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Stalls to be cleaned on first Monday of the month

KUALA Lumpur City Hall will make it compulsory for hawkers at hawker centres to conduct a clean-up on the first Monday of each month from next month in a bid to ensure cleanliness.

Hawkers' Management Department director Mohd Shukran Abdul Halim said City Hall would not hesitate to seal stalls found to be in an unsatisfactory state.

He said the local authority would act firmly in ensuring that the clean-up directive was strictly adhered to.

This was because hawkers had largely ignored earlier directives on similar exercises.

"We had told hawkers previously to allocate a day in a month to carry out the clean-up but this was not followed," Mohd Shukran said.

He was speaking to the New Straits Times during a gotong-royong at the Bangsar Baru Jolly Green Giant hawker centre in Jalan Telwai 2 yesterday. Stalls at the centre were closed in the morning for the clean-up.

Mohd Shukran had been asked about the poor turnout by stallholders at the centre during the gotong-royong. Only a few hawkers at the centre and from stalls outside joined in the clean-up.

City Hall and Alam Flora Sdn Bhd workers joined forces to clean the drain and road despite a downpour which forced the exercise to stop for about two hours.

The clean-up was carried out in conjunction with the 16th Commonwealth Games Bangsar Carnival which will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow night.

Jalan Telawi 2, Jalan Telawi 3, Jalan Telawi 4 and Jalan Telawi 5 will be closed from 4pm.

Mohd Shukran said those hawkers not present for the clean-up could clean their stalls on Wednesday night.

"But if we find that their stalls are dirty, we will close their stalls immediately," he said, adding that City Hall will not compromise on cleanliness as it involved public health.

On the monthly clean-up, Mohd Shukran said his officers would go on night visits if stalls were not opened in the morning for inspection.

He said cleanliness at the Jolly Green Giant was satisfactory as there was a maintenance company in charge.

He was, however, unhappy with the condition of roadside stalls.

City Hall had already closed the Jalan Telawi 2 stalls in April for one month for a clean-up when it was found that the general condition of the trading area was deplorable.

During that one month City Hall had repaired and conducted a thorough spring-cleaning of the area.

Mohd Shukran said two hawkers had been issued show-cause letters giving them 14 days to explain why they were operating before 6pm. The roadside hawkers are only allowed to operate between 6pm and midnight daily.

"They have not replied as the 14-day grace period has not lapsed," he said.

Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Small Traders Association (Bangsar branch) chairman Hassan Said, who was also present, said if all hawkers had maintained cleanliness at the centre, a gotong-royong would not have been necessary.

There are 39 stalls at the hawker centre and 26 stalls along Jalan

Telawi 2.

(END)