

Petaling Street plan hits a wall

No decision yet on move to 'Malaysianise' shopping spot

By PEARL LEE

THE jury is still out whether City Hall's move to "Malaysianise" Petaling Street could actually eradicate the problem of illegal foreign traders in the area.

Famous for its local delicacies, clothing apparels and watches, the street has been taken over by foreigners, especially Bangladeshis, in recent years.

With the latest proposal aimed at ending illegal foreigners trading in the area, the parties involved — the Kuala Lumpur Petty Traders Association, Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lam, Pengasih Malaysia as well as City Hall — have yet to come to a consensus as to the proposal's execution.

It was reported earlier that

Pengasih came up with the proposal to manage the illegal stalls around the area, requesting that the stalls be placed along Petaling Street in a more orderly manner.

City Hall Petty Traders and Hawker Management Department director Ramly Othman said Pengasih had requested that out of the 90 stalls proposed, 30 each be given to Chinese, Malay and Indian traders.

"We want to get rid of the foreign illegals and would like to encourage current illegal local traders in the area to conduct their business in a proper manner."

Beyond the racial mix suggested, a portion of the stalls are meant for the former Pengasih members while the others are for local illegal traders who are already plying their

trade at Petaling Street.

However, at a meeting chaired by Ramly last week, the Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association vice-president Datuk Ang Say Tee stood firm against the proposal citing congestion as one of the reasons.

Ramly was surprised as Ang had earlier agreed when the idea was first mooted, but stated at the meeting last week that his agreement was made in a personal capacity and not on behalf of the association.

Hence, a sub-committee headed by City Hall's deputy director-general (service) Mohd Amin Nordin Abd Aziz, with representation from all concerned parties, would meet to discuss the matter. If there were still objections at the next meeting,



SLOW BUSINESS: Petaling Street vendors are facing rising costs and fewer customers

Ramly said it would then be up to City Hall's top management to decide on the matter.

The proposal, if successfully executed, will see Pengasih managing the stalls as well as monitoring

the activities in the area.

Malay Mail reported earlier this month that the new lots were due to open on Oct 15.

However, ongoing discussions had caused this plan to be delayed.