



S.S.Kanesan/The Star

## 'Please review some SOPs'

### Morning and night market traders say they will suffer losses under rotation system

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AFTER not being allowed to operate for almost three months, morning and night market traders in the Klang Valley are heaving a sigh of relief now that they have received the official nod to resume business under the recovery movement control order (MCO).

However, they have strict conditions from the respective local governments to abide by.

In Kuala Lumpur, among the conditions set by City Hall (DBKL) are that stalls must be 2.5m apart, traders must carry out temperature screening and registration at the entrance and manage the crowd.

For this, there must be separate entry and exit points into the open-air markets. DBKL officers and Rela members are on standby to monitor the situation.

Each visitor has a time limit of 30 minutes, to give others the opportunity to shop within a safe, controlled environment.

DBKL public relations officer Hassan Azahari, in a press statement, said for now,

Covid-19

Road to recovery



only three night market sites - Batu, Seri Petaling and Kepong - were approved to operate starting yesterday.

Prior to opening, traders associations were required to submit plans outlining arrangement for stall lots, state the number of stalls operating, provide a timetable for the traders' business and show they had sufficient tools and manpower to ensure standard operating procedures (SOP) set by DBKL were followed.

Taman Sri Petaling Night Market Hawkers Association chairman Frankie Cheah said meetings were held with its 300 members on the implementation of SOP for night markets.

Meanwhile, Kepong Hawkers and Petty Traders Association vice-chairman Deric Teh

said DBKL's new SOP would weed out illegal traders.

"There were stalls run by foreign workers at night markets in our area, much to the frustration of local traders because the former sold the same items at cheaper prices. We had tried telling them to leave.

"They would just move to the end of the road.

"With the new measures, I hope DBKL can resolve this problem," he added.

Taman OUG Morning and Night Market Business Association chairman Tan Kian Kok said the concern among traders now was how to draw up the rotation system.

Under the system, a trader has to opt for Set A which is Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, or Set B which is Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

"It is not economically viable to trade on only three days a week. This will affect our earnings," said Tan.

"Furthermore, the number allowed to operate at any one time will be lower following the required 2.5m distance between stalls," he noted.

He said the traders did not agree with the rotation method and that they should be allowed to resume business all together.

Tan also appealed to DBKL to expand the OUG morning market to Jalan Hujan Rahmat and Jalan Hujan Rahmat 2 as well, instead of confining it to just Medan Hujan Rahmat.

He said DBKL's requirement for all traders to upgrade to stainless steel or aluminium stalls and hire Rela personnel to manage the crowd as well as man the entry and exit points were also sore points for traders. "The added expenditure is a burden," he said.

Traders hoped DBKL would allow them to use their existing equipment till September, by which time they would have some funds to make the necessary changes.

The traders highlighted that they should not be responsible for who their customers come to the market with, while also urging that a longer duration be given to customers to browse.

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