

Draft plan changes its tune

Additions make Kuala Lumpur Draft Plan 2020 unrecognisable, say MPs

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SEVERAL issues raised at the final public briefing on the amendments to the Kuala Lumpur Draft Plan 2020 yesterday came as a surprise to some MPs.

Most were unaware of recent additions to the draft plan, including the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) circle and green lines, the secondary and tertiary phases of the urban rail corridor project.

The representatives present at the hearing said there was a need for City Hall to carry out another round of briefings for stakeholders before these projects were gazetted in the plan.

Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar said there were several crucial details which were only just announced despite the draft plan being introduced in 2008.

"I am concerned with the haphazard nature of government plans," she said.

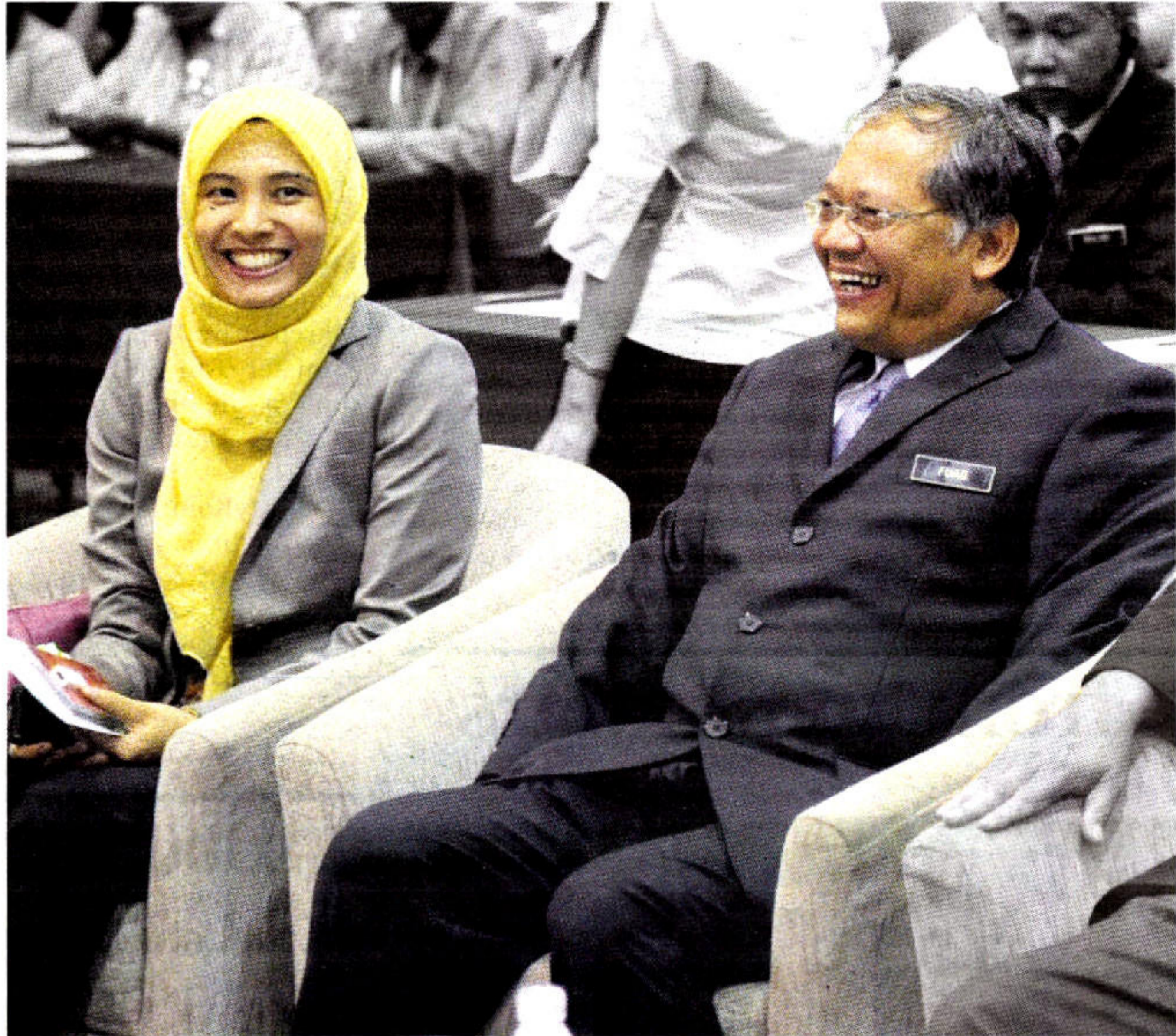
"When the plan was first launched, we heard the term 'transit zones', which are corridors for public transport, but there was no mention of the MRT circle or green lines."

She said she did not have any details on the MRT lines as she did not attend hearings on the proposed plans.

Batu MP Tian Chua said the draft plan looked almost like a new one, as it contained projects the MPs and residents were unaware of.

"City Hall should have another round of public consultation to allow residents to find out what's going on," he said.

According to the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) website, the MRT



NO JOKE: Ahmad Fuad shares a light moment with Nurul Izzah at the briefing yesterday — Pic: RAZAK GHAZALI

circle line, which would be 41km long with 30 stations, would link areas such as Mid Valley, Mont Kiara, Sentul Timur and Ampang. The line would make use of the Ampang Light Rail Transit (LRT) line and the width of the planned corridor is a 2.5km radius.

For the MRT green line, a total of 36km served by 24 stations will connect Kepong to Serdang. Both lines will sport interchange stations when it crosses existing rail lines such as the LRT and Monorail to encourage commuters to transit to other public transport lines.

Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail said residents could still raise their concerns on the plan and it would be taken into consideration before being gazetted.

He had previously said the gazetting of the draft plan, which had been scheduled for last year, was postponed to include, among others, the provisions of the secondary and tertiary phases of the MRT project and the plot ratio for high impact development like the proposed redevelopment of the Sungai Besi Airport.

On allegations by Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng that there had been land acquisition for infrastructure projects in several areas in the city including Bukit Bintang, Jalan Imbi and Jalan Sultan even before the plan was gazetted, Ahmad Fuad said the authorities have the power to implement policies it sees fit despite the plan not being gazetted.

"We have done so for plans

which we can implement immediately but this is more towards the creation of open spaces and green networks," he said.

At a question and answer session earlier yesterday, residents from Taman Cheras, Ampang, objected to the proposed Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang Expressway (SUKU) highway.

Ahmad Fuad said the proposed highway was just a plan and not etched in stone.

"Maybe the MRT circle line will make the highway redundant. Also, if the highway is elevated, it is important to know exactly which residential areas will be affected.

"Most importantly, the project cannot compete with the MRT project."