

Developer of road expansion project to plant two trees for each one felled

THE developer behind the road expansion project along Jalan Bukit Anak Tukun in Rawang will replant twice as many trees to replace almost 200 that were felled to fulfil the agreement it signed with Selayang Municipal Council (MPS).

Out of the total 262 raintrees in three zones, 193 were felled to make way for the project there while 69 trees would remain.

MPS Landscape Department director Mokhtar Affandi Abd Ghani said the tree replanting exercise was part of the requirements for the developer in the road-widening project.

MPS was responding to the furore among affected residents and environmental non-governmental organisations over the tree-felling exercise for the road-widening project along the 1.5km stretch.

StarMetro had reported on Jan 29 that Templer Park Resort Coalition of Residents Associations chairman Datuk Mukhtar Ismail said about 50 trees were felled in December last year.

They later found out that the road widening would now include a bicycle lane, hence extra trees were cut down.

Mukhtar said during a meeting

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ABOUT 100 majestic 50-year-old raintrees along Jalan Bukit Anak Tukun in Rawang, Selangor have been cut down for a road expansion project.

Nearby residents have slammed the move, saying that it was unnecessary even to widen the road from five lanes to four to facilitate a development project there.

Templer Park Resort Coalition of Residents Associations chairman Datuk Mukhtar Ismail said about 50 trees along a 1.5km stretch were cut down in December last year.

“We later found out that the road widening would now include a bicycle lane, hence the extra trees that needed to be cut,” he said, adding that during a meeting in 2018, Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) agreed that only 40 trees would be felled.

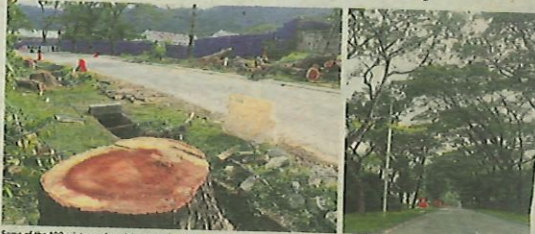
Mukhtar said now that 100 trees have been cut down, MPS refused to respond to their repeated attempts to seeking clarification over the matter.

He also said that some of the residents associations were informed of the decision and that their official protest letters were ignored.

“Our consistent representations about 10 residents associations and we have legitimate concerns over the project.”

“How can MPS continue to ignore our requests and not acknowledge our concerns?” he asked.

Rawang residents furious over felling of raintrees for road expansion project



Some of the 100 raintrees along Jalan Bukit Anak Tukun that were felled for the road widening project. — Photos: FAHMAN GHANI/The Star

“If needed, there should have been direct entry and exit from the new development to the main road so there is sufficient space.”

“Another alternative is to compromise and use a part of the development’s internal road for the bicycle lane,” he said.

Wong said any further coming should be halted until MPS should review the planning requirements.

He added that the tree-felled road used to be a popular spot for photo enthusiasts and wedding photographers because of its

unique tree canopy.

“Every Environment Special (Tree) Director Lenda Fuzikkar said a meeting should have been called to update the residents.”

“In 2018 a dialogue was called and decisions were made (timing

the tree canopy but this has been followed through.”

“We are losing a lot of gre and yet the authorities are ‘tuning,’” she said.

An MPS representative to council was checking on the with relevant departments.

StarMetro's report on Jan 29.

in 2018, MPS had announced that only 40 trees would be felled.

On matters relating to the upcoming Thaipusam festival in Batu Caves, MPS president Shamsul Shahril Badliza Mohd Noor said they had allocated RM130,000 to appoint a contractor to carry out solid waste cleaning services in the area.

“They will do the cleaning for 10

days. We urge everyone at the festival to dispose of waste properly in the designated bins that are provided,” he said after chairing the council’s full board meeting.

He said with the coronavirus outbreak, devotees and visitors during Thaipusam should take precautions by wearing face masks and practising proper hygiene.

— By AIDA AHMAD