

16 JAN 2002
Khir-market
SELANGOR TO INTRODUCE 24-HOUR OPEN MARKET CONCEPT

SHAH ALAM, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- The Selangor government will introduce a 24-hour open market concept in major towns to offer more business opportunities to the people and do away with middlemen, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Khir Toyo.

He said that under the concept, which would be the first of its kind in Malaysia, the public would have the opportunity to sell essential goods, food, drinks and crafts in a permanent covered area.

He said the concept of the business was basically a 24-hour and modern night market.

"Under this concept, we will limit the hours for each traders to allow more people to trade and they would only have to pay a minimal service charge," he told reporters after chairing the weekly exco meeting here, today.

Dr Khir said that initially, the open market would be introduced in Shah Alam and if the response was good, it would be extended to other towns such as Petaling Jaya and Klang.

He said the Selangor State Agriculture Development Corporation (PKPS) would be responsible to implement the concept.

He said the open market would also be decorated with neon lights and offer other activities to attract local and foreign tourists.

Asked to comment on the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion to build permanent hawker stalls, Dr Khir said this had been implemented by the state government and it was also providing more such stalls in the districts and towns.

He said that under the state's district development plan, all housing areas would have permanent hawker centres, the number of which would depend on the population of a particular area.

-- BERNAMA

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