

**KUALA LUMPUR**

City News

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

DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS COMES TO KAMPUNG BARU

Various efforts to develop Kampung Baru well known for its landmarks like the Masjid Jamek, Pasar Minggu, Kelab Sultan Sulaiman but most of all for its "Bubur Lambuk" served during the fasting month of Ramadhan have been tried. Progress has been painfully slow due to a multiplicity of problems.

Kampung Baru(302.48 acres) consists of the gazetted Malay Agricultural Settlement (MAS) 252.65 acres, Kampung Sungai Baru and a part of the Kampung Pindah (25.05 acres) and the Sungai Kelang reserve (32.30 acres).

Kampung Baru was established in 1990 under the Land Enactment (1897) by the colonial government. The objective of creating this special settlement was to provide opportunities for the Malays, particularly for those from the State of Selangor to live in the city of Kuala Lumpur which was fast developing at that time.

What then are the problems in developing Kampung Baru? Problems are many. The Kawasan Simpanan Melayu (KSM) or Malay Reserve Land face a multiplicity of issues and problems where it involves physical, legal, economic, financial, socio-psychological and political.

However, legal aspects pose the main problem. Provisions under the Malay Reserve Land Enactment (1913) or the Land Enactment 1897, prohibits ownership, rental, mortgaging, transfer of title or the settlement of/to non-Malays on the Reserve Land.

These provisions pose two differing effects. On one hand, it succeeds in perpetuating the land ownership by Malays only, but on the other hand poses an obstacle to development.

Another problem is the inability of the owners who are financially incapable of developing the land because of a lack of capital and knowledge to develop the land. Banks are also in a dilemma to give out loans. There is no single organization or institution that can coordinate in an integrated manner the development of

Kampung Baru.

"Fortunately, after a series of meetings with the affected parties, particularly the landowners, things are moving and I see light at the end of the tunnel", said the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohamad Shaid bin Mohd Taufek.

With the cooperation of all parties, agreement has finally been arrived at to develop the area. Most of the lots are less than 8,712 sq ft (0.2 acres). This has come about due to the Islamic Inheritance Law (Faraidh). It is therefore vital for all parties to cooperate to develop their land more so when 94.8% of lots in Kampung Baru come under this category. The longer the delay, the more problematic in developing the land.

"With the cooperation of all parties, Alhamdulillah I am confident Kampung Baru will finally develop into a modern traditional kampung in the city. I thank them for their wisdom and cooperation", said the Mayor.

City Hall has plans to upgrade the area. An international food court and an international cultural centre will be built at

the Pasar Minggu site to bring in more tourists and economic activity. Hawkers will be resited and the road entrance landscaped and beautified. The help of inbound tourist agencies and foreign diplomatic missions will be sought to organize international food and cultural fests.

Just like Petaling Street with the cooperation of all parties a strategic partnership and an alliance can be created for a win-win situation. This will benefit the marginalized sectors in the City. Peoples participation without undue political influence can help bring about development to certain sectors of the City's population.



Artist impression of tourism zone at Jalan Raja Alang and Raja Muda Musa, Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

The Kuala Lumpur Draft Structure Plan (KLSP 2020) is currently put out for public display and objection. Drafting of the Plan started with the commissioning of a consultant, the Institute Sultan Iskandar, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia to carry out the study starting 1998. The Draft Plan was formulated and refined by officials from the various departments of City Hall based on the study submitted by the Consultant.

The KLSP 2020 is more of a shared vision with detailed plans for the development of the Kuala Lumpur Metropolis. Kuala Lumpur is 80% developed and these areas are classified as stable areas where large scale development is not needed. The new plan identifies potential areas for development and redevelopment to accommodate new economic opportunities to improve the quality of living and create a more conducive habitat for all.

The KLSP 2020 interprets national policy pertaining to national and economic development. It is vision driven with a problem solving approach and tool for coordination of government action programmes related to the City.

The process of preparing the draft plan went through a series of studies, dialogues and meetings with representatives of various sectors residing in Kuala Lumpur including others who are in some way involved with the Federal Territory and City Hall.

When the 1984 Structure Plan was formulated areas like Wangsa Maju, Bukit Jalil, Bandar Tun Razak and Damansara were 'green field areas' and there was much land area to be developed, as these were rubber plantations.

The KLSP 2020 has to look at the land use potential under the urban renewal programme. For example, the government buildings in Jalan Duta are substandard and have to be replaced for maximizing the land use under the Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) proposal.

Similarly, areas in Kepong, Cheras, Kg. Baru, Kg. Pandan, the Jalan Duta enclave and other areas also come under the CDA for development.

The KLSP 2020 has been given wide coverage in the mass media. A one-month period is given for the public to lodge objections, comments and criticisms on this macro development plan.

This opportunity should not be missed. If people's participation approach is utilized it would form a strategic alliance for development of the city and a win-win situation for all to make Kuala Lumpur a world class city.

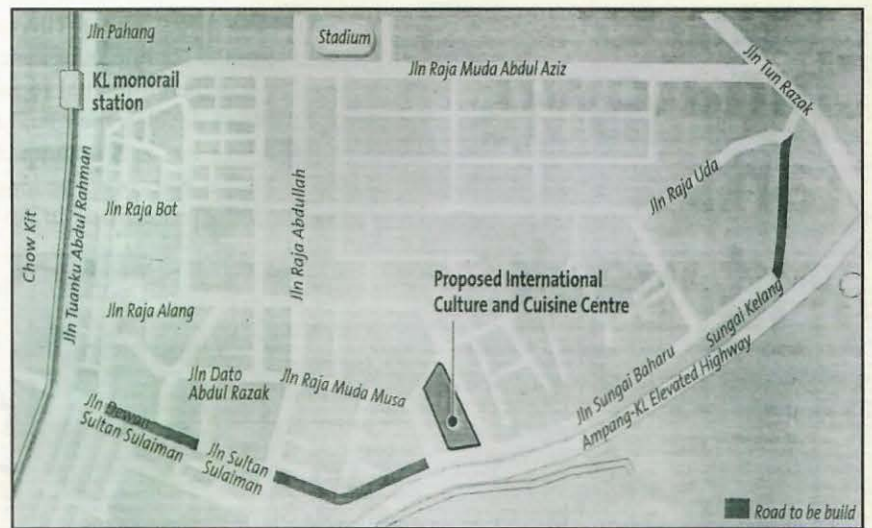
I fervently hope that all stakeholders will contribute their ideas to ensure balanced development of the dynamic city in a competitive world.

VILLAGES IN KAMPUNG BARU

For the vast majority of Kuala Lumpur residents and others, they only know Kampung Baru as it is. Kampung Baru consists of other small villages namely Kampung Periok, Kampung Atas A, Kampung Atas B, Kampung Hujung Pasir, Kampung Raya, Kampung Masjid, Kampung Manggis, Kampung Pindah, part of which is outside the Malay Agricultural Settlement (MAS) and Kampung Sungai Baru which is also outside the MAS.

In order to manage and administer the Malay Agricultural Settlement (MAS), a by-law was created in 1950 to specifically address detailed development of the area with regards to land, heritage, control of buildings and population.

This area also comes under the Comprehensive Development Area (CDA) in KLSP 2020 that addresses development issues under the CDA for Kampung Baru.



Propose Development for Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur. -Courtesy The Star:

Kuala Lumpur City News wishes the Mayor 'Happy Belated Birthday' and many more to come.

JALAN PETALING UPGRADED AND BEAUTIFIED

After 12 years of planning and overcoming obstacles to its development, Jalan Petaling commonly known as Petaling Street and Jalan Hang Lekir will finally see improvements to make it a more attractive shopping centre.

Development and upgrading plans were delayed as the 600 odd hawkers in the area resented efforts to upgrade the area and landscape it making it attractive for shoppers and tourists.

Various attempts were made by the last three mayors namely Tan Sri Elyas Omar, Tan Sri Mazlan Ahmad and Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff. In early 2002, City Hall came out with plans to upgrade the area, a well known tourist destination and held discussions with the Hawkers and Petty Traders Association.

Six meetings were held between City Hall and the Traders Association which represented approximately 600 hawkers operating in Petaling Street. The Chinese Textile and General Traders Association Selangor and the Federal Territory were also invited to attend the meetings.

The current mayor, Datuk Mohamad Shaib Bin Mohd. Taufek initiated afresh The Petaling Street rejuvenation project soon after taking office as mayor of the city.

During the series of discussions that were

chaired by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department then, Yang Berhormat Datuk Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia which was also attended by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, agreement was arrived at on developing the area.

Among the items agreed were that Petaling Street would be upgraded and beautified and existing hawkers and petty traders would be assured of a trading lot. Their associations also agreed to a staggered two month closure of business during construction and rehabilitation work.

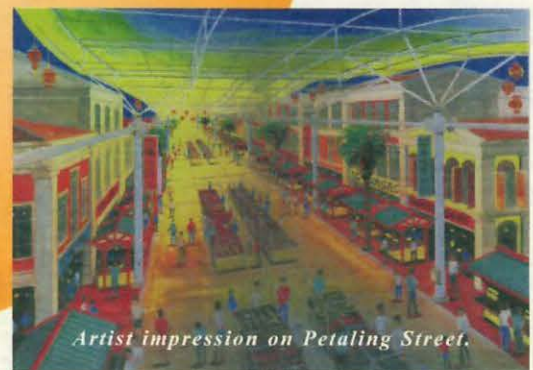
The two associations were also invited to give their comments and inputs on the proposed development plans. At the end, all parties agreed to the development concept after a few changes and amendments to the original draft plan. The organizations also gave their full support and cooperation to City Hall's efforts.

Subsequently, a contractor was appointed on 16 August 2002 to implement the project costing RM11.3 million. However, a delay was encountered due to the Hari Raya Aidil Adha and Chinese New Year festivals which would disrupt business activities during this peak trading season.

The project will take 9 months to be completed in time for the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Conference in October 2003. A work order to commence construction on the 600 metre roadway to the contractor was issued on 9 February 2003.

A sunlight roof will be built with good ventilation and the character of Petaling Street will not be sacrificed.

City Hall now intends to upgrade beautify and landscape various other areas like Chow Kit, Kampung Baru, Brickfields and Masjid India (Little India) very soon. It is hoped that those concerned will support City Hall's initiative to spruce up and beautify these areas and maximize trading activities besides welcoming tourists.



Artist impression on Petaling Street.

GREENING KL PROFESSIONALLY

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed between City Hall, The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to undertake a scientific study on decorative plants and trees with a view to enhance the 'greening and colouring' of the City with trees and plants.

This tripartite agreement will enable the two partner organizations to work together with City Hall to carry out a detailed study on the existing flora in the City and make recommendations to City Hall on the appropriate and suitable plants and trees that could be planted in the city parks, roadsides and other areas.

The idea of a 'garden city of lights' was first mooted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in the mid eighties. Following on this, City Hall carried out an exercise to beautify the City, green it

with decorative plants and lights.

The idea was to give Kuala Lumpur a distinct and unique identity compared to other cities in the world. This move would be helped by the fact that Malaysia is a tropical country with an abundance of rain and sunshine.

FRIM and UPM will carry out studies and research projects, enhance the development of landscaping and its management, soil condition, plant disease, fertilizer application and plant growth and suitability of a variety of trees and plants for various parts of the City.

The Forest Research Institute with its long history involving trees and Universiti Putra Malaysia one of the oldest academic institutions in the country involved in plant agriculture are the most suited for this collaborative venture. It would be a win-win strategic partnership and alliance that will benefit all parties as findings of the research studies will benefit all. Students of botany and biology including entomology will benefit as the other objective is to bring in the 'birds and bees' to the City.

Until now, concentration was focussed on the flora but now the fauna aspects will be taken into consideration. City Hall too will benefit from the partnership, as its Landscaping

Department officials will also be trained in proper scientific management of plants and trees and landscaping.

A digitalized detailed mapping and plotting of trees and plants in the City will be done. Such an inventory and data collection will be the first exercise ever done by City Hall.

This smart partnership will also help reduce the incidents of accidents caused by rotten trees and branches which have also resulted in damage to property and even death. City Hall has also paid compensation to the affected parties.

Another positive outcome of this MOU will be that City Hall will be able to tap on the technical and scientific pool of knowledge from UPM and FRIM. Besides providing training, FRIM and UPM will also provide saplings, seeds and new type of plants for the city's landscape and beautification programmes. Trees also play an important role in generating oxygen and reducing the temperature in the City.

In 2001, City Hall had planted more than 1.3 million trees at a cost of RM62 million.

The Government plans to plant 6.5 million trees by the year 2005 and by 2020 approximately 20 million trees are targeted to be planted.