

SUNGAI BESI (ADDITIONAL) FOREST RESERVE

23.83ha in Sg Besi gazetted as permanent forest reserve

KUALA LUMPUR: A 23.83ha area in Mukim Petaling here has been gazetted as a permanent forest reserve.

The Sungai Besi (Additional) Forest Reserve is meant to be a replacement for the 7.48ha Bukit Sungei Puteh Forest Reserve in Mukim Cheras here that was degazetted for the development of the Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Elevated Expressway (Suke).

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said the new permanent forest reserve was gazetted as a protected forest.

He said the new permanent forest reserve had also been classified as a research, amenity and education forest under Sub-section 10(1) of the National Forestry Act 1984 and declared as a closed forest under Section 45 of the act.

He said the gazettelement would create a

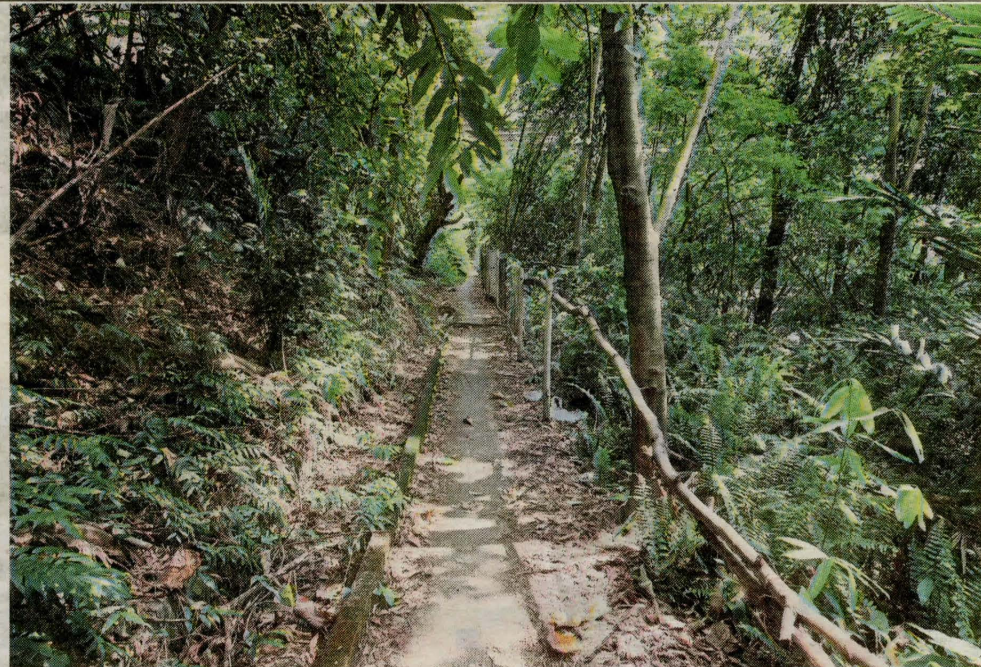
complex comprising the Sungai Besi Forest Reserve and Sungai Besi (Additional) Forest Reserve, with an area of 66.12ha.

He said this represented 78.13 per cent of the total permanent forest reserve in Kuala Lumpur and will serve as the green lungs of the city.

"Degazetting and replacing the permanent forest reserve simultaneously is in line with the proposed amendments to Act 313 (National Forestry Act 1984), which the government is working on," he said after participating in the Greening Malaysia Cycling Programme in conjunction with National Sports Day here yesterday.

He said this was part of the ministry's commitment to ensure that at least 50 per cent of the country was wooded and covered with trees.

Takiyuddin said the Sungai Besi (Additional) Forest Reserve was larger than the



The Sungai Besi forest reserve in Kuala Lumpur. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

Bukit Sungei Puteh Forest Reserve that was degazetted and was a lowland dipterocarp forest.

He said there were 68.27ha of permanent forest reserve in Kuala Lumpur, which cover about 0.28 per cent of the federal

capital's land area.

He said this included the Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve (9.37ha), Bukit Sungei Puteh Forest Reserve (14.51ha), Sungai Besi Forest Reserve (42.29ha) and Bukit Lagong Tambahan Forest Reserve (2.10ha).