



Wangsa Maju MP Wee Choo Keong says he has seen Bangladeshis manning the stalls at Petaling Street after City Hall officers clock out at 10pm.

Chinatown in danger of losing its identity

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KUALA LUMPUR: How should Petaling Street look like five to 10 years from now? Will it be able to retain its identity as a Chinatown?

Wangsa Maju MP Wee Choo Keong feels that the area which was first opened in 1870s by Chinese immigrants, is slowly turning into a Bangladeshi-town.

"I dare say it is turning from Chinatown into 'Bangladeshi-town' as many traders sublet their lots to foreigners.

"These traders are not interested in carrying out businesses. For that reason they should not be given licences. City Hall should revoke them," he said.

Wee, who visits Petaling Street frequently, said he has



Wee Choo Keong

seen Bangladeshis manning the stalls after City Hall officers clock out at 10pm.

He said the Kuala Lumpur Petty Traders and Hawkers Association should ensure that the uniqueness of Petaling Street is retained.

"It seems like the associa-

tion is condoning the act of hiring foreign workers, along with illegal activities like selling pirated DVDs. We didn't have such problems in the 1990s," said Wee.

He hopes the Immigration Department would conduct checks on foreign workers at Petaling Street.

Wee's sentiment is shared by Save Kuala Lumpur Coalition's legal adviser Derek Fernandez.

"Petaling Street is virtually in every tourist handbook, so the sight of foreign workers trading there gives a bad reflection to the stretch".

"The bottom line is Petaling Street must be operated by locals," he said.

Petaling Street underwent a major RM11.3 million facelift five years ago, with two large arches placed at both ends of the street to welcome visitors.

