



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
30 JUN 2018 (SABTU)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

- MPAJ: No development proposal received for Highland Tower land

03



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MPAJ: No development proposal received for Highland Towers land

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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THERE are no plans or applications from any party to develop the Highland Towers land, says Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) president Abdul Hamid Hussain.

"We have yet to receive any development proposal from the site owner."

"I attended a meeting with the Highland Towers redevelopment committee on Wednesday, which was chaired by Housing and Local Government Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohammad Mantek."

"We will first have to prepare information and documents before any decision can be made on what kind of development is suitable to take place there," he said, declining to reveal what else was discussed at the meeting.

On the stability of the area, Abdul Hamid said thorough studies would be carried out once a proposal was put through.

"At present, there has been no incidents or signs of slope failure," he said, after chairing the MPAJ full board meeting yesterday.

The Highland Towers area, once a prime land, was left abandoned after one of its three condominium blocks collapsed on Dec 11, 1993, in a major landslide that claimed 48 lives.

StarMetro had earlier reported that Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin had set up a committee comprising 10 government agencies to study redevelopment plans, including acquiring the land and resolving any pending legal issues.

The ministry said redevelopment plans

included a housing project for the B40 group (the bottom 40% of households with monthly income of RM3,900 and below), recreational park, and tourists and sports centre.

It was also reported that the Mineral and Geoscience Department found the site to be at high risk of landslide and stated that only low-impact and recreation or tourism development could be carried out there.

It was previously reported that the civil suits against those held liable for the Highland Towers tragedy were dropped following a RM52mil out-of-court settlement in 2004.

AmFinance Bhd (formerly Arab-Malaysian Finance Bhd) agreed to pay RM52mil to 139 residents and owners in exchange for the plaintiffs to "release and assign to AmFinance all rights of action in the suits against Highland Properties Sdn Bhd and the developer of Highland Towers".

They also signed to release or assign their rights and title to their individual apartment units in Highland Towers, their rights to the common property, unencumbered and free from claims of end financiers.

The RM52mil was said to be a full and final settlement for all claims, inclusive of costs, arising and or resulting from three suits against AmFinance.

In 2006, the Federal Court ruled that the MPAJ was not liable for the pre- and post-collapse period of Block One.

It stated that local authorities such as MPAJ were given full immunity under Section 95(2) of the Street, Drainage & Building Act 1974 (Act 133) from claims for the pre-collapse period.

The court was unanimous in allowing the

Sorting out paperwork for Highland Towers

Redevelopment necessary to conserve land but several issues stand in its way



StarMetro's report on June 28.



Abdul Hamid says there has been no incidents or signs of slope failure but thorough studies will be carried out once a proposal is put through.

MPAJ's appeal to set aside the Court of Appeal's decision holding the MPAJ 15% responsible for the pre-collapse period.

As for the post-collapse liability, it dismissed with a 2-1 majority the cross appeal by the 73 residents of Block Two and Three against the Court of Appeal's ruling that the MPAJ was not liable for losses suffered during the post-collapse period.

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