NEWS

Drainage woes

POOR drainage has always been a problem in Taman Salak Jaya, Kuala Lumpur. Without a proper drainage system, flash floods occur in certain areas, and a few houses along Jalan 27 are especially badly affected. >6

EVENTS

For senior citizens

MORE than 370 senior citizens from 16 homes in the Klang Valley came together for a Dong Zhi festival lunch organised by the Yayasan Hanyang Press at the V-Garden restaurant, Hotel in Klang recently. >20&22

Badminton clinic

THE MICHAEL Badminton Academy organised a badminton clinic recently for the Amitofo Care Centre from Malawi at their centre in Bandar Puteri Puchong. >22

Editor> BRIAN MARTIN

thestar.com.my/metro/central
metro@thestar.com.my

Metro Editorial 7967 1388
Metro Classified 7967 2020
Advertising 7966 8388

HOW TO REACH US

Stay in contact with StarMetro. There is always something interesting happening in your community. If you have a story to tell, call us at:

Petaling Jaya: 15 Jalan 16/11, Petaling Jaya. Tel: 03-7967 1388. Fax: 03-7955 4039
Kuala Lumpur: Lot 8, Sentral Exhibition Mall, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, 50470 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-2274 1388 ext 12-15. Fax: 03-2273 5439
Klang: 46 Jalan Pasar, 41400 Klang. Tel: 03-3344 3679
Putrajaya: No. T. 01. L. 05, Jalan P3 E1, Precinct 8, 62250 Putrajaya. Tel: 03-8889 5561. Fax: 03-8889 5561

Road diversions

Upgrading work at KL Sentral to begin soon

By PRIYA MENON
priya@thestar.com.my

THE public can expect road diversions beginning from Feb 3 as upgrading work at KL Sentral begins.

Jalan Stesen Sentral 3 is the main road affected due to construction work at Lot G, facing Jalan Tun Sambathan.

The road is now being used by the Low Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT) buses, the RapidKL buses and the coupon taxis.

"The inner road, which caters to the buses, will remain open, while the outer road used by the taxis will be closed," said Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) project director Nooraini Mohamad Rashid.

The Semasa Sentral chief operating officer Roslan Sharif, said the inner and outer lanes now have 10 bays for RapidKL buses and 12 bays for LCCT buses.

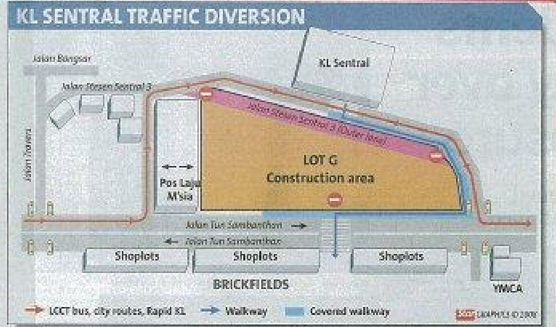
Semasa Sentral is the company managing KL Sentral.

"We are shifting five bays for the trunk route of RapidKL buses to Jalan Tun Sambanthan to allow taxis to use the inner road as well," he added.

Nooraini also said traffic in Jalan Tun Sambathan was expected to increase.

All mapped out: Nooraini with a diagram on Road Restriction and Diversion to KL Sentral and Jalan Tun Sambanthan at the press conference.

Old: The pedestrian walkway that cuts across Lot G will be closed for construction work.



Pedestrians using the walkway connecting the Monorail station and KL Sentral have also been asked to use the new covered walkway that goes around Lot G.

"The new walkway is located at the intersection of Jalan Stesen Sentral 3, Jalan Tun Sambathan and Jalan Tun Sambathan 4," Nooraini said.

She said they would be putting special tiles and railings for the blind to access the new pathway with ease as well.

"We have briefed the Brickfields community as well and they seem receptive to the idea. We are concerned about the blind people who make up the majority of the community," she added.

She said in order to help the commuters adapt to the changes, extra information counters and police beat bases would be opened for enquiries and complaints.

Nooraini said MRCB is also looking into the possibility of making Jalan Tun Sambathan a one-way road and would submit the plans to the Kuala Lumpur City Hall to be reviewed.

Brickfields RT chairman S.K.K Naidu, however, believes that more can be done to improve the congestion in Jalan Tun Sambathan.

"The road is already busy at present. In fact, we are the ones who moved the buses inside and now its being brought out again. This is going to worsen traffic congestion," he said.

He said MRCB, the Kuala Lumpur City Hall and the Brickfields community should have an open discussion and draw out a new plan.

Naidu, however, said the changes should have been done after making Jalan Tun Sambathan a one-way street.

The construction work for Lot G, which is now being used as a carpark and pedestrian walkway, is expected to be completed in 2015.

The building plans include a retail mall, office towers and a new hotel to cater to the increasing number of commuters.

A covered pathway for monorail users will be extended all the way into the new building that will also be connected to KL Sentral.

"This covered pathway will be air-conditioned and will serve the 85,000 people who are expected to use the station by 2020," she added.

The car park will also include four basements with more than 3,200 parking bays.

New: The covered pedestrian pathway that goes around Lot G.

Changes: The inner road on the right will be in use while the outer lane on the left will be closed.

Umno division to enhance racial ties

By FAZLEENA AZIZ
fazleena@thestar.com.my

THE Bukit Bintang Umno division is adopting a friendlier approach to reach out to the local community.

The division members went to the ground to meet traders and hawkers at the Pudu market in Jalan Pasar in conjunction with the Chinese New Year celebration recently.

They also gave out mandarin oranges to everyone at the market.

It was a collaboration with the Pudu Market Traders and Hawkers Association.

The Bukit Bintang Umno Youth chief Tengku Azman Tengku Zainol Abidin said the move was their way of enhancing ties.

"This is our first attempt and the response was very good.

"Umno has always been portrayed as only reaching out to the Malays but we want to reach out to all.

"This is why we have established the racial integration and non-governmental bureau. The bureau aims to unite Umno and the public," he said.

Azman also reminded Umno representatives not to neglect the other races.

Umno Bukit Bintang division head Datuk Abdul Azim Mohd Zabidi, who was also present at the market, said this was a new approach taken by the division.

CNY spirit: Azman (left) and Abdul Azim (second from left) handing out oranges to the traders at Pudu market.

CITY WATCH
metro@thestar.com.my

Pongal celebration

THE Malaysian Ceylonese Congress (MCC) will be conducting the "Kaani Ponggal" celebration at the Sri Kandasamy Kovil – Kala Mandapam in Lorong Scott, Kuala Lumpur on Friday. The ceremony will begin at 4.45pm and members who want to take part can call P. Sukumathavan (012-213 3000), Ponmala Kasinathan (012-6748 450) or Leela Ganesan (012-6307 388) for details. A colouring activity for children to enhance their knowledge on the significance of ponggal will also be held that day.

Speaking skills

THE Speakers Dream Toastmasters Club will be holding their International Speech and Table Topic Contest 2009 today from 7pm to 9.30pm at the 1st Floor (Kiara Room), Kelab Perkhidmatan Golf Awam (KPGS, opposite Eastin Hotel PJ). Those interested in enhancing their public-speaking skills and to learn a tip or two on how to think creatively at the spur of the moment are welcome to observe. Admission fee is RM10. For details, call 019-355 1653 (Gigi) or 012-311 3026 (Sew Chen).

Art expo

THE Chempaka Buddhist Lodge and China Shanghai Sheng Yi Culture Exchange Centre will be holding a Chinese Art and Calligraphy Exhibition from Jan 16 to 20, 10am to 8pm at the Chempaka Buddhist Hall, Petaling Jaya. The exhibition features the works of seven artists from China and the students of CBL Chinese Art and Calligraphy Class. More than 100 sets of creative art will be displayed for public viewing, including Chinese painting, calligraphy and Chinese New Year couplets. For more information, call 03-7880 3935/6.

Education fair

THE Wawasan Open University will take part in the 11th Postgraduate Education Fair to be held from Jan 16 to 18, 10am to 7pm at the Mid Valley Exhibition Centre. Visitors will have a chance to learn more about the CeMBA and CeMPA programmes offered by the open and distance learning university. For more information please call WOU's Kuala Lumpur Regional Office at 03-9281 7323.

Talk on skin ageing

THE Prince Court Medical Centre will conduct a public talk on The Truth About Skin Ageing and Treatment Options on Jan 17, from 9am to 2pm, at its auditorium. The talk will be conducted by the medical centre's Plastic Reconstructive, Cosmetology, Dermatology and Burns Unit Centre of Excellence. The medical centre is located at 39, Jalan Kia Peng, Kuala Lumpur. For registration, call 03-2160 0000 ext 2150 (Faizal) or 2151 (Razman).

Public lecture

THE United Nations in Malaysia and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia will be organising a public lecture on Jan 16 at 6.30pm. The lecture will be held at the Ballroom, Hotel Grand Millennium Kuala Lumpur. Dr K.S Jomo will deliver the lecture. For more information, call 03-2093 5186 or email linda.chen@undp.org.