

MCC: Not all applications for temporary permits from unlicensed hawkers approved

MIRI: Incomplete documents and frequent shifting of trading locations are among the reasons why the Miri City Council (MCC) has rejected the applications for temporary permits by a number of unlicensed hawkers here.

According to Councillor Leslie Lau, these temporary permits would qualify the hawkers to receive grants under the Sarawakku Sayang Special Assistance (BKSS) programme.

He said the MCC had received thousands of applications for these temporary permits before the registration deadline on May 31, but not all were approved.

He explained that upon receiving an application, the council would check its record of unlicensed hawkers to determine if they were genuine cases; if the applicant was in the record, then the temporary permit could be issued immediately.

However, he pointed out that in some cases, the documents for

the applications were incomplete or confusing, and this required MCC officers to carry out ground checks.

"Every detail submitted by the applicants is very important in proving the authenticity of their backgrounds, because we hope to reach out to those who really deserve the assistance," said Lau when met at a food court in Pujut 7 here yesterday.

"One of the challenges that the council faces is hawkers operating by the roadside or along pedestrian walkways - they usually trade at random places.

"Without any permanent location, it is hard for the MCC to conduct checks on them as a requirement for the approval (for the temporary permits)."

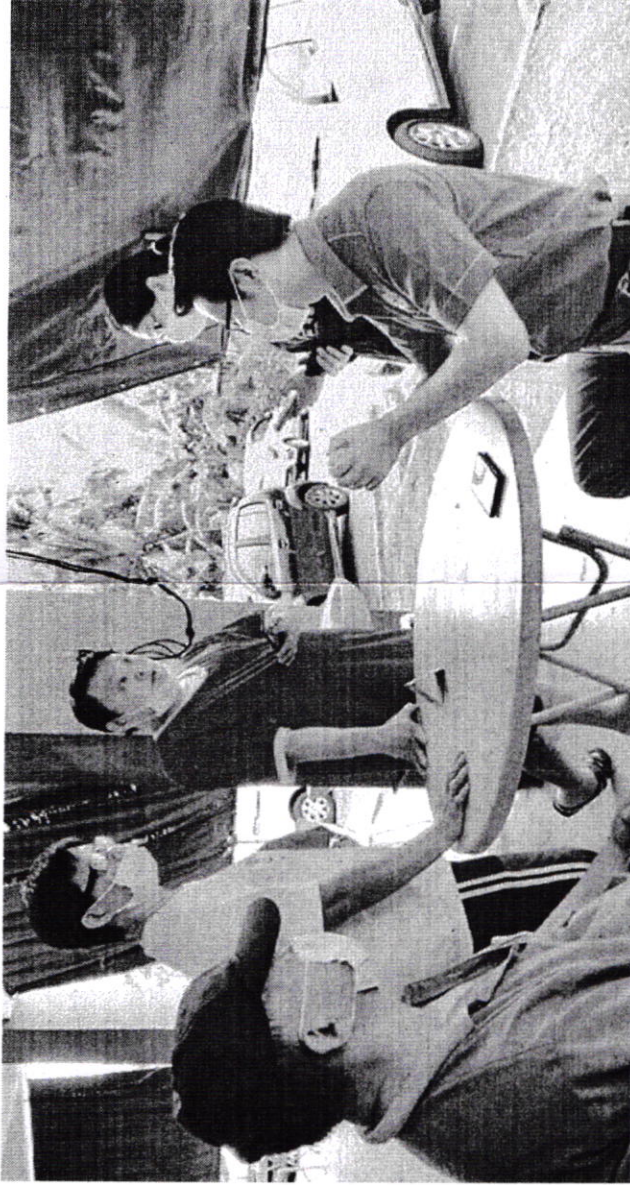
Lau said for the majority of stall hawkers operating in food courts, markets and coffee shops, they should have no issue with their applications.

"After receiving their temporary permits, they would receive the BKSS funds either in the form of cash vouchers obtained from Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), or via their Sarawak Pay e-wallet accounts."

Lau assured all that he and his team would continue to go to the ground and check on the hawkers at markets, coffee shops and food courts, where they would provide assistance should the hawkers have enquiries about the BKSS, or even about other matters.

"I would gather all the complaints and enquiries from them, and present them to the Mayor (Adam Yii) for further action."

The Sarawak government has allowed unlicensed hawkers and traders to register for temporary permits from their respective local authorities, in order to enable them to receive aid under the BKSS, which was launched



Lau (seated, right) briefs the stall hawkers about the way to register for Sarawak Pay e-wallet account.

to help businesses that had been hard-hit by the shutdown, which ran for almost three months due

to Covid-19. The BKSS grant of RM1,500 per recipient was announced in April,

and this amount was topped up by another RM750 on May 11 - making the total of RM2,250.

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