

City Hall tears down illegal structure



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KUALA LUMPUR: After numerous warnings, City Hall yesterday carried out another massive enforcement operation to curb illegal wholesale trade near the Kuala Lumpur Wholesale Market in Pusat Bandar Utara, Batu Caves.

About 150 officers, including from the licensing, town planning, health, and building departments, checked over 200 shoplots within a 2km radius of the wholesale market.

During the operation, 15 business premises were found to operate illegal wholesale trading businesses.

Another 30 premises were found to have committed multiple offences relating to licensing, building structures and cleanliness.

A total of 43 compounds were issued and 10 illegal structures which blocked the walkway and roadway were torn down by City Hall.

Some 35 other business operators dismantled their illegal structures on seeing the presence of the officers.

Joining the operation were the police, Tenaga Nasional Bhd and Alam Flora.

Heavy machinery was also used to tear down the structures and to cart away five cold storage containers which were seized as they were found to be blocking public parking spaces in the area.

The massive operation was the third in the area since 2005.

City Hall had served 36 notices for illegal structures, 40 notices for illegal connections and three notices for renovation works without council approval in the past two years.

Heading the operation which started at 9.30am was City Hall enforcement director Rolan Abd Rahman who said that City Hall had given the business operators a chance to pay their fines and remove the illegal structures but this was ignored by some of the business operators.

"Business operators are prohibited to carry out wholesale trading within a 2km radius from the wholesale market as stipulated under the Federal Territory Wholesale Market 2002 bylaws," Rolan said.

He added that the illegal structures and containers disrupted traffic flow and contributed to congestion in the busy area.

"We will continue to be vigilant against business operators who flout the law and failed to remove illegal structures."



A City Hall excavator dismantling the illegal structure that was built on the pedestrian walkway. (Inset) Rolan Abd Rahman