



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
10 SEPTEMBER 2017 (AHAD)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

Malay Mail

- Stick to park plans, demand Taman Melawati residents

06



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View of the proposed location to develop the convention centre. — Pictures by Yusof Mat Isa

Stick to park plans, demand Taman Melawati residents

Sunday mail 10/9/2017 m/s 6

GOMBAK — Taman Melawati residents living in Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali's constituency urged the state government to uphold a property developer's original plans to build a park instead of a convention centre.

Razman Hakim Abdullah, chairman of Jalan ABC Taman Melawati residents' association which has 5,000 members, said Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) informed residents last May the Mentri Besar's Office had ordered Sime Darby Property to construct a convention centre in a 3.37-acre plot instead of a park as originally planned.

Azmin is Gombak MP and Bukit Antarabangsa assemblyman.

The small plot of land opposite the large Melawati Mall, currently houses Azmin's service centre, a parking lot and a futsal court.

Part of the land has been fenced off and appears to be abandoned.

"The park was in the Sime Darby regeneration plan five years ago," Razman said.

Razman said the central park was also featured in Sime Darby Property's development plans and promotional materials for the nearby Serini Apartment, which is still under construction, and for the Gaya Apartment that was completed over three years ago.

Sime Darby Property owns the 10-storey Melawati Mall in the vicinity.

"You can put the convention centre in the mall. The sixth floor is empty," said Razman.

Malay Mail Online's checks at Melawati Mall showed less than 10 businesses occupying the sixth floor.

There is a cafe, a restaurant, a "kids' zone" for children to play, an aesthetic clinic, a massage centre and a beauty salon.

The shopping centre was not fully



General view of Level 6 in Melawati Mall.

occupied with tenants and most of the stores were rather quiet for a Saturday morning.

Razman said the cost of building the MPAJ convention centre would be split three ways among Mentri Besar's Office, Sime Darby Property and MPAJ.

The local council would run the convention centre and collect the rent.

He acknowledged the contested site was private land belonging to Sime Darby Property and the developer wanted to move the park 1km away, behind Serini Apartment.

"We will send a petition to Azmin Ali, Saari Sungib and the YDP of MPAJ," said Razman, adding residents wanted the matter debated in the state

legislative assembly.

An online petition to retain the original plans for a park has over 2,900 signatures.

The Selangor state government is led by PKR together with DAP and PAS.

Saari is Hulu Kelang assemblyman from Parti Amanah Negara, while the head of MPAJ is Abdul Hamid Hussein.

Meanwhile, Sime Darby Property sought to assuage anxious residents their views will be considered in the development of neighbourhood facilities.

The property developer said it was committed to providing the best development and amenities to the communities in the townships it developed.

"Sime Darby Property would like to

assure residents we are working closely with all stakeholders to ensure the best planning and implementation of all facilities in Taman Melawati," the company said in a statement after the protest.

It said the local council had approved the layout of the public park in 2014, but was later told to change its plans.

"In 2016, a decision was made by the state government and local council for a convention centre to be constructed at the location identified for the public park.

"We were informed that the public park was to be relocated to a site next to Serini Melawati, a residential development by Sime Darby Property," it said.

— Malay Mail Online