

Keramat Mall to have new wet market, car park

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KUALA LUMPUR: The controversy surrounding the Keramat Mall market complex is finally resolved, allaying earlier fears that it will become another white elephant in the city.

After months of delay, the hawkers and petty traders from the existing Datuk Keramat market have agreed to move into the new market complex — but it will cost the government an additional RM15 million.

This is because a separate block will be built to house the wet market and a four-storey elevated car park.

“The proposed block is an



Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin (second from right) and Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail (right) with the hawkers and petty traders from the Datuk Keramat market.

extension to the completed Keramat Mall and it is expected to be completed in three years,” said Federal Territories Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin after chairing a meeting with representatives of the Datuk Keramat Hawkers and Petty Traders Association at City Hall headquarters.

“The land is occupied by shophouses, lawling workshops. Upon completion, there will be 600 parking bays for both traders and customers, an increase from the current 256 lots in the complex.”

This time around, the Datuk Keramat Hawkers and Petty Traders Association will be directly involved in the de-

sign and planning,” said Raja Nong Chik.

It was reported that members of the association were upset as they were not consulted prior to the construction of the RM70 million building located opposite the Damai light rail transit station.

They had refused to move into the complex, claiming that the facilities at the new complex were inadequate, including the service lifts and loading bays.

Their complaints had prompted Raja Nong Chik to visit the area last month and he had promised to look for a solution.

Raja Nong Chik said the additional cost would include the

acquisition of land for the annexe.

The retail space in the complex which had earlier been earmarked for the traders from the wet market will now be occupied by traders selling products like handicraft.

Apart from the 124 lots targeted for the wet market, the complex also houses 190 stalls, a foodcourt, a multipurpose hall and 256 parking bays.

Raja Nong Chik said the stalls, foodcourt and multipurpose hall will operate by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, association chairman Shoid Chee was happy with the outcome of the meeting.