

Consumerism: No touch, no go

Written by 3K Admin

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<p align="justify">◆</p><p align="justify">Tuesday, August
24th, 2010 09:17:00
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LAST week, I had to go to KL Sentral to attend to some
personal matters.</p><p align="justify">I decided to park my car at the Kelana Jaya Light Rail
Transit (LRT) and take the train to my destination which seemed to be the fastest and most
convenient way to travel during the after-work peak period.</p><p align="justify">I saw a barrier
displaying the Touch n◆ Go 'Park and Ride' tag used together with the normal cash payment
mode. As I was about to enter, however, I saw no ticket dispenser which meant the facility is
limited to the prepaid e-payment card users.</p> A car park within a public transport facility is a
public area. It is supposed to be accessed by every member of the public. It should not be the
monopoly of Touch n◆ Go card users only. <p align="justify">I later learned from the Internet
that only the cards could be used for parking at the station under its 'Park and Ride' system
which was introduced at the Taman Paramount LRT station last October. However, I could use
the LRT service by purchasing a ticket at the counter or dispensing machine with cash.</p><p
align="justify">If I had a choice for the LRT services, why not the parking lot?</p><p
align="justify">The right of choice is one of the fundamentals of consumerism, but in this case, I
did not have a choice but to get a Touch n◆ Go card or else I would have been stuck in front of
the car park's barrier.</p><p align="justify">The government is promoting public transport, but
such narrow interests will prevent consumers from fully benefitting from the facility.</p><p
align="justify">Yu Kin Len
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Selangor</p>