



### Mystery building riles up MPs

Green space in Medan Imbi levelled to make way for unknown development

By SHALIM REHMAN [shalimrehman@thestar.com.my](mailto:shalimrehman@thestar.com.my)  
A MYSTERY development in Medan Imbi, Kuala Lumpur, has not gone down well with stakeholders and several members of Parliament (MPs).  
Tunku Abdul Razak Nuri said the project site used to be a green space and playground belonging to Bukit Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) but the facility was removed in October last year when work started on the project now under construction.  
In March 2016, DBKL had announced that the park would be part of a community-based regeneration and upgrading initiative.  
The initiative called Squawker Park Programme was launched at the junction of Medan Imbi and Jalan Kluang by then Mayor Khalid Abdul Samad, a community-based urban regeneration organisation, in partnership with DBKL.  
Proposed plans included an elevated walkway, seating area and children's playground.  
However, Nuri said the people were shocked when recently they

these plans did not materialise and instead, a concrete structure was being built.  
He said DBKL had contravened its own standard operating procedures by not ensuring that an objection notice or project notice board had placed at the site before any construction.  
"We do not know what the building is going to be used for.  
"Our objection and objection letters to DBKL have gone unanswered for more than six months.  
"How can a green lung be sold off without an open tender or a development plan without a public objection hearing?" he questioned.  
He added that he would be bringing the matter up in the next Parliament session.  
"So far, MP Lim Lip Eng said DBKL should have issued a stop-work order as it received the objection letters.  
"Khalid Saipuddin, president of the Urban Regeneration Society, said that the area should not be a green lung as the city lacked the facilities.  
"If the project is beneficial for



Several MPs are questioning the construction of this multi-storey building on what used to be a pocket park in Medan Imbi. The park was initially part of a Squawker Park project to upgrade and revitalize the area.  
"I hope there will be transparency around the building," he said when contacted.  
Meanwhile, a Thank City spokesman said the organisation had submitted a proposal to DBKL for two pocket parks with master concept designs drafted.  
"DBKL subsequently approved the plan in principle.  
"That led to our first engagement session with the local community to get their feedback on the proposal, which is a key component of

### MBPJ plants 40 rare fruit trees for National Landscape Day

By VINCENT TAN [vincenttan@thestar.com.my](mailto:vincenttan@thestar.com.my)  
especially less well-known fruit trees, the council is planting over 40 rare fruit species of fruit trees.  
"I hope that people will appreciate this effort, and help us by not plucking the trees, so everyone can enjoy the produce together," said Anandhi.  
TVA chairman G. Kesandran said

parked near the park, said the area should not be a green lung as the city lacked the facilities.  
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especially less well-known fruit trees, the council is planting over 40 rare fruit species of fruit trees.  
"I hope that people will appreciate this effort, and help us by not plucking the trees, so everyone can enjoy the produce together," said Anandhi.  
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### Flashback to StarMetro story on March 6, 2017.

The six-storey office building located on government land in Medan Imbi. The owner had received the necessary approvals to proceed with the construction.

# 'Do not let company get away with it'

## KL MPs and public want those responsible to pay price for shady deal

By BAVANI M and VIJENTHI NAIR [metro@thestar.com.my](mailto:metro@thestar.com.my)

MALAYSIANS are shocked by the revelation of alleged abuse of power by the previous administration which enabled a company to develop two plots of government land in Medan Imbi, Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur.

On social media, many are calling for the authorities to not allow the company to buy the land as part of a settlement.

The land was previously a green area with a playground and fruit stalls.

StarMetro reported about the shady development on March 6, 2017, while it was still under construction.

It is learnt that the company is related to a prominent underworld figure in Kuala Lumpur.

Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad on Wednesday disclosed that the combined area of 0.145ha on Lot 568 and Lot 716, which has been turned into a six-storey office building and a fruit stall respectively, was granted the necessary approvals by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), despite the land belonging to the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTG).

Khalid explained that there were minutes that showed the former Federal Territories Minister had instructed DBKL staff to "handle the matter".

He said the company had ignored DBKL's eviction notice to vacate the premises by Jan 10 but was given until the end of the month to suggest a solution, one of which is to buy the land at the market rate and pay the fines, failing which the government would proceed to claim the land back.

Many on Facebook expressed their anger at the turn of events.



The fruit stall on Lot 716, built on government land, is being rented out.

Sridevan Srinivass commented that the authorities cannot right the wrong by asking the owner to pay up.

"Regular people get their illegal structures demolished. Just because underworld figures are involved, they are getting it easy and cheap," he said.

Terence Heng said it was unfair to allow the company to close the case just by buying the land.

"The company must also be charged. There must be an element of corruption in the transaction," he said.

Siew Hoong Wong said the authorities were setting a dangerous precedent.

"Next, someone will build a mega-mall on government land

and later force the government to sell the land. The price can always be talked (over) in private," he said.

Some people on social media also suggested solutions to the problem.

Chan Cwy said the owner should be summoned while Ganesan Suppiah said the structures should be demolished and its owner charged.

Sidhu Sidhu said the property should be seized and auctioned.

Misni Misran pointed out that the anti-corruption body should look into the mess as "somebody must have approved this building".

There were also those who reminisced about the time when the land was still a green area filled

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Khalid Abdul Samad

with trees and a playground.

Daniel Tan said he used to play at the playground in his younger days.

"Each time I pass by, it brings me back to my childhood memories."

Evelyn Lim also recalled the playground on the site.

"There were some beautiful trees. Now it is replaced by a concrete jungle," he said.

Khalid said returning the land back to the way it was is definitely an option.

"I would like to clarify that if we sell the land it does not absolve the company of any wrongdoing," he said.

"If we sell the land, and that is a big IF, it will be based on the current market value and the fees that the company will have to pay to the local authorities.

"And having paid what is due, it will not excuse him or absolve him from any form of investigation by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)," added Khalid.

"The land is under PTG, and whether they are willing to sell or not is up to PTG. Since the land is PTG's, they can claim the building too," he said.

On the residents' request for the land to be converted back into a

playground, Khalid said that option was open too.

Meanwhile, Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil said allowing the building owner to buy back the land is akin to saying that the entire deal was above board.

"It sends the wrong message because it gives the impression that anyone who builds a structure on land that is not theirs can subsequently claim to buy the land at a rate which is also not fair," he said.

Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng urged the owner to do what is right.

"Please do the right thing and return the land back to the people," Lim said.

"We should never condone illegal activities. If I was the owner, I would return the fruit stalls and relinquish the structures immediately," he added.

"DBKL should demolish the structures and put up a plaque commemorating the entire fiasco as a message to everyone that we will not condone any form of corruption and abuse of power," Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said.

"I have seen this happen in Hong Kong and how the ICAC (Independent Commission Against Corruption) will demolish structures that were built without the proper papers," he said, adding that DBKL should do the same.

Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun said he was glad that action was finally being taken against the owner.

"A few MPs have been highlighting this matter since 2016 but nothing was done, and the structures started operating in the middle of last year.

"I have raised the issue in Parliament several times, but the former Federal Territories Minister avoided answering the questions," he said.