

## Make money catching rats

BY BRENDA CH'NG, Saturday, 30 January 2016, Petaling Jaya City, Asia



Hopefully, the of sight rats scurrying around several areas in Petaling Jaya will be a thing of the past through this two-month campaign.

EARN some extra cash while helping the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) rid the city of rats by taking part in its two-month rat-catching campaign starting next week.

For every rat caught in either the Petaling Jaya Old Town or Section 17, RM3 will be awarded.

So far, the RM3 incentive per rat is the highest amount any local authority has awarded for rat-catching campaigns in the country.

“We are only starting with these two areas for now because they are the two hot spots for rats in the Bukit Gasing constituency.

“If the response is good, MBPJ might consider carrying out the campaign in other parts of the city,” Bukit Gasing assemblyman R Rajiv said.

These two places have markets and many restaurants in the neighbourhood and the residents have been complaining about the rat problems for the past two to three years ago.

Some residents have even complaints about rats entering their homes from the restaurants and markets.

To encourage more people to participate in this exercise, Rajiv will be using his allocation funding to pay the RM3 for each rat caught dead or alive.

He added that there was no cap or limit to this budget and he is ready to pay as much as RM3,000 or more.

To avoid abuse of this incentive, MBPJ will be using spray paint to mark the rats which have already been paid for.

“The rats can be caught by any method and can be given to MBPJ dead or alive, it doesn’t matter,” he said.

Rats caught can be brought to either the Jalan Othman market at Section 1 Old Town or the market in Section 17/1a daily.

Collection times are from 9am until 10am for Section 1 and 11.30am until 12.30pm at Section 17.

MBPJ representatives confirmed there had been a consistent flow of complaints about rats with 85 in 2014 and 76 in 2015.

Meanwhile, MBPJ carried out about 181 rat catching operations last year, with more than 2,300 rats caught.

This year, MBPJ will be carrying on its rat catching efforts with the help of a rat catching team comprising three officers.

Based on complaints, the team will go around the city placing rat traps and poison, with the aim of ridding the city of rats.