

**Despite Utusan attack, Jalan Alor food hub is on
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Ignoring strong criticism from Utusan Malaysia, the Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said the Kuala Lumpur City Hall's project to turn Jalan Alor (pic) in Bukit Bintang into a food haven will proceed as planned.

He said the project was aimed to give Jalan Alor a "cleaner and nicer look".

"It will look like Jalan Petaling. The project will go on. Maybe the Datuk Bandar made a mistake in saying it is a food hub for the Chinese. It is for everyone's benefit," said Tengku Adnan when contacted by The Malaysian Insider today.

Tengku Adnan, a former Tourism Minister, said the project will add to the tourist pull of the neighbourhood.

The Umno secretary-general's statement on the project today goes against Utusan Malaysia's demand over the weekend as to why there is a need for a Chinese "Food Paradise" in Kuala Lumpur, continuing its attack on the community following the May 5 general election.

The Awang Selamat column in its Sunday edition, Mingguan Malaysia, has taken exception to Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) project to turn Jalan Alor into a food hub for the community.

Awang Selamat, the pseudonym for the collective voice of the paper's editors, warned DBKL to be mindful of who would benefit while noting that there is already a strong Chinese image in Bukit Bintang.

"It already resembles Hong Kong," Awang Selamat said.

The paper pointed out that pouring RM12 million into a project, which would benefit the Chinese community, is an exercise in futility.

"From way before, the voters in the area have never supported the government; even if given the moon and the stars, there will be no appreciation," it said.

Jalan Alor is located in the Bukit Bintang parliamentary constituency and since it was formed it has always been won by the DAP.

The seat is held by the party's treasurer, Fong Kui Lun.

The newspaper's latest salvo at the Chinese community is in line with its attacks on it after the May 5 polls.

Following the general election, it ran a story with the provocative headline "Apa lagi Cina mahu?" (What more do the Chinese want?) on its front page.

Utusan blamed the community for Barisan Nasional's dismal performance after it was returned to power with 133 seats – down from 140 in the 2008 polls.

Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun said City Hall was reinforcing Jalan Alor's pull as a food haven and the area was already packed with hotels catering to tourists.

"It has a whole range of hotels from budget to five-star. It simply is a case of City Hall helping the government to promote tourism in the country," he told The Malaysian Insider, while pointing out that the area had some 133 hotels.

"It is childish to politicise the food hub project in Bukit Bintang. The writer has failed to recognise that the district is already a multinational food paradise."

Fong also noted that the area benefited from Putrajaya's ambitious Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system which ran from Kajang to Sungai Buloh.

"It is not about helping the Chinese community in the area, it is about tourists who frequent the area," he said.

He also pointed out that Chinese cuisine had a global audience and was not confined to just Malaysians but also foreigners. – August 26, 2013.

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