

MEDIA STATEMENT

IN RESPONSE TO A POSTING IN THE FACEBOOK OF C4 CENTRE AND YOUTUBE VIDEO BY COMBAT CORRUPTION WHICH ALLEDGED “BUKIT NENAS HERITAGE ZONE : THE SHRINKING OF THE KUALA LUMPUR’S REMAINING GREEN LUNG” AND “WHY IS THE BUKIT NENAS HERITAGE ZONE AND FOREST RESERVE SHRINKING?” ON THE 19th JUNE 2019.

This media statement is in response to the above allegations made by C4 Centre and Combat Corruption on the 19th of June. Please refer to the attached site plan for a clearer understanding of our following responses.

Response to the statement made in the facebook by C4 Centre.

The writer alledged that Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) :

- a) Sold part of the Government land and
- b) Is now planning to buy back the land for more than RM 100 Million.

There was a statement made by the FT Minister with respect to an intended purchase of a piece of land at the foot of the Bukit Nenas Forest Reserve (BNFR) in March 2019. It was clarified however that the land was owned by a private owner who wanted to develop it. Nowhere was it stated that it was government land or part of the BNFR.

The land in question is Lot PT 106, Section 57 Bandar Kuala Lumpur. It is a piece of private land owned by Messrs Augment Prosperity Sdn. Bhd and not government land as alleged. After various discussions DBKL no longer intends to purchase the said land and the developer will be allowed to develop it.

Response to the statements made in the Youtube video.

As a point of clarification, Forest Reserve Land, even those in Kuala Lumpur, are under the purview of the Ministry for Water, Land and Primary Resources (KATS) and not DBKL or the Federal Territories Ministry.

Based on a statement released by KATS dated the 6th of April 2019, the BNFR or better known as the ‘Taman Eko Rimba Kuala Lumpur’ is the sole Eco Tourism based on the concept of natural tropical forest environment in Kuala Lumpur and it spans an area of 9.37 hectares (Gazette No. 587). The statement further clarified that the allegation that 0.65 hectares of BNFR will be de-gazetted out of the BNFR is completely untrue. The last de-gazettement of BNFR was in 1995 when a hectare was removed for the purpose of building the KL Tower. The NRE Interactive Gallery is part and parcel of the BNFR.

Status of the Application for a Development Order from DBKL by Messrs Malola Sdn. Bhd.

We wish to clarify that DBKL has received an application for a Development Order for mixed development on the 11th of July 2017 involving the privately owned lots 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 417, 419, 420, PT 1074 and a part of the road reserve lands (government land) at Section 57, Jalan Raja Chulan next to the BNFR area. The size of the proposed development site is 8.573 acres.

We wish to highlight that the proposed development site does not involve the BNFR. The phrase “**sebahagian tanah kerajaan**” used in the title for the application of the proposed development and displayed as proof in the statements, actually refer to the portion of the road reserves between the lots 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 417, 419, 420 and PT 1074, Section 57, Jalan Raja Chulan. It is normal practice that once adjoining lots are combined for development, the road reserves between the lots are taken up as part of the new development.

In conclusion it is reiterated that the proposed development site is **not Government Land which was bought back** and neither is it the **NRE Interactive Gallery** as alleged by the writer.

We also wish to clarify that based on Section 21, Wilayah Persekutuan Act (Planning) 1982 (Act 267), the application for the planning approvals needs to be submitted by the applicant and a development order issued before any works can commence. The status of this application is still **under consideration by DBKL** as feedback from other agencies and various technical issues still need to be ironed out.

We thank the parties concerned for their dedication in wanting to preserve the BNFR and we wish to assure everyone that we are equally committed to its preservation. We hope the above clarification suffices and if there are still areas of ambiguity please feel free to drop in to DBKL and we will be happy to provide any further information on the matter.

HJ. KHALID BIN ABD SAMAD
MINISTER OF FEDERAL TERRITORIES
26th June 2019