



Nor Hisham talking to shopkeepers during his walkabout in Brickfields to check on the cleanliness level. — Photos: ART CHEN/ The Star

## Brickfields gets dismal 'C' rating for cleanliness

KL mayor finds back lanes and drains filthy, orders immediate compounds

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BRICKFIELDS overall cleanliness level has earned a "C" rating. Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan ranked Brickfields' overall cleanliness following a two-hour walkabout in Brickfields.

Nor Hisham said efforts to improve the township's cleanliness was not a one-man job.

"There is only so much that Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) can do to maintain the cleanliness of a place.

"It has to be a coordinated and integrated effort starting with the stakeholders themselves," he said after inspecting the streets, alleys and back lanes in Brickfields.

He said while the storefront was noticeably clean, it was terribly unsightly at the back lanes.

"Look at the filthy drains next to restaurants.

"They are filled with fat, oil and grease coming from restaurants which do not bother to clean them up," he said.

During the walkabout, Nor Hisham instructed his officers to issue compound notices on the spot to several irresponsible restaurant owners for dumping food waste into drains.

The city mayor added that



The Kuala Lumpur mayor visited various areas in Brickfields including food courts only to find back lanes and drains filled with grime and grease.

cleanliness was one of the issues that needed to be improved on, in preparing for Visit Malaysia 2020.

"We want to brand Brickfields as one of the must-see places in Malaysia and it has to reflect a world class standard image," he said.

Nor Hisham added that DBKL planned to turn Brickfields into a "Disabled Friendly City" and was making necessary changes to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

"We hope to have more covered

walkways and will be strict with those who obstruct the pathways," he said, adding that traders who were found operating along the pathways would be relocated.

Meanwhile, Local Agenda 21 secretariat and coordinator A. Ghani Mohamed said the plan was to revitalise the area with murals, similar to projects done in other areas in Kuala Lumpur.

"Similar to what we witnessed in Bukit Bintang, the cleaning and beautification project there has transformed the area into a vibrant place.

"We also brought in local champions who actively participated to ensure that the area was well maintained," he said.

Among the suggestions raised during the walkabout was extending the bus stand near YMCA so it can accommodate more people as well as installing a covered walkway from Kompleks MAB to the bus stand.

Some 50 people including Brickfields Rukun Tetangga members, stakeholders and representatives from various DBKL departments joined in the walkabout.