MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
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MPAJ ups game plan to ensure relocation of stalls

Joint operations with police to target diners who contribute to brisk business

VISITORS to the roadside stalls at Bukit Ampang in Jalan Hulu Langat best be aware that they can be fined for parking illegally by the roadside, starting this month.

Fed up with the attitude of stubborn hawkers operating illegally at the dangerous spot, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) will up its game plan as it joins forces with the police to slap summonses on those frequenting the stalls.

The stalls which operate at night, are located nearby a steep slope known for its panoramic view of Kuala Lumpur city centre.

MPAJ president Datuk Abdul Hamid Hussain said despite attempts by the council to relocate the traders, including continued enforcement, hawkers remained defiant and still operated at the site.

"When customers visit the stalls, they park by the roadside as there is no parking area. This makes the already narrow road narrower and their presence there can contribute to accidents.

"We hope this will serve as a deterrent to the public not to patronise the stalls," he said, adding that joint enforcement operations would be carried out periodically from this month.

Closure of the popular Ampang Look Out Point (ALOP), located about 200m from the stalls, in 2012 resulted in the emergence of roadside stalls lining the junction of Jalan Hulu Langat and Persiaran Saujana.

As such, the hawker site has now become the "new look-out point".

Diners can be seen occupying plastic chairs and tables sitting on boards which double up as drain covers.

The hawkers even set up tables and chairs at the slope across the road.

Currently, there are 20 stalls operating every night.

Weekends and public holidays are the busiest time as the stalls are set up as early as 6pm and continue operating until the wee hours of the morning.

MPAJ councillor Salmah Ismail said strict action was needed to discourage the stalls from operating there.

"I have received many complaints about these stalls.

"MPAJ has not given them licence to operate. They are illegal and we must ensure they are relocated.

"It would only fall back on the council if something tragic was to happen," she said.

Resident Alice Chan, 27, said she used to frequent the place until a near accident put a stop to her visits.

"We were sitting at one of the tables close to the road when a driver briefly lost control of his car and was headed towards us.

"Luckily he managed to brake in time, but it was a very close call and he nearly hit several diners," she said.

Chan said that incident was an eye-opener and she discouraged people from patronising the place.

"It was a novelty because of the view, where else can you see the entire city skyline?

"The food was also good although it is slightly more expensive than other places, so we were willing to overlook the lack of hygiene and how dangerous it was," she said.

Resident Mohd Hussaini Mohd Syed Ali said it was hassle each time he used the road to get to his home at the end of Persiaran Saujana.

"That road is the fastest route to my workplace in Bandar Baru Ampang. But every night when I head home, it is jammed because cars are parked on both sides of the road.

"A single carriageway is reduced to only one lane. It is a daily headache when navigating through this road," he said.

Abdul Hamid said the hawkers had tried to ask for licence but their location was deemed unsafe hence MPAJ did not even consider the request.

"The stalls are located in a dangerous spot as it by the side of a steep slope and along a busy road.

"There is no clean water supply and some of the hawkers also store dishes at the site overnight, which is unhygienic," he said.

He added that MPAJ had even taken some of the hawkers to court for failing to adhere to compound notices issued, but they still refused to vacate.

"It was the only course of action left to us.

"The court found that the hawkers contravened the compound notices and were ordered to pay the fine," he said, adding that since the hawkers were dragged to court in batches, some cases were settled while others were pending court action.

The hawkers were issued notices under the MPAJ Hawker Bylaw 2007 for operating without a licence and Section 46 of the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 for obstruction.

Currently, nine of the hawkers owe MPAJ some RM28,000 in fines.

At night, some 20 food stalls operate near this steep slope in Jalan Hulu Langat, Bukit Ampang. In broad daylight, the risk of what they do is even clearer. — Photos: SHAARI CHE MAT and M. AZHAR ARIF/The Star

Abdul Hamid says MPAJ will work with the police to deter diners from patronising the stalls.

Diners having their meal at a strip of land near a steep slope in Bukit Ampang, unaffected by the heavy traffic traversing Jalan Hulu Langat.

For the past several years, more roadside stalls have mushroomed along Jalan Hulu Langat and Persiaran Saujana in Bukit Ampang.