



KUALA LUMPUR

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K U A L A L U M P U R C I T Y H A L L

THE KUALA LUMPUR WHOLESALE MARKET



Vegetables wholesalers getting ready to attend to buyers in the morning. The wholesale market is active between 12:00 midnight to 5:00 am.
- Photo KL City News

The wholesale market had its origins at the Central Market way back during the colonial days and shared the premises with the retail outlets at the same venue. Today, the Central Market situated in the centre of the city is known as the 'Pasar Seni', selling handicrafts, art forms and souvenirs to tourists.

In 1962, The City Commissioner (Mayor) relocated all the wholesalers to a new wholesale market situated at Jalan Rahmat, off Jalan Ipoh (behind the Pusat Rawatan Islam (PUSRAWI)).

With subsequent rapid development in Kuala Lumpur, this site too was considered unsuitable to its continued existence as a wholesale market, what more with the traffic jam caused by lorries, hawkers and other consumer's 'jamming' the roads in the area.

In 1985, the wholesale market operations were moved temporarily to north of Kuala Lumpur in line with the policy of creating a new growth centre - The Northern Town Centre. It was decided to build a permanent wholesale market here.

The permanent wholesale market was completed and began operations in July 1995 and named the Kuala Lumpur Wholesale Market. Sited on a 24 acre plot, the wholesale market has 466 stall units accomodating:

Type of stall	Unit
Fruit	64
Vegetable	216
Fish	168
Food	10
Food kiosk	8
Total	466

Out of 448 lots, 359 (80.1%) are owned by Chinese, 67 lots (15.1%) by Malays, 5 (1.1%) by Indian, 5 (1.1%) by government agencies, 6 (1.3%) bumiputra companies and 6 (1.3%) by non-Bumiputra companies. Each stall/lot measures 196 sq.ft.

Out of the 10 food stalls, four belong to Bumiputras, five by Chinese and one by an Indian. With regards to the kiosks (8 units) four are owned by Bumiputras, two each by Chinese and Indians.

The annual licence fees for the wholesale market stalls are RM960 for fruit and vegetables stalls and RM1560 for fish stalls.

Beginning May 2004, the stall owners are also charged a monthly rental of RM1538 for fruit and vegetable stalls and RM1654 for fish stalls, which include rental, maintenance service, water and electricity charges.

One of the major problems in managing the Wholesale Market is a shortage of staff. A total of 10 staff working on two shifts, however manage the market. As the Wholesale Market carries out trading 24 hours a day, maintaining cleanliness at the market by Alam Flora has not been up to expectations. Alam Flora will be asked to mechanise some its operations to enhance cleanliness in the market.



Scouting for a good bargain. Fish retailers checking on the quality and price.
- Photo KL City News

Traffic congestion at the market is also serious as the enforcement action taken by the contractor is lacking. Similarly, maintenance of the market and repairs need to be looked into. A suggestion has been made to empower the Hawkers and Petty Traders Department to have its own technical staff for greater efficiency in running the market.

The Mayor, Brig.Gen. Datuk Mohamad Shaïd Bin Mohd Taufek told City News that the whole aspect of managing the KL Wholesale Market is currently being reviewed and changes will be effected to ensure that the market is managed and administered in a more professional manner.



From the Mayor's Desk

A 24 Hours Global City

It has been a commonly misunderstood notion that only arts and theatre give soul and life to a city while other contributory elements are often left out, when a discourse on "a living city with a soul" are discussed.

Besides the arts, theatre and music, the other aspects that need to be taken into consideration are the economic, cultural and social elements that infuse the spirit, dynamism and vibrancy to a city.

This spirit, vitality and vibrancy is a continuous cycle that interacts around the clock, 24 hours a day – daytime and nighttime. The city would be "lifeless and dead" if there were no economic and social activities going on, with people moving around carrying out their daily activities and business, the smell of food permeating the air, incessant noise and movement of traffic, the various sights and sounds – all these and many more are the quintessence and vital force that interact with one another to give that energy, fervour and vitality to a living and livable city.

It was reported in a local daily, that I wanted to make "KL buzz 24 hours a day". Some took it to mean that I encouraged the darker and seedier side of nightlife in the city. Sad to say, this is a negative perception which does not take into reality the changing, evolutionary nature of a world class city with a soul. In the next 15 to 20 years, Kuala Lumpur will just be similar to any other international city like Sydney, Seoul, London, Paris, New York, Montreal, Bombay or Tokyo.

We have encouraged the building of apartments and condominiums in the city to encourage people to stay in the city. Parks, recreational facilities and entertainment centres are encouraged so that Kuala Lumpur will see people living and enjoying city life.

City Hall is trying to improve the quality of life and life at night in the city. After the September 11 incident, the tourist profile to Kuala Lumpur has changed. West Asian tourists, who only start the night life after 10 pm need more entertainment. Kuala Lumpur being the gateway for visitors sees travellers arriving at all times of the day and night. We need to cater for them and their needs and requirements.

Utility bodies carry out maintenance work at night and into the wee hours of the morning so as not to cause traffic jams and disrupt city life. Hotels and food outlets remain open around the clock to cater for shift workers and those in transit in the city.

We have lighted up the city to provide security and safety to the citizens who live and work in the city. The city is bright, lively and dynamic at all times. The economy is abuzz 24 hours and provides jobs and employment opportunities for all; besides arresting out-migration from the city centre.

So, what does a Global City mean? Besides all that I have stated above, we must be able to interact immediately with the other side of the globe. Hence, Kuala Lumpur should not be caught napping and snoring away at midnight (local time) while the stock exchange and futures markets in Wall Street, New York are in full swing.

We must have the capacity to accommodate the world's top corporate leaders need, such that they are enticed to set up their offices or Asian regional office here in the city. And for that, they need to communicate with their head office in real time, whether in London, New York, Paris, Bonn, Montreal etc.

But this cannot happen when we in Kuala Lumpur start to "switch off" the lights at 10:30 pm or at the stroke of midnight. Our own top business executives too, need to communicate with their counterparts on the other side of the globe directly at the latter's time - and that's business Public Relations, Marketing, Purchasing, Selling or whatever, which could not be achieved if Kuala Lumpur is not "24 hours living".

Not to talk about immediate exchange of information on matters of crucial importance such as diplomacy and security. In a nutshell we have got to start preparing from now, especially in the planning and implementation of the necessary infrastructure and basic requirements, so that we are not caught 'with our pants down' literally when the time arrives.

City Hall is committed to making Kuala Lumpur a World Class City and an international commercial, stock broking and banking hub. The only thing that is constant is change. And change we must, to be a competitive city in a globalised and borderless world. For those who have travelled outside Malaysia, they will understand the need to be a global player. Together we shall achieve this objective.

KUALA LUMPUR AUGUST FESTIVAL 2004 (KLAF2004)



The Kuala Lumpur August Festival 2004 (KLAF2004) is a brainchild of the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Brig. Gen. Datuk Mohamad Shaid Bin Mohd Taufek is an event organized to further lend support to the Mayor's vision of making Kuala Lumpur a City With A Soul – A Garden City of Lights.

The KLAF2004 is organized in anticipation of an influx of international tourist arrivals in the city. It is also intended to provide an impactful festival experience and further catalyse repeat visitors. This will be an annual signature event that will help support and complement other major events such as the Mega Sales and the Merdeka Celebrations.

Besides raising the profile of Kuala Lumpur it will also serve to portray and build Kuala Lumpur as a unique cultural and lifestyle destination in this region – a preferred festival destination.

The month long festival starting from 7 August – 5 September 2004, will showcase Malaysian Art, Culture, Food and Lifestyle (music and fashions).

One key festival component will be showcased each week featuring a variety and richness of each component, at selected main venues and supported by pocket or mini venues.

The schedules are as follows:

7 – 13 Aug 2004	Art	@BBPark
14 – 20 Aug 2004	Culture	@Bintang Walk
21 – 26 Aug 2004	Food	@KL Tower
27 – 31 Aug 2004	Lifestyle	@Berjaya Times Square
5 Sept 2004	Batik	@Berjaya Times Square
	Fashion Show	

A batik fashion exhibition will be held towards the end of the KLAF2004 by Yayasan Budi Penyayang, a non-governmental organisation. The festival hours are between 6.00 – 10.30 pm. On some days it may start earlier.

KLAF2004 will also be promoted via smart taxis, where 100 taxis will have a body wrap carrying the KLAF logo 2004. Smart taxis are a new breed of taxis that will be equipped with GIS Dispatch Management System and an Information Management System with a Help Desk featuring an Interactive KL City Guide and places of interest, shopping, dining, entertainment and other information for the tourists. In conjunction with KLAF2004, a new KL Map "Moving Around in KL" will also be introduced and distributed to tourists as a guide for them to move around in the city.

The KLAF2004 partners are Kuala Lumpur Tourism Action Council, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture-Arts & Heritage, Tourism Malaysia and supported by YTL Corporation, KL Tower, KL Plaza, Low Yatt Group, Berjaya Times Square, Sungei Wang Plaza, Yayasan Selangor, Smart Card Ventures Sdn Bhd, Omega Chanel Sdn Bhd, University Lim Kok Wing, UiTM, University Malaya, Kompleks Kraf, Yayasan Budi Penyayang, Sepang International Circuit, Central Market, Akademi Seni Kebangsaan, Istana Budaya, HELP Institute, Kasih Dia publication etc.

HAWKERS IN THE CITY

City Hall considers the hawker industry in the city as one of the important economic activities that not only generates income for families but also one that creates jobs for many of the lesser educated citizens. Single parent mothers also depend on this industry for a living, while others carry out hawking activities to supplement their low income.

On the other hand, hawkers are also accused of causing traffic jams by obstructing traffic with their furniture, or customers parking their vehicles indiscriminately while enjoying or buying their hawker fare. They are also accused of contributing to the rodent problems in the city and also for indiscriminately disposing garbage and being dirty. They are sometimes also a sore sight with their dirty stalls, torn and tattered umbrellas and lean-to structures situated at all nooks and corners of the city.

It is estimated that there are 1,402 illegal and unlicensed hawkers all over the city. Apprehending and compounding them is a perennial and on-going game of "cat and mouse". These hawkers are always back to business although their carts and wares are seized very often by the Enforcement Directorate of City Hall.

In 2002, there were 34 cases of seizures carried out on illegal migrant hawker stalls while in 2003, 46 cases were recorded and until April 2004, 12 cases of seizures were carried out.

The hawker numbers have been on the increase since 1999. From 34,591 in 1999 the figures have ballooned to 47,186 until March 2004. An increase of 26.6%.

With regards to racial composition of hawkers, there were 10,821 (31.28%) Malay, 20,663 (59.74%) Chinese and 3107 (8.98%) Indian hawkers in 1999 as compared to 17,948 (38.04%) Malay, 25,163 (53.33%) Chinese and 4073 (8.63%) Indian hawkers in March 2004. The increase in the number of Malay hawkers is due to corresponding increase in the Malay population areas in the city and also City Hall's affirmative policy in ensuring more Bumiputras participate in this economic sector.

There are at least 6 categories of licenced hawkers operating in various areas. They are as follows:

Category of hawkers	Total (%)
Night market	15,379 (32.59%)
Open market (Inside buildings)	15,136 (32.08%)
Static (Outside buildings)	13,418 (28.44%)
Locked stalls/kiosks &	
Private hawker centres	3,114 (6.60%)
Mobile	139 (0.29%)

In the Southern Zone, there are 642 kiosks, locked stalls and mobile kitchens located in 29 hawker centres. Another 581 such stalls are located in the Northern Zone's, 21 hawker food courts and centres.



One of the third generation food courts in Kampung Pandan built by City Hall. A clean, pleasant and airy environment to relax and enjoy a meal- Photo KL City News

All the above food courts and hawker centres come under the direct purview of City Hall. City Hall also encourages private premise/building owners to make available food courts within their buildings. This move is to ensure that the hawkers are disciplined and serve their food in a clean and healthy environment.

There are 52 such private food courts/hawker centers in the city with a total of 746 stalls. A licence fee of between RM18.00 to RM63.00 is charged. Stall owners pay the building owners rental varying from RM100.00 to RM 2,500.00 depending on the location and size of the stalls.

The most expensive stalls are found in the MidValley Megamall, where the stalls are charged between RM520.00 to RM2,500.00. About 12 stalls operate here.

Many accusations have been made against KL City Hall allegedly for not taking action on illegal/unlicensed hawkers. Statistics prove otherwise. Under the Hawkers and Stalls By-Laws (UUK 3(1) 1989), and UUK 9 (1984), 2,440 compound notices were issued in 2002, 5762 in 2003 and until April 2004, 1357 compound notices were slapped on hawkers operating without licences on road sides and in markets/open markets.

In 2002, 3958 hawkers paid compound fees amounting to RM260,818.00. 8687 offenders settled RM294,980.00 in 2003 and in 2004 (until April). 2057 unlicensed hawkers settled their compound fees amounting to RM79,025.00.

The above statistics reveal that the KL City Hall's Enforcement Unit has been very active and consistent in trying to overcome the unlicensed hawker problems in the city.

It is not KL City Hall's intention to permit hawkers to ply their trade all over the city. The city's landscape should not be marred with a 'garden city of hawkers'. It is City Hall's vision and mission to clear the city of hawkers by the year 2020.

ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURED AND BEEFED UP

The Enforcement Directorate of Kuala Lumpur City Hall has been beefed up with an additional 280 staff bringing the strength to 1,600, to ensure greater and effective enforcement in the city.

At the same time, the Directorate has been restructured to enhance its performance and efficiency. In future, some Enforcement Officers will be deployed to the various departments rather than to a central command as is the practice now.

The Licencing, Hawker, Planning and Building Control and Health Department to name a few, will have Enforcement Officers attached to the respective Departments. With this restructuring and deployment, City Hall can respond quickly and effectively.

Further, 20 officers have been recruited and trained to attend to problems pertaining to littering, illegal dumping and other related offences. This Special Unit will be on duty 24 hours and will respond quickly to any complaints or information received on illegal activities and other offences committed, violating City Hall's by Laws, rules and regulations. The officers started working since last June 2004.