

24 SEP 1997

Mayor-Chow Kit

PETALING STREET NEXT, AFTER CHOW KIT DEVELOPMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- After the development of Chow Kit, Mayor Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff will be developing Petaling Street and plans a facelift for the 140-year-old city, appropriate with current developments.

The reason is similar to that of Chow Kit -- to provide better facilities within the city as the 1998 Commonwealth Games approaches.

According to Kamaruzzaman, the Kuala Lumpur City Hall would relocate more than 1,800 hawkers in Chow Kit to new places in Jalan Haji Taib and in Jalan Ipoh in stages despite the hawkers' disagreement.

"There's no sensitive issue here because we are also doing the same thing in Masjid India and planning similar action in Petaling Street," he told Bernama here today.

He said thousands of roadside hawkers would be housed in 16 places around the city.

Commenting on the memorandum handed by the hawkers to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he denied that the City Hall was being unfair in handling the matter and there was no reason it should victimise the hawkers in Chow Kit.

He defended his action by saying that too many discussions had been held and many notices had been sent.

"Chow Kit would not lose its identity and I believe none would want it to be a dirty place with unkempt stalls. Our motive is to upgrade its image," he said.

He said that Jalan Haji Taib would no longer be associated with the red light area and vice due to the beautification works by the City Hall.

"Promotion would be carried out and Chow Kit would be developed with shopping complexes, hotels and tidy hawkers' centre," he said.

He also expressed disappointment over the burning of the City Hall lorry in Setiawangsa because workers were only carrying out their duties on the land belonging to the government.

Also on that piece of land, fire and police stations and other facilities for the locals would be developed, he said.

Meanwhile, the president of the Federal Territory Hawkers and Petty Traders Association, Baharim Abdul Razak, dissolved the action committee for the 369 hawkers in Chow Kit at his office today.

"I leave everything to Him and we will be waiting for the City Hall tomorrow," he said tearfully. -- BERNAMA

SLR ATI RM