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Two angšana trees facing the chop (see CORRECTION above)

BEGINNING OF THE END? ... Standing on land that's been stripped of all signs of life, these two angšana trees seem to be seeking comfort from each other in the face of a non-existent future.

Construction work for a sewerage pipe-laying project along Jalan Tun Razak has turned the once lush three-hectare plot to a storage space for soil removed from the project site.

Although the soil is due to be re-located to the project site to cover the sewerage pipes once they are in place, for now they have been unceremoniously dumped on the tree roots.

It is a sad closing chapter for these majestic trees, especially after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad galvanised an ambitious Nationwide Tree Planting Programme on March 3 with the goal of planting three million trees by 2000 and another 20 million by 2020.

There have been signs that everyone top down is taking their cue.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu pledged shortly after that 72 trees, ironically also along Jalan Tun Razak, would not be destroyed even though they stood in the way of a RM1.2 billion highway project linking the city centre, Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

Perhaps some trees are just a little luckier than others.

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