

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

WEE: KL SENTRAL FACELIFT ON THE CARDS

Govt mulls upgrade for transport hub to cater to traffic volume and high commuter figures

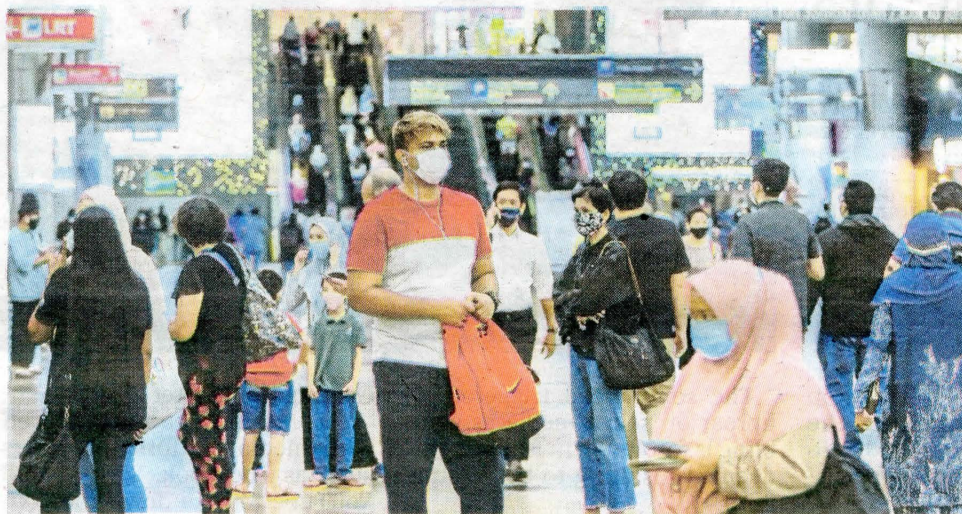
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THE government is mulling a major upgrade for Stesen Sentral Kuala Lumpur (KL Sentral), the first since it opened in 2001, to cater to the increasing number of commuters and traffic volume in the area.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said the facelift was timely as the transportation hub had exceeded its 100,000 daily commuters capacity.

"KL Sentral received an average of 200,000 commuters daily prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and currently it caters to about 70,000 commuters every day.

"The upgrade plan needs to be drawn from a holistic view, not just in providing public trans-



People walking about at KL Sentral. Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong says KL Sentral currently caters to 70,000 commuters daily. FILE PIC

portation to the people, but to have a comfortable terminal.

"We will hold further discussions with the stakeholders on this," he told reporters after distributing Ramadan giveaways to KL Sentral users in conjunction with its 20th anniversary celebration yesterday.

Earlier, in a speech, Wee said KL Sentral had set a global benchmark for transit-oriented development as it had a reference for similar establishments in countries like Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Republic of Guinea and New Zealand.

"It is an honourable recogni-

tion for the country's transportation system development, in line with our efforts to make Malaysia an exemplary developed nation.

"Malaysians, especially those in the Klang Valley, continue to benefit from services at KL Sentral, which is a landmark in the capital city."

On measures put in place amid the pandemic, Wee assured that commuters' safety was given the highest priority, as evident in all aspects of the terminal's operations.

He said KL Sentral would continue to be a vital transport hub

with two upcoming mega rail projects.

"Upon completion of the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project and south-bound Electric Train Services (ETS), we will see an increase of daily commuters at KL Sentral.

"This place will be the biggest interchange point (in the country). We have to address the congestion issue in the area and conduct a traffic impact assessment."

When recalling the history of the KL Sentral site, Wee said it was originally a marshalling yard owned by Keretapi Tanah Melayu

Bhd (KTMB) and used as a depot and warehouse to repair rail coaches.

"In 1997, MRCB's subsidiary, Kuala Lumpur Sentral Sdn Bhd, was given the mandate to develop a modern transportation hub through a concessionaire.

"At the time, the 29.13ha land was earmarked for a business hub, now known as KL Sentral CBD due to its strategic location and was expected to attract foreign investors to Malaysia."

Following this, plans to upgrade the public transportation in the city were put in motion, in tandem with infrastructure development, which saw the development of KL Sentral.

At the same event, MRCB Foundation contributed a total of RM100,000 to assist the B40 community, including visually-impaired individuals, affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The beneficiaries were the Malaysian Foundation for the Blind, PPR Lembah Pantai, Light-house Children Welfare Home Association Kuala Lumpur and Selangor and Pertubuhan Kebajikan Baitul Hasan Kuala Lumpur.

This contribution will benefit 500 people by providing food aid and sponsoring basic household items for the charity homes.