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1am ruling stays pending decision by Cabinet

Sager Ahmad

THE 1am deadline for the closure of entertainment centres in Kuala Lumpur stays until a special discussion convened by the Cabinet decides otherwise, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad said.

Ibrahim said entertainment centres should adhere to City Hall's ruling for the time being. The ruling was implemented in January.

"The Cabinet is expected to discuss the issue in detail soon," he told reporters who met him at his office yesterday.

Ibrahim had earlier opened a three-day course on Protective Securities for Subordinate Staff in Government Departments in the Federal Territory at Wisma PKNS in Jalan Raja Laut.

About two weeks ago, he expressed surprise over the reaction from operators of entertainment centres who had interpreted the 1am deadline to mean that they had to close shop and patrons must leave the premises on the dot.

Ibrahim had said entertainment centres could stay open beyond the 1am deadline but 'live' entertainment must stop.

He made this statement when asked to comment on remarks by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad that local authorities should exercise discretion and should not be over-zealous in enforcing the ruling.

Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Sharif had earlier reaffirmed that City Hall would remain firm and enforce the 1am deadline to make easier enforcement by the local authority against entertainment centres.

The course, which Ibrahim officiated, was attended by 32 employees from 18 government departments including the Immigration Department, the Road Transport Department, the Anti-Corruption Agency and Information Department.

In his speech, Ibrahim reminded participants to upgrade their understanding of information technology.

He also reminded participants to move with the times as there is a paradigm shift from using paper in administration to going paperless. He also reminded them to maintain secrecy in their daily transactions using sensitive materials.

Ibrahim said the need to maintain and safeguard secrecy for sensitive documents and information rested not only on the shoulders of the heads of departments but also their subordinates.

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