



City News

K U A L A L U M P U R C I T Y H A L L

MALAY STREET - A NEW SHOPPING BAZAAR

The Jalan Melayu - Masjid India area will see a RM10.416 million upgrading and renovation exercise incorporating a distinct Malay architecture with a 'textile theme'. The current hawkers, the majority of whom are unlicensed will be asked to take 'business leave' while construction is carried out starting 8 December 2003. Construction work is expected to take about a year.

The upliftment exercise will enable hawkers to trade in a covered walkway, stretching roughly 800 metres.

This area has traditionally been a Malay and Indian business and trading centre where Indian Muslims and others of Indian origin purchase their air tickets, baggage, textiles, sarees, religious items, jewellery etc. During Indian and Malay festivals, the area is congested with customers looking out for bargains.

City Hall is also considering building lifts at both ends of overhead pedestrian bridges to be constructed here to assist people cross the roads. Although overhead pedestrian bridges have been built, people find it difficult to climb up the steps and thus dash across the roads risking life and limb. Pedestrians overhead bridges have not been that popular among Malaysians who are "quite adept at dicing" with their lives. Senior citizens, infirm, visually and physically challenged will find it easy to cross the roads with the help of the lifts.

After the upgrading and renovation of Petaling Street 'Chinatown' of Kuala Lumpur, City Hall is now paying attention to this Malay bazaar to



Perspective plan of the proposed development in Jalan Melayu/ Masjid India.

develop it into another tourist shopping haven.

City Hall is also thinking of developing the Brickfields area into a 'Little India' where many Indian traders are based. Similarly, Chow Kit area and Kampung Baru are also on the drawing board for upgrading and improvement to turn them into shopping havens with identities of their own.

Malaysians love to shop in bazaars, night markets and weekend fairs where all types of things from kitchen utensils to home decoration items and foodstuff can be purchased at reasonable prices. These places are also attracting foreign and local tourists and shoppers.

Foreigners find shopping and bargaining in these open street markets and bazaars interesting and an unique experience. Street stalls and bazaars are a part of the national culture in this part of Asia.

The shopping area at Jalan Melayu/

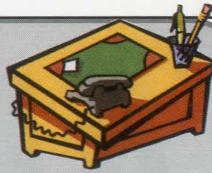
Masjid India/Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman triangle is well connected with rail and road transport systems and is easily accessible to the public.

According to plans, the heritage buildings in the area will be preserved and where possible restored and maintained so as not to lose the character of the place.

With regards to the traditional massage masseurs operating in the area, City Hall will conduct a study and review the situation. Currently, these traditional masseurs are unkempt, unhygienic, improperly attired and conduct business without any certification from the relevant authorities.

City Hall proposes to regulate and discipline this traditional massage business with a view to licencing them and bring about some orderliness which would be more acceptable to their patrons and customers. Their services have been patronized by tired citizens and foreign tourists.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK....



Come 14 December 2003 I would have served as mayor of Kuala Lumpur exactly two years – my first term of office. From 14 December 2001 – 13 December 2003, there were 726 days of which 546 days were working days, if I am correct with my arithmetic.

Whether it is a working day or not, I had my hands full attending to official duties and all other functions in my capacity as the Mayor of the premier city and federal capital Kuala Lumpur.

My report card states that I had carried out 580 activities from January – November in 2003 as compared to 591 in 2002 not counting the spot checks and incognito visits.

In the course of carrying out my work and duties, I have received both brickbats and bouquets. I take all this in my stride as part of my occupational pleasures and hazards. I am fully aware that not all stakeholders in the city can be satisfied and happy with our performance – but we strive to do our best. We try our best to deliver.

Some of the achievements that I am proud of and feel happy are:

- * Pushing through the KL Structure Plan 2020
- * That Development Orders are being given out faster and efficiently.
- * Potholes are covered up within three hours on receipt of a report.
- * Counter approvals for minor renovations and extensions are given on the spot.
- * Flood warning system is in place.
- * Tow truck problems have been minimized.
- * Some improvement in public toilet cleanliness. More are coming.
- * Telecounselling services
- * Sports with the people (Sukan Bersama Rakyat)
- * Turning Kuala Lumpur into a sports city.
- * 31 initiatives for efficient delivery of services.
- * A people friendly City Hall
- * Meet the clients day, and many more.

It has indeed been a challenging and exciting tenure of office. There is much more to be done.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Advisory Board City Hall, politicians and NGO's, the business and commercial community, residents and the mass media who have been supportive of City Hall and its programmes. Our international relations have also been upbeat and much improved. Most of all, I must thank my staff for their cooperation and support.

On that note, I wish to thank YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, our Prime Minister; The Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman, and the Government for having faith and confidence in my performance and for extending my tenure of office. Together we shall prevail.

Thank you to everyone and Merry X'mas and A Very Happy New Year to all.

CONGRATULATIONS

The City Hall and City News congratulate the Mayor Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Datuk Mohamad Shaïd bin Mohd Taufek on the extension of his term by the Government.

Keep up the good work Datuk.

We will work with you.

CLIENT'S DAY

Datuk Mohamad Shaïd bin Mohd Taufek, Mayor of City Hall Kuala Lumpur has held 52 meet the clients sessions since the beginning of January 2003.

The meetings held on a workday Saturday have seen about 500 people with a variety of problems and suggestions for the Mayor to attend to.

Lasting until late evenings, the patient Mayor 'lends each and everyone an ear' and nobody is turned away for any reason.

Some of the problems relate to late approval of projects, issuance of development order, complaints on hawkers, illegal squatters, all types of proposals to introduce ICT to the City, LCD display advertisements, billboards, joint ventures, cats, dogs, vandalism, illegal temples etc. You name it – the Mayor has heard it.

The Mayor is sometimes assisted by the Deputy Director Generals or senior officials from the Planning and Building Control Department.

Most problems are solved on the spot where possible and some are followed up immediately by his special assistant, Mr. James Savarimuthu who is present throughout the meetings.

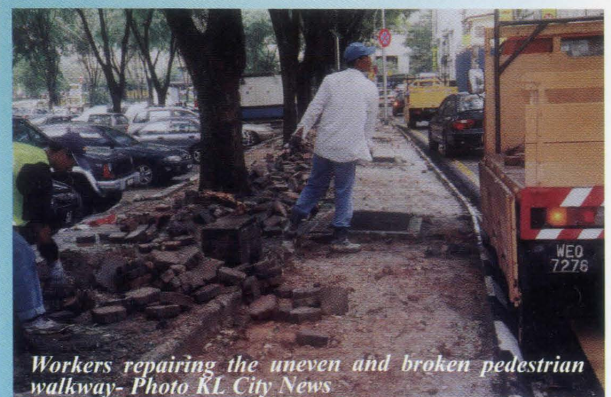
CITY HALL ACTS SWIFTLY

What are these workers doing-tearing up the pedestrian walkway along Lorong Gombak behind the Colliseum Theatre?

City Hall received a report from The SUN daily newspaper reporter that a blind person had tripped and fallen down due to the broken and uneven interlocking tiles along the walkway.

The immediate response was to dig up the whole pedestrian walkway, cut the offending tree roots that had penetrated the walkway and repair the whole stretch.

City Hall would like to thank The SUN reporter for being a good Samaritan and for bringing the incident to its attention. The pedestrian walkway will be more friendly -to the public especially the visually challenged commuters after the repairs.



Workers repairing the uneven and broken pedestrian walkway- Photo KL City News

HOW BUSY CAN A MAYOR BE?

Maintaining a mini wardrobe including boots, helmets and gloves in his office on the 29th floor of City Hall Kuala Lumpur is Datuk Mohamad Shaïd bin Mohd Taufek, the sixth Mayor of the City of Kuala Lumpur.

Looking out through the glass walled room the Mayor who has a panoramic view of the City gets very concerned when he sees dark clouds looming menacingly on the City's landscape – an evil omen foreboding a very rainy day or even a storm.



Sweeping the city clean...Datuk Mohamad Shaïd at a gotong-royong project. -Photo KL City News

On receiving reports of an impending flood, the Mayor changes into his flood gear and is one of the first to be on the ground to direct operations.

The annual recurring floods have been the nightmare of all past Mayors including the incumbent. This situation is exacerbated when Kuala Lumpur is subject to the Heat Island phenomenon and experiences convectional and relief rainfall which are worsened by the

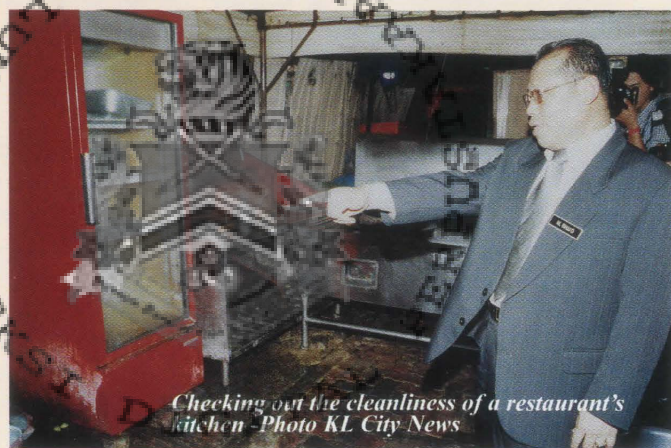
inter monsoon periods which see increase in rainfall intensity and frequency of storm occurrences.

However, the Mayor's anxiety and nightmare may be a thing of the past when the SMART flood alleviation and mitigation project is completed in 2007.

Datuk Mohamad Shaïd has been busy from the day he took office as Mayor on 14 December 2001. It is not uncommon to see him having a lunch of tuna sandwich at 3.30p.m or a bite of *kueh* wrapped in plastic. Starting the morning with either a meeting, opening ceremony of sorts or delivering a speech or paper at a seminar or conference, the religiously ingrained Mayor can be seen at his office even after *Maghrib*.

Town Planning Committee (TPC) or Tender Committee Meetings can see him and senior staff work late into the nights.

It is not surprising to see him change into a three or five piece suit



Checking out the cleanliness of a restaurant's kitchen -Photo KL City News



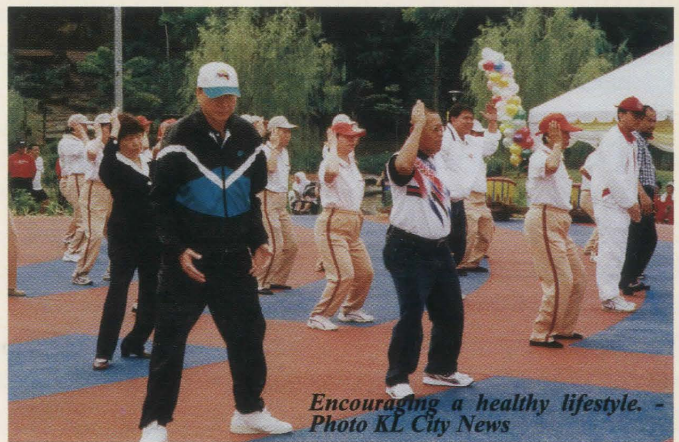
The Mayor at an official opening ceremony. -Photo KL City News

or *Baju Melayu* to attend some official function after a quick bath in the attached bathroom in his office.

Curious as to why and how he is busy, the Editorial Team of *City News* carried out an analysis of his official diary that revealed some interesting data.

Since he took office, he had carried out 1,171 activities excluding his foreign meetings, seminars and conferences. Statistics gleaned reveal that out of 546 working days during his tenure of office (until 30 November 2003) he had held/attended 625 meetings, 83 Town Planning Committee (TPC), 46 meet the clients sessions, 389 official opening/launching ceremonies and 28 site visits. Sunday's often see him in the office in relaxed informal attire clearing papers that need his urgent attention. (His favourite hobby of golf, horse riding and reading having taken a back-seat.)

A people friendly Mayor who rarely loses his temper, visitors and



Encouraging a healthy lifestyle. -Photo KL City News

complainants find him a congenial friendly person who is set on solving problems.

Having a soft spot for the poor, the marginalized, single parents particularly mothers, senior citizens and youth, Datuk Mohamad Shaïd is always looking for ideas and avenues to help the above groups.

One is reminded of Caliph Harun Al Rashid mentioned in the '*Alif Laila Wa Laila*' or the Arabian Nights, seeing the Mayor going the rounds incognito carrying out spot checks in the city during the night. It is during these nocturnal visits that he spots fused bulbs, rats, rubbish, illegal hawking, road obstruction and potholes which are referred to the relevant departments immediately for action.

With an extension of his tenure of office, it is hoped that he will take Kuala Lumpur to a higher plane as a world class garden city of lights not only in the region but globally.