

# Wee's off the mark

## No complaints from residents over condo project, says City Hall

By KHARLEEZ ZUBIN

A CITY Hall director in the limelight for revoking a stop-work order issued to a developer in Setapak after several complaints from a Member of Parliament and residents said he was not pro-developer or biased against the residents.

City Hall director of buildings, Yusop Alwi, responding to adverse comments by bloggers and news reports on his move to allow Platinum Victory Sdn Bhd to commence work on Phase 8 or PV8 in Taman Melati Utama, said he revoked the stop-work order on Oct 23 based on residents' views.

"We had a meeting on Oct 22 with representatives from all relevant parties," he told *Malay Mail* yesterday.

The parties involved were Taman Melati Utama Residents' Association representatives, the developer and contractor.

"All the RA representatives had no objection to letting the developer continue with the work on Phase Eight or PV 8 of the project," Yusop said.

Besides, he said, all the RA representatives also expressed their opinion on why to let the developer continue beyond the stipulated working hours as the project could be completed faster.

He also said Wee Choo Keong,

the MP for Wangsa Maju, was just shooting from his hip.

"Just because we didn't inform him of the meeting doesn't make us wrong."

He added that Wee's contention that "I did not observe certain procedures in revoking the stop-work order notice" doesn't hold water.

"There is no such thing as taking this matter up with the City Hall internal committee before revoking the stop-work order. This committee is only applicable when it comes to happenings like landslides or other natural catastrophes unlike issues and development which have been planned and are running," he said.

On complaints from the residents, Yusop said those nearest to the project site did not complain and that the main complainants were those furthest from the site and the local MP.

Several RA representatives *Malay Mail* talked to said they had no complaints. Anthony C.K. Tan, who represented 480 condo occupants in PV3 at the meeting, said last year there were problems with the developer for not observing the stipulated working hours and carrying out work till 2am.

"Now I don't have any complaints against the developer and the residents here are also happy that the developer is spending his own money to carry out fogging and lava in-



GREENLIGHT: City Hall says work on the Platinum Hill condo project can continue

spection twice a month in the whole of Taman Melati Utama."

Tan, a home tutor, also said he did not mind the developer extending working hours to 10pm as the project could be completed faster and the Indonesian workers removed.

"I have heard a lot about break-ins near construction sites and I would be glad if the project gets completed faster."

Another RA representative, Muhammad Johor who lives in PV3, the phase closest to the construction site, said he had no complaints against the developer.

"I represent 479 house-buyers and tenants in PV3 and not one of them in our several meetings brought up the issue of sound pollution and not being able to sleep because of work at the project site."

Muhammad claimed it was understandable that Wee was raising a fuss about the construction at PV8 as "he is a PKR man".

"For your information, he has not come to this site and talked to any of the RA representatives and yet he speaks for the people of Taman

Melati Utama," said the pensioner.

Platinum Victory managing director Gan Yu Chai said it was unfortunate that the contractor had to work beyond the stipulated time frame on Oct 15 as it was raining.

"The concrete trucks from Batu Caves were already on site and we couldn't cast the concrete because of the heavy rain so we waited until 7pm," said Gan, who believed the stop-work order on Oct 19 was due to this single incident.

On complaints from the residents, he said there was a joint management body set up as required under the bylaws and there were 12 people representing over 1,300 families living in Taman Melati Utama and not one of them had raised objections.

Meanwhile, a Press communique released to *Malay Mail* by City Hall Corporate Communications Department with regards to the article "Short-Lived Victory" on Oct 28, said the stop-work order issued on Oct 19 to Platinum Victory Sdn Bhd was lifted after a meeting with the residents' representatives of Taman Melati Utama on Oct 23.

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Yusop Alwi, City Hall director of buildings