

FACT SHEET

1. BACKGROUND

In June 2016, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) issued notice of a proposed development (Proposed Development) on a portion of land that is situated within the larger area known as Taman Rimba Kiara. Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan (YWP) claims to have been issued title to this portion (PT 9244) in 2014 and claims that it is now private property.

1.1 Proposed Development

The Proposed Development involves among other things:

- (a) building of 8 blocks of 42-54 storey high-end serviced apartments (High-End Apartments);
- (b) building one 29-storey block comprising 350 units of affordable housing, for current residents of the longhouses (Longhouse Residents) adjacent to the Sri Maha Mariamman Bukit Kiara Hindu temple;
- (c) an increase in population density from 74 persons per acre to 979 persons per acre.

The Proposed Development would add 2000+ units of housing, and at least 8,000 to 10,000 new residents, to Taman Tun Dr Ismail (TTDI). Recall that TTDI and its infrastructure was originally built to only cater for approximately 5,000-6,000 houses and 20,000-25,000 residents. Today, even without the Proposed Development, TTDI infrastructure is already struggling to cope with an estimated population of 35,000-40,000, already significantly in excess of the original plans.

1.2 Construction & Highway Works

On top of the original development notice, it has now come to light that the supporting plan for the Proposed Development involves very extensive civil & road construction works across TTDI (Construction & Highway Works). The plan appears to envisage, among others:

- (a) New Flyover - construction of a new 2-way flyover from Jalan Damansara, originating close to the Bukit Kiara Muslim cemetery, running under the new MRT line, and landing on Jalan Wan Kadir (behind Hero Supermarket);
- (b) Road Expansion - expansion of Jalan Wan Kadir 5 to 6 lanes + 2 laybys;
- (c) Junction Reconfiguration - creation of a new 6-lane, 3-arm traffic light junction at the TNB substation in front of Residences and The Greens, just behind Kiara Green;
- (d) Junction Reconfiguration - conversion of the junction of Jalan Wan Kadir and Jalan Wan Kadir 5 to left-turn only;

- (e) Highway - extensive expansion work on Jalan Datuk Sulaiman from Plaza VADS to Penchala Link to create a 6-8 lane highway, entailing encroachment onto existing parking bays, removal of existing tree canopy and construction over / narrowing of existing monsoon drain.

These Construction & Highway Works were NOT included in the original development notice for the Proposed Development. They only came to light later, when representatives of the TTDI community met DBKL to continue registering objections to the Proposed Development.

2. ISSUES

2.1 Taman Rimba Kiara is a Public Open Space designated under the KL City Draft Plan 2020

Under numerous public documents and also the Kuala Lumpur City Draft Plan 2020 (Draft Plan 2020), Taman Rimba Kiara has always been acknowledged as PUBLIC OPEN SPACE. Map 161 of the Draft Plan explicitly designates Taman Rimba Kiara as a Public Open Space (see enclosed map). It is unclear how a designated Public Open Space could have been re-designated and carved out without an open public process being conducted. If PT 9244 was indeed carved out of this Public Open Space, how much did Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan pay to obtain the title to PT 9244? The TTDI community and the public at large deserves to know. Even if Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan claims to have valid ownership of PT 9244, it should not be allowed to utilise PT 9244 in contravention of the land usage prescribed by the Draft Plan 2020.

2.2 Taman Rimba Kiara is a Priceless Green Lung

Taman Rimba Kiara is one of the few remaining planned public parks of its size in KL, and serves as a priceless green lung & open space for thousands of residents from the surrounding areas. See examples in www.tamanrimbakiara.net. If the Proposed Development is allowed to proceed, it will cut the existing park footprint in half. The park will lose its critical mass as a green lung and natural sanctuary. It will be irreversibly damaged and eventually die an (un)natural death.

2.3 TTDI cannot sustain the weight of the Proposed Development

TTDI is already overdeveloped. Its infrastructure is already struggling to handle the current population, traffic, security and associated community requirements. The Proposed Development attempts to justify itself with the extensive Construction & Highway Works, purportedly to support the future usage coming from the Proposed Development. This ignores the reality that the Proposed Development is Not Sustainable. TTDI will collapse under the 40% increased weight on its original

infrastructure. In addition, the Construction & Highway Works will divide TTDI permanently into 2, result in a permanent loss of TTDI's famous green canopy, and end the community living that makes TTDI unique today. See effect of Proposed Development in Illustration below.

2.4 Permanent Housing for the Longhouse Residents

The Longhouse Residents are families of the plantation workers who used to work on the estates that covered Bukit Kiara many years ago. When Bukit Kiara was acquired by the Government, these plantation workers were resettled to the existing longhouses. They were promised future permanent housing. These longstanding promises have not been fulfilled for decades. The TTDI Residents' Association, and the TTDI community at large, have consistently reiterated their support for a permanent, sustainable housing solution for the Longhouse Residents on the existing footprint of the longhouses. Such a solution can be delivered in a very modest and measured way, without permanently degrading Taman Rimba Kiara. The Proposed Development, instead, claims to build **ONE BLOCK of 350 units** for the Longhouse Residents, and in return create a **Monstrous EIGHT BLOCKS OF 42-54 STOREYS with 1,800+ units**. It is Not a sustainable solution.

2.5 Conflict of Interest

Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan claims to hold title to PT 9244, and has entered a joint venture to pursue the Proposed Development. The Federal Territory Minister, who oversees DBKL, is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan. The Mayor (Datuk Bandar) of KL, who is responsible for the day-to-day running of DBKL, is also a Director on the Board of Trustees of Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan. The Proposed Development, which would benefit Yayasan Wilayah Persekutuan, appears to be in contravention of the Draft Plan 2020. DBKL and the FT Minister have made public statements indicating their intention Not to be bound by the Draft Plan 2020. There are potential issues with conflict of interest. There is no public evidence to show that DBKL has addressed such issues of conflict.

3. DO YOUR PART - WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TOGETHER

3.1 Earth Day celebration - Parks for People @ Taman Rimba Kiara, Sunday 21 May, 9am-2pm

Let's come together as friends, residents, citizens, families, nature lovers & community to show our appreciation for Taman Rimba Kiara and our urban green spaces. There will be food trucks, green booths, trampolines and activities for kids & adults! More information overleaf. To volunteer, contact Koo Zhao Phin - zhao.koo@gmail.com.

3.2 Sign the physical petition

- (a) Sign it at Today's Town Hall - look for your friendly volunteers / colored clipboards.

3.3 Sign the online petitions

- (a) Demanding DBKL to NOT approve any development at Taman Rimba Kiara (www.ipetitions.com/petition/selamatkan-taman-rimba-kiara)
- (b) Calling for final gazette of the KL City Draft Plan 2020 (www.ipetitions.com/petition/gazette-draft-kuala-lumpur-city-plan-2020)

3.4 Contribute to the legal effort

The TTDI community will NOT take this lying down. A group of plaintiffs has been assembled. Lawyers have been appointed. Legal action is in the pipeline to protect Taman Rimba Kiara and TTDI. A legal coordinating team of volunteer residents is assisting.

- (a) Donate to the legal effort
- (b) Join the plaintiff group

Contact the following for details / information:

Leon Koay - Lkoay.ttdi@gmail.com

Clinton Ang, Vice Chairman, TTDI RA - clintonang@gmail.com

3.5 Volunteer, share information, raise awareness, participate!

We are not alone in the challenges we face re the Proposed Development. Many communities in Kuala Lumpur face similar issues of overdevelopment and contraventions of land usage.

- (a) Volunteer your time & skillsets (e.g. IT & media, accountant, architect, planner, art & graphics, management & admin, event organisation, legal, etc)
Contact - Clinton Ang, Vice-Chairman, TTDI Residents Association - clintonang@gmail.com (+60 122902840)
- (b) Share all the information you gain here with your TTDI neighbors and other KL residents, and work together as part of the larger Coalition to Save KL City.

Website: www.tamanrimbakiara.net

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Selamatkan-Taman-Rimba-Kiara-1442655389140403/>

FOR MORE INFO:

www.tamanrimbakiara.net

SIGN THE PETITION ONLINE:

www.ipetitions.com/petition/selamatkan-taman-rimba-kiara