

MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT

MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA, PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR, 55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR 22 MAC 2017 (RABU)

AKHBAR	MUKA SURAT
Sin Chew Daily	
- The walls have not been reinforced yet	06
The Star	
- Filtering the flith	Central
- Grease traps fixed only to get licence	02-03



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Fat, oil and grease are carelessly released into the drains at a restaurant in Bandar Bukit Tinggi, Klang. — Photos: SADIQ SANI/The Star

Stories by EDWARD RAJENDRA edward@thestar.com.my

EATERIES in Klang with grease traps that are not working will be penalised by the Klang Municipal Council (MPK).

Council (MPK).

MPK plans to impose a one-week closure order on operators who fail to have grease traps that are in good condition.

MPK Health Department Food Safety and Quality Division chief A.G. Mazlan said the health inspectors, over the last two months, had checked 637 eateries and found that every outlet with a grease trap was out of commission.

"All 637 restaurants, we checked, had fitted the grease traps to fulfil the requirement for a business incence. But all of them were damaged or were not working properly as the pipes were for his properly as the pipes were foliulity assing through," he said.

Only a handful of the 637 restaurants were ordered to shut down, but others did not escappunishment either. The restaurants were issued a fine of RM1,000 each under the Licensing of Food Establishments (Klang Municipal Council) By-Laws 2007, with the council refusing to entertain appeals for a reduction in the penalty amount. From this exercise, the council expects to collect an estimated RM630,000.

On top of that, restaurant owners have been given until the end of this month to reinstall grease traps or ensure existing ones are restored to proper working condition. He said council health officers would check on these elacries, would check on these elacries in the municipality had

Grease traps fixed only to get licence

MPK expects to collect about RM630,000 in fines from errant eatery operators, with no room for appeal

grease traps that worked.
This is an estimation by the Food Safety and Quality Division.
It found that most eateries failed to keep their grease traps in working order or had damaged pipes that rendered them useless.
Grease traps, fitted under the sink, are designed to filter grease out of waste water before it enters the drain. However, because of the lackadastical arithude of eatery operators, FOG and food residue still end up in drains.
"After seeing the deliberate disregard of MPKS guidelines for an operational grease trap, I have proposed a one-week closure order to be slapped on these restaurants with no room for appeal," said Mazlan.
He added that the earlier grease

lazian. He added that the earlier grease trap ruling had achieved little success in keeping FOG out of the

inis. 'Our division's goal is compli-

Our division's goal is compli-ance. Improper management of FOGs by restaurants have become a significant problem. "MPK will continue to ensure high standards are achieved in the best interest of Klang," said Mazlan, who has been with MPK for 33 years.

years.
In 2016, MPK spent a whopping RM6mil to clean grease lining the council's drainage networks and grease-related repairs to damaged draine

Based on his observation during clean-up efforts, Mazlan said an



Cooking oil is dumped into drains causing the water channel to be blocked.

estimated one tonne of FOG entered drains in the Bukit Tinggi township within six months. If MPK had not removed the waste, the congealed FOG would have caused flash floods as the drain outlets had become narrow,

he added. he added.

Most restaurant operators are
not supportive of having grease
traps installed because of the cost
and time needed to dispose off food
particles in the chamber baskets.

Small solids such as scraps of

Mazlan inspecting the grease trap at a restaurant in Bandar Bukit Tinggi, while his staff Nurasyikin Harom (left) and Rathna Thiyagarajan look on.

Going all out to keep restaurants clean for Visit Klang Year 2017

WITH the lack of hygiene being a common pitfall for many restaurants, the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) is now focusing on achieving high level of cleanness in all eateries to boost tourism in the municipality.

In view of Visit Klang Year 2017, the Food Safety and Quality Division's immediate focus is on cleanliness.

cleanliness.

eanliness. This means MPK will be conducting frequent inspections and making more effort to educate

restaurateurs.
Division chief A.G. Mazlan said strict measures were being taken to ensure that restaurants were clean.

to ensure that restaurants were clean.

"From the importance of washing hands and putting on aprons and caps, to keeping the kitchen free from pest and having grease traps - these are being enforced.
"Our approach is education, creating awareness and issuing warnings," he said.
On another note, he said MPK would not tolerate restaurants that had workers without typhoid vaccination. "Workers without typhoid vaccination could cause water-borne

diseases, and we are strict on this issue. We will issue immediate closure orders to ensure compliance.

"In January and February, we ordered eight restaurants in Bukit Tinggi and Taman Sentosa to close," he revealed.

In 2016, 22 restaurants were closed for various health violations, including failure to have grease traps.

grease traps.
Mazlan added that MPK would
also close down restaurants using
the back lane as their kitchen for

the back lame as their kitchen for a week.

"We will demolish the built extensions and confiscate their cooking utensils," he warned. Mazlan said restaurants that had been warned before about grease traps ran the risk of being shut down if they did not have well-maintained grease traps or failed in any way to comply with regulations.
"We are beefing up efforts to ensure restaurants have grease traps to prevent fats, oil and grease from wreaking havoc on the municipality's drains.

"Hygiene levels are also being looked into," he said.



A restaurant in Bandar Bukit Tinggi uses a plastic bag and a container instead of proper grease traps to sieve food residue.

meat and vegetables that get caught in the chamber baskets have to be emptied into disposal bags, twice a day before the rubbish rots and becomes unpleasant to handle.

Klang Consumer Association (KCA) president bevadass Anjan supported Mazlan's decision to act against restaurants that discharge FOG into the drains.

After all, it is MPKs duty to ensure cleanliness of the drains, he added.

Devadass said the council's failure to control FOG from getting into the drains was because of "the letdown in monitoring compliance, let alone enforcing it". "KCA has in the past complained, belt and restaurant or two or in an area discharging FOG but deterrent punishments were not meted out." "Most of the time eateries

meted out.
"Most of the time eateries

escape with just warnings. We find that grease traps are usually only inspected in the event of public complaints due to rotten smell, rat infestation or blockages in drains," he said.

Devadass said all restaurants must maintain a high hygiene level to prevent water-borne diseases.

level to prevent water-borne diseases.
With this year being Visit Klang Year 2017, MPK must also order the closure of restaurants found using back lanes as their kitchen, he urged.
"KCA wants the council to organise a crackdown in Little India, the Bukit Tinggt township and Port Klangs.
"Most of the restaurants in these areas set up their kitchen in the back laures and due FOG are washed straight into the drains," he said.



Restaurant workers using the back lanes to do washing, leading to fat, oil and grease being washed into drains at Bandar Bukit Tinggi, Klang.



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