

'Use land to build public carpark instead'

Religious bodies oppose MPSJ's plan to convert site into commercial property

Story and photos by
PRIYA MENON
priya@thestar.com.my



THE Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) has proposed a 21-storey commercial building project in SS13, adjacent to several places of worship.

It said the construction of the building, which would later be sold, would help fund a multi-storey carpark and community hall in SS15.

Subang Jaya Residents Association chairman A. S. Gill questioned why a public infrastructure project was being funded in such a way.

"Why do they need to develop this vacant land to fund the SS15 hall? Shouldn't the state government pay for the project?" he asked.

The 0.584ha land – Lot 9503 – is located between a factory, the Varatharaja Perumal temple, Subang Jaya Buddhist Association (SJBA) premises and the proposed Gurdwara Sahib Subang Jaya.

During a briefing by MPSJ, representatives from all three organisations expressed opposition to the plan.

"We were shocked that this small piece of land would be converted into a commercial property.

"We had been told that the land would be used as an open-air parking lot," said SJBA member Wang Hwee Beng.

Another member, James Khoo, said parking space was insufficient currently and the area was already congested.

He said on weekends, up to 200 people would visit the association's building.

"The high-rise building will further increase the population and car density here," he said.

Subang Sikh Association commit-



Not well received: MPSJ has proposed to build the 21-storey commercial building on a land located between a factory and several places of worship.

tee member Amanjeet Singh said they were told the high-rise building would have 700 parking bays.

"We need more parking space every day as religious ceremonies are not held only on weekends," he added.

Varatharaja Perumal Temple committee members Tamilvanan Gopal and R. Subramani said the commercial development would not help resolve parking woes in the area.

"There is no guarantee that parking spots will be available to worshippers, especially on weekdays," he said.

Y. Sela said they were promised

an additional access route to ease traffic congestion on the main road leading to the temple.

They said the vacant plot of land should be converted into a public parking lot instead.

They expressed concern that the proposed high-rise building would affect Hindu worshippers when offering their prayers to the sun.

Meanwhile, Subang Jaya assemblyman Hannah Yeoh said she had asked MPSJ to conduct a consultation session with the three religious bodies.

"I attended the consultation session and a few options were mooted," she said, adding that the land

The high-rise building will further increase the population and car density in the neighbourhood.

– JAMES KHOO

was gazetted for commercial use.

Yeoh said she had asked MPSJ to write in officially to obtain feedback about the proposal from the places of worship concerned.