



Hashtag

'IT HAPPENED IN A FLASH'

FALLEN TREE INJURES NEWLY-WEDS

They were returning from 'nikah' ceremony in Cheras

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A NEWLY-MARRIED couple were injured when their motorcycle crashed into a tree that fell across Jalan Ampang in front of KLCC yesterday.

Mira Ezva Abd Rasid, 25, said she and her husband Norazrul Ahmad, 37, were returning from a mosque in Cheras after their ni-

kah ceremony when the tree crashed down in front of them in the 7.45am incident.

"It happened in a flash. The tree fell in front of us and my husband did not have enough time to avoid it or hit the brakes, so we crashed into it.

"I am thankful that we were not killed, but my husband is unconscious and I am worried," she said at Kuala Lumpur Hospital.

She said although she worked as a security officer at a shopping centre in Ampang, that was the first time she had used that particular section of Jalan Ampang.

"This is a test for me. We have only just gotten married. I hope my husband recovers."

She said she would take action

against those responsible for the accident once her husband's condition stabilised.

"I will not hesitate to take action. This involves people's lives. My husband and I were lucky the tree did not fall on us."

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur City Hall corporate planning department director Fadzilah Abdul Rashid said the tree, a raintree which was more than 130 years old, was believed to have fallen because its roots were rotten.

"Physically, the tree itself was in good condition, but checks after it had fallen revealed that the roots had begun to rot.

"This was something that could not be seen physically it was happening underground. This made

the tree unstable and led to it being uprooted."

Fadzilah said the trees in the area undergo maintenance work according to schedule, at least twice a year.

"The company contracted for the work has to appoint an arborist to check the trees physically and provide reports to City Hall. It also has to identify areas where trees have a high risk (of posing a danger to people), besides propose actions which need to be taken.

"We are in the process of drawing up a management plan for high-risk trees, especially on trees located near roads." **Additional reporting by Faris Fuad and Mohd Farkhan Abdul Ghapar**



One of the motorcyclists who crashed into a fallen tree in Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. PIC BY COURTESY OF READER

'It's not a freak accident since it has happened before'

KUALA LUMPUR: The incident where a couple were injured when their motorcycle crashed into a fallen tree in Jalan Ampang here is a reminder to local authorities on the need for a strict maintenance culture and to ensure planted trees are suitable for Malaysian weather.

Former City Hall Advisory Board member Tan Sri Lee Lam Thy said the incident should not be seen as a freak accident since similar cases had been reported before.

He cited a May 4 incident last year where a Form Five student was killed when the motorcycle he was riding on was struck by a falling tree branch in Jalan Ayer Molek, Melaka, and another incident on Oct 12, 2014, where two policemen died when an uprooted tree fell on the Kampung At-tap beat base in Kuala Lumpur during a thunderstorm.

"This latest incident has again proven that public safety is taken for granted despite previous fatal incidents.

"Concerns and suggestions made by various parties on the need to monitor the safety of old trees in the city have not been given adequate attention.

"I have, in the past, suggested that local authorities, especially City Hall, focus on efforts to ensure that trees under their jurisdiction would not pose a danger to the public, especially during thunderstorms.

"This is important since under the Greener KL Initiative, (City Hall) has targeted to plant 30,000 trees each year, apart from maintaining existing ones."

Road Users Association of Malaysia president Hamdan Taha said local authorities must ensure that trees planted on roadsides were durable and able to withstand Malaysian weather.

He said there were trees that were beautiful and suitable for landscaping purposes, but might not be suitable for roadsides as they did not have roots that go deep into the ground.

"These trees are located in areas which are frequented by the public, such as parks and roadsides, so regular trimming and pruning need to be carried out.

"Although Malaysia is not hit by typhoons or tornadoes, we have heavy rain and strong wind that can uproot trees, so maintenance of trees is vital."

'I thought vehicle knocked down tree'

KUALA LUMPUR: A motorist, who arrived shortly after a newly-married couple crashed into a tree that fell in Jalan Ampang, thought a heavy vehicle had smashed into the tree.

The motorist, who wanted to be known only as Afendi, said he realised later that the tree had not been uprooted by a heavy vehicle, but had fallen by itself.

"It was then that I saw a man lying on the road, in a semi-conscious state, and a woman lying nearby with blood coming out of her mouth.

"I saw their motorcycle and realised that they had crashed into the fallen tree."

Couple Norazrul Ahmad, 37, and Mira Ezva Abd Rasid, 25, were injured when the tree crashed down in front of them,



The fallen tree across Jalan Ampang in front of KLCC yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF READER

leaving them not enough time to avoid it.

They were taken to Kuala Lumpur Hospital, where Norazrul remains unconscious.

Afendi said when he arrived at

the location, a crowd had begun to gather, with police, an ambulance, as well as members of the City Hall and Civil Defence Force at the scene helping the couple.

Jalan Ampang was closed to al-

low the couple to be taken to the hospital and for clean-up work.

"The tree had also fallen onto the front of a car, but the driver appeared to be uninjured," Afendi said.