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Land snag to public park plan

Lydia Gomez

KUALA LUMPUR: The last phase of negotiations to sort out land issues that have delayed the government's plan for a 188.93ha public park — the size of 300 football fields — is expected to conclude by next year.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung said three more plots of land — two leased to Measat Satellite Systems Sdn Bhd and the other partly occupied by Bukit Kiara Equestrian Club — were being gazetted.

Four other plots which would tie in with these areas to form the massive public park and green lung were already being developed. These include security patrols and the building of fences and facilities for hiking, cycling and picnicking for senior citizens and the disabled, he said.

Announced in 2007, the RM250 million project, tentatively called the Large-Scale Public Park, will span across Taman Lembah Kiara in Taman Tun Dr Ismail, the KL Golf and Country Club, the Bukit Kiara Equestrian Club and Sri Hartamas.

Chor said it would take up to 25 years to complete the entire project as the landscaping and planning were based on the "design with nature" concept, where the

existing ecology would not be affected.

"These negotiations have been delayed a bit, but we are in the final stages. Two plots were leased to Measat.

"So, we have to solve this problem with them and give them another piece of land but not in the middle."

Chor said negotiations were under way with Bukit Kiara Equestrian Park to reclaim part of the land it was situated on.

The park would also include an arboretum to showcase the unique species of plants, flowers and trees found in Malaysia and the tropical region.

"We do not have a name yet. When we have reached a certain point of development, we will come up with the most suitable name for this big park," he said after a briefing on the project at the Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Bakti building yesterday.

The park is one of the 49 initiatives under the 10th Malaysia Plan that focuses on comfortable living in the urban environment.

It will be developed by the National Landscape Department under the ministry as well as related agencies, including Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute.