

## Reviving a towering icon

The transformation of Komtar Walk costing RM2.8mil under the George Town City Centre initiative will help businesses in the area pick up. It is also aimed at making Penang's tallest landmark shine again now that the country's borders are open. >3



### Tow-tally ignored

Motorists continue to park illegally on streets in Mont Kiara despite tow-away signage erected by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, drawing the ire of residents in the surrounding area. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star > Story on page 2

## Ampang Jaya folk to wait a month longer to view draft local plan

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN  
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THE public display for the draft Ampang Jaya Municipal Council Local Plan 2035 (RT MPAJ) slated to happen this month, has been moved to next month.

MPAJ Urban Planning Department director Zuraina Said said changes were still being made to the draft plan before it could be presented to stakeholders.

"The plan is in the final stages and has been reviewed several times by MPAJ

department heads and other technical agencies, and is now with the appointed consultant.

"We carried out a survey during the process of preparing the draft plan and have incorporated suggestions and feedback from stakeholders," she said, adding that most respondents were concerned about environmental and development issues.

Traditionally, stakeholders are invited to give their input and objections only after the draft local plan is prepared and put up for public viewing.

However, several groups had sent their feedback during the draft's preparation stage with hopes of a more holistic engagement process to determine the type of future development in Ampang Jaya.

Zuraina said she hoped to have the plans ready for display after Hari Raya Aidilfitri. She said the stakeholders would have one month to send in their objections once the draft plans were made public.

"We will also make the plan available for viewing online to encourage more feedback." The tabling of the draft plan was delayed

due to Covid-19 pandemic-related restrictions. The initial target was to have it ready by July last year.

The RT MPAJ 2035 will replace the 2020 version, which was gazetted in 2011 and went through two amendments, in 2013 and 2016.

Last year, *StarMetro* reported that MPAJ allocated some RM700,000 to hire consultants and finance production of the draft plan, which touched on land use, infrastructure, transportation, environmental conservation and tourism.





### ECO PARK CLOSED

All Selangor eco forest parks managed by the state Forestry Department will be closed on May 3 and 4 in conjunction with Hari Raya celebrations. For details, call 03-5544 7507

### COMPOUND DISCOUNTS

Klang Municipal Council is offering a RM15 discount on parking compounds until April 30. Discount does not apply for the offences of misusing reserved and disabled parking spots and obstructing parking bays. Payments can be made via JomPAY, Smart Parking MPKlang, iKiosk machines at MPK and iPAY.mpklang.gov.my. Alternatively, payment can be made at MPK headquarters and branches on weekdays from 8.30am to 4pm. Check outstanding compounds on the iPAY website or the parking app. >Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is offering traffic offenders special compound rates until June 30. It covers unpaid traffic compound notices and scheduled rates for offences. It does not apply to black-listed offenders and general offences not in the scheduled rates. Checking and paying compounds can be done at DBKL and Pos Malaysia counters nationwide, and via MOBIS-DBKL app or JomPAY.

### ANIMAL ADOPTION

PapanSouls, in collaboration with Proteem Sri Sathya Sai Global Organisation Malaysia and Noah's Ark Ipoh, will hold a pet adoption drive at AEON Ipoh Fallin on April 16 and 17 from 9am to 6pm. For details, call 014-660 9983.

### OPERATION HOURS

The operation hours for the National Library in Kuala Lumpur is now from 9am to 4pm throughout the fasting month. It is closed on Mondays and public holidays. For details, visit 'Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia' Facebook page.

### LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

The Asean-Japan Centre (AJC) is calling for participants to join in a logo design and catchphrase contest to commemorate 50 years of ASEAN-Japan relations. The contest is open to all nationals of Asean member countries and Japan. Application deadline is June 15. For details, visit <https://www.asean.or.jp/en/ajc/50th-logo-catchphrase/>

### PANEL TALK

Intellectual property organisation KASS is hosting a virtual panel discussion in conjunction with World Intellectual Property Day 'The Rise of Young Innovators', on April 20, from 3pm to 4.30pm. Panellists will give insights into the topic of youth and innovation. Registration is free and can be made at <https://bit.ly/RiseYoungInnovators>. For details, visit [www.kass.com.my](http://www.kass.com.my)

### CARDIOLOGY WEBINAR

Sunway Healthcare Group is organising a free RCP-Sunway-Cambridge webinar themed 'Cardiology', on April 23, from 4pm to 6.30pm via Zoom. To register, visit [https://bit.ly/ZoomRegistration\\_RCP-Sunway-CambridgeWebinar\\_Cardiology](https://bit.ly/ZoomRegistration_RCP-Sunway-CambridgeWebinar_Cardiology). For details, email [medicaleducation@sunway.com.my](mailto:medicaleducation@sunway.com.my)

### BLOOD SCREENING

National Diabetes Institute (Nadi) is having free blood screening at Diabetes Resource Centre (D'Centers), Bandar Botanic Klang on weekdays from 9am to 5pm, until June 30. For details, call 03-3319 4100/4200 or email enquiry, [dcentersdiabetes@gmail.com](mailto:dcentersdiabetes@gmail.com)

By JAROD LIM  
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RESIDENTS in Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur, are irked by illegally parked vehicles along Jalan Kiara 1. They said vehicles parked along the yellow line are blocking off one of two lanes on the sole access road to several condominiums in the area.

Residents want Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to step up enforcement against errant motorists, who are also illegally parking their vehicles along Jalan Kiara 4.

Several complaints were made to DBKL, and summonses had been issued against the motorists.

However, the problem persists. Diane Douglas, 48, a resident at 10 Mont Kiara, said the vehicles were obstructing traffic.

"We see the same vehicles park here almost every day. The car owners who work nearby are taking advantage of the free parking and shaded stretch.

"There is ample parking space at the commercial lots," she said.

Douglas said food trucks were also parked along Jalan Kiara 1, which made matters worse.

"DBKL should tow the cars away as summonses did not seem to be helping the situation," she added.

Another resident, identified only as Chong, 41, said the illegally parked cars were blocking the turn-off to the Jalan Kiara main road.

"Sometimes, the illegally parked vehicles cause a traffic gridlock all the way to the roundabout in front of 10 Mont Kiara.

"This makes it difficult for other vehicles to make a U-turn along the road."

Expatriate Niels Jensen, 53, from Denmark, who lives at 11 Mont Kiara, said the vehicles were causing congestion in the area.

"It used to take two minutes to get to the commercial area, but now it can take up to 15 minutes," he said.

10 Mont Kiara Joint Management Committee (JMC) resident manager Sobel Phang said there were complaints from residents every week.

"The management and other condominiums' management offices have lodged numerous com-

# Troubled by illegally parked vehicles

## Condo residents in Mont Kiara want DBKL to take stern action against errant motorists



Cars parked on the roadside blocking pedestrians' view of oncoming cars along Jalan Kiara 1.

plaints with DBKL but there is no change.

"This has been going on even before the Covid-19 pandemic, and the situation is getting worse.

"Jalan Kiara 1 is a private road. The handover process of the road from the developer to DBKL has not been finalised," he said.

Tan Seng Watt, 72, another resident, raised safety concerns as the illegally parked vehicles were blocking pedestrians' view of oncoming cars.

"This is very dangerous," he warned.

Mont Kiara Pelangi Management Corporation residential executive Noor Faedah Che Abd Rahman said some of the vehicles had drivers waiting for their employers.

"We complained to DBKL in January but the situation is still the same," she said.

10 Mont Kiara JMC chairman Hiten Asher said some motorists even parked on the zebra crossing, hindering pedestrians as well as those in wheelchairs or with baby strollers.

"We are exploring the idea of placing bollards to stop people from parking by the roadside," he said.

When contacted, developer UEM Sunrise confirmed that the handover of Jalan Kiara 1's infrastructure and maintenance was in progress.

"However, Jalan Kiara 1 was gazetted by DBKL as a public road on Dec 29, 2011," said a spokesper-

son from the company.

"As such, we believe it is within DBKL's authority to issue summonses or conduct any other enforcement action to ensure traffic management.

"The developer has been in constant communication with DBKL about the handover process," she added.

In a statement, DBKL said Jalan Kiara 1 and Jalan Kiara 4 were hot-spots for traffic offences and it had constantly issued summonses to errant motorists.

"In 2021 alone, DBKL issued 2,386 compounds.

"DBKL will continue to take action and tow away illegally parked cars after Hari Raya Aidilfitri."

By C.Y. LEE  
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A DAMAGED barrier along Jalan Jinma 7 in Seri Kembangan, Selangor is hanging perilously over the road, putting road users at risk.

The height barrier, installed to restrict heavy vehicles from using the road, appears to have uprooted on one side after an impact.

Only two metal nuts are holding the top bar in place now.

Puchong MCA division chairman Datuk Liew Yuen Keong said his office had forwarded complaints of the damaged barrier last month, but no action had been taken by local authorities so far.

"The situation is extremely dangerous and the bar, which weighs about 300kg, can fall any time.

"This is just one of the damaged height barriers.

"Another one 20m away was struck by a lorry last June and had been removed.

"There are barriers in other parts of Puchong that have also been damaged in the past," he said, urging the authorities to take action quickly.

Responding to reports in which Seri Kembangan assemblyman Ean Yong suggested that MCA take over the responsibility of managing the barriers, Liew said they were ready to do so.

"MCA is willing to monitor and manage some 10 barriers in the

## Damaged height barrier cause for concern in Seri Kembangan



(From left) Puchong MCA new media bureau chief Soon Mon Huay, Liew, complaints bureau chief Wong Jung Lik and government monitoring bureau chief Dr Wong Kok Fye inspecting the damaged height barrier along Jalan Jinma 7 in Seri Kembangan.

area if Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) officially appoints us and provides the resources to do it.

"There should be no delay in action for the safety of road users," he said.

Liew also said that taxpayers' money could be put to better use by improving these barriers.

"We agree the height barriers serve a purpose but many of them

are badly done.

"For example, there are no lights at many of the locations, no reflective tape and some don't even have the height limit posted on the bars.

"Many accidents have already happened.

"Until the barriers are improved, the repairs will just be a waste of money," Liew added.

An MBSJ spokesperson, in

responding to the matter, said the city council received the complaint regarding the damaged height barrier on April 2.

She also said that the barrier damaged last year had been removed on March 22.

Meanwhile, repairs to the recently damaged height barrier had been scheduled to start last night.