

SAFE AND CLEAN PUBLIC SPACES**It's up to KL residents to craft an ideal 21st-century city**

KUALA Lumpur has a rich history dating back to the late 1800s. It began as a small tin-mining settlement in the 1850s and was granted city status in 1972.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, KL developed rapidly as a centre of tin mining and trade, leading to increased immigration and economic growth.

In 1895, it became the capital of the newly formed Federated Malay States, and following independence from Britain in 1957, it became the capital of Malaysia.

Throughout the 20th century, Kuala Lumpur continued to grow and develop into a metropolis, with a thriving economy and diverse cultural scene.

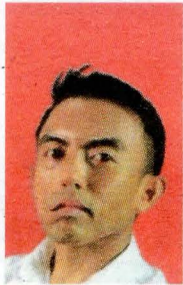
Is KL looking more and more like the city it should be?

Do we want something that resembles Copenhagen, Shanghai or Dubai? Or should we create something else.

Capital in the Twenty-First Century (originally in French 'Le Capital au XXI^e siècle') is a 2013 book by Thomas Piketty that provides an analysis of the history of wealth and income inequality.

Some takeaways from the book on the roles of a capital city, includes:

INVESTING in infrastructure: by recognising the importance of

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adequate infrastructure, capital cities can invest in transportation systems, affordable housing and other public goods that are necessary to support a high quality of life for residents;

ADDRESSING inequality: by understanding the causes and consequences of wealth and income inequality, capital cities can prioritise policies and initiatives that reduce inequality and promote economic equality, such as affordable housing, progressive taxation, and income redistribution programmes;

ENCOURAGING economic diversity: by recognising the importance of a diversified economy, capital cities can work to attract and retain a mix of industries and job opportunities;

PROMOTING sustainability: by acknowledging the importance of sustainability, capital cities can adopt policies and programmes that promote environ-



Residents enjoying themselves at Taman Tasik Titivangsa, Kuala Lumpur, on Federal Territories Day yesterday. An ideal KL should be livable for everyone. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

mental responsibility, reduce waste and conserve natural resources; and,

FOSTERING social cohesion: by prioritising social cohesion, capital cities can work to promote understanding and tolerance among different groups.

Dr Yong Adilah Shamsul Harumain, senior lecturer at the De-

partment of Urban and Regional Planning, Faculty of Built Environment, Universiti Malaya, said an ideal city is shaped by purposeful design and development, thus creating equitable, sustainable and livable environments that benefit residents.

The city should prioritise environmentally friendly practices,

such as reducing carbon emissions, promoting green spaces, and encouraging sustainable transportation options.

It should have good infrastructure and transportation systems.

An ideal city should celebrate diversity and promote equality, offering affordable housing, quality healthcare and education to residents.

Having a thriving economy is not just a bonus, but a necessity in creating jobs and opportunities for residents, and attracting businesses and investors.

Above all, an ideal KL should be liveable for everyone.

The city should provide a high quality of life, with safe and clean public spaces, green areas, and other amenities to make it an attractive place to live, work and visit."

By considering the needs of the city and its residents, an ideal 21st-century KL city can create a harmonious and dynamic environment. So let's be clear. It is not a question of which city KL should emulate, but rather a question of how the people can craft an ideal city to live in.

Selamat Hari Wilayah.

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