

RELOCATION

Johari: Expedite parking lot project at Chow Kit market

KUALA LUMPUR: Construction of a new parking lot at Kompleks Pasar Raja Bot, also known as the Chow Kit market, should be bought forward to ensure the survival of traders.

Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Seri Johani Abdul Ghani said essential facilities such as a parking lot should have been developed before proceeding with the project.

He said this was to prevent the new market from “dying” due to the various issues, particularly the lack of parking spaces.

This situation, he said, had caused many traders to be reluctant to move to the new building as there had been a lukewarm response from customers.

“I suggest rearranging the phases (of the upgrading project). It is understood that the parking lot construction is in the final phase, which is the fourth phase.

“If it is done this way, the market will be ready, but there will be no parking (spaces). So who will come to the market?”

“Some traders complain that their daily sales are only between RM10 and RM20. How can they

survive?” he said during a visit to Kompleks Pasar Raja Bot here yesterday.

Present were Federal Territory Bumiputera Traders Association president Datuk Seri Rosli Sulaiman and Jalan Raja Bot Malay Petty Traders and Hawkers Association branch head Sharin Darus.

There are four phases in the development of the complex. The first phase involves the construction of commercial space for fruit and vegetable traders, which was completed on April 25, 2016.

In March last year, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said, in a written response in Parliament, said the remaining three phases involving wet goods and food traders, phase three for various food traders, and phase four for parking spaces were expected to be completed by Oct 12, 2025.

Johari, who is also plantation and commodities minister, emphasised the need to focus on the survival of traders who were facing difficulties in continuing



Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Seri Johani Abdul Ghani (standing, right) speaking to traders during a visit to Kompleks Pasar Raja Bot in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

their businesses, as they had been waiting too long for the market upgrade to be completed.

“I cannot blame the traders’ associations here because they have been in business for a long time and even agreed to the development here.

“However, because this development took too long — more than 10 years — many customers have disappeared.

“It is not their fault. The new Kompleks Pasar Raja Bot has four floors, but who will come if there are not enough parking spaces?

“That’s why parking spaces need to be developed in this area first. While the market is being completed, we also need to discuss relocating the traders temporarily,” he said.

Johari has requested the three traders’ groups in the area to come to an agreement and to provide several personnel from the People’s Volunteer Corps (Rela) to control traffic to manage congestion in several roads near the market.

To expedite the proposal for the construction of parking spaces,

he said a meeting involving related parties, including Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) and the appointed contractor, would be held next Friday.

“Next Friday, I will discuss with DBKL to get an overview of how many (traders) will be involved in the temporary relocation to facilitate the construction of the parking spaces.

“With the parking lot construction, traders will no longer have an excuse (such as refusing to move to the new complex) because people will come to shop.”