KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR (STARMETRO)			
TARIKH	:	8/1/2020	MUKA SURAT	:	2
JABATAN	:	UMUM			
KLASIFIKASI	:	**PERHATIAN**			



Park users ignoring the detour warning to walk along a narrow strip next to the construction site.



Bikers and joggers at Bukit Kiara are forced to take the temporary forest trail to avoid the slope rectification works along the paved road.



'Risky alternative route'

Many Bukit Kiara joggers worry for their safety on forest trail



Rectification work is expected to be completed by the end of February.



(Above) Joggers have to share the narrow path in the forest trail with cyclists. The path can get very slippery when it rains.

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A MORNING jog up Bukit Kiara is part of a daily routine for hundreds of joggers and cyclists in and around Taman Tun Dr Ismail, some of whom start their journey as early as 5am to enjoy the cool air amid the lush forest surroundings.

The popular 5km trail, which is mostly paved pedestrian road and some dirt paths, suffered a landslip on a section of the slope leading up the hill about six months ago.

However, this did not stop people from continuing their routine, as they skirted around the affected area situated about 750m away from the entrance.

But authorities are now in the midst of slope rectification works and have closed off the entrance since mid-December last year, forcing joggers to take a temporary detour that has got them all riled up.

They claim that the detour, which takes joggers into a forest trail, is not safe for the public.

Joggers must now take a narrow path that leads past the construction works and exits at Guard Post C, which is located at a cross junction in Bukit Kiara, close to the slope rectification site.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) have sealed off the entrance with yellow tape and joggers need to enter the forest trail at the side of the guard post. The path across the forest is also shared with cyclists.

CS Ooi, 66, said the closure of the entrance was not justified as the National Landscape Department (JLN) could have just closed off part of the road leading to the construction site.

"The detour is narrow and uneven. It can be slippery and muddy when it rains.

"The pathway is not lit, which could result in people tripping and hurting themselves, especially those who go very early in the morning," he said, adding that it was dangerous for the elderly and families with young children.

Currently, most visitors ignore the detour and instead take the forest trail and exit through a small opening just after the guardhouse at the entrance to get onto the road.

They also jog past the construction site using a small pathway next to the site.

Lai Suat Yan, in her early 50s, said the signboard at the detour was not clear enough.

"With only a notice of the detour at the entrance, joggers cannot compute the entire detour which we are asked to take.

"There are no proper signs along the detour and people can easily get lost," she said.

A frequent park user, Andre Keller, 58, hoped rectification works could be completed faster.

"The authorities should make a temporary walkway beside the construction site and not close the guardhouse entrance," he said.

Meanwhile, some joggers accepted the change, saying it was an opportunity to take on a new route in the forest.

"The detour was a little confusing at first but it was not really a problem," said Nor Amirah Syamimi, 28.

JLN director-general (development) Rotina Mohd Daik said rectification works supervised by the Public Works Department (JKR) was expected to be completed by the end of February.

"We have discussed with JKR and the closure was done for the public's safety as we do not want joggers exposed to the risk of land erosion or go near the construction site.

"The closure is vital as construction machinery use the tarmac road to get to the construction site.

"Safety of the joggers is the priority here and joggers are advised to follow the detour and accept the inconvenience for this period," she said.



The detour for joggers following the temporary closure of the paved road near the guardhouse at the park entrance.