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Help improve standard of hawkers, local councils urged

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim tonight reminded local authorities to initiate programmes to enhance the standard of hawking, especially in providing more trading sites for hawkers.

Stressing that the Government would continue to find ways to help hawkers, he said providing more sites for them to conduct business would lead to the creation of job opportunities, besides giving the public a wider choice of places where they could enjoy affordable food.

"We should support the hawkers by patronising their stalls. But at the same time, hawkers must play their role by having clean stalls and hygienic food," he said.

Speaking at a mass dinner in conjunction with Hawkers Day in Jinjang Utara, Anwar said: "I call upon hawkers to co-operate with the authorities especially on cleanliness because Kuala Lumpur will be hosting the Commonwealth Games next year."

Among those present were Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh, Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Sharif, Bukit Bintang MP and the dinner's organising chairman Dr Lee Chong Meng, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad and the Federal Territory Malay Hawkers and Petty Traders Association chairman Baharim Razak.

On grouses that the fee imposed for rubbish collection at temporary trading sites to be set up for the double festival celebrations next year was too high, he said City Hall had been directed to review the matter with Alam Flora, the concession holder for the privatised garbage disposal scheme.

"The fee must not be a burden to hawkers. That's why the Government has asked that it be reconsidered."

Anwar, who is Finance Minister, also thanked the hawkers for their support of the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who has been asked by 34 United States Congressmen to apologise or resign over his alleged anti-Semitic and anti-American remarks and attempts by the US to impose its laws on other countries.

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