

New hillslope guidelines welcomed

Good move to include additional changes, says Rehda

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PETALING JAYA: Developers have welcomed the new hillslope development guidelines by the Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Ministry.

Real Estate and Housing Developers' Association Malaysia (Rehda) Kuala Lumpur branch deputy chairman Tan Ching Meng said it was a good move to include the additional changes.

"I was at Kuala Lumpur City Hall when the new hillslope guidelines were announced. There were a few suggestions to provide engineering solutions by appointing an independent checker to reassess development sites, following safety measures.

"If they fail to do so, the developers' applications would be rejected.

"City Hall has come up with a

good plan and they have done a good job. The residents should not fear adopting the new guidelines. The safety standards City Hall plans to follow are similar to safety standards of Hong Kong developers.

"Thus, it is a good idea since in Hong Kong, they have one of the best engineering solutions and sound planning control."

Meanwhile, a Gasing Meridian (M) Sdn Bhd spokesman said the guidelines were nothing new to developers.

"I have been aware of the new hillslope development guidelines and it is nothing new to have an independent body to reassess the sites and to reevaluate the risks.

"Despite not being anything new to us, still I am happy the guidelines have been made known to the public."

He said so far there have been no development complaints at Gasing Hill by residents.

A spokesman for Selangor

Dredging Bhd said: "We have not received any indication from City Hall on the outlook of our project in Medan Damansara, following the release of the new KL hillslope development guidelines.

"We would also like to reiterate we will continue to work closely and adhere to safety regulations and practices as required of the developers."

The new Hill Slope Development Guideline for the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur 2010 allows such development — with provisions for planning control, certified independent checkers and additional rules for safety and technical measures. It is set to be implemented on Friday.

The Cabinet also approved a One Stop Centre (OSC) to be chaired by the Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister, a slope engineering department within City Hall and a body to streamline

the development of sensitive environmental areas in KL.

The new guidelines will replace the Ministry of Housing and Local Government 2009 guidelines, while projects in the Draft Plan Kuala Lumpur 2020 will have to adhere to the new guidelines.

Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing secretary-general Datuk Ahmad Phasal Talib said the new guidelines were completed with the help of several professional bodies and added KL had reached a saturated state and such development cannot be avoided.

"We need to optimise the potential of land in KL for development in line with the Greater KL concept. We also need to understand the rights of land owners or it could lead to legal issues, including forcing City Hall to purchase the land if a 'Notice of Purchase' is issued on behalf of the developers."