

Hearing for Bangsar pasar malam hawkers

DOES it take seven months for the authorities to act on a complaint?

That's what happened to a complaint by the Bangsar night market hawkers special action committee.

They lodged a complaint with the Federal Territories and Selangor Public Service Complaint Bureau over the relocation and arrangement of lots at the pasar malam seven months ago.

Yesterday, they got what they wanted.

Parties involved in the issue met for the first time yesterday at Menara TH Perdana.

It was chaired by the bureau director Asmawar Samat and was attended by Kuala Lumpur

City Hall officials and 28 hawkers as well as the committee's adviser, Khong Chee Seng.

Khong, who spoke on behalf of the hawkers, claimed that City Hall had failed to consult the hawkers on the relocation and had only spoken to hawker Tony Foo.

"As far as the hawkers are concerned, Foo has no mandate to represent them and they have deemed it unfair as they were kept in the dark.

"Moreover, the drawing of lots was not done in a transparent manner and that opened the floodgate for abuse and corruption.

"Worse still, it is bizarre that City Hall does not have the list

of traders at the original site of the *pasar malam* and they had no idea where their lots were up to the day they were supposed to move.

"The loophole had opened the opportunity for illegal traders to take up their lots," he said.

The hawkers had also raised the issue of why they were forced to buy holding tents for their stalls from Foo, which were priced at RM250, about RM100 higher than the market price.

In an effort to resolve the matter, Khong said it was only right that City Hall call for a meeting with the other hawkers to brief them on the matter.

"All they want is to know how the drawing of the lots was done and what was Foo's role in the relocation exercise.

"They are asking that the pasar malam be moved to its original site and a census be conducted to ensure that no hawkers are left out.

"They are also hoping that City Hall would initiate the setting up of the Bangsar Night Market Association to protect their interests should any problems arise," said Khong.

Asmawar, responding to Khong's suggestions, announced that he had formed an action team to be headed by him and five elected traders, including Khong, to look into the matter.



KHONG: Foo has no mandate to represent the hawkers