

Slow progress in reopening open-air markets



Open-air markets need to adopt the SOP currently practised at wet markets, such as temperature checks like this carried out by a Rela personnel in Jalan Kelang Lama. — CHAN TAK KONG/The Star

City Hall urges relevant associations to submit applications quickly

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APPLICATIONS to Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) for the reopening of morning and night markets as well as bazaars are trickling in slowly.

DBKL said the relevant associations should hasten the application process.

Its Corporate Planning director Khairul Azmir Ahmad said DBKL had only received applications from four parliamentary constituencies, namely Batu, Wangsa



Maju, Kepong and Seputeh as of June 12.

"But I expect we will receive more this week," he said.

Following the government's announcement that open-air morning and night markets as well as bazaars could operate during

the recovery movement control order (MCO) period, DBKL had drawn up a list of standard operating procedures (SOP) for traders and visitors to follow.

It includes limiting the number of traders and requiring them to operate in alternating batches.

"The associations have to decide who should be operating on which rotation, because the associations know the traders' demographics and areas better.

"They also have to adjust the individual trading lots for traders because there will not be any more

combined lots like previously. "This is to ensure social distancing," said Khairul.

The associations, he said, needed to act fast so that DBKL would have sufficient time to decide on the traders' proposals and whether they complied with the SOP.

"We have to treat each market application individually as each proposal is different.

"This includes the variety of goods sold by traders and the layout of the market.

"We will only approve markets that adhere to the SOP," he added.