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HEAVY RAIN

# ANOTHER CENTURY-OLD TREE FALLS IN TAIPING

Videos of fallen tree making the rounds on social media

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**T**HE Taiping Lake Gardens lost another of its century-old Albizia rain trees, or “pokok hujan-hujan”, when it collapsed on Friday.

Videos of the fallen tree have been making the rounds on social media.

Taiping Municipal Council president Khairul Amir Mohamad Zubir said yesterday that the 140-year-old tree, standing at about 17m, fell about 2pm during heavy rain and strong winds.

“Initial observations suggest that the tree was in good health with a stable canopy.

“However, its main branches leaned heavily toward the road and lake.

“The proximity of its roots to the paved road may also have weakened its stability, as several roots were found severed,” he said.

Khairul Amir added that the council is awaiting a full report from the appointed arborist before deciding on the next course of action.

The fallen tree is another loss for Taiping’s Rain-tree Walk, known for its century-old trees arching over the lake, creating a historic landscape.

On Oct 1, 2021, one of the rain trees was declared “dead” due to weak structural and anchor roots.

On Feb 23, 2022, a 137-year-old rain tree fell following strong winds and thunderstorms.

The council has tagged 113 rain trees at the park and oversees the maintenance of more than 1,300 other tree species with assistance from arborists and experts from the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

Formerly a mining site, Taiping Lake Gardens be-

came the country’s first public park under British rule in 1880 and is now managed by the council.

**Initial observations suggest that the tree was in good health with a stable canopy structure.**

**KHAIRUL AMIR MOHAMAD ZUBIR**  
Taiping Municipal Council president