

Concerns over location of telco tower

TELECOMMUNICATION towers are supposed to be a boon because they provide better network coverage to residents in and around the area where they are located.

But if they are constructed haphazardly and without factoring in the well-being of the residents living nearby, they are a bane.

This was aptly reflected in the *StarMetro* report "Residents to meet DBKL tomorrow over telco tower construction" (*The Star*, Jan 2).

In fact, this present construction involves the relocation of a telco tower that was once located in front of a bungalow (*pic*) and had been removed at the house-owner's behest.

As the new site is located in the same area, it has again drawn the ire of the residents.

Apart from complaining about the radiation problem, the residents claim that the distance between a telco tower and property should be 10m from the edge of the property instead of from where the house is built.

But either way, it would still be too close for comfort and also a blot on the landscape, wouldn't it?



Residents of Gold Coast Resort Penang are also having an issue with a telco tower, which was erected sometime in December 2022 on the narrow strip of land between a cycling track along the shore and the condominium's perimeter wall.

To make matters worse, there's also a generator at the foot of the tower with its engine running non-stop. The rumble of the engine and its obnoxious toxic fumes are causing noise and air pollution that seriously affect the health and well-being of the residents nearby.

The worst hit are units within spitting distance of the tower.

Ironically, these units once enjoyed the best of both worlds – close sea view and fresh sea air.

But now, residents of these units have to keep their doors and windows shut day and night.

According to a Google search, an Egyptian study confirmed that residents living near a telco tower are at increased risk of developing headaches, memory deficits, dizziness, depression and sleep problems.

Residents affected by telco tow-

ers are therefore not only living in fear of the possible harmful effects of radiation, but the value of their property would also inescapably drop simply because no one would ever consider buying a property with a tower sticking out like a sore thumb right in front of them.

Granted, telco towers are necessary in certain areas. But shouldn't the authorities spare a thought for the plight of the people by having them sited as far away as possible from residential areas?

If that isn't possible, the authorities should perhaps seriously consider doing away with them as they would do more harm than good to the residents.

Ultimately, the authorities could also consider having telecommunications towers painted in green in order to make them look like part of their surroundings, like what was done at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

By doing so, the presence of these unsightly telco towers would not only seem less of an eyesore but also more acceptable to the residents.

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