

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Enlighten us on meaning of ‘reserve land’

I REFER to the letter by the Malaysian Nature Society “[Protect the forests, scrap the Klorr plan](#)” (*The Star*, Jan 12) in which it was stated that the proposed Kuala Lumpur Outer Ring Road (KLORR) would run from Selayang to Cheras and cut through the Klang Gates Wildlife Reserve and the Ampang and Gombak forest reserves.

I would like to ask the Government and the local authorities what is actually meant when a certain tract of land has been designated as a “reserve”?

Can it then be arbitrarily decided later by politicians who “re-designate” that piece of land and use it for whatever purpose they deem suitable for the moment?

If I am not wrong, the Klang Gates reserve is an essential part of the water catchment area; it also preserves our dwindling wildlife, such as the endangered tapir.

It would be interesting to hear from the authorities whether a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study (EIA) was conducted and whether the results were published.

On the same subject, it is heartening to read that the Selangor state government has aborted the cemetery project in the form of a promise not to develop the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve. It is also commendable that the state government has announced plans to make the area a recreational forest for the enjoyment of its denizens.

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