



MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
28 DISEMBER 2018 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

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A show of people's power in Ampang

Residents mark 2018 with a strong voice against insensitive developments

StarMetro

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2018

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AMPANG residents have displayed their unity and strong concerns for community issues over the past year.

Among residents' groups that boldly stood up for their rights were those from Taman Ukay Perdana and Ukay Heights, uneasy over hillslope developments in their neighbourhood, they immediately brought the case to their elected representatives and the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ).

On the other hand, De Puncak Ukay residents in Taman Ukay Perdana were furious when they learned that MPAJ approved a housing project with 100 superlink houses on a steep hillslope. The project would only be 50m away from their homes.

De Puncak Ukay Residents Association (DePURA) mobilised themselves by first sending protest letters to MPAJ and the then menteri besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali's office.

"Considering the track record of landslides in this area, projects such as these should have been discussed with the residents," said DePURA chairman Zaini Kamlee who made this point loud and clear on behalf of residents.

sadly, despite the series of peaceful protests, the project is still in the works.

In Taman Ukay Heights, a contractor for a slope strengthening and stabilisation project was issued a stop-work order following concerns highlighted by nearby residents.

MPAJ issued the stop-work order to the contractor who was carrying out works on a privately-owned land along Jalan Teberau because



Taman Ukay Heights residents claim that at least 60,000 tonnes of soil were dumped on the two plots of land in their neighbourhood. The soil is washed down when it rains, causing flash floods.

of aggressive traffic flow and unsafe work conditions.

Residents were alarmed upon discovering the land clearing and earth filling activities carried out on the site - especially as a notice board at the entrance to the site stated the project was only for monsoon drain repair and slope stabilisation works.

Alarmed that contractors were not adhering to development rules, residents contacted Ampang MP Zuraidah Kamarudin who directed them to liaise with MPAJ councillor D. Nallan over the issue.

Residents were understandably worried when they spotted the significant danger of soil erosion.

A recent mudflow in the area had residents pointing fingers at the project on the hill. The incident caused a retention wall at one of the houses to collapse.

Following continued pressure by residents, a meeting was held with MPAJ and the landowners.

MPAJ instructed the contractors to comply with 10 conditions before the stop-work order could be lifted.

These included submitting erosion and sediment control plans and further geo-technical studies, as well as having personnel in place to supervise the project full-time.

Another major event happened in April when MPAJ unveiled its first mini stadium in Pandan Perdana. With that, MPAJ became the last local council in Selangor to have a stadium of its own.

Construction of the RM23mil MPAJ Stadium started at the end of 2015 and took 18 months to complete.

The stadium has a 400m synthetic race track spanning 6,090sq m and a 8,670sq m synthetic football turf. There are 1,100 seats for spectators.

It is recognised by the International Association of



MPAJ's pride unveiled in April - the RM23mil MPAJ Stadium.



The debris of a collapsed retention wall of a home in Taman Ukay Heights following a mudflow on Nov 11. — Filepic

Athletics Federation and can be used for high jump, long jump, triple jump and hurdle events.

Meanwhile, the artificial turf football field is made to look like natural grass and has received accreditation from world football governing body, FIFA.

In an effort to encourage

Ampang folk to be more active, MPAJ has been organising Car-Free Day since January, on the second Sunday of each month at Padang Perbandaran MPAJ in Jalan Pandan Utama.

The programme was part of the council's initiatives towards becoming a low-carbon municipality.