

Health Ministry to intensify checks at Ramadan bazaars

By Arfa Yunus - April 15, 2022 @ 7:01pm



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KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry will intensify its efforts to ensure better regulations at Ramadan bazaar locations nationwide.

Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said he had directed the ministry's food safety and quality division to enhance its regulation at Ramadan bazaars following reports of unhygienic practices, spoilt food, and unsavoury items found in Ramadan bazaars.

He said he also asked the division to issue a press statement on all cases related to food poisoning through the Ramadan month.

"I have asked the food safety and quality division to enhance its enforcement, especially at places where we have already received reports," he told reporters when met here today.

At the same time, Khairy also urged the public to stay vigilant and be aware of the safety of food they planned to buy at Ramadan Bazaars.

Khairy also reminded the public to immediately lodge a report if the food they bought was contaminated and warned traders to buck up or face action.

"If you don't feel confident with the food, you can take a closer look at the food and sniff it first before eating. This is one of the ways to ensure that the food is safe.

"I also would like to ask consumers to lodge a report quickly so that the local authorities monitoring the bazaar will be able to take immediate action against the stall (which had sold contaminated food)," he said.

On Thursday, a woman posted a video on the social media showing worms wiggling inside a noodle dish with squid that she bought from a stall. It has since gone viral.

The woman said she bought the noodle from the bazaar at about 5.20pm on Saturday.

Earlier today, the Putrajaya City Council (PPJ) said in a statement that it has issued a warning notice to a noodle trader in Presint 3 bazaar for failing to keep the stall area clean.

PPJ Urban Services Department Environmental Health division director Dr Mohd Helmi Abdul Hamid said the notice was issued under the 30(1)(c) of the Licensing of Hawkers (Federal Territory of Putrajaya) By-Laws 2016.

He said the trader had failed to keep the surrounding areas clean, namely the front, back and sides.

Dr Mohd Helmi said his team conducted monitoring and a thorough check at the Presint 3 bazaar yesterday and the stall was found to have hygiene issues.

On April 6, two children from Kampung Seberang Tuan Chik suffered food poisoning after eating 'pudding buih' dessert bought by their mother from a stall.

Last week, a man took home a pre-packed 'roti john' sandwich from a Ramadan bazaar was shocked to find that it was burnt to a crisp.