

Protest in Chinatown

Traders fuming over City Hall's move to add 94 stalls

KUALA LUMPUR: Hawkers and traders in Petaling Street continued to protest against City Hall's decision to add another 94 stalls to the highly congested trading area.

It is said that licences for the new stalls were given to members of Pengasih (a non-profit organisation that runs a drug rehabilitation centre) to conduct businesses in the area.

Although the new stalls had not moved in yet, City Hall had painted the allocated lots on the pavement in front of existing stalls near the main entrance into Chinatown.

"Traders here are already finding the area overcrowded and the increase would worsen the situation,

"Such move would not help the local businesses here in bad economic times like this," said Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association chairman Chan Kai Mun.

Chan said the traders feared that with the increasing number of stalls, there would be minimal walking space while foreign tourists would soon opt not to visit Chinatown in the future.

Chan said the current number of 773 traders in the area was already large and that City Hall should look for a better alternative site for the new stalls.



Unhappy lot: Traders and hawkers holding a banner protesting the move by City Hall at Petaling Street yesterday. Also present are Fong, Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai and Ipoh Timur MP Lim Kit Siang.

Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association had also lodged a report with the Anti Corruption Agency (ACA) as they felt elements of corruption was involved.

Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Abdul Hakim Borhan had mentioned that the new stalls would not affect the situation as City Hall would rearrange and coordinate the market.

Fong said he would be meeting City Hall representatives from Pengasih, Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association and the ACA tomorrow.