



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
5 MAC 2021 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

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Recreational parks such as this one in Taman Bukit Indah, Ampang, are well maintained. – Photos: GLENN GUAN and LOW BOON TAT/The Star

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
 shaliniravindran@thestar.com.my

THERE is an ambitious plan to create a continuous open space in the form of a linear park in Lembah Jaya, Selangor, which will help transform the lives of the communities in the area by giving them access to recreational facilities.

Its project proponents say the proposed plans to create the green corridor would provide ecological connectivity between existing green spaces in the area, which covers a part of Ampang Jaya.

Should the project go through, it would effectively create a 7.77km walking and cycling loop incorporating the area's natural treasures.

The plan is being spearheaded by Lembah Jaya assemblyman Haniza Taiba, with support from Housing and Local Government Ministry (KPKT) and Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ).

"Apart from the walking and cycling loop, it will also connect what is now separate recreational parks, communal spaces and community gardens to make them much more accessible to a broader population.

"The aim is to carry out the project in phases, with the possibility of extending the route in the future," said Haniza.

She said it would cost an estimated RM2mil, which would be funded by KPKT. Work is expected to start by the end of this year.

"The green corridor would incorporate biophilic design, which would hopefully ensure the sustainability of the park."

She explained that the biophilic

Linear park 'will be a boon to residents'

Plans include a ^{7.77}7.77km walking and cycling loop incorporating Ampang Jaya's natural treasures

Proposed Lembah Jaya Green Corridor

- 7.77km of linear walking and cycling pathways
- 6 Communal spaces
- 3 Recreational parks
- 2 Recreational forests
- 2 Community gardens
- 20 Green walls



TheStar graphics



Lembah Jaya assemblyman Haniza is spearheading the project.

design would incorporate green landscape features and other elements within residential and commercial spaces and blend the built environment with nature.

"There are not many empty areas left in Ampang, so we should be looking at optimising existing facilities."

"This will also help to make use of spaces that are currently left idle.

"One such area is riverbanks, which we can spruce up with pathways as well as landscaping and help to develop walking routes," she said.

Another aspect of the green corridor involves beautifying some of the elevated highway pillars which cut through the area.

"With two elevated highways being built, it can seem like a concrete jungle.

"Instead, these pillars can become attractions by themselves by creating vertical gardens or painting

murals on them," Haniza highlighted.

The challenge, she said, would be to bring together the various stakeholders before the project could kick off.

"We have had discussions with the resident communities, the ministry, MPAJ as well as the highway developers.

"The feedback has been positive overall, but we still need serious commitment to execute the project," she added.

Ampang Jaya is spread over



Azmi showing some of the vegetables that are grown in the Bukit Indah Community Garden, which is popular with residents and visitors.



The proposed Lembah Jaya Green Corridor will incorporate existing bicycle lanes in Ampang to create connectivity between parks and other green sites.



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'Vaccine is safe for all ages'

TS 5/3/2021 WSY

Doc: Fear among senior groups stems from misinformation

By **ASHLEY TANG**
and **CLARISSA CHUNG**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: There should be no cause for "vaccine hesitation" among the elderly as Covid-19 vaccines are safe for all age groups, say health experts and age-care groups.

Malaysian Healthy Ageing Society president Dr Wong Teck Wee believes that the fear among the elderly stems from some reports on deaths occurring after the vaccine was taken, citing cases in Norway where 23 elderly persons died.

After probes by the health authorities in those countries, Dr Wong said the cause of death was found to be not related to the vaccine but from an underlying medical condition.

"Misinformation is then spread after non-traditional news outlets pick up the story and expand it, and even anti-vaxxer groups would highlight the issue and pass it on.

"When it is passed on by the reader, perhaps the young who read it, it spreads to the elderly. A lot of fake news then is used to mislead the elderly," he said.

Dr Wong, who is also a cardiologist, encouraged the elderly to get vaccinated as they are categorised as high risk.

Vaccinations have been ongoing in different parts of the world for around three months now, and there



National effort: The second phase of the vaccination campaign from April to August will involve 9.4 million people from high-risk groups such as those with medical conditions. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

still hasn't been any evidence that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is unsafe, said Dr Wong, adding that Pfizer has so far been transparent with their trial outcomes.

"When the vaccine was first rolled out, we were not sure how safe it was but now that it has been given to millions of people around the world, we have seen no real harm to those who have been vaccinated.

"If you look at the risk benefit ratio, if the elderly is infected by Covid-19 the chances of dying is

higher. The benefits here are more than the risk. They should take it. There is no doubt at all," he said.

Association for Residential Aged Care Operators of Malaysia (AgeCope) president Delren Terrence Douglas believes that it is not the elderly who are reluctant to be vaccinated, but the young.

"For the folks in residential homes, it is their next of kin who has to decide for them. It is taking time for operators to get the elderly registered because their next of kin

wants to have a discussion first and in a family you have the pro-vaccine and the anti-vaxxers. This is why there is a delay.

"The elderly actually are not even aware of what is going on, but when you tell them about it most would just agree to be vaccinated," he said.

Douglas also assured the elderly they would first be examined by a doctor before being vaccinated.

"They will assess your health condition before agreeing that you can be vaccinated. They will not simply vaccinate," he said.

He also advised the elderly who live with their families to consult with their family doctor to get the right advice if they are unsure.

The government should embark on an awareness campaign that informs the public on why they need to be vaccinated, he added.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that older adults be prioritised for inoculation.

The age threshold of the adults prioritised for vaccination is to be determined at the country-level, based on risks specific to a country or region.

WHO said that given that mortality rate among older individuals is much higher, even if vaccine efficacy were to be relatively lower among this age group, recommendations to prioritise the elderly would not change.



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By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
 shalini@thestar.com.my

THE pothole complaints channel launched by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) on Jan 7 has received 1,224 responses until Feb 17.

However, the actual pothole-related complaints numbered only about 700.

Out of the number, DBKL had resolved at least 77%, said its Civil Engineering and Drainage Department senior deputy director Azli Shah Ali Bashah.

"The pothole complaints channel, which allows the public to inform the authorities about potholes via WhatsApp, also enables us to respond in a timely manner and even update the complainants once the job is done.

"For potholes smaller than a square metre in size, action will be taken within 24 hours of receiving the complaint," he said during a virtual talk held by Kuala Lumpur Information Department (JaPen).

Other complaints through the channel, he added, were on cleanliness and drainage problems.

During the talk, Azli Shah said potholes were the most common type of road damage that occurred on Kuala Lumpur roads.

"The weather can also severely affect the formation of potholes and worsen the condition of

700 pothole complaints recorded in 41 days

City folk also use DBKL's new channel to relate cleanliness and drainage problems

existing ones.

"Whenever it rains, rainwater accumulates on the road and seeps into cracks and that weakens the soil underneath.

"That leads to even more cracking and eventually a pothole," he said.

He added that other types of road damage included cracking, rutting, segregation and delamination.

Azli Shah said overloaded vehicles plying city roads as well as constant road digging works played a big part in the never-ending issue.

In an earlier *StarMetro* report on Feb 8 headlined "Smoothing over pothole problems", Kuala Lumpur

mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah issued a verbal warning to utility contractors who had badly patched up roads after laying underground pipes and cables.

He said at least 40% of potholes in Kuala Lumpur were a direct result of works carried out by utility contractors.

Those who failed to do a proper resurfacing job, he said, would face hefty bills and might end up losing their security deposits.

To ensure that complaints about potholes are channelled to the right people and handled in a speedy manner, city residents are encouraged to send a message to DBKL's pothole complaints channel via WhatsApp at 011-6239 6652.



DBKL task force repairing potholes in Jalan Sri Permaisuri, Kuala Lumpur. — Filepic

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