

BUKIT GASING, THE FINAL FRONTIER

When was the last time you did some rugged explorations or took a walk on the wild side? When I say wild I am of course talking about the one and only Bukit Gasing forest reserve. I have been living in the bustling metropolis of Kuala Lumpur for the past 30 years and I can say that not many people are aware that there is a beautiful and naturally therapeutic green environment within 18 minutes of KLCC.

Though I can't blame people for not knowing about this hidden gem. Bukit Gasing forest reserve is a hidden paradise beyond the web of concrete jungles and burgeoning KL traffic. It seems these days most people are more concerned about making a living rather than having any extra time to explore or to stop and smell the roses, or in this case, forest. Nature is such an integral part of humanity and is necessary for the respiratory system of our dear planet Earth, but unfortunately, natural greenery can be as distant as outer space for most people living in the city.

I live on the northern fringe of Bukit Gasing and one of my dreams is to someday build my own house right smack in the middle of nature while enjoying the perks of city living. It's nice to know that after a hard day's work in the concrete jungle, I can always come home to a therapeutic living environment with fresh clean air and crickets as my neighbors. The Bukit Gasing condominiums or the houses in Gasing Indah are good choices but nothing beats having a little sanctuary or bungalow of your own surrounded by mature and natural greenery.

Currently, there are not that many developers in Bukit Gasing area that are able to offer such exclusive products. I have done some enquiry and found out that Gasing Meridian Sdn Bhd, the developer of Sanctuary Ridge, and I&P are the only developers offering freehold bungalow lots close to the forest reserve, but the prices are out of my reach... at least for the moment. Both have started siteworks and the infrastructures will be completed in 24 months. Sanctuary Ridge in particular is making intensive efforts on the sustainability design front. I honestly can't wait to see the finished product and hopefully by that time, I am able to find the financial means to secure a lot for myself. That would be a dream come true. Coming back to reality, another construction work in progress is the 38 units Pantaisari luxury homes. I was told that the total development comprises semi-detached, zero-lot and bungalow homes that are built ranging from 5,007 sf. to 6,963 sf. spread across a three and a half story of space.

It's great to hear about more upmarket housing developments coming up around Bukit Gasing area. This should lead to the surrounding property prices increasing in value due to the rippling effect of these high-end developments, which in turn will hopefully curb the squatter colonies which have been encroaching further into the reserves every year, despite the periodic relocations undertaken by the authorities. All in all, we can't stop urban population growth but I do hope that the sanctity of Bukit Gasing will not be compromised by substandard or uncontrolled developments that don't work well with or don't cater for the natural green environment.

More importantly, purely out of selfish reasons, I wish that the Bukit Gasing forest reserve will remain that way indefinitely. I do like to stop and smell the forest at the frontier from time to time when I am spacing out in the city. As an inner space explorer, I love Bukit Gasing as it is a place where I can find my inner peace easily. See you on the trails.

A Bukit Gasing voyager.

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