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

KERATAN AKHBAR
21 APRIL 2019 (AHAD)

AKHBAR	MUKA SURAT
Sinar Harian	
- Fikir anjur Senang Skor	22
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Fikir anjur Senang Skor

SH 21/4/19 MS 22

PANDAN INDAH – Seramai 185 pelajar menyertai program teknik pembelajaran berkesan, Senang Skor anjuran Pertubuhan Forum Kesedaran Rakyat Negeri Selangor (Fikir), baru-baru ini.

Naib Presiden Pas, Datuk Iskandar Abdul Samad berkata, program di Audiorium Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya itu, dikendalikan oleh Pencetus Ummah Izzat Fahmi Hisham.

"Program ini dianjurkan Fikir dan peserta hanya dikenakan bayaran RM20 sahaja berbanding penganjuran swasta iaitu antara RM60 hingga RM80. Kos untuk penganjuran itu adalah sekitar RM45 seorang," katanya.

Menurutnya, Fikir sebelum ini telah menganjurkan program English@ Chempaka dan Tahsin Solat.

Iskandar berkata, Fikir juga telah mengumpul sumbangan daripada orang ramai untuk menyampaikan bantuan kepada anak-anak daripada keluarga yang memerlukan melalui Projek Baju Raya dan Projek Back To School.

"Melalui Projek Baju Raya pada Ramadan tahun lalu, lebih 100 kanak-kanak menerima RM100 setiap seorang untuk membeli baju raya.

"Projek Back To School pada awal tahun ini pula lebih 50 pelajar menerima RM100 setiap seorang untuk membeli kelengkapan sekolah," katanya.

Iskandar memberitahu, untuk Ramadan tahun ini, Fikir mengalu-alukan sumbangan orang ramai bagi menjayakan Projek Baju Raya.

"Sasaran kami adalah untuk mengagihkan sumbangan RM100 setiap seorang kepada sekurang-kurangnya 100 anak-anak daripada keluarga yang memerlukan," katanya.

Iskandar bergambar bersama pelajar yang menyertai Senang Skor di Auditorium Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya, baru-baru ini.

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HUBUNGI SKUAD AMPANG / HULU LANGAT: ISMADI ISMAIL- 019 3371003 / 019 6680275

MPAJ atasi masalah parkir di hospital

SH 21/4/19 m/s 22.

Hasrolnizam (duduk, tengah) bersama wakil penduduk pada Program Pencegahan dan Penguatkuasaan MPAJ, kelmarin.

PANDAN MEWAH - Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ) telah mengambil beberapa tindakan segera bagi menampung jumlah kekurangan parkir awam di Hospital Ampang.

Timbalan Yang Dipertua MPAJ, Hasrolnizam Shaari berkata, pihaknya maklum mengenai pesakit dan pelawat yang meletakkan kenderaan mereka di luar hospital kerana masalah parkir sedia ada.

Menurutnya, MPAJ menggunakan rizab jalan berhampiran hospital tetapi masih tidak mencukupi

"Ada pihak swasta yang menyatakan kesungguhan untuk membina petak parkir di atas tanah milik pemaju di hadapan hospital berkenaan.

"Tanah tersebut masih belum dibangunkan oleh pemaju. Ada syarikat mengemukakan permohonan menyewa tanah untuk dijadikan tapak parkir sementara.

"MPAJ menyambut baik permohonan tersebut dan kita menyegerakan proses berkaitan.

"Kawasan tersebut mampu menampung jumlah limpahan parkir kenderaan di hospital berkenaan dan dijangka siap sebelum Aidilfitri," katanya pada program Pencegahan Penagihan Dadah dan Penguatkuasaan MPAJ.

Turut hadir Pengarah Jabatan Undang-Undang MPAJ, Johari Atli dan Pengerusi Permuafakatan Kawasan Rukun Tertangga (KRT) Zon Pandan, Abd Hafidz Md Noor.

Menurutnya, tanah itu mampu menampung 200 kenderaan pada satu masa selain mempunyai jejantas bagi memudahkan orang ramai ke hospital berkenaan.

Dalam perkembangan berasingan, Hasrolnizam berkata, MPAJ turut berhadapan kesukaran melantik kontraktor untuk perkhidmatan menangkap anjing liar di kawasan pentadbiran pihak berkuasa tempatan itu.

"Kita telah mengeluarkan tender namun tiada syarikat yang tampil setakat ini. MPAJ akan membeli sangkar perangkap anjing liar bagi mengatasi aduan di kawasan perumahan Taman Saga," katanya.

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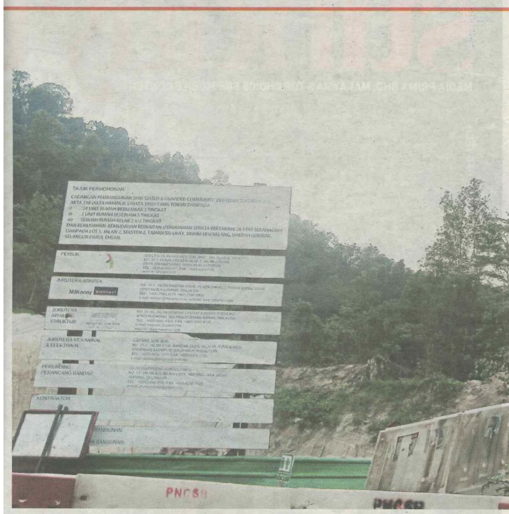
DEMOLISHING MYTHS

People living near the Highland Towers say bringing down the structures will finally bury disturbing stories about the place.

REPORTS ON PAGES 2 & 3

NST 21/4/19 N/S 02-03.



PROJEKT OFO

'NO GHOSTS AT HIGHLAND TOWERS'

Tales of 'hauntings' nothing more than urban legend, says Projekt OFO founder

MOHD NOOR ASWAD AND TEOH PEI YING
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

ON Dec 11, 1993, the Highland Towers apartment in Taman Hillview, Ulu Klang collapsed as a result of a major landslide.

The collapse involved Block 1 of the Highland Towers, resulting in the deaths of 48 people and led to the evacuation of residents from the remaining two blocks due to safety concerns.

The abandoned Block 2 and 3 of the Highland Towers still stand, but having been largely stripped, are little more than concrete and brick shells.

The area has been the scene of much vandalism, and is in complete disarray and ruin from exposure to the elements.

Due to the number of deaths that occurred in the area, some residents believe the towers are haunted.

Many people who have a fascination with the supernatural began visiting the site in droves.

Some came to test their spiritual strength, or to get lottery numbers, while others went just for the thrill of it.

Armi Abdul Majid, 31, was staying in Keramat when the tragedy happened.

It left such an impression on him that even when he graduated from Germany and returned home, he became fixated and wanted to explore more of the Highland Towers.

Along with his friend, Mohd Fauzy Mohd Rahim, 31, he formed Projekt OFO (Ohsem Flying Objekt) in 2015.

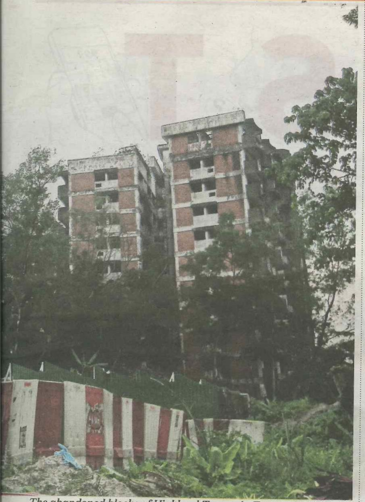
They were both fans of drones and one of their first ideas was to explore the ruins from above.

"I had known about the Highland Towers tragedy since I was young.

"It has always been a big mystery to me. You heard many stories and versions about the place," said Armi.

"I decided it was time to explore the place with drones and find out if the place was haunted."

That video, titled *Projekt OFO — Land of the Haunting Highland Towers*, went viral because of its cinematography and haunting music. To date, the video has more than 466,000 views.



The abandoned blocks of Highland Towers in Taman Sri Ukay Hill View, Ampang, will be demolished in June. PIX BY AZHAR RAMLI

The more important thing is that, Armi did not discover any supernatural or scary phenomena during the shoot.

The video did debunk the urban legend of the Highland Towers.

"Truthfully, we didn't find any ghost or scary entity when we shot the video over three days and two nights. If there was such a thing, we would not have lasted that long," he chuckled.

By right, after Projekt OFO, it should have ended people's fascination with the site. But it did not.

A quick search on YouTube shows dozens of amateur videos about the so-called haunting experience and paranormal activities at the abandoned Highland Towers. Most of these were shot by thrill-seekers on their mobile phones.

"The fascination with the site by thrill-seekers continues to this day.

"These people, especially the younger ones, are going into the towers and shooting with their phones. They do not seem to be afraid at all."

Armi Abdul Majid

He said plans by the authorities to demolish the towers by June 2019 were welcome.

"The place is not just an eyesore but unsafe too. People who go there are risking their life. There are no ghosts or spirits there.

"Those who claim to have seen ghosts or supernatural beings are exaggerating. Or they may have been hallucinating, seeing only what they really want to see."

Ustaz Safri Abu Talib, 36, the imam at Surau Al Muhajirin, located in the housing area adjacent to the Highland Towers, advises youngsters who pass by the area to stop visiting the abandoned towers in search of ghosts, demons or other supernatural entities.

"This urban legend surrounding the Highland Towers is a waste of time.

"There is nothing there for the people to see, except their own dark desires."

Safri hopes the demolition of the Highland Towers site after over 20 years will bring a new lease of life to the area and bury the tragic past for good.

Datuk Siti Hendon Chik

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DAYS TO GO

Residents want stigma removed

KUALA LUMPUR: Imagine living in a neighbourhood where there is an abandoned house or building which is rumoured to be haunted.

So infamous is its horror and urban myth stories that it attracts visitors from all over wanting to catch a glimpse of the so-called ghosts and supernatural beings.

These are what residents in Taman Sri Ukay Hillview, a stone's throw from the infamous Highland Towers, have had to deal with for a long time.

Since the 1993 tragedy, life has never been the same for them.

The stigma of the "haunted" towers has attracted throngs of thrill-seekers and paranormal enthusiasts.

To the residents, these people are a nightmare, more horrifying than the so-called myths and urban legends about the towers.

Because of the stigma, they have not been able to sell their properties.

They have to pay to set up two security checkpoints to stop outsiders from coming into their housing areas and causing congestion.

The imam of Surau Al Muhajirin here, Ustaz Safri Abu Talib, 36, said the horror stories were just a myth.

"I have been an imam here since 2015.

"There have neither been ghosts sighted in the area nor local residents spooked by supernatural beings," he said, pointing at the abandoned towers that are in clear view of the surau.

Outsiders who stopped by the surau and inquired about the towers will be advised not to believe what they hear about ghosts and hauntings of the Highland Towers and to turn back.

Safri is grateful with the recent announcement by Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin that the abandoned Highland Towers site would be demolished by June.

"It has become a negative symbol and bad stigma for the housing area, so it is good that the buildings will be demolished."

Taman Sri Ukay Hillview Residents' Association president Datuk Siti Hendon Chik also welcomed the government's decision to demolish the Highland Towers.

"We laud the move. The abandoned buildings have been getting unnecessary attention. Residents here don't need it."

Siti Hendon is thankful that the police have been keeping an eye on the towers and the housing areas .

"Since the checkpoints were put up, most of the crowds that come are thrill-seeking college students.

Criminals no longer frequent this place because of the tight security."

Siti Hendon said the superstitions and stigmas had negatively affected the property value of the place.

"It is difficult to sell a place where you can see the Highland Towers from your window. It has such a negative stigma.

"Hopefully, the demolishing of the towers will open a new chapter for the area."

At first, Siti Hendon said she was also curious about the towers in the aftermath of the 1993 tragedy, and with all the rumours and horror stories flying around.

"I would keep watch at night just in case I caught something. But there was nothing to see except the abandoned towers.

"There's nothing creepy or horrifying about the buildings. So we carried on with our life."

Siti Hendon urged people not to be so obsessed by urban legends and let the tragedy be a thing of the past.

Mixed reaction to redevelopment plan

KUALA LUMPUR: Last month, Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin announced that the land occupied by the Highland Towers blocks would be redeveloped into a recreational park which includes 50 bungalows.

She had said the demolition of the blocks would be done latest by June. The Ampang member of parliament said the redevelopment would commence after the status of the 10 remaining property owners had been resolved.

According to news reports, Zuraida was quoted as saying that the case management to write off the 10 owners was scheduled this month and the next stage of the process could only be done if the owners did not make any claims.

She said the plan for a recreational park and 50 bungalows at the site was not a high-risk development, with the park expected to benefit residents in the area.

She said the name Highland Towers would be retained as it is regarded part of history.

The proposal had since drawn mixed reactions from the residents. Although many agreed that the two standing blocks should be brought down, some felt that the plan would compromise security in the neighbourhood.

Highland Towers is located on a premium land in Taman Hillview, Ulu Klang.

A Highland Towers Redevelopment Committee comprising experts and representatives from 10 major stakeholders, including federal, state and local authorities was set up in June last year.

The committee is responsible for researching, analysing, evaluating, monitoring and executing the proposed redevelopment process of the site in Ulu Klang, Selangor.