



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
19 JANUARI 2019 (SABTU)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

- A view you could die for
- A read in the park


10
01-03



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10 Comment
STARMETRO, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 2019



DINING with a view. That is the only reason visitors continuously risk their lives by dining out at the "new" look-out point in Bukit Langat, Ampang.

The stalls, which operate at night, are located near a steep slope known for its panoramic view of Kuala Lumpur city centre.

Closure of the popular Ampang Look Out Point (ALOP), located about 200m from the stalls, in 2012 resulted in the emergence of illegal roadside stalls lining the junction of Jalan Hulu Langat and Persiaran Saujana.

As such, the hawker site has now become the new look-out point.

What started out as several roadside stalls has now become a local tourist destination, with some 20 stalls lining the street.

My first experience dining here was to accompany a friend who had seen viral pictures of the place back in 2015.

At the time, there were only a handful of stalls but even then we could see how dangerous this place was.

The road leading to the spot was almost pitch black and we only knew we were approaching the stalls when we saw cars parked along the narrow road.


The food was nothing to rave about and more expensive than what we would normally have to pay for elsewhere. We never went back.

Yet, though the situation has not improved, the place is still packed. Each night, droves of cars can be seen parked along the roadside

A view you could die for

TS 19/1/19 M/S 10

Illegal roadside hawkers in Bukit Langat keep up their risky business only because there is demand



Diners flocking to the stalls in Bukit Langat for the beautiful city view, regardless of the risk. — Filepic

cases of near misses between diners and motorists.

Even frequent enforcement by the Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) has not managed to deter the operators from setting up their stalls each night.

For the past several years, MPAJ has periodically tried to relocate the traders by having continued enforcement and even hauling them to court.

Currently, nine of the hawkers owe MPAJ some RM28,000 in fines.

Last month alone, MPAJ conducted four operations to confiscate tables and chairs.

But none of these actions has had any discernible effect on these stubborn hawkers.

MPAJ president Datuk Abdul Hamid Hussain has said that it can only take action under its jurisdiction – however limited it may be.

Fed up with the attitude of stubborn hawkers operating illegally at the dangerous spot, MPAJ said it would join forces with the police to slap summonses on those frequenting the stalls.

But the hawkers only continue to operate because there is demand by the people.

Concerns of safety and hygiene fall by the wayside for the sake of killer views.

While we should be moving away from the culture of roadside hawkers; there are more stalls mushrooming because we continue to seek them out – no matter how unsafe or unclean.

Perhaps, the wake-up call will only come once someone loses a life while dining out here.

as visitors indulge in local fare with an amazing view of the city. Never mind that tables and chairs are set within spitting distance of a busy road and by the side of a steep slope. Not only is the safety of those operating and visiting the area threatened, there is also no suitable car park area, toilets or even clean running water. Yet, this hasn't stopped visitors from patronising these stalls. From a personal standpoint, dining here is definitely not worth the possibility of getting hurt or worse, should an accident occur. And with the way the stalls are set up, something is bound to happen. Already there have been



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A read in the park

Petaling Jaya residents will be part of a book-sharing movement this June when a mini library opens in Taman Jaya, the first of its kind in the country. >2&3



Read and play: Parks can also be a space for families and the public to engage with books thanks to the pilot project by Petaling Jaya City Council. — LOW BOON TAT/The Star



The site where the park library will be built in Taman Jaya has been hoarded up.



Saw enjoys reading comics and looks forward to visiting the library in Taman Jaya when it is open.



Wong welcomes the idea of a library in a park, but encourages MBPJ to include toys as part of its appeal.

Place to read and share

MBPJ to extend library-in-the-park project if it sees success

About the 'Little Free Library'

- Todd H. Bol created the first Little Free Library in 2009 in Hudson, Wisconsin, launching what would become a global book-sharing movement.
- Todd built the inaugural Little Free Library book exchange in honor of his mother, a schoolteacher and lifelong reader.
- When he placed the structure in his front yard, he saw the "take a book, share a book" concept resonate with his neighbors, and he began shaping a vision to bring Little Free Libraries to the rest of the world.
- By the time of his death, in 2018, there were more than 75,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges around the world in 88 countries, from the Netherlands, Brazil, and Japan to Australia, Ghana, and Pakistan.
- Todd spent much of his last decade working toward a world where neighbors know each other by name and everyone has access to books.



In the days before his passing, Todd shared with Little Free Library colleague Margret Aldrich:

"I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other, and see that they have a better place on this planet to live."

Source:
<https://littlefreelibrary.org>



By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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A MINI library will be part of the Taman Jaya landscape in Petaling Jaya by the middle of the year.

The pilot project by Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ), the first of its kind in the country, is expected to open in June.

The library, estimated to cost RM650,516, will be built on a 178sq m area nearby the Petaling Jaya museum, which is also located in the park.

MBPJ derived inspiration for the project from "The Little Free Library", a non-profit initiative by Todd H. Bol who created the first such library in 2009 in Hudson, Wisconsin in the United States.

The concept became a global book-sharing movement and Petaling Jaya residents will soon be part of the experience.

Based on an artist's impression, the library's design resembles a tent-like structure with mini book shelves filled with reading material.

A council spokesman said the park library would be based on a "read and share" concept.

The concept, he said, encouraged the public to donate books to complement other



The new library in Taman Jaya will take up a space on the left, near the playground equipment.

The artist's impression of the Park Library in Taman Jaya, Petaling Jaya



reading material prepared by MBPJ at the premises.

"Our objective is to encourage reading. We hope the library will function as a space to share knowledge and help foster better community ties, as well as promote the reading habit in our community," he said.

The spokesman said the library had seen success in other parts of the world where it was introduced.

"We drew inspiration from The Little Free Library and we hope our community will embrace this concept of reading and sharing."

"If the pilot project goes well and we receive good public support, we will consider creating similar libraries in other neighbourhood parks," he said.

Taman Jaya was chosen for the project because of its proximity to the main Petaling

Jaya library in Old Town and the council museum in the park.

"Since it is a pilot project, we will need to monitor its progress closely with help from our staff from the main library and council museum," said the spokesman.

"MBPJ will have staff from its library unit to manage the place."

"The library is a new concept whereby people can move around freely. There is no librarian here."

"People can even take home the books to read, but we encourage them to return the books so others can read them too."

"The reading materials will be checked weekly and changed regularly," he added.

Reading materials would consist of books and magazines on general knowledge, motivation, hobbies and leisure reading as well as children's books and novels.

He said MBPJ encouraged park users to be

responsible for the library by caring for the place.

A *StarMetro* reader, who only wished to be known as Paramasivam, said he was not keen on having a library in the park.

He said the land was gazetted as a park and there should not be any construction there except for playground equipment.

"Fields in Petaling Jaya are either taken away or monopolised by those who play football, so children have no place to play. Even adults and senior citizens are deprived of areas to jog and go for their walks."

"As it is, we already have a museum in Taman Jaya," said Paramasivam.

During a recent visit to the park, *StarMetro* spoke to park-goers and learned that most did not object to having a library in their midst.

Joshua Saw, 11, said he loved comics and hoped the library would have them on the shelves.

"I come here to play and after I am done, I would like to flip through some comics. I think my friends will like visiting the library too," said Joshua.

Toy Libraries Malaysia chief play advocate Datin P.H. Wong welcomed the idea of a library in a park, but encouraged MBPJ to consider including toys as part of its appeal.

Wong, who has expertise in child-related work, said based on her experience, toys can cut across barriers among children and even adults.

"I hope the reading materials in the library are not too academic-oriented."

"More books on nature should be included as the library is located in a park."

"Story-telling sessions should also be organised to attract children. This will keep

them returning to the library.

"When children come, their parents will come too. This will enable more positive public engagement."

"Grandparents who visit the library with their grandchildren can take the opportunity to read to them," said Wong.

Visitors will have to fill in a form on the book they plan to read while at the library.

The library will be open from 7.30am to 7pm daily, and the public will only be required to list down the materials which they have read on a slip that will be provided.

Those interested in donating their unwanted books such as fiction and children's books that would be suitable for public reading can send them to the MBPJ Public Library in Jalan Selangor, Section 3, Petaling Jaya.

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