

Repair works at Taman Kepong KTM station to start soon

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RAILWAY Assets Corporation (RAC) will undertake maintenance and repair works at the Taman Kepong KTM station in Kuala Lumpur, following complaints of poorly maintained infrastructure there.

RAC media relations and stakeholder engagement officer Siti Faraameera Zainuddin, from the RAC chief executive officer's office, said the corporation would start with the parking lot that had become an illegal dumpsite.

"When the matter was highlighted in the media by Kepong community activist Yee Poh Ping on Dec 10, a site visit was conducted the very next day to inspect the area," RAC said in a statement.

During the walkabout, it was noted that the list of required corrections included a pothole-riddled parking lot, weed-choked drains, malfunctioning CCTV cameras and street lights as well as a covered walkway littered with old furniture, plants and broken tiles.

Work to remove old furniture and construction waste at the parking lot will be conducted by RAC's appointed parking management operator, Matrix Parking Solution Sdn Bhd.



Norma (in front) and other officials from KTMB, RAC and DBKL inspecting the walkway to the Taman Kepong KTM station which has a fallen tree blocking the way. — GLENN GUAN/The Star

According to the company's media statement, measures to be taken include increasing the frequency for the monitoring of maintenance and repairs of fences, drains and lighting in the parking lot from once in three months to monthly.

The installation of new CCTV camera systems will take a month while the barrier gate will take 14 days, the company added.

RAC has also promised to closely monitor all their appointed operators responsible for the operation and maintenance of the parking lots at KTM stations nationwide.

It clarified that the removal of old furniture, repair work and removal of objects obstructing the sidewalk came under Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

At a press conference organised by KTM Bhd (KTMB) and attended

by representatives of RAC and DBKL, KTMB assets and facilities head Norma Ali said that while every effort would be made to spruce up the area, the community should also extend their cooperation to keep the station clean and tidy.

During a walkabout with the media, Norma pointed out that residents had turned certain parts of the tiled walkway into a garden-

ing and sitting area besides cutting up parts of the fence and tarring parts of the sidewalk to create their own entrance into the carpark.

Residents had planted fruit and tapioca trees, herbs and other plants within and around the station grounds.

Norma said there were tiles along the walkway that had given way, probably from the roots of a nearby huge *bucida* tree.

"Some of these extended gardens are often left neglected over time.

"For instance, the coconut trees at the parking lot are a safety hazard.

"Falling fronds or fruits can injure people and damage parked cars.

"These trees are also a challenge for the maintenance team.

"If it was only wild plants, grass-cutters could handle the job," she added.

As for regular maintenance inspections at its train stations, Norma said that on KTMB's side, it was the station master who would report on all faults that needed rectification.

On RAC's side, areas such as parking lots will come under an appointed operator and checks on its 56 train stations in Klang Valley are normally carried out every three months.