

Headline	DBKL halls in bad shape		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	20 Jun 2019	Language	English
Circulation	175,986	Readership	527,958
Section	Metro	Page No	1,2
ArticleSize	1530 cm ²	Journalist	BAVANI M.
PR Value	RM 230,997		



Hallmark of poor upkeep

Most of the community centres built on land owned by DBKL and managed by third parties are in dreadful condition with some air conditioners and fans removed from the premises. >2



Like a mini dumpsite: Residents looking helplessly at the mess left behind at one of the community halls in Bandar Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

Headline	DBKL halls in bad shape		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	20 Jun 2019	Language	English
Circulation	175,986	Readership	527,958
Section	Metro	Page No	1,2
ArticleSize	1530 cm ²	Journalist	BAVANI M.
PR Value	RM 230,997		



Most community halls, like this one in Jalan Jelawat, Kuala Lumpur, have been left in a complete mess with rubbish everywhere. — Photos: AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



A community hall in Taman Ikan Emas in Bandar Tun Razak had accumulated a staggering RM38,885.05 in arrears in electricity charges as of Jan 23, 2019.

Star Exclusive

DBKL halls in bad shape

Stolen furniture, missing fittings and unpaid utility bills are legacy of third-party run community centres

By BAVANI M.
bavanim@thestar.com.my

STRIPPED and ripped up – that is the condition of many of Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL)'s community and multipurpose halls that were handed over to third parties to run.

The former caretakers of these buildings, which included many affiliated to political parties, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and management companies linked to the former Barisan Nasional government, were given complete freedom and autonomy to run the halls but abused the trust given to them.

A check on some of these buildings which have been handed over to DBKL reveals halls stripped of tables and chairs, with even the air-conditioning systems removed in some cases.

If that is not bad enough, there are instances where some caretakers stopped paying the utility bills altogether, racking up thousands of ringgit in arrears.

“One particular community hall in Taman Ikan Emas in Bandar Tun Razak had accumulated a staggering RM38,885.05 in arrears in the electricity bill as of Jan 23, 2019,” said Federal Territories Residential Representative Council (MPPWP) sub zone 2, Bandar Tun Razak, chairman Idris Moktar.

According to Idris, the last payment made was RM300 on June 29, 2018.

StarMetro contacted Tenaga Nasional Bhd and learned that the bill for the community hall, which has yet to be paid, now stands at almost RM40,000.

“This situation is similar in other areas in Kuala Lumpur where political parties, NGOs and management companies linked to the previous government were managing these halls,” Idris said.

“I hear stories of tables, chairs, air conds, wall clocks, water dispensers and fans going missing



The ceiling of this hall in Bandar Tun Razak is in dire need of repairs.

“I hear stories of tables, chairs, air conds, wall clocks, water dispensers and fans going missing and cases of unpaid utility bills.”

Idris Moktar

and cases of unpaid utility bills.

“It makes me angry hearing about all this irresponsible behaviour,” he added.

Prior to the May 9, 2018, general

election, several political parties linked to the BN administration and NGOs affiliated to them were tasked with managing these halls.

Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng had last year, highlighted the existence of these so-called “ICU Halls” all over Kuala Lumpur and how they were controlled by political parties.

He said there were over 20 such halls in residential areas or by the roadside in Kepong.

Most of them were controlled by political parties and sublet to businesses such as car wash, martial arts class, kindergarten and scrap metal collectors.

The halls, he added, were on government land and it was only fair that they are returned to DBKL.

Lim said the most appropriate bodies to manage and use the

halls would be the Residents Associations.

Last year, Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad said DBKL had been instructed to take over all halls built on its land but managed by political parties.

So far, DBKL has managed to take back 187 community halls from third-party operators, with the 36 remaining being given a final notice to hand over the buildings.

Khalid said DBKL would decide, on a case-by-case basis, who will manage these halls.

He added that the halls were built by the Implementation and Coordination Unit (ICU) under the Prime Minister's Department.

MPPWP Sub Zone 5, Cheras chairman, Roslan Mahmud, who is poised to take over the Dewan

Orang Ramai Taman Bukit Cheras, said the community hall was in bad shape.

“To be honest, the building has not been handed to us yet, because there is a lot of repair work to be done to make it habitable again.”

“The toilets, door, walls and ceiling need to be repaired and painted over. It is going to be a big job,” Roslan said.

When asked if there was any equipment or facilities left behind, Roslan said: “Nothing! The building was completely empty.

Everything was cleaned out, not a single chair was left behind.”

He added that he had already lodged a complaint with DBKL.

Another MPPWP office-bearer said the community hall near his house was in a deplorable shape when they took over.

“They took the fridge, PA system, everything. It's bare now,” he said.

Meanwhile, DBKL Corporate Planning Department director Norhaslinda Nordin told

StarMetro that they were aware of the poor state of the community hall under their jurisdiction.

Many of the community halls were in a dilapidated state and falling apart.

“That's why we are waiting for the remaining caretakers to surrender the halls as soon as possible, so we can evaluate and start repair work,” she said.

When asked what was the extent of the damage, Norhaslinda said: “Some need a lot of work and some not so, but we need to evaluate on a case-by-case basis.”

When asked about the cost of repair works, she said DBKL would not commit itself to repair the halls 100%.

“We will do the basic necessities as long as it is safe for the community to utilise but nothing more,” she added.