

## 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 <br />◆<br />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<br />Consumer Research and Resource Centre<br />Petaling Jaya,  
Selangor</p>