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ILLEGAL structures obstructing back lanes and pedestrian walkways at several locations in Kuala Lumpur have been demolished in the largest such operation by authorities this year.

A 300-strong team led by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) with agencies such as the police, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) and Air Selangor conducted the operation last Saturday.

Several excavators were brought in to tear down the structures.

At one location, a covered roof erected illegally by a food court operator in the back lanes of Jalan Pudu was demolished by DBKL.

The roof also had an awning extended to the five-foot walkway of Jalan Pudu.

StarMetro had on July 8, highlighted the growing presence of illegal stalls in Chinatown, particularly at a food court that erected structures in the back lanes, without permit.

Complainants had voiced concerns that the structures such as food stalls and cabinets had blocked their back lanes and potential escape routes in the event of a fire.

They also highlighted hygiene and health issues, noting that food traders had dirtied the back lanes and clogged the

Illegal structures demolished in Chinatown's back lanes

drains with food waste.

It was discovered that the food court operator had tapped into the electricity supply from the street lights. TNB disconnected it during the operation.

DBKL officers were also seen carting away furniture such as tables, chairs, stall structures and ceiling fans.

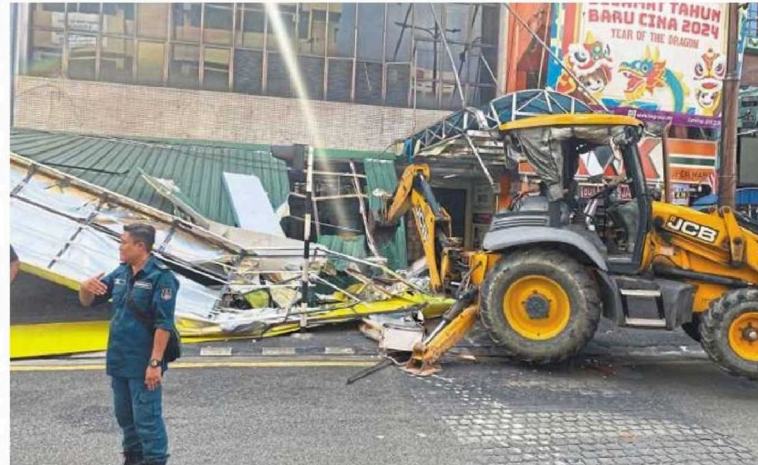
Kuala Lumpur Advisory Board member Andre Lai said the operation was the largest conducted by DBKL and other agencies to tackle illegal structures in Chinatown this year.

"The food court and illegal structures are blocking the back doors of shoplots, posing potential safety threats to shopowners and customers alike.

"In the case of the food court, DBKL issued two notices two months ago to evict traders operating stalls in the back lanes and ordered them to tear down the illegal structures. This was ignored," he said.

Lai said the authorities were serious about addressing illegal structures in Chinatown, which could mar the image of the site that was a tourist attraction.

During the operation, authorities came across a wooden shack built by the food court operator



An excavator tearing down an awning that was erected without permit at a stationery store in Chinatown.

to accommodate their workers.

The operator was seen begging DBKL officers for leniency and more time to dismantle it.

"DBKL has torn down the awning that extended to the sidewalk of Jalan Pudu.

"We are giving the operator a week to dismantle the remaining illegal structures.

"If they fail to do so, DBKL will return to demolish them," said Lai.

DBKL also demolished the ille-

gal awnings erected by a stationery shop along Jalan Sultan, and illegal structures set up by a food trader along Jalan Pudu.

Premises and stall owners who erected illegal structures can be charged under Section 46 of the Street, Drainage, and Building Act 1974.

Upon conviction, they shall be liable to a fine not exceeding RM500, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding RM1,000.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Japanese government scholarship for the Young Leaders' Programme is open for application until Sept 6. Malaysian nationals who would like to pursue their Master's degree courses in Japan are invited to apply. The course duration is for one year from October 2025 to September 2026. Courses will be conducted in English.

FREE CLASSES

Petaling Jaya parliamentary service centre is offering free Bahasa Malaysia classes for Form Four and Form Five students living in Petaling Jaya. The online classes will be held every Friday, from 4pm to 5.45pm. Register via Google form at <https://tinyurl.com/bdebjt48>

ART COMPETITIONS

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and Stella Rajendran Environmental Education Fund are organising printmaking and collage competitions for schoolchildren in conjunction with World Oceans Day 2024. Both competitions run until Aug 15. Participation is free. For details, visit the MNS Facebook page.

TRANSPORT SERVICE

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) added 11 new locations to its list of medical centres accessible via its free community vehicles for people with disabilities and senior citizens. There are now 19 centres listed. The vehicles are available Mondays to Fridays, 8.30am-5pm. Reservations can be made two weeks in advance (subject to availability) by calling 03-5522 2732 or 03-5510 5133 ext 1381.