

“If you want to implement it, if that is the penalty that you want to enforce, let’s put it throughout the state so that it will be easier and systematic, and if you break the rules, the penalty should be the same.

“I think we take that RM50 as a guideline and I think other councils need to agree to it. I think most important is bringing the message across and getting the awareness, that is important,” he said.

SMC Public Health, Environment and Municipal Services Standing Committee chairperson Rhoda Ting recently said SMC enforcement officers would issue RM50 compounds to eatery owners caught using plastic straws from this month and also confiscate plastic straws.

She said since the ban began on Jan 1, SMC had attained an 85 per cent compliance rate.

Meanwhile, Wee sidestepped talk he could be fielded as a potential candidate for the next Sarawak election.

“Don’t listen to rumours and there are many other potential candidates. I just keep to my job. Let the politicians do their politics.

“I have been here (as Kuching South Mayor) for about six months now and I think there are many agendas that need to be done,” he added.