KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	2/10/2021 (SABTU)	MUKA SURAT	:	10
JABATAN	:	FRIM			

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TREES UNDER THREAT

TAIPING PARK'S ICONIC TREE 'DEAD'

Roots of 136-year-old rain tree, fondly known as hujan-hujan, have become rotten, decayed

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A 136-YEAR-OLD tree fondly known as hujan-hujan (*Samanea saman*) at the Taiping Lake Gardens here was yesterday declared "dead" due to weak structural and anchor roots.

Taiping Municipal Council (MPT) in a statement said the tree near Taman Tasik Taiping jetty was uprooted once on Jan 20, 2018, due to heavy rain.

"The 136-year-old tree fell on the road due to a failed root system involving its structural and anchor roots.

"The main root, which strengthens and holds the trunk of the tree, was rotten.

"The root, which was about 1.5 metres from the root collar, had rotted with an estimated cavity of about eight inches in diameter.

"This tree had long been strengthened by these large roots that grew towards the parking lot, while most of the main branches and stems grew inclined towards the road and the lake," the statement said.

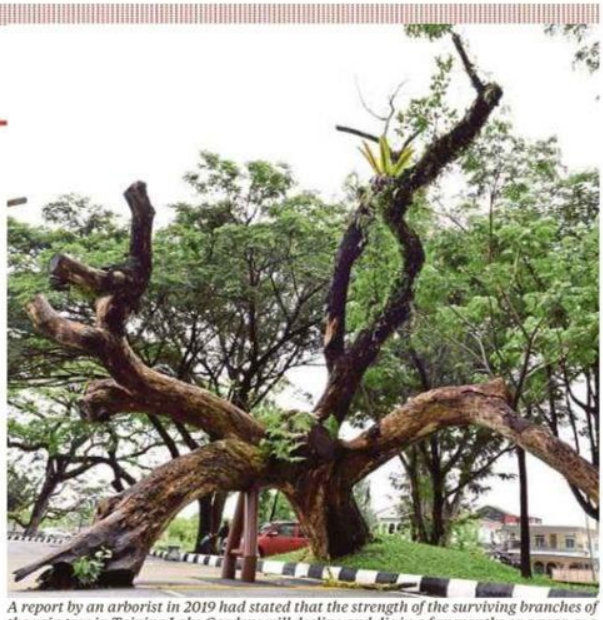
The council said the Heritage Tree Inspection and Evaluation Report at Taiping Lake Gardens, released by the certified arborist in 2019, had stated that the strength of the surviving branches would decline and die in a few months or a year, and the tree needed to be monitored immediately.

"We installed proppings and treated the tree as suggested by the arborist.

"We had planted three rain trees as a measure to replace dead trees in 2019, which was completed under former council president Borhan Abdul Halim," the statement said.

To date, the council had tagged 113 rain trees at the park and was also maintaining more than 1,300 other types of trees with help from arborists and experts from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia.

Previously used as a mining ground, Taiping Lake Gardens was the first public garden established during the British rule in the country in 1880, and is fully administered by the local council.



A report by an arborist in 2019 had stated that the strength of the surviving branches of the rain tree in Taiping Lake Gardens will decline and die in a few months or a year. FILE PIC