

'Take opportunity to legalise factories', says mayor

By CHRISTINA LOW
christinalow@thestar.com.my

OWNERS of illegal factories in Shah Alam who have yet to legalise their business and premises with the relevant state authorities still have time to do so.

Shah Alam mayor Datuk Haris Kasim said the state's legalisation programme that started in 2005 had been extended from time to time and has not ended yet.

He added that Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) was working hard to ensure more business owners took up the opportunity before it was too late.

"We cannot simply barge into their illegal premises and demolish the factory. We have to follow the SOP (standard operating procedure) set by the state that involves many government agencies," he said in the MBSA full board meeting.

Haris said currently 980 illegal

factories were operating in Kampung Baru Sungai Buloh, Bukit Kemuning and Bukit Subang in the MBSA area.

Only 30% of them have legalised their businesses although the deadline was extended several times, he said.

He added that discounts were also offered to landowners to convert their agricultural land to industrial land.

"All factories have varying issues. For instance, some of the

factories have not converted their land titles from agriculture to industrial although MBSA has zoned the area as industrial," he said, adding that the city council would assist them in their application.

City councillor V. Papparaidu agreed that the owners need assistance as some do not know about the legalising exercise.

Another councillor Abdul Manaff Yusoff suggested that factory owners be given a two-year temporary

business licence to give them time to find a new location.

MBSA Planning Department director Aniza Osman said previous measures of offering temporary licence was not effective as some were reluctant to move.

Several councillors also urged MBSA to be more social media-friendly by informing the public on what actions has been taken to crack down on illegal activities and complaints so that the public is well informed.