Dubious advertisements mar image

POOR REFLECTION: Leaving little to the imagination, the advertisements with sexual connotations put the city in a bad light

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Our city's road dividers, kerbs, flyover pillars, LRT station walls and even signposts are undesirably "decorated" with dubious massage service offerings.

A check by Streets showed these "graffiti" prominently displayed in Wangsa Maju, Taman Melati in Com-bak, Sri Rampai in Petaling Jaya, Cheras, Taman Desa and even some parts of Jalan Puchong.

"Fun Massage," "Honey Massage," "Lips Massage" and "Cheese Massage," are among the most common services offered, with a phone number accompanying the advertisements.

"Volcano Massage" seemed to be the most popular as the spray-painted 'advertisements' could be found at road dividers and kerbs from Section 14 Petaling Jaya all the way to Cheras.

The names may pique one's curiosity, but many people Streets spoke to sort of have an idea of the kind of massage services these "advertisers" offer.

Kamalkhalid Kamarludin, 29, finds these "advertisements" disturbing. He said he's worried that children and teenagers might be curious to know what these massages are all about and would eventually try to "explore" the services.

Although nobody whom Streets approached admitted to using the service, many seemed to know what was on offer.

Connecting it immediately to prostitution, English teacher John Merva, 32, however, did not think that such services was a reflection on the society.

"Prostitution will always be there. What is needed, however, is regulation to remove the criminal elements for both business owner and customers," he said.

Customer service assistant Vivek Anandan said he once called up the numbers out of curiosity.

"They offered me various packages including body-to-body massage but of course, I did not take up the service as it was immoral. I prefer to lead a healthy lifestyle than look for trouble," he said.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia undergraduate Jaziz Amiruddin, 26, described the advertisements as ludicrous and inappropriate.

"There are even sex toys advertisements pasted on traffic lights, lamp posts, TNB substations and switchboxes by the roadsides. It is embarrassing to see such advertisements in public places as they’re a bad influence, especially to youngsters. They also deface public properties," said Jaziz.

Assistant manager Nor Asyikin Abdul Rahman, 26, said she finds these advertise-
It is a shame for us to have these advertisements splashed around the city as it tarnishes our country’s image.

“The authorities need to take stern action to get rid of these ads,” she said.

Photographer Ferdaus Nadzir said the advertisements give an impression that one’s in a red light district.

“I have seen people jotting down those telephone numbers.

“For all you know, maybe they’re just fake numbers meant as pranks,” said Ferdaus, adding that these “graffiti” do not reflect well on the country’s culture.

“I don’t know how these people can spray-paint the advertisements and get away with it,” he added.

Streets called up a few of the mobile phone numbers to check if there was any “service” being provided.

The first number had an engaged tone, while the second one’s line was cut off even before it was answered.

When the third call was made, a man on the line said: “Sex,” when asked what kind of massage was being offered.

If we were interested, he said, we could make an appointment to meet him in one of the buildings behind a big mall near Jalan Hang Tuah.

He had girls aged between 18 and 25 from Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Laos to “serve” a customer for RM200 an hour.

He said ladies from China cost RM230 an hour.

Operating from noon to 7am daily, he also provides “home delivery services” with no extra charge. Apart from offering sex services, these advertisements are also a form of vandalism as they spray-paint on walls without permits.

According to City Hall, the people behind such advertisements could be charged under the Advertisement (WP) By-Laws 1982 and Vandalsm (WPKL) By-Law 1991 and the Local Government Act 1976, for defacing public property and “putting up” their advertisements without permits.

The maximum penalty for the offence is RM2,000.

“I have seen people jotting down those telephone numbers. For all you know, maybe they’re just fake numbers meant as pranks.”

Ferdaus Nadzir, Photographer

The ‘Honey massage’ advertisement was spotted on a wall near a mall in SS2. Pix by Farezza Hanum Rashid
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The ‘Volcano massage’ advertisements on a wall in Taman Desa Baiduri, Cheras.