

Smoother ride along Jalan Kolam Air following upgrade

By JAROD LIM

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DESA View Condominium residents in Taman Desa Melawati, Kuala Lumpur can now enjoy a smoother and safer drive as the Jalan Kolam Air stretch from Jalan 1/4a to Jalan Bukit Mas, which was riddled with potholes, has been upgraded.

The newly resurfaced stretch is now equipped with street lights and a drainage system to channel out rainwater.

On July 17, *StarMetro* had reported residents' concerns about the safety of the alternative route.

However, they were forced to use it to get to their condominium after parts of Jalan Kolam Air from Jalan Taman Melawati to Jalan 1/4a were closed for upgrading projects by the Sewerage Services Department under the Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Ministry.

The upgrading project was initiated in 2018 but delayed for

several years due to a change of contractors, and is ongoing.

Since the closure, residents have been using Jalan 1/4a which is the only access to their home.

Retiree Lilian Fu said the newly upgraded road was much safer.

"Previously, the road did not have any street lights and was riddled with potholes.

"Now, it is a breeze driving on this road but motorists still have to exercise caution while taking a turn.

"However, residents hope the stretch of Jalan Kolam Air connecting to Jalan Taman Melawati can be opened soon," she told *StarMetro*.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall Advisory Board member Andre Lai said the road upgrading took six months as there were some hiccups between the agencies involved.

"The other part of Jalan Kolam Air, which is still closed, is expected to be open by year end," he said.



The newly upgraded stretch of Jalan Kolam Air equipped with street lights and drainage.

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A View Towers condominium residents must local authority to open Jalan Kolam Air, main access road to their 72 in Taman Desa Melawati. It was previously closed six months to facilitate sewerage upgrading works. They said that the alternative route from Jalan Kolam Air coming to Jalan Bukit Mas, a 1.1 km stretch, that was built as a temporary access for residents, was unsafe.

The residents said that the road closure of Jalan Kolam Air has been an inconvenience, but they agreed for an alternative road to be built.

Residents want Jalan Kolam Air to reopen, lament unsafe alternative route



Jalan Kolam Air has been completely closed for the past six months for sewerage upgrading works. However, the alternative route is too narrow, with barely enough space for two cars to "squeeze through".

"The upgrading works seem to occupy only one lane. So why can't the contractor open the other lane for vehicles to pass through?"

The contractor said that the entire project would take only one to two years to complete, but she has been suffering for so many years.

Another resident, Sharon Steven, questioned the delay as she did not see any work being carried out at the site.

"When I take my morning walks around the project site, no one appears to be working," she said, adding that the alternative road was unsafe for motorists, especially at night.

Idayu Jais complained that the alternative road was a safety hazard.

A resident's car stalled while driving on the road during a downpour due to water overflowing.

closure had decreased the of her property.

"Two of my neighbours wanted to rent out their house but could not do so as potential buyers found the road closure troublesome. Their units are vacant until now," she said.

A notice at the project site stated that Jalan Kolam Air would reopen in June, but the road remained closed at present.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall Advisory Board member Andre Lai said the construction of drain and street lights along alternative road would take place soon.

"The drain construction cannot be done at the moment as there are telecommunication poles blocking the way."

Lai added that he will also speak to DPKL, Urban Transport Department and JKR to find a solution to the

Flashback to *StarMetro*'s report on July 17.