



Korean eatery says sorry, cleans up shop after rat ‘dines’ there

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Facebook user Jessica Wong posted a picture yesterday evening, claiming a rat was inside a restaurant at the shopping mall in the city.



KUALA LUMPUR: A Korean barbecue restaurant at a shopping mall here has apologised over an incident yesterday alleging a rat's appearance and said it cleaned up the premises the night itself.

Shinmapo Korean BBQ's outlet manager Edmund Chong told FMT his waiters had said sorry to the customer but the language barrier between the Filipino staff member and customer caused a perception that the worker was rude.

"I came to know about the rat incident later yesterday. I was not in the shop when the incident happened.

"In situations like this, I would normally waive the bill for the customer," he said when asked about a viral Facebook post on an alleged rat in the restaurant.

Yesterday, Facebook user Jessica Wong posted a picture of the unexpected furry diner inside Shinmapo's outlet.

She expressed her disappointment at the worker's attitude in handling the matter.

"Disgusting... worst when the staff never feel apologetic at all for the rat!" she posted.

Chong said he had asked pest control contractors to clean up the shop after closing hours yesterday.

"And we will be doing another round of cleaning tonight to make sure the shop is clean," he said, adding the pest control firm had found three rats yesterday within the shop's perimeter.

The manager also said he understood the customer had lodged a complaint with the health ministry.

"We expect the officials to come tomorrow. In the meantime, we are cleaning up our premises," he said.

Rats seem a perennial problem with eateries in Kuala Lumpur. Poorly disposed of food and poor condition of drains have resulted in the rat population thriving. This is despite regular extermination by pest control contractors and rat-catching campaigns by local authorities.

In October last year, a bakery at Mid Valley Megamall had to apologise after a rat was spotted on one of its trays, containing freshly-baked bread.

In January, a rat was seen crouched on top of a row of sausages and chicken balls inside a food warmer, in a picture alleged to have been taken at a 7-Eleven outlet in Kelana Jaya here.

In April, the grocery section of Aeon at the 1Utama shopping centre in Damansara here was ordered closed for cleaning by health officials after a rat was found on its premises.

Last week, the health ministry was deeply embarrassed when a rat was seen chewing on served cabbage at the cafeteria at Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital (HTAR) in Klang.

It has been ordered to close for 15 days from Friday following reports of unhygienic practices during food preparation.