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Orchard to officially open despite poor conditions

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CITY HALL will go ahead with its plans to officially open the controversial Taman Dusun Bandar this month.

Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said the decision to open the park was made despite *The Malay Mail* highlighting the poor condition of the orchard.

The Malay Mail had on Sept 23 highlighted that the RM17 million fruit orchard was a major embarrassment to Kuala Lumpur tourism.

Our investigations revealed that many trees and plants were unhealthy, with its leaves eaten by insects or caterpillars. Many

of the fruit trees were also young and the buildings were also not well maintained.

Ahmad Phesal had then said he would visit the park to look into the poor conditions before it is officially launched.

Yesterday however, he admitted that he had yet to visit the park due to other work commitments. He did not reveal what his commitments were but instead said: "I was in Mecca two months ago and I was outstation last month for work purposes."

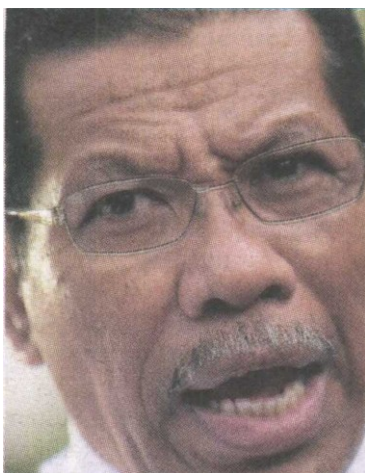
He also said that *The Malay Mail* had "picked" on trees which were infected with dis-

ease in our report.

"FRIM (Forest Research Institute of Malaysia) had already informed us that the soil in the area is suitable for fruit trees," he said.

"Most of the trees are in good condition. It is not fair for you to pick on the minority, which need to be given special attention."

Ahmad Phesal was earlier met at the City Hall headquarters in Jalan Raja Laut where he officially launched the Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) open day and LA 21 office.



AHMAD PHE SAL: Admitted he has yet to look into the poor conditions at the park