

# Mayor miffed over Bukit Gasing protest

> Land was gazetted for residential use before City Hall was established

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) allowed luxury property development on the KL side of Bukit Gasing as the land was gazetted for residential use.

Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail said the land, which is being developed by Gasing Meridian Sdn Bhd (GMSB), had already been gazetted for property development prior to 1972.

"The title was held by Petaling Gardens, which divided it into lots. This division was approved by the Selangor Town and Country Planning Department before the Federal Territories were set up," he said.

The mayor was speaking at a press conference at the DBKL head office yesterday.

Ahmad Fuad said DBKL was merely following up on what had been approved.

"We checked and found that GMSB had the title to the land for development. To us, the use of the land was as stated on the title," he added.

He was responding to news reports on Monday about Gasing Hill residents protesting against the 68-bungalow Sanctuary Ridge project.

Ahmad Fuad said if DBKL stopped the development, it would have to fork out RM135 million to acquire the land and compensate the developers.

He said the complainants had already taken the matter to the High Court and lost, and that the court's verdict should be respected.

He questioned Sunday's demonstration by the Joint Action Committee for Save Bukit Gasing.

"Why jump the gun. They brought the case to court, they are the ones who are now appealing," he said, dismissing a claim by residents that DBKL was not responding to their complaints.

He said this was due to the fact DBKL was awaiting the decision from the Court of Appeal, which is hearing the case today.

He added that he had already briefed representatives of the JAC and Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar about this.

Ahmad Fuad pointed out that the matter had been discussed with Bukit Gasing residents concerned at a Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Ministry meeting attended by at least 13 departments.