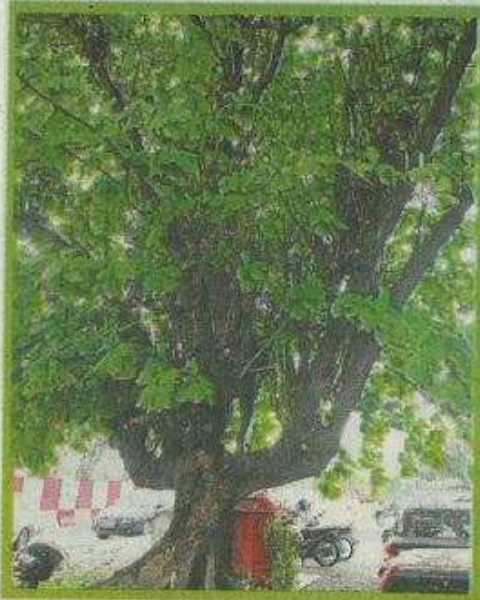


Gigantic SS14 Tree to be Relocated

Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad to finance relocation of Ketapang tree along Jalan SS14/1 to make way for LRT guideway



The tree is presently located along Jalan SS14/1 alongside Persiaran Jengka. It is in the LRT guideway construction path.

Prasarana group communications chief Masnizam Hisham said the company had decided to accept the proposal by residents in the area to have the tree relocated instead of allowing it to go under the axe.

Masnizam said Prasarana will work hand-in-hand with the Subang Jaya Municipal Council and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) to ensure the success of this relocation and that the tree survives the effort.

"We will have our main contractor Trans Resources Corporation Sdn Bhd (TRC) assist with all that is necessary such as heavy equipment to excavate and transport the tree to its new home, which will be identified by MPSJ," Masnizam said.

According to experts from FRIM, the tree could be transplanted. It would however have to be trimmed, treated and allowed to undergo a hardening period of between two to three months before it is moved to its new location.

The process will include treating the root ball and ensuring that the tree is properly propped up and supported to avoid any tilting.

ADUN Subang Jaya Hannah Yeoh

greeted the news with total support for the effort undertaken by Prasarana.

"I am glad Prasarana is funding the cost for this relocation. My office had received a petition earlier with 195 signatures expressing their concern about the fate of the tree."

"FRIM's assistance will be invaluable in this effort which will involve MPSJ as well. We do want to see Subang Jaya greened and our urban forest initiative in USJ3C where 1,111 trees had been planted is testimony to that," she said.

MPSJ Zone 1 councillor Rajiv Rishyakaran the initiative to relocate the tree was unique.

"I am saddened by the felling of many trees to make way for the LRT. It's a costly affair to relocate mature trees which a high mortality rate."

"This initiative is unique and relocation of trees will be on a case-to-case basis. Trees that have to be felled will have to be replaced by Prasarana. For every tree felled, they have to replace them with 10," he said.

Restaurant Laksmi Bhavan owner Vijayan Santhirasengaran who operates his business along Jalan SS14/1 was the most excited about the relocation since he was the one who took the initiative to initiate



the signature campaign.

"I am surprised and overwhelmed by the decision to relocate the tree. I never thought our petition would be taken seriously."

"I was sceptical about starting the petition when

it was first suggested to me. We were not expecting a miracle but we just decided to start the signature drive," he said.

Vijayan said the momentum for the signature drive increased as residents and regular customers began signing the form he had left at the counter.

Editor's Note: If you would like to share your opinion about this story, write to us at editor@sjecho.com.my and we will try our very best to publish it in our September edition. Please include your full name and contact number for us to contact you for any clarification. Thank You.

EFFORTS are underway to prepare a 3-storey tall Ketapang tree in SS14 for relocation, the first-of-its-kind initiative to be carried out in Subang Jaya.

Funded by Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad, the Kelana Jaya LRT Line operator, the initiative will take between two to three months and cost approximately RM15,000.