

Jalan Alor vendors seek clarity

Hawker association urges DBKL to clear up confusion over licensing guidelines

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JALAN Alor street vendors want Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to be more transparent and clarify licensing directives following last week's raid.

Persatuan Penjaja dan Peniaga Jalan Alor Kuala Lumpur said there were discrepancies in instructions from DBKL enforcement officers and confusion over licensing procedures including where street vendors were allowed to operate.

In a statement, association secretary Simon Ang Leong Yew said the problems arose from licensed vendors operating at locations other than specified sites.

He said some shopowners prohibited licensed hawkers from operating in front of their establishments, forcing the latter to move elsewhere to trade.

Ang was referring to the Jan 18 special operation conducted by DBKL targeting unlicensed vendors and foreign traders around Jalan Alor, Bukit Bintang in the Kuala Lumpur city centre.

The operation involved inspec-

tions and enforcement action against traders and street vendors, including those selling food, drinks, accessories and clothing, for offences such as operating without a licence, misusing licences, obstructing public spaces, and illegal foreign vendors.

Ang said one of the problems traders faced was DBKL officers giving inconsistent instructions.

"Several hawkers said they were directed to operate on the road instead of pedestrian walkway, contrary to previous guidelines.

"This inconsistency in directives hampers our members' ability to comply with regulations effectively.

"We urge DBKL to provide transparent and consistent guidelines to address these issues.

"We want clarity on the licensing procedures and operational locations.

"Proper directives from officers is essential for our members to operate within the legal framework," he said.

The association also wants to understand the rationale behind



DBKL enforcement officers seizing items during the special operation in Jalan Alor, Bukit Bintang on Jan 18. — Photo from DBKL Facebook

granting new licences despite ongoing challenges faced by existing vendors.

"We seek an open dialogue with DBKL to address these concerns and work towards a more structured and supportive environment for street vendors in Jalan Alor," Ang added.

During the raid, DBKL carried out several seizures.

There were two cases of relo-

cation of goods/equipment placed in public spaces against restaurant and shop owners; nine actions against unlicensed local vendors and four against unlicensed foreign vendors.

The actions were for offences under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 and the Trades, Businesses and Industries Licensing of the Federal Territory of Kuala

Lumpur (WPKL) 2016 By-laws.

DBKL also issued one enforcement notice under Section 46 of the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974, two compound notices for unlicensed vendors and two compound notices for appointing foreign assistant stallholders under the Licensing of Hawkers and Food Placement (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur) By-laws 2016 (UUK22).