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Playground that stopped a multi-million ringgit project

BEATING THE ODDS ... This playground, (pictured above) right in the heart of Tangkak town about 35km from Muar, will probably go down in local history as the field which thwarted a multi-million ringgit development project - all in the name of sports and recreation.

The Johor Government had scrapped a RM12 million town redevelopment project, in favour of the playground.

The blessing for such a move, believed to be the first of its kind in the State, came from Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

Under the second phase of the town's redevelopment plan, construction on the 95, three-storey shop premises estimated at RM12 million, was scheduled to begin on the playground, this year.

The first phase, involving the construction of a district office, a four-storey, three-room 18 unit flat and two units of one-storey houses at a site nearby, is nearing completion.

The whole project, by Naufal Bersatu Sdn Bhd, on a 4.6ha site, is estimated to cost RM23.9 million.

Ghani said that the State Government had decided that the second phase of the town's redevelopment project on the playground, be scrapped to save the field.

He said the move to do away with the development project, in favour of the playground, was in line with the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to make Malaysia a 'Garden Nation'.

"Developers and individuals are reminded not to fell trees unnecessarily or commercially develop any vacant land, without any thought of preserving the environment."

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