

19/10/1999

PM's help sought over Bandar Sunway U-turn

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MORE than 100 men, women and children gathered at the Bandar Sunway toll plaza last Saturday, undisturbed by the rain to demand that Lingkaran Trans Kota Sdn Bhd or Littrak build a permanent U-turn to put an end to traffic congestion in that area.

Littrak is the concessionaire for Lebuhraya Damansara Puchong which was opened in January.

They were enraged, they said, because Littrak and the Works Ministry had been giving them the runaround for months, putting them through the mental stress of having to go through the daily traffic congestion.

Carrying placard and banners, the angry protesters were further encouraged as motorists hooted their horns as a show of support.

Leading the group was Bandar Sunway Residents' Association vice-chairman Joseph Gomez and committee members who, during the 40-minute demonstration, briefed the residents and reporters on the chronology of events leading to the protest, which was the fourth.

Gomez said a memorandum had been sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday seeking his intervention to bring an end to this traffic madness.

He said they had to turn to the PM for help as they have exhausted all avenues for redress.

Gomez said the numerous discussions with Littrak and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu had been futile as both parties had turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the pleas and requests of the Bandar Sunway residents.

He said the residents had been "pushed beyond limits" and were "very sore" with Littrak, especially operations manager Amran Amir, for having made their life difficult.

The protest, he said, was to demand a permanent 24-hour U-turn which he believed Littrak is capable of providing.

Gomez said all Littrak needed to do was construct either a horse-shoe elevated U-turn or an underpass to replace the temporary roundabout.

He said alternatively, a proper and safe U-turn could also be created by closing down two toll booths on either side of the LDP at the Bandar Sunway toll plaza and reserve these four lanes for the U-turn.

Gomez said the U-turn had been a long-standing issue with the latest promise by Littrak to open the temporary U-turn during peak hours not being kept.

He said there was no signboard informing motorists of the opening hours of the U-turn as the only signage at the site of the temporary U-turn was a countdown notice that the signalised traffic junction replace the temporary roundabout under the LDP alignment in 20 weeks' time.

Gomez also said paying RM2 in toll charges to make a U-turn during off peak hours was "daylight robbery".

He said the congestion on the LDP in Bandar Sunway was created by Littrak so that it would give them an excuse to close the temporary U-turn.

Gomez called off the protest with the final words that Bandar Sunway residents would not settle for anything less than a permanent U-turn, even if the the roundabout was turned into a signalised traffic junction.

He said the residents had initially planned to block off the entire stretch of LDP near the Sunway Toll plaza but decided to scale down to just a roadside demonstration.

But the next time would have more impact, he added.

Gomez said on behalf of the residents, he was inviting the Prime Minister and Works Minister to tea so that they would know what the hue and cry was all about and why the residents had been pushed this far.

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