

Abandoned site with snakes a risk for residents

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JOHOR BARU: An abandoned construction site here has become an eyesore other than sparking safety concerns for dozens of residents living at Jalan Mustaffa in Gertak Merah.

A resident, retiree Chang See Ten, 71, said the area, which was supposed to be the site for some 27 semi-detached houses, has been abandoned for at least seven years.

"This area has since become the breeding ground for mosquitoes and even snakes.

"I had to call bomba three times to help get rid of snakes coming out from the area," he said yesterday.

He said the matter was made worse when the area was turned into an illegal dumping site two weeks ago.

"I do not know where the rubbish



Safety risk: Chang and Ahadde pointing to the abandoned construction site in Gertak Merah.

came from, but I have managed to stop them from continuing the irresponsible act when I spotted them last week.

"Three men, including two foreigners, who were trying to dump rubbish here claimed that they

have permission from the developer, but when confronted, they failed to show any evidence," Chang said, adding they came in two lorries.

He added that though the lorries have since stopped dumping rubbish at the site, it has now become

an eyesore.

Chang said he had contacted local authorities to complain about the matter, but is yet to receive any response.

Another resident, retiree Ahadde Mohd Ali, 73, whose house is located right in front of the site, said he was worried about the safety of his grandchildren.

"My grandkids would normally come visit during the weekend, but we will not allow them to play anywhere outside the house as we fear there may be snakes.

"I have tried to get answers from the developer several times, but they told me that the land had been sold, and I do not know where else I can address my concerns on the matter," he said.

Ahadde said he hoped those responsible for the land would at least clear overgrowth as well as fix the fallen metal hoardings to cordon off the area.