

(9 February 2022) The Star, P. 2

Residents want right turn into Taman Rainbow reinstated

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TAMAN Rainbow residents in Kuala Lumpur are forced to take a longer route to enter their neighbourhood since the main access was closed to traffic for construction of the MRT 2 project about four years ago.

Residents of the housing estate claimed that they were told the closure would be temporary, but are concerned that it could be permanent as construction works are nearing completion.

Taman Rainbow Residents Association (RA) chairman Govindasamy Balaguru said residents travelling from Kuala Lumpur via Jalan Ipoh could no longer turn right into Jalan Kangsar, which used to provide direct access into the neighbourhood.

“Now, we have to make a U-turn further down the road to enter our neighbourhood.

“This is about 3km longer, excluding the wait time and traffic congestion we have to put up with,” he told *StarMetro*.

Govindasamy, who is also Taman Rainbow Rukun Tetangga chairman, added that residents understood the need for the closure during the construction phase of the



project, but said the original access should be reinstated following its completion.

“The reopening of schools has led to more traffic in the area.

“It can sometimes take more than 30 minutes just to exit Taman Rainbow during peak hours due to various traffic diversions,” he said, adding that there were two schools in the area.

Govindasamy said apart from closure of the access road, Kuala

Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) had not addressed complaints on the opening of a slip road between Jalan Kangsar and Jalan Khalsa.

The road that is used mostly by motorists heading to and from a school in the area, had led to increased traffic into Taman Rainbow.

Meanwhile, Batu Zone Residents Representative Council chairman Gulam Muszaffar Gulam Mustakim said he had received no response

from DBKL.

“I sent two letters, including one to Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah, but have yet to get any response.

“Any traffic diversion should not be at the expense of residents’ comfort.”

MMC Gamuda KVMRT (PDP SSP) Sdn Bhd, the turnkey contractor, in a statement told *StarMetro* that the right turn into Jalan Kangsar from Kuala Lumpur would not be rein-

Taman Rainbow residents say the closure of the right turn into their neighbourhood has inconvenienced them. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

stated as the approved traffic plan involved permanent closure of the junction.

It added that Taman Rainbow RA representatives and residents were briefed on the approved traffic management plans in 2017.

“Following subsequent engagements with the RA and upon their request, we reinstated a right turn from Jalan Kangsar to Kepong.

“However, this was limited to light vehicles due to the height clearance of the MRT viaduct,” the statement said.

It added that the permanent closure of the right turn from Kuala Lumpur to Jalan Kangsar was to enable the construction of the MRT Kentonmen Station and viaduct at the median of Jalan Ipoh.

“At this location the elevated MRT viaduct progressively dives under the Duke expressway as it becomes half-sunken when approaching the MRT Jalan Ipoh Station.

“There is insufficient space and height clearance to safely provide a traffic light junction for a right turn into Taman Rainbow from Kuala Lumpur.

“As an alternative, traffic from Kuala Lumpur can head to Taman Rainbow via Taman Kaya by turning right at the Jalan St Thomas junction,” said the statement.