorong TAR)

over the weekend in preparation for Hari Raya Aidilfitri, which is expected to be celebrated on May 2.

The shopping areas were hives of activity on Saturday, with tents displaying wares to tempt customers, who took the opportunity to shop for traditional wear, cookies and delicacies.

Among them were husband and wife Kamarul Baharin Hanan, 53, and Rasmawati Abdul Majid, 51, from Setiawangsa, who enjoyed doing their Hari Raya shopping in the area.

"We always do our Hari Raya

shopping here as there are more choices which are affordable, from Hari Raya clothes to curtains, home decor and cookies.

"Sometimes, the traders will give discounts too, especially when you buy a lot. In terms of pricing, I think we get better

deals here compared to other places," said Kamarul.

He added this year was special as his family would celebrate Hari Raya in his hometown in Kuala Kangsar, Perak after not being able to do so for the past two years.

Hidayatun Nasuha Khairul Anuar, 16, came to the Lorong TAR Aidilfitri bazaar to find *baju raya*.

"Many traders are selling various designs and I get to compare the prices from different shops to get the best deal," said Hidayatun, who will celebrate Hari Raya in

Jerantut, Pahang.

Shopper Siti Zahrah Mohamad Harun, 41, said she took advantage of Saturday to do some Hari Raya shopping with her two daughters, aged 15 and 12.

Her husband applied for the Employees Provident Fund withdrawal and gave her money to buy Hari Raya clothes.

"My husband gave extra this

year, as we didn't get to celebrate Hari Raya for two years because of Covid-19. However, we only used a portion of the money, while the rest is for emergency use," said Zahrah, who will celebrate Hari Raya with

her in-laws in Kuala Sungai Baru, Melaka.

Traders in the area are relieved that the number of shoppers has been encouraging this year.

Trader Abdul Hannan Ruzlan, 29, who sells Hari Raya cookies, enjoyed brisk business.

"Our businesses were affected in 2020 and last year, as interstate travels were banned to curb the spread of Covid-19.

"However, this year the number of shoppers has been very encouraging, especially on weekends and after breaking of fast.

"I have restocked my cookies a few times, as customers keep buying them for themselves as well as

some were retrenched.

"But now, the economic sectors have reopened and people can visit their hometowns. So, people are shopping this time around."

Kuala Lumpur City Hall, in a Facebook post on Friday, said the Lorong TAR Aidilfitri bazaar, which started on April 9, received 210,000 visitors up to Friday.

The bazaar recorded the highest number of daily visitors last Sunday, with 21,600 visitors.

Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah, in a video uploaded on Kuala Lumpur City Hall's Facebook page, called on visitors to take public transport

to avoid parking problems.

He said 420 enforcement personnel from City Hall, the police and the Malaysian Volunteer Corps Department would monitor security at the bazaar and ensure smooth traffic flow in the area.



The public checking out the shops and stalls lining Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman in Kuala Lumpur, on Sunday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH



Kamarul Baharin Hanan



Hidayatun Nasuha Khairul Anuar



Abdul Hannan Ruzlan



Nurhidayah Abdullah

to take back to their hometowns."

At his stall, among the most sought-after cookies are pineapple tarts, *bangkit* cheese, almond London, *semperit* and *batang buruk*.

Empire Sinu Collec-

tion stall assistant Nurhidayah Abdullah said customers had been streaming in steadily since morning.

"For the past two years, many were not in the mood to shop for Hari Raya as they could not go back to their hometowns, while