

Headline	Taman Tugu will help preserve native trees		
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# 'Taman Tugu will help preserve native trees'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The move to conserve and redevelop a 27ha rainforest park here would not only boost ecotourism and awareness on Malaysia's rainforest, but would also go towards preservation of threatened and endangered flora species.

Ecotourism and Conservation Society Malaysia chief executive officer and co-founder Andrew Sebastian said with the introduction of Taman Tugu, the city centre would have another attraction besides "must-see" sights such as the Petronas Twin Towers.

"People travel to places that have nice parks as they want to be inspired. Once completed, the park will be an attraction for tourists and locals alike.

"This initiative will promote our city's ecotourism, which will not only provide recreational facilities, but also educate the world on the heritage rainforest it holds.

"I hope that it will be a tropical rainforest, mirroring Malaysia's rainforests, and not those of other countries," he said, adding that the Rainforest Discovery Centre would play a major role in educating and raising awareness on the 5,000 ethnic Malaysian rainforest trees to be planted on site.

He urged developers to be mindful when undergoing construction at the site to ensure the tree percentage of the area was not compromised.

"Any development undertaken in the city centre must be done with minimum impact to the environment," he said.

Malaysian Nature Society member of board of trustees Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor welcomed the initiative, spearheaded by Khazanah Nasional Bhd, to introduce a new green lung in the city.

"Congratulations to Khazanah for coming up with this corporate social responsibility project. However, by planting 5,000 ethnic Malaysian rainforest trees on said site, there

needs to be a continuous effort to maintain Taman Tugu.

"Taman Tugu should be widely promoted to the public. They must be made aware of the park to fully utilise it. Youths need to be encouraged to use the park," he said.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod lauded the move.

The project, through a reforestation strategy, aimed to regenerate the current secondary forest into a rich and sustainable urban rainforest park.

"I support the idea as it will help to conserve many endangered flora species.

"The initiative will also contribute to the country's efforts towards achieving the Convention of Biological Diversity-Aichi Biodiversity targets by 2020," he said, adding that the convention was a multilateral treaty, with conservation of biological diversity as one of its main goals.



An aerial view of the **Taman Tugu Project** site. Pic by Muhd Zaaba Zakeria