

Police to ensure no gatherings take place at malls



NATION

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

KUALA LUMPUR: It can't be said any more clearly. Social gatherings are prohibited under the movement control order.

The reminder came from city police chief Comm Datuk Azmi Abu Kassim, who said compliance teams would patrol public places daily such as shopping malls to ensure gatherings did not take place.

He said this in reference to comments yesterday by Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Adham Baba that several shopping malls would be listed under the Hotspot Identification for Dynamic Engagement (HIDE) system after it was found that they were used for family gatherings during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri festivities.

Dr Adham was quoted as saying that this was a "tactic" used by some families to meet up during the festive season.

Comm Azmi said: "Our personnel will not hesitate to take stern action against those caught for not complying with the SOP.

"Let the public be warned that those who plan to meet family members at shopping malls or other public places would be issued compounds if caught."

Selangor police chief Comm Datuk Arjunaidi Mohamed echoed Comm Azmi's words, saying that the country was facing a battle against the virus.

"The public should not go out without a proper reason. We need to work together to curb the spread of the virus, and the best way to do so is to stay home," he said.

During his press conference earlier, Dr Adham voiced concerns about such family gatherings

"One pressing issue worrying us is that when we prohibited Hari Raya gatherings at home, m

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"This may lead to a spike in cases," he said in a virtual press conference with Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin yesterday.

His ministry, he said, had identified the malls in question, which would be placed on the HIDE list in an effort to curb the spread.

On May 8, a HIDE list was published by the government to allow pre-emptive measures to be taken by the authorities, owners of premises and the public to prevent new clusters from emerging.

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