



Gasing Meridian director Leo Tan explaining the project. — Picture by Khairull Azry Bidin

# Developer: We have met all requirements

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** While earth and infrastructure works are taking place at the Sanctuary Ridge Kuala Lumpur project in Gasing Hill, its developer, Gasing Meridian Sdn Bhd, has given the assurance that the development will have minimal impact on the area.

Gasing Meridian director Leo Tan, in an interview with *Streets* recently, said they are not touching any property other than what they are entitled to and have ownership of.

"We have no intention of affecting anyone else's property or public property, for that matter.

"We are not touching the closest statutory green lung which is the Bukit Gasing reserve. The forest reserve is two kilometres away from our site.

"I have to clarify that this is private property and we are the landowner. We have addressed the issues as per regulations and bylaws of the local council and authorities. There is no reason we cannot build on our land like any other landowner.

"My company's intention for this site is simple: we have 71 individual *bangunan* (buildings) freehold titles and we intend to develop this with minimal impact on the site.

"We enjoy our trees as much as anybody else. These are private trees and we are making sure that the greenery is kept beautiful to look at as it will be beneficial for us as the property owner," he said.

The project had come under public scrutiny following a protest by Bukit Gasing residents who claimed the area was prone to soil erosion. The residents subsequently brought the matter to court.

However, on Sept 7, last year, High Court Judge Datuk Aziah Ali dismissed a judicial review application brought by 108 Bukit Gasing protesters against City Hall to quash the development order granted to Gasing Meridian Sdn Bhd.

Tan also explained that the land owned by Gasing Meridian was never designated as green lung and it was previously a rubber plantation.

Gasing Meridian had undertaken tests to ensure the safety of the site while its project had been indepen-

dently reviewed by the Federal Territories' Standardisation of Developments in Environmentally Sensitive Areas Committee which subsequently endorsed the suitability of the site for development.

Describing the project as a flagship for Gasing Meridian, Tan said the earth and infrastructure works are expected to be completed in 20 months.

Tan said, while they had been open on what they were planning to do on the site and had adhered to all the requirements, as the property owners, Gasing Meridian and their purchasers were not required to explain or justify to anyone else what they were doing on their own land.

There was no obligation on their part to engage the residents on the progress of the project, said Tan, adding that Gasing Meridian was answerable only to the authorities.

"I have given them all the answers and they have been to the authorities' satisfaction. In fact, as a matter of procedure, we announced when we would start and finish it, and it was carried out within our legal rights. We are exercising our

rights," he said.

So far, Tan said problems faced by any individuals had not been communicated to him. Should any arise, Tan said he would address them accordingly.

It was reported on Sept 2 that Gasing Meridian had appointed Binaform Sdn Bhd as the contractor for earth and infrastructure works for its Sanctuary Ridge Kuala Lumpur project.

The low-density development of 69 luxury bungalows, averaging 1,765 sq m each, will be built over 15.3ha of land.

Kumpulan Ikram, a government-appointed independent consultancy with proven expertise in hill slope developments, had also been appointed by Gasing Meridian to oversee and inspect the work in progress.

Gasing Meridian will also relocate the existing sewage treatment plant at Gasing Indah and convert the site into a public park.

The site for the Sanctuary Ridge Kuala Lumpur project had been individually titled since 1977 and Gasing Meridian had owned the land since 1995.



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## KEEPING IT GREEN

The developer of Sanctuary Ridge has assured that the project will have minimal impact on Gasing Hill