Mixed views on revised KL plan

Concerns raised over unchanged redevelopment in low-rise, public open spaces

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Members of the public (above) perusing the revised KLLP2040. Photo at left: Kok (left) and her staff talking to DBKL staff on issues related to the plan.

SEVERAL key recommendations by stakeholders remain unaddressed in the revised draft Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 (KLLP2040), says Save Kuala Lumpur (SKL) coalition group.

Its chairman Datuk M. Ali said Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) had acknowledged some suggestions by ratepayers, including the plot ratios for green lungs and public halls.

However, he said, concerns remained over questionable and ambiguous categorisation of open spaces.

"Yes, they have made some adjustments to the plot ratios, but the larger concern is how easily public open spaces are being reclassified for private use.

"It feels like they are legitimising commercial development at the expense of green lungs.

"For instance, a Public Open Space (OS1) in Jalan Damansara has been reclassified to Private Open Space (OS3), effectively allowing a hotel's development.

"Similarly, in Jalan Maarof (Bangsar), a five-storey commercial building is now being legitimised despite standing amid predominantly low-rise residential structures," he said.

Ali also voiced discontent over changes in Taman Tun Dr Ismail (TTDI), where land for a public hall was being rezoned for commercial purposes.

"We requested it be reinstated as institutional (use for public facility).

"If one request (to rezone) is allowed, everyone will start asking for it," he said.

Ali was among many Kuala Lumpur residents who attended a three-day public inspection of the KL Local Plan, which ended yesterday.

The display of the plan at Menara DBKL was scheduled for 9.30am to 4.30pm, with a two-hour lunch break from 12.30pm to 2.30pm each day.

However, some participants claimed they were not aware that there would be a two-hour lunch break each day.

DBKL is planning to launch KLLP2040 this month.

When met at Menara DBKL, Seputeh MP Teresa Kok told *StarMetro* that many areas in her constituency and across the city had been earmarked for redevelopment.

She also voiced her frustration on learning that the police reserve land in Taman Desa had changed hands, with plans for a condominium.

She claimed that the 0.32ha plot was sold for RM1.9mil, a fraction of its RM14mil market value.

"It is shocking. The government is selling prime land in KL at such bargain prices," Kok said, adding that these deals needed to be reviewed.

Happy Garden Residents Association secretary Evelyn Lau said that out of 20 pages of suggestions that they had submitted, only two were partially considered.

She said Jalan Kelang Lama was extremely congested, with cars clogging the roads and developments consuming valuable infrastructure.

She urged DBKL to take a closer look at the neighbourhood and prioritise sustainable development.

Meanwhile, business owner Allen Lim was happy to find out that premises on Jalan Abdullah, Lorong Abdullah and Lengkok Abdullah in Bangsar would be retained for commercial use.

The former houses-turned-businesses were categorised as residential in the initial KLLP2040.

This, Lim said, would have disrupted businesses in the area.