

DBKL lodges police report over Ramadan bazaar licence manipulation

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has filed a police report against a party found to have manipulated Ramadan bazaar licences for this year.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said it was disappointing that there were still attempts to sell lots via WhatsApp.

"I have the individual's phone number and will not hesitate to take stricter action," she said during a question-and-answer session at the Dewan Negara yesterday.

She said this in response to

a question by Senator Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Hatta Md Ramli who wanted to know how the ministry could guarantee that Ramadan bazaar hawker licences around the Federal Territories would no longer be manipulated by irresponsible parties as before.

Dr Zaliha explained that DBKL, which has taken over the full organisation of 40 Ramadan bazaar locations and two Aidilfitri bazaar locations, is confident that there will be no manipulation or sale of lots as the management and offering is done directly online to applicants and traders.

"For the lots that are still vacant, applications have been reopened on a first come first serve basis to give traders the opportunity to get a bazaar lot," she said.

Dr Zaliha said Putrajaya Corporation which manages four sites, and Labuan Corporation which opened two Ramadan Bazaar sites, also gave an assurance that no hawker licences to traders would be manipulated and that enforcement would be carried out periodically throughout Ramadan this year.

Responding to Mohd Hatta's additional question on the

progress so far in the two days of the Ramadan bazaar implementation following the site rental being reduced to RM500, Dr Zaliha said that there were traders who reported that the first day's business results were able to return their capital.

"Although we still hear complaints and comments on social media saying that the (selling) price is still the same as the previous year, this low rental price should reduce the 'Ali Baba' phenomenon, and it also allows traders to sell at competitive prices.

"But other factors such as

the cost of raw materials and profit margins are still the main determinants of the selling price," she said.

Responding to a supplementary question from Senator Manolan Mohamad on whether the Ramadan bazaar has the potential to be a tourism product in conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year 2026, and how the government will ensure that it continues to offer traditional food and cakes, Dr Zaliha believed it could be organised with a certain concept to attract domestic and international tourists. — Bernama