

# Closing for a better Taman Jaya

The popular park in Petaling Jaya will be inaccessible to the public for one year beginning 2020 to facilitate much-needed renovation works. >2&3

SIAR METRO

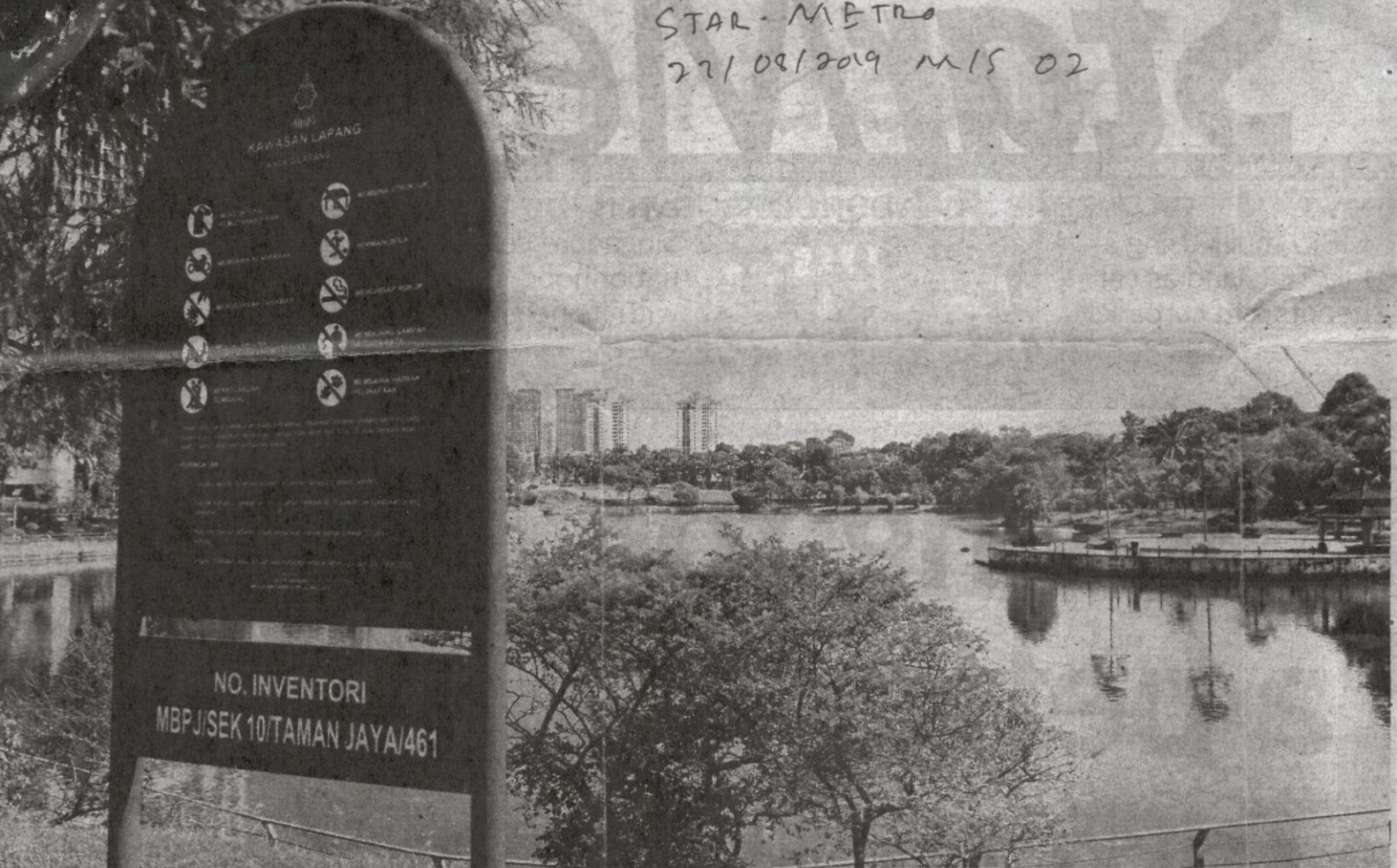
27/08/2019

MIS 01, 02, 03, 04



Insightfully: Many park-goers complain that the lake in Taman Java is choked with rubbish and debris, and emits a stench. — LOW LAY PHON/The Star

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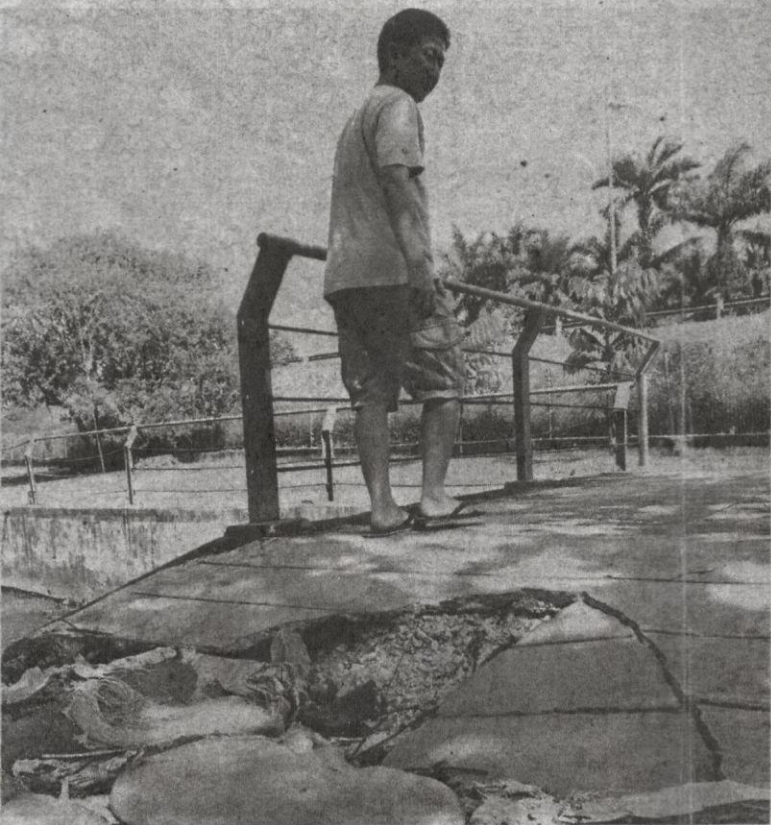
Taman Jaya will be closed for a year from 2020 for the upgrading and renovation works. — Photos: LOW LAY PHON/The Star

# 'Make maintenance a priority'

Stakeholders want MBPJ to focus on Taman Jaya's upkeep after upgrade



Stakeholders want MBPJ to remove drainage connectivity from the surrounding neighbourhoods into the lake in Taman Jaya.



Lee says the lake emits a foul smell, making it unpleasant for joggers and walkers. (Right) Visitors hope to see more colourful plants in the park.

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA  
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TAMAN Jaya in Petaling Jaya has been slated for renovation and upgrading works in 2020 and will be closed for a year.

The popular park in Jalan Timur, nearby the Section 9 and Section 10 neighbourhoods, has been in a sorry state for some years now.

Despite its rundown condition, it still attracts hordes of visitors each week.

It is also a well-liked place to hold running events and is the venue for the yearly Chap Goh Mei festival.

*StarMetro* spoke to several park-goers on what improvements they expect to see at the park.

A few concerned residents said the facilities affixed to the park should be sturdy, of good quality and should not disintegrate due to weather conditions.

They said there should be proper supervision when the renovations were carried out and scheduled maintenance work to ensure facili-

ties were kept in good order.

A Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) spokesperson said the park which has been around since 1954, last underwent major renovations in 2001.

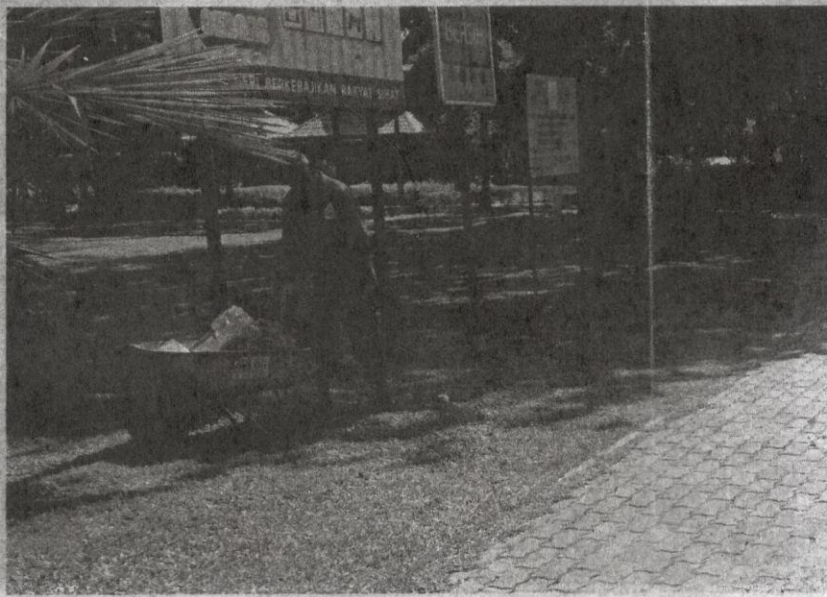
"We will deepen the lake and clean it up. We will also upgrade the edges of the lake and fence parts of it.

"However the extent of the renovation works depends largely on the allocation approved at the city council's 2020 budget," said the spokesperson.

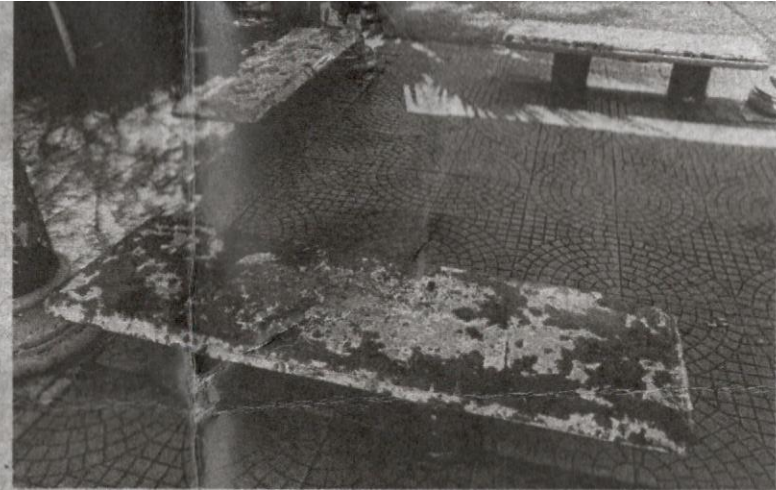
He said minor works would first be done to address damaged parts of the walkway so the public could continue using the trail until it was closed next year.

Frequent park visitor Daniel Lee said the Taman Jaya lake emitted a stench, making it rather unpleasant for joggers to use the park.

"I see dead fish floating in the lake. The lake is smelly and looks clogged. I have noticed on several occasions mineral water bottles floating in the lake.



STAIR METRO  
22/08/2019  
MIS 03



The poor condition of benches at Taman Jaya.



A toppled signage poses a danger to park-goers, especially children.

Selva says enzyme should be used to treat the lake just like what is being done in Taman Aman.

"The jogging and walking pavements were repaved not too long ago but some parts are damaged and unsafe for users.

"It is dangerous for joggers and the elderly who visit Taman Jaya," said Lee, who has been visiting the park since 2015.

The bad stench, he said, made it unbearable to jog and asked the city council to address the matter.

Lee added that he was happy to hear that renovation works would take place and hoped more colourful plants would be included in the new look.

on council benches.

"Have more mini outdoor games here for the children, teenagers and adults. MBPJ should have a mini basketball court and some ideas could also be taken from the Titiwangsa Lake in Kuala Lumpur.

"However, whatever plans in the pipeline must not result in the big and old trees being chopped down," he added.

Former Centre for Environment, Technology and Development, Malaysia (Cetdem) executive director Anthony Tan said MBPJ must spell out in detail all renovation

project are better spelt out.

"MBPJ must make it compulsory for the contractor to list down all the works that will be carried out on the development notice board," he said, adding that this would provide transparency among stakeholders.

Tan also complimented the city council for providing 300 free parking bays adjacent to the Satellite Chicken Rice restaurant in Section 10 as the park had limited parking space.

Eco-activist Gurmit Singh said he wondered if the lake's last upgrade



He also hoped the open concept library project would also be sped up.

Section 14 (Jalan 14/1 to 14/15) Residents Association chairman Selva Sugumaran said MBPJ should remove the drainage connectivity from the surrounding neighbourhoods into the lake.

"Deepening the lake will not have long-term benefits if the lake continues to get unfiltered matter from the drains and other sources.

"The city council should also consider treating the lake with enzyme like what is being done at the Taman Aman lake."

He said it would be good to have small-scale businesses such as well-regulated food trucks at the park.

Selva recalled that in the past, there were permanent chess boards

project it has planned for Taman Jaya.

This, he said would ensure transparency and keep residents up to date with the city council's plans for their park.

"In 2015, the park underwent some upgrading and renovation works.

"The notice board stated that the landscape furniture would be upgraded.

"Some of these renovated facilities, including the walkway, were poorly built. What happened to the maintenance of these facilities?

"The city council must have a good park maintenance plan for the facilities. The park used to have more benches and over the years, the broken ones were removed but they have not been replaced.

"I hope plans for the upcoming

project was supervised.

"The city council has a responsibility to explain why some parts of the pedestrian paths are now in poor condition despite renovations taking place a few years ago.

"Now, there is going to be another upgrade which will take a year to complete. I hope the park will have covered walkways from the park to the Taman Jaya LRT station," he said.

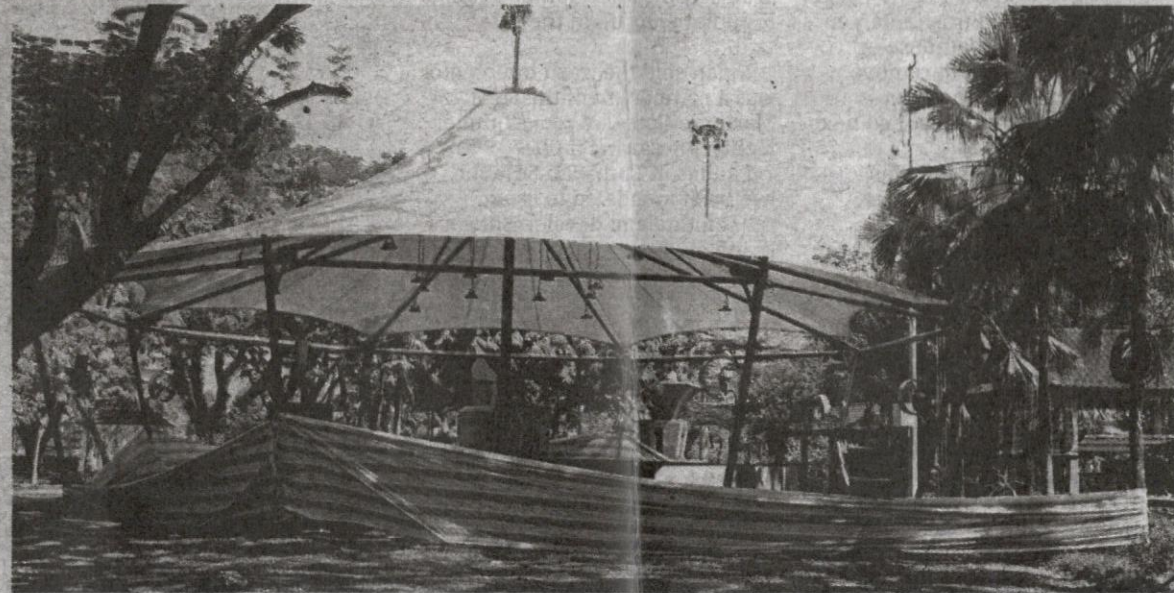
Meanwhile, Section 10 Residents' Association president Ronald Danker said it was time for the lake to be cleaned because it overflowed during downpours.

"The lake needs thorough cleaning. The walkway around the lake needs to be upgraded and lighting has to be improved," he said.

■ SEE PAGE 6 FOR A READER'S VIEW



Many say the irresponsible dumping of waste at the park has to stop.



Park-goers want MBPJ to speed up the opening of the outdoor library in Taman Jaya.