

# Clean sites for petty traders

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KUALA LUMPUR: In a move to rid the country of dirty and unsightly sidewalk stalls, the Government will provide permanent clean and proper sites for petty traders and hawkers.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government was looking for suitable sites throughout the country.

An annual allocation would be made for this which would also improve the livelihood of the traders and hawkers, he said.

It was not the Government's intention to shutdown sidewalk stalls but merely improve the condition, he said, adding that clean stalls were encouraged.

He said eating at stalls was a popular habit among Malaysians because it was a Malaysian culture.

"But most of the sidewalk stall operators do not practise cleanliness, or use proper equipment and utensils, wear clean clothing. Thus, the stalls are not attractive to customers.

"Sometimes, we assume that just because it is a sidewalk stall, it is okay for it to be untidy and messy," he said.

Citing an example, he said the Government allowed stalls to be set up in the alleys of Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman during the fasting month.

"But I find the condition was not proper — stalls not nicely set up and floors not using clean tiles because the traders consider this just a temporary situation," he told a crowd of about 80,000 people who turned up at a **Hari Raya**

gathering organised by the Federal Territory Traders and Hawkers Association at Chow Kit yesterday.

Hence, Dr Mahathir said, the Government would spend money to provide cleaner and more attractive sites equipped with facilities. Existing sites would be further beautified, he said.

"This is also to raise the standards of the petty traders and hawkers. For example, we would like the status of the traders and hawkers in Chow Kit Road to be like that of

those at **Bintang Walk**," he said.

He also said the intention was not merely to make profit by collecting fees from operators who rent the space at the sites but to help them gain more business as customers would be more attracted to the environment.

"What we hope is that the traders and hawkers will take care of the facilities provided. Since their stalls are at better sites, the traders can then charge customers a little more and thus increase their profits," he said.