

A shopping trip to remember

IT assistant wins car in contest at Nilai arcade

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DESPITE being tired after a hard day's work, Khairul Nizaar Sumali did not turn down his wife's request to take her shopping for new clothes at Nilai Square recently.

During the outing, Khairul bought a RM70 *baju kurung* for his wife — a decision that turned out to be fruitful as it won him a brand new Perodua Viva worth RM26,000 when he was picked as the grand prize winner in a 'Shop and Win' contest organised by traders at the shopping arcade.

The 31-year-old IT assistant from Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia said he would be presenting the car to his wife who will be celebrating her birthday next week.

"She must be my lucky charm as I've never won a contest before.

"It's the perfect present for her and she truly deserves it as she does not have a car," he said.

Some 23,000 entries were received during the contest which ran from May 1 to July 30. A minimum purchase of RM50 at any of the 105 outlets at the shopping arcade entitled shoppers to one entry.

From those entries, 25 winners were chosen in a lucky draw with prizes worth RM60,000 up for grabs.

The first prize was a gazebo worth RM10,000.

Second prize winner Suraya Kassim from Bandar Baru Bangi who won a Yamaha Lagenda motorcycle said she could not believe her luck.

"I only bought toys for my children and walked away with a brand new bike.

"Nilai Square is one of my favourite shopping spots as it offers a wide variety of choices especially when it comes to women's wear," said the mother of four.

Ridzuan Kamaludin, also from Bandar Baru Bangi, took home a 50" plasma TV after he was selected as the third prize winner.

"It's perfect timing as I was thinking of buying a new TV for Hari Raya," he said.

Nilai Square is a shopping area

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—VICTOR LEE

which has outlets selling mainly textiles, clothing, toys, home decor items and kitchenware.

Some of the consolation prize winners even hailed from Sarawak, Penang and Kedah attesting to the shopping arcade's popularity with locals and those from out of town.

Nilai Square Traders' Alliance chairman Victor Lee said it was the first time the traders had gotten together to organise a lucky draw.

"Nilai Square has been operating for six years but this is the first time we held a 'Shop and Win' contest to promote our products and get more people to come and shop here.

"Sales shot up by about 40% during the contest period with an estimated RM1.5mil spent by shoppers within that time," he said.

Lee said its proximity to the town centre, nearby colleges and universities, Low-Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT) and KL International Airport was another plus point for Nilai Square.

"Nilai Square has the capacity to attract even foreign visitors and with its proximity to the airports, accessibility is not a problem.

"It's location is just about 500m from the North-South Expressway's Nilai exit, which makes it easy for motorists too," he said.

Negri Sembilan Tourism Malaysia director Hishamuddin Mustafa commended the traders for organising the contest and urged them to extend their operating hours to cater to a larger number of shoppers.

"Besides organising contests and advertising their wares, I think the traders should extend their operating hours.

"It would be good if the shops can stay open until midnight especially during the festive seasons to attract more shoppers," he said after presenting prizes to the winners.



On cloud nine: Grand prize winner Khairul Nizaar jumping for joy after he was presented with his Perodua Viva.



Lucky day: The winners posing with their prizes. With them is Lee (back row, third from right) and Hishamuddin (back row, fourth from right).