

Headline	Timber troubles		
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Date	16 Nov 2012	Color	Full Color
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Journalist	Stuart Michael	AdValue	RM 67,638
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Timber troubles

The Hulu Selangor District Council have removed 40 large trees in Kuala Kubu Baru to stop a bug infestation from spreading. >2&3



Bemoan the loss

Only tree stumps are left at a park in Kuala Kubu Baru that was previously filled with trees housing a variety of birds.

- By FAIHAN GHANI / The Star

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For your safety

MDHS: Trees cut down due to bug infestation

By **STUART MICHAEL**
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 Photos by **FAIHAN GHANI**

MORE than two dozen trees, some as old as 50 years, have been felled in Kuala Kubu Baru in Hulu Selangor three weeks ago.

The trees comprising mahogany, pine and *angsana* were cut down by the Hulu Selangor District Council (MDHS) workers as they feared bugs that infected the trees would spread to other trees in the area.

MDHS president Tukiman Nail said the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) had visited the area two months ago to assess the trees and identified a few that needed to be taken down.

"I know there is a public outcry over the trees being cut down. But it had to be done for the safety of residents staying here. The trees could collapse after being infested with bugs.

"To ensure that the trees and bugs are removed entirely, we had dug up and removed each of the tree stumps with a backhoe and planted new trees at the site," he said.

When asked whether the cutting of these trees



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What is left: A huge tree is removed while a palm tree is planted beside its stump.

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Not anymore: Many tourists and residents enjoy taking in the scenic view while listening to birds chirping at the once heavily shaded park.



Gone: Residents are complaining that 40 trees that are at least 50 years old were cut down.

Residents upsets over trees being cut down

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would affect the town's thriving bird life, Tukiman said there were many other huge trees around.

Some of the birds that were commonly seen were the Common Myna, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Yellow-Vented Bulbul, Peaceful Dove and Kingfishers.

Conservationist and resident Arumugam Batumalai said MDHS should have pruned and trimmed the trees and not remove them completely.

"With some of the trees cut down, I can feel it is much hotter.

"It will also deter the birds from taking refuge in the trees and impact the town's tourism.

"Many tourists go to Fraser's Hill for bird-watching and some of them also visit Kuala Kubu Baru for its scenic view with old buildings and bird life," he said.

Another resident Raj Kumar, said he was unhappy that the trees that were felled.



It had to be done for the safety of residents staying here. The trees could collapse after being infested with bugs.

—TUKIMAN NAIL

"Where are these birds going to go?" he questioned.

"Kuala Kubu Baru is like no other town. Old colonial buildings still stand with huge trees that were planted during the British rule, are still here.

"If MDHS continues to cut down more trees, Kuala Kubu Baru town will lose its scenic appeal," he said.



Irony: A signboard informing the public to preserve nature but in the background the trees were cut down at Kuala Kubu Baru.