

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Statement by Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) on the Revocation of Heritage Site status of MaTIC by Jabatan Warisan Malaysia

We note with grave concern on the recent news surrounding the moves by the Jabatan Warisan Malaysia (JWN) to revoke the designation of the national heritage status of the Old Building of Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTIC) at Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur.

The listing of the heritage and monument status of the MaTIC properties and site by JWN was only recently gazetted on the National Heritage Register on 16th June 2016. The gazettement under the National Heritage Act was meant to protect the site and monument from adverse damages, and the criteria for such a listing is based on the historical importance and also its architectural and aesthetic character.

The sudden about-change and de-gazettement of the listing status of the MaTIC properties within half a year raises many questions on the efficacy and powers of the instruments of control that the designation of heritage and conservation is supposed to bring. We are now also deeply concerned about other properties already on the gazetted list.

We wish to also highlight that there are no provisions in the National Heritage Act allowing for the revocation of a gazetted status for listed sites and monuments. We contend that it is for this very reason that gazetted sites are protected perpetually and unconditionally, against the pressures of development and vested commercial interests.

We note subsequent press reports with details of the development plans for the site, and while Tourism and Cultural Minister seeks to assure that the historical buildings will not be affected, we refer you to the UNESCO's 'Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention: Buffer zones' as a reference.

We urge the relevant authorities to re-consider and review their decisions for MaTIC and to initiate further discussions with the stakeholders before proceeding further. Our nation's history and legacy is at stake and PAM remains committed to assist the authorities in this matter towards the best outcome for all.

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