

You're towed

City Hall to beef up number of tow trucks



THINK AGAIN: Drivers who double-park and cause traffic congestion in KL will have their vehicles towed away by City Hall

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THE days of haphazard parking in Kuala Lumpur are numbered. City Hall plans to add more tow trucks to its fleet to end traffic congestion caused by disciplined drivers.

Mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail said yesterday 20 more tow trucks would be added to the enforcement unit, which currently had six.

He said there were various reasons why the problem was often congested. Haphazard parking is one of the main reasons.

Issuing strict rules to these people will not solve the problem as their vehicles will still be blocking road access to others. So we have decided to tow these cars away.

City Hall also intends to make the process of recovery of vehicles easier.

"The exercise will not be privatised as we don't want it to be profit-based, as claimed by some people. We will carry out the exercise on our own," he said.

"We will work closely with the police to make it convenient for people to collect their cars, including having strategic centres. For example, in the Golden Triangle, perhaps we may consider using an open space beside the Pavillion shopping centre as a spot for them to reclaim their vehicles."

Currently, cars which are towed by City Hall are placed at centres in Jinjang and at City Hall's enforcement office in Jalan Tun Razak.

Signage to indicate where ve-

hicles have been towed to and numbers to send City Hall text messages on the location to pick up the cars will be made available.

A charge of between RM300 and a maximum of RM500 for the release of the cars will be levied. This will cover the cost of storage, towing as well as the compound fee.

City Hall is formulating a practical system of allowing a person to park a vehicle for free for five minutes, but a fine would be imposed on those who park beyond this period.

"Such a system is not new and it is practiced overseas. A machine will be able to detect immediately as to how long a vehicle has been parked without paying the stipulated amount," Ahmad Fuad added.