



Heavy traffic during last year's Deepavali bazaar. — Filepic

(Left) The stretch along Jalan Tun Sambanthan from the Lorong Chan Ah Tong junction to Jalan Rozario junction where traders have been selling goods for the past 20 years. — Photos: IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

By FARID WAHAB and BAVANI M
metro@thestar.com.my

A GROUP of 50 Deepavali bazaar traders who have been operating in Little India, Brickfields, are unhappy about being relocated to a smaller site.

Little India Brickfields Traders Association said they received a letter from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) on Oct 16 informing them of the relocation to a short lane off Jalan Tun Sambanthan.

The affected traders usually set up their stalls along Jalan Tun Sambanthan from the Lorong Chong Ah Tong junction to Jalan Rozario junction.

Association chairman Thinakaran Periannan said they were told a building owner had said the stalls were obstructing foot traffic.

"The new location can only accommodate eight stalls. Where are the rest of us supposed to go?" he asked.

Due to this, the traders have decided not to start operating the bazaar, which they had planned to over the weekend.

In past years, the bazaar usually ran for three weeks before Deepavali, operating daily from 10am to 11pm.

Thinakaran urged DBKL to meet with the association to discuss the issue as Deepavali falls on Nov 12.

A DBKL letter sent to the association sighted by *StarMetro* stated that the previous bazaar site was unsuitable.

Association committee member Gunaseelan M.

Operators unhappy with new Deepavali bazaar site

Location can only accommodate eight out of 50 Brickfields traders



Chitra Devi has already bought RM80,000 of stock for the bazaar.

Subramaniam urged DBKL to reconsider its decision.

"The traders have forked out a hefty sum to operate the Deepavali bazaar and are now incurring losses as they cannot start.

"This is a once-in-a-year chance for us," he said.

Chitra Devi Muniandy, who planned to sell traditional attire with her daughter, said she had



Pauline says many traders prefer to operate at DBKL's bazaar.

already spent RM80,000 buying stock.

"We have been operating here for the 15 years without any issues.

"Our regular site offers good returns due to its central location," she said.

Pauline Getha Tharumapala said many traders preferred to operate at DBKL's bazaar due to the cheaper rental.



Thinakaran (left) and Gunaseelan are appealing to DBKL to allow them to trade at their previous spot.

"Many shopowners in the area do rent out the space in front of their premises but the fees are higher," she said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's political secretary Datuk Azman Abidin said the previous location was no longer conducive as the trading area was encroaching on the road.

"But we also understand that

traders spent a significant amount of money to purchase goods to sell during this festive period so we are trying to find an alternative location.

"We are committed to ensuring that the traders will be able to do business this Deepavali," he said.

Azman added that he would be visiting the site personally with DBKL officers today.