



Starmetro watch

TRAFFIC MATTERS

- The full lane closure at Jalan Suasu 2, Pekan Sungai Besi will continue until Jan 14 for 24 hours to facilitate excavation and utility relocation works. From Jalan Suasu 2 towards Seri Kembangan and Jalan Pekan Sungai Besi, the right lane will be closed but two lanes will remain open to motorists. Meanwhile, those from MRR2 heading towards Jalan Suasu 3 can still use the right lane. For details, call 03-7494 2222.
- There will be an intermittent slip road closure in stages at Persiaran Margosa and the activation of contra-flow along Jalan Persiaran Perdana, Bandar Sri Damansara, until Jan 8 next year.
- There will be a lane closure on Lebuhraya Keluli, Shah Alam to facilitate utility relocation, road widening and piloting works for the LRT 3 project from now until Jan 20, from 9am to 6pm and 11pm to 5am daily. Motorists heading towards Federal Highway will be diverted to the middle lane. For details, call 1-800-18-2585.
- There will be a temporary reduction of road width near the former Desa Water Park until Jan 6 involving a 200m stretch at the slip road from the Kuala Lumpur-Seremban Highway towards Petaling Jaya. For details, call 1-800-82-6868.

PROPERTY FAIR

Star Property Fair 2019 will be held at Central i-City in Shah Alam from Oct 31 to Nov 3. There will be a house-buyer lucky draw, great prizes for visitors and a host of speakers who will be sharing tips and views on mortgage, investment, interior design and health. The public can also participate in puppet making workshop, batik painting and board games at the site. The fair will be held from 10am to 10pm. For details, visit www.fair.property.my

CHARITY RUN

The Good Shepherd Services, a not-for-profit company, is organising a charity run at the Indian Recreation Club (IRC) in Buntong, Perak on Nov 24 at 7am. The run is organised in conjunction with 'Orange the World Campaign - Say No to Violence Against Women and Children'. Registration closes on Nov 1. For details, call 010-930 9965 (Kelvin) or 05-242 0388.

CONCERT FOR KINDNESS

Be entertained with an afternoon of musical favourites by the Symphonia Fantasia String Ensemble this Nov 17 at The Gardens Theatre, Level 6, The Gardens Mall, Mid Valley City, Kuala Lumpur at 4pm. Titled 'A Concert for Kindness', admission is by donation in aid of SPCA Selangor. For details, call 03-4256 5312 or email spca-mar-comm@gmail.com

CANCER CHECK

Rose Foundation will be giving free cervical cancer screenings to those in the B40 group aged between 30 and 65 years old at Gurdwara Sahib Petaling Jaya, Lorong Utara (B), Section 52, Petaling Jaya on Nov 3 from 9am to 3pm. There will also be breast examination, blood pressure and glucose tests. For details, visit www.programrose.org

SILAT COMPETITION

Federasi Pencak Silat Tradisi Internasional will be organising a keris silat competition at the Royal Museum on Nov 2-3. For details, contact Uda Joni (016-674 1717) or Yuss (019-700 3979).

COMMUNITY DAY

Columbia Asia Hospital in Bukit Rimau, Shah Alam, is organising a community day on Nov 3 from 8.30am to 1.30pm at the hospital premises along Persiaran Anggerik Eria. There will be complementary screening for eyes, cholesterol, glucose as well as body fat analysis. For details, visit www.facebook.com/columbiaasia or call 03-5125 9999 ext 9784.



Some traders are adopting a 'wait and see' attitude before deciding whether to do business at the new market. — Photos: CHRISTINA LOW/The Star

'Iron out kinks at new facility'

Traders want MPS to fix wiring, lifts and build proper rubbish disposal area

By CHRISTINA LOW
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IT HAS BEEN a month since traders at Pasar Moden Selayang Baru moved into a new building, not far from the old market.

However, only 300 were given lots in the new building out of 400-odd traders.

StarMetro visited the new market and found only 70% of traders had moved in while others were undecided whether to set up shop.

There are more than 170 lots at the ground floor for dry food and perishable items such as vegetables, meat and seafood at the new facility in Jalan 9, Selayang Baru. There is also a separate area for non-halal products.

"My new lot is much smaller and it is far away from other traders," said Lee Kim Chor, 56, who sells dry food.

Lee, whose lot is in the non-halal

area, said he used to get customers of all races but since moving to the new space, he has lost some of them.

"The only non-halal item at my stall is pork balls.

"How are my customers going to find me here, especially those who don't eat pork?" he asked, adding that the lot was three times smaller than his stall at the old market, Pasar Warisan Selayang Baru.

Multiple problems

Another trader, Muhammad Sajad Hussain Basir, said the new building was not safe with faulty electrical wiring and drainage problems which have yet to be fixed.

"The lifts are also not working. We have no choice. If we decline a lot here, we will have to find a new trading spot elsewhere," he said.

Traders said the building was built more than a decade ago but it

was left empty, resulting in the lifts and electrical wiring being vandalised over the years.

The traders said they did not know why the building was left empty for so long and why its opening was delayed by Selayang Municipal Council (MPS).

"The building was in a neglected state with overgrown grass all over the place.

"A few months ago, we received a letter informing us that we were to move to the building.

"We were shocked to learn that MPS wanted us to move there when the building is not in good condition," said Salamiah Din who felt the local council should not have rushed traders to the new building without ensuring it was ready.

A majority of traders interviewed also want MPS to build a proper rubbish disposal area and ensure no illegal traders are

allowed to do business outside the building.

More traders than lots

Not all the traders were offered places. Food operator Koh Gaik Lan has decided to call it quits after failing to get a lot at the building.

The 72-year-old said she, together with some other stall operators, were not given lots at the new market.

"I feel sad because I have to close my stall after operating for close to 20 years but we have no choice but to retire," said Koh who runs the business with her husband.

She said MPS offered them a lot at a different housing area but they declined as it was too far and most of their regular customers would not have gone there.

Not all traders are against the move — some see it as an opportunity to trade in a more comfortable



The old market site has been left empty after traders moved out to the new building 200m away.