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Residents' handwritten plea to save trees

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TAMAN Mayang residents have placed a poster around the trunk of a tree in a last-ditch attempt to save it from being felled.

"Stop the cruel cutting of trees," said the handwritten message penned by residents to protest against the Petaling Jaya City Council's (MBPJ) move to cut down the tree.

They are hoping the tree will not suffer the same fate as three other healthy and mature ones which were cut down earlier at the same public park in their neighbourhood.

"You should not cut down a beautiful tree that has taken 30 years to grow. It's a shame! What has happened to the trees is wanton vandalism. Another tree is going to face the chainsaw," said Yap Cheng Kiat, 77.

Yap, Chan Chow Wang, 71, and Ching Kok Hin, 57, have called on other residents to protest against MBPJ's decision to cut down another tree.

"Our trees are silent guards that provides us with clean air and shade. It's helpless against the chainsaw. We have to fight for them," added Chan.

Chan said they would write to Petaling Jaya mayor Mohd Azizi Mohd Zain, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali and state exco for Tourism, Consumer Affairs and Environment Elizabeth Wong to stop the council



Chan (left) and Foo Say Tuan have put up a banner on the tree at Jalan SS25/33 to stop contractors from cutting it down.

from cutting down the tree.

"Officials at MBPJ tell us that it is routine to cut down trees and they will be replaced but this is absurd," he added.

Several park-goers also objected to the council's move.

Accountant Salmiah Saifuddin, 45, said if the council felt the trees could come down during a thunderstorm, they should have pruned the branches instead of chopping the whole tree down.

"This park is an oasis during our morning and evening exercise because the trees make it so," she added.

The 0.8ha Taman Mayang public

park is bordered by Jalan SS25/33, Jalan SS25/30, SS25/39A and SS25/26.

Yesterday, *StarMetro* reported that residents were unhappy with MBPJ over its decision to chop down three mature trees at their park.

MBPJ said the trees were felled to prevent accidents during a thunderstorm.

Selangor Environment Association president M. Varatharajoo said MBPJ must stop the tree cutting exercise and see how best to prune trees if they pose a hazard.

"MBPJ should get the advice of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia on better methods to care for trees," he said.