

KUALA Lumpur Residents Action for Sustainable Development Association (KLRA+SD) is concerned about the way the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2040 (KLSP2040) was pushed through by the authorities, as reported by the media.

According to an MP, “DBKL had fulfilled its obligations by engaging with MPs and NGOs as directed by the Prime Minister.”

However, our objections are not about whether Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) had fulfilled its obligations. Civil society organisations gave feedback because we are concerned about some serious issues affecting the development of Kuala Lumpur and well-being of all citizens.

For example, despite the frequent landslides and flash floods, there appears to be no attempt to stop hillside developments, destruction of green lungs and approval of indiscriminate development projects in Kuala Lumpur.

When public engagement sessions were conducted, we expected DBKL to be sincere and to handle feedback professionally.

Citizens, as the primary stakeholders, deserve to be told why their feedback is not incorporated into the final plan.

It is not acceptable for the Prime Minister’s aide to say that “DBKL is following the rules” and “we cannot please everyone”.

A public engagement exercise should be a two-way process whereby concerned citizens are given valid reasons why their suggestions are not incorporated into the plan.

Since the Prime Minister’s aide said “some objections were rejected after considering the importance of development in Kuala Lumpur”, it would be incumbent upon DBKL to inform us what those important development-related considerations are.

It is unacceptable for a democratic government to simply claim the importance of their so-called development plans without giving any facts to support that claim.

Independent professionals, with their

KLSP pushed through

Feedback on structure plan for 2040 not considered by DBKL



KLSP2040 is meant to be a comprehensive framework that considers the current situation and future plans for Kuala Lumpur.

wealth of expertise, have raised valid concerns encompassing urban planning, environmental sustainability and the overall impact of KLSP2040 on the city’s landscape and sustainability.

Unfortunately, these concerns have not been taken into consideration and are not reflected in the recently gazetted KLSP2040.

In view of the written responses provided to DBKL by us (consisting of 150 detailed recommendations) during and after the six public engagement sessions, DBKL should have the courtesy of providing feedback to us.

One of the most glaring examples of DBKL ignoring feedback is how the gazetted plan sidesteps the recommendation by KLRA+SD regarding development on hillslopes where the land consists of Class III and Class IV slopes.

The previous KL Structure Plan



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Letters must carry the sender’s full name, address, telephone number and signature. A pseudonym may be included. Letters may be edited for clarity, brevity and other requirements.

(KLSP2020) specifically states, “DBKL shall not permit development on hillside with slope that exceeds the allowable level, rules and regulations set by the Federal Government.”

Further, the 2010 planning guidelines for hillslope and highland area development issued by the then Housing and Local Government Ministry have explicit restrictions for Class III slopes and a complete prohibition of housing development on Class IV slopes.

However, the criteria in schedule M6.8 of the gazetted KLSP2040 flouts both the KLSP2020 and above ministry guidelines.

Another omission by DBKL is the recommendation by KLRA+SD to establish a working committee or task force that is inclusive and transparent (with representation from DBKL, Kuala Lumpur MPs, residents associations, civil society members and profes-

sional bodies) to track the implementation, progress and achievement of KLSP2040.

This is an important mechanism so that any deviations or problems in implementation can be detected early with a view to finding solutions and making this plan successful.

KLRA+SD’s recommendation that DBKL establish an effective and efficient feedback system with an audit trail function to ensure transparency and accountability was also ignored.

From the way the KLSP2040 is pushed through, it appears that the Government is not really committed to transparency and accountability.

This is why citizens are increasingly demanding local government elections, especially for Kuala Lumpur, which is the most important city of our nation.

If the government is sincere and committed to democracy, they must acknowledge that planning must be done collaboratively, respect the concerns and aspirations of ratepayers and residents, and provide reasons and/or explanations as to why the people’s recommendations are not included in the final plan.

KLSP2040 has the potential to shape Kuala Lumpur into a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive city.

To realise this vision, it is imperative that the authorities actively listen and respond to the concerns of the community, including valuable input from independent professionals.

KLRA+SD
Kuala Lumpur