

DBKL officers suspended

Three are being investigated over 'Abang Belon' incident

By **JAROD LIM**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Three Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) officers have been suspended following a scuffle with an unlicensed balloon hawker in Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman that attracted widespread criticism.

KL Mayor Datuk Seri Mai-munah Mohd Sharif said the suspension was to allow both DBKL's internal investigation and a police inquiry to proceed independently, transparently and comprehensively.

"The matter was also discussed with the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa," the mayor said in a statement yesterday.

"DBKL takes this incident seriously and will not tolerate any form of misconduct, particularly if it compromises integrity and the public's trust in enforcement institutions.

"If found guilty, appropriate

action will be taken. A final decision will be made once investigations are fully completed."

A viral video of the confrontation last Friday showed Muhamad Za'imuddin Azlan being tackled to the ground by a group of DBKL officers.

The officers' behaviour was criticised by netizens and politicians from across the divide who expressed sympathy for the hawker.

In a statement on Saturday, DBKL claimed that the incident occurred after the vendor allegedly refused to cooperate with officers who had supposedly warned him twice to stop hawking without a licence.

When the officers confronted the hawker a third time, it led to an argument and DBKL claimed he acted aggressively towards the team.

It also said that two of its top officers had visited the 29-year-old trader who is currently being treated at Hospital Sultan Idris Shah in Serdang.

The visit was led by DBKL executive director (socioeconomic development) Ismadi Sakirin and enforcement department director Mohd Muzammer Jamaluddin.

"DBKL is considering covering his medical expenses, subject to further review," DBKL said.

"We urge all parties to refrain from speculation and allow the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Bernama reports that KL police said that they have received three reports regarding a scuffle.

KL deputy police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Azry Akmar Ayob said the first report was made by a DBKL officer and an investigation has been opened under Section 186 of the Penal Code for obstructing the duties of a public servant.

The second report was made by a different DBKL enforcement officer on the same day over a Facebook post that carried a photo of the officer in the first

report along with threats.

"This case is being investigated under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code and Section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998," DCP Azry said in a statement yesterday.

The third report was made by the balloon vendor's mother, who stated that her son had suffered injuries as a result of the struggle, he added.

This report is being investigated under Section 325 of the Penal Code for voluntarily causing hurt.

He advised the public not to make any speculation that could interfere with the investigation and said those with any information could channel it by contacting the Kuala Lumpur Police Hotline at 03-2115 9999 or any nearby police station.

WATCH THE
VIDEO
TheStarTV.com

