



Come all: A volunteer using a loudspeaker to call hawkers and residents to sign a banner during the signature campaign against the parking charges.

Taman Cheras residents protest against parking charges

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A dissatisfied group of residents, traders and hawkers operating in the Taman Cheras business hub went on a rampage by tearing down newly erected parking meter signboards yesterday.

StarMetro witnessed at least four signboards being dismantled around the vicinity of the Yulek market.

The residents and hawkers interviewed expressed their anger and frustration at the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) for being unreasonable by deciding to impose parking charges in one of the busiest areas in Cheras.

"We have declared war on the DBKL. This is to show that we will no longer tolerate being bullied like this," said Jansen Ong, a long-time resident of Taman Cheras.

"My house is located on the main road and I now I have to park in front of my own house. Does that make sense?" said Ong.

He added it was unfair to expect residents to pay the meter all day & those who fail to do so would be penalised with a summons.

"Business has been bad for many months now and with the escalating cost of living,

things are just getting from bad to worse," said Yulek market hawker Gan Chang Fatt.

"I struggle every day to make ends meet and this year has been the worst compared to all the 35 years that I have working here," said the 58-year-old vegetable seller.

Gan said due to the implementation of parking charges, more people prefer to shop at the nearby Tesco Hypermarket in Taman Midah.

Meanwhile, Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai who was coincidentally organising a signature campaign at the market place to protest against the parking meter charges, denied involvement in the removal of the signboards.

However, he said he emphasised with the residents and the hawkers as the move to impose parking fees on them was unreasonable. "They are facing hard times and the parking fees is just another burden for them," he said.

Tan said that he would be meeting with the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (Pemudah) co-chairman and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan to submit the memorandum and signature campaign banner.

So far more than 50% of the city outskirts have come under the new parking management system.

The parking charge is 50 sen per hour.