

DBKL postpones hearing

By **BAVANI M**

bavanim@thestar.com.my

THE Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has postponed the public hearing on the proposal to build three blocks of high-rise buildings on Kuala Lumpur's Federal Hill scheduled yesterday to May 15 to coincide with the exhibition of the draft Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2020.

A letter to the residents from the mayor stated that May 15 is when the local authority will be putting up the much awaited draft for public review.

A spokesman from the DBKL said the letters had been sent out earlier in the week and that any objections to be made for the draft local plan could be done together with the Federal Hill project.

"We felt that it would make more sense to do it together as all objections made can be compiled."

The spokesman said the DBKL had completed the drafting of the KL Local Plan 2020 and it would be exhibited at the DBKL Jalan Raja Laut headquarters lobby from May 15 to June 30.

In an interview with mayor Ab Hakim Borhan early in the year, *Star Metro* reported that the local plan would carry detail on specific developments on use and preservation of environment, improvement of landscape, traffic management, among others.

Hakim said all objections made by city folk would be dealt with by an independent committee which will re-evaluate the proposals and come up with the best possible solution for all.

The mayor said city folks have to be reasonable about their grouses.

"If the issue is about a little open



The designated land: The development taking shape on Federal Hill.

space earmarked for development, don't expect that there will be changes."

Hakim said it was not easy trying to balance the needs of the city folks with those of the investors. The mayor, however, promised city residents that the DBKL would study all the pros and cons and come up with the best possible decision.

The plan will be a guide for decision-makers, city planners, designers and builders on the direction of growth for the city towards achieving world-class status.

The plan translates the vision and policies of the KL Structure Plan

2020 into concrete development proposals for implementation by including physical a development map, and written commentaries and explanations on the strategic directions; development-control moves, and a development guide for the city.

Local government and town planning expert Derek Fernandez, who is representing the Federal Hill residents, described the new development as "extraordinary".

"The land (in Federal Hill) has been designated 'institutional', which means it is for police use and hence it is meant for low density and

non-commercial use only as per the KL Structure Plan 2020," he said.

"Because the proposal is in direct conflict with the KL Structure Plan - the mayor is obligated to reject it outright.

"There is no way that the proposal can be legally incorporated into the draft local plan for public objection," he said.

"The local plan is required by law to be consistent with the KL Structure Plan 2020.

"If it's inconsistent, the draft local plan would not contain the proposal hence then there would be nothing to object about," said Fernandez.