

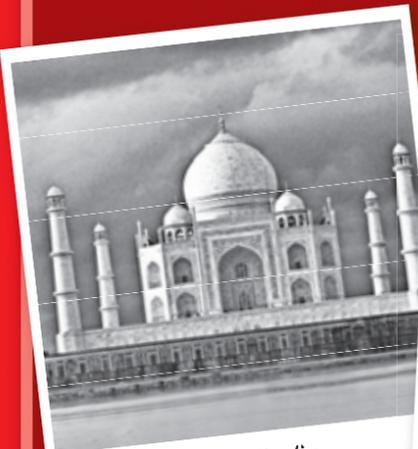


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Alarm bells over Gasing hill project

> New development will raise density of the area from 20 to 332 people per acre

BY **TERENCE FERNANDEZ AND LLEW-ANN PHANG**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Alarm bells are ringing as the impending development of the last strip of the Kuala Lumpur side of Bukit Gasing seems to have taken its first step.

A notice calling for objections to a major project on the hill was put up recently. Those opposed to the construction of luxury condominiums and villas have until Aug 12 to voice their objections.

However, what is interesting is that Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail himself was shocked the notice board was put up without his knowledge.

Moreover, he was dismayed that the YTL Land & Development Bhd mega project plans to increase the density of the area from 20 people per acre to 332 people per acre. "I feel it is too high. I will need to check with my people on the developments of this project," Ahmad Fuad said when contacted.

He later sent senior officers to the site and is expected to call for a briefing soon.

YTL plans to build two blocks of 26-storey condo-



JAMES HYAMS/
THESUN

The notice with the Aug 12 deadline for Gasing folk to voice objections to the project.

miniums comprising 408 units and 18 units of 2½-storey villas on the 289-acre site.

Groups from both Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya protested against the project as soon as it was announced in 2008.

Chairman of the Joint Action Committee for Bukit Gasing and Petaling Jaya Residents Associations and Petaling Jaya City councillor Derek Fernandez said the council and the state government are ready to defend the green lung as any development on the Kuala Lumpur side will also affect Petaling Jaya.

"The (Petaling Jaya) mayor and the state will object to this project. It is irresponsible of

the developer who is also responsible for the already congested Pantai Hillpark project.

"This is supposed to be the green lung for YTL's previous development!"

Fernandez said the National Urbanisation Policy stated that all developers must provide 2ha of open space for every 1,000 people.

He said Kuala Lumpur was already a non-sustainable city and allowing this project will further deprive people of open space.

"People in Kuala Lumpur are not being given a minimum standard of public open space so the developer is duty-bound to provide the land back in accordance to legislation," he added.

Sand mining operators back Selangor govt, KSSB

BY **MARIA J. DASS**
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SHAH ALAM: The sand mining operators and contractors action committee voiced its support for the state's efforts to consolidate and manage sand mining operations in Selangor under Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd (KSSB), and scoffed at the Umno-led state opposition's suggestion that KSSB's operations be terminated.

In a small gathering made up of about 100 sand mining operators and a handful of party supporters and state officials at the entrance of the

state secretariat building yesterday, committee chairman Raja Kamaruddin Ab Wahid said the ones protesting against the state and KSSB are Umno sand mining operators who have lost a source of income after the operations for sand mining in the state were consolidated under KSSB.

He said the recent allegations hurled at the state administration by Umno was designed to undermine the Pakatan Rakyat-led state's economic development.

A seven-point memo submitted by Umno to the state last week demanded for

the monopoly of sand mining operations by KSSB to end, the disbandment of KSSB for not meeting its RM150 million revenue target last year, the closure of sites which are causing environmental damage, and for the board of directors of the company to step down, among others.

Raja Kamaruddin warned Selangor Umno "not to stir the hornet's nest", saying former menteri besar and Sungai Panjang assemblyman Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo was trying to act like a hero now despite the mismanagement of the sand mining industry during his tenure.

BRIEFS

THE ROCKET TEAM QUIZZED

KUALA LUMPUR: The Home Ministry yesterday quizzed the editorial team of the *The Rocket*, DAP's newsletter, over a show-cause letter issued on July 13 to the paper regarding the renewal of its publishing permit. Among the individuals quizzed were DAP secretary Teresa Kok and the paper's editor, Tony Pua, the ministry's deputy secretary-general Datuk Abdul Rahim Mohd Radzi said in a statement last night. - Bernama

DEATH FOR MURDER OF MAID

SHAH ALAM: A night market trader, A. Murugan, 36, was sentenced to death by the High Court for the murder of an Indonesian maid last October. Justice Mohd Yazid Mustafa handed down the sentence after finding that Murugan had failed to raise reasonable doubt against the charge. Murugan was charged with murdering Muntik Bani, 40, at a house on Jalan Datuk Yusof Shahbudin 6, in Taman Sentosa, Klang, between Oct 18 and 20. - Bernama

US GROUP: STATE DEPT FUNDED FFF

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government Accountability Project (GAP), a Washington DC non-governmental whistle-blower organisation, has revealed that the Foundation for the Future (FFF), an organisation once headed by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, was funded by the US government. In its 42-page report released on July 8, GAP had based its findings on hundreds of documents delivered to it under the US Freedom of Information Act. - Bernama