



A tourist posing against a backdrop of murals in Jalan Alor KL Street Art 1 Lane, Kuala Lumpur, recently. BERNAMA PIC

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More beautiful lanes coming up in Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR

KUALA LUMPUR will be transformed into a street art capital and adorned with giant murals through the beautification of the city's back and side lanes.

The project, to be carried out in stages, is inspired by the successes of cities such as Melbourne in Australia, which is famous for the creativity of its street artists, whose works have become world attractions.

Towards this end, Kuala Lumpur City Hall is looking into the design and the technical aspects of the project.

Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah said following the success of pilot projects, such as the transformation of dirty lanes at Changkat Bukit Bintang in March 2018, City Hall would expand the project to other lanes.

He said besides the lanes in Bukit Bintang, the project would be carried out in Lorong Sultan and Lorong Petaling near Pasar Karat and Petaling Street.

Pasar Karat is frequented by antique lovers, while Petaling Street is popular with tourists.

"However, many people are afraid to use the lanes, regarding them as 'black areas' and unsafe. So this project will give the lanes a new image by making them cleaner, safer and brighter."

Mahadi said for Lorong Sultan, the proposed murals were of the area's history, as well as rustic signage and upgraded infrastructure, which included the drainage system.

"It will also involve repainting the pavements and putting up more streetlights."

In Lorong Petaling, he said, the murals would comprise aesthetically pleasing images of nature that were Instagrammable.

He said this would give the area an eco-

nomie boost, especially business opportunities, with visitors going there not only to shop but also to enjoy leisure activities such as photography.

He said the project would be a continuation of the one carried out in Lorong Yap Ah Loy, Lorong Bandar 11 and Lorong Bandar 13, which will be connected via a walkway.

Mahadi said each mural would have a different concept, theme and identity, depending on the background and history of the area. It would also be based on the suggestions provided by the local community.

"In Jalan Alor, the residents there wanted bright and cheerful murals, so images like butterflies and rainbows have been chosen."

On the pilot project in Bukit Bintang, Mahadi said six back and side lanes had been given facelifts.

The lanes are Jalan Changkat Bukit Bintang, Jalan Berangan, Jalan Rembia, Jalan Tingkat Tong Shin and Jalan Changkat Bukit Bintang.

He said two other projects — a pocket garden at the intersection of Jalan Rembia and a food festival in Jalan Rembia and Jalan Alor — were in the planning stages.

The transformation projects, he said, would increase the rental value of shoplots in the area by up to 40 per cent, as well as create job and business opportunities.

He said City Hall planned to paint murals on buildings such as "feeder pillar" and along walkways, like the one at the River of Life in Bukit Nanas.

Mahadi said the Kuala Lumpur Wholesale Market also had been given a new lease of life with beautiful murals.

"We see the potential of the market to become a tourist attraction, like the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne." **Bernama**