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THE felling of trees in Taman Seputeh by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) without first engaging with residents in the area has upset some of them.

Residents said two trees on utility reserve land along Jalan Tanjung 12 were cut down on April 16.

Earlier, on April 11, an attempt to fell a tree along Jalan Taman Seputeh was stopped by residents.

Contractors ended up trimming the tree instead.

Residents said they were unhappy over being kept in the dark about the operation and expressed worry that the mahogany trees would be sold as timber.

Taman Seputeh Residents Association (TSRA) president P. Balaeswaran said DBKL should explain why they were cutting down trees.

"Are the trees posing a danger to the public?" he asked.

A resident, who wanted to be known only as Beng Seng, said they were worried that a syndicate might be eyeing the trees as each could fetch up to RM10,000 on the market.

"During the April 11 incident, the contractor ended up just trimming a few branches but there were several lorries waiting at the location, which suggested they could have been preparing to chop down the tree.

"The felling of trees along Jalan Tanjung 12 caught us all by surprise," said the 80-year-old retired architect.

However, other residents fear that some of the mahogany trees

Taman Seputeh folk divided over tree felling

Some want them saved while others say they pose safety risk

pose a safety risk as they have grown taller than a double-storey house.

At several locations in Taman Seputeh, protruding tree roots have caused cracks in the drain structure.

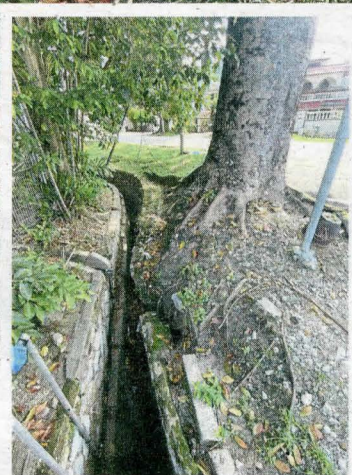
A resident, who refused to be named, said she feared that one giant mahogany tree at the junction of Jalan Taman Seputeh and Jalan Taman Seputeh 3 might be toppled by strong winds and hit her house.

"I am scared as even now, the branches and leaves from the trees are falling onto our house and clogging the gutter on the roof," she said, adding that the trees should be cut down.

Taman Seputeh Rukun Tetangga chairman Cynthia Hor said the problem stemmed from poor planning by DBKL which planted the mahogany trees in a residential area.

"These trees have an invasive root system that can damage drain structures.

"The height of these trees also raises public safety concerns and DBKL should consider a long-term solution to address the issue," she said.



The two trees felled at Jalan Tanjung 12 in Taman Seputeh, Kuala Lumpur. (Inset) Protruding roots of a mahogany tree along Jalan Taman Seputeh have caused cracks in the drain structure.