



# City News

KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL

## CHANGING OF GUARDS

### Happy Retirement Che Det

To a visionary Prime Minister who has put Kuala Lumpur on the world map, who has guided four City fathers as to how Kuala Lumpur should be, a futuristic city, a hub for all financial, economic, tourism and a meeting place of minds, symbolized by our world's tallest twin towers and evolving public rail systems, an ocean of racial unity, peace and harmony where each and everyone celebrates one another's festivals with open houses, a garden city of lights and much more. Your hand sir, is visible everywhere.

Over the last twenty two years, you have been the beacon of development, introduced ICT to propel the nation into the millennium, our nation's uno numero public relations and marketing executive.

No words can describe you – your penchant for the finer details and concern for nothing but the best for the City. For imbibing in us the spirit of *Malaysia Boleh* – to be successful in whatever we do. You are 2nd to none, Sir. You are the epitome of success.

“Behind the success or failure of a man, there is always a woman, “ so the saying goes. Where Tun Dr. Mahathir is concerned Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah – fondly known as ‘Kak Asmah’ has always been behind this successful man – through thick and thin – till death do us part. Kak Asmah since 5 August 1956 (47 years) and the wonderful first family have been a source of strength to our Prime Minister. You deserve this hard earned rest, we will miss you dearly but not your legacy.



The Mayor, City Hall staff, KL residents and *City News* wish Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad ‘Happy Retirement’ – **SAGITTARIUS Selamat Bersara.**



*Tun Dr. Mahathir handing over the desk file to signify the transfer of responsibilities of the high office to Datuk Seri Abdullah.*

racial incident he was appointed Principal Assistant Secretary to the National Operations Council (NOC) Prime Minister's Department under the late Tun Abdul Razak, our second Prime Minister. From 1971-1973, Dato' Seri served as the Director General, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. A year later saw him elevated to the post of Deputy Secretary General in the same Ministry. In 1978, having won the Parliamentary seat of Kepala Batas Constituency (which he still represents after winning the elections in 1982, 1986, 1990, 1995 and 1999) he was made Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Territory Ministry until 1980.

When YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun) was appointed Prime Minister of Malaysia by the late YAB Tun Hussein Onn on 16 July 1981, Datuk Seri Abdullah was Deputy Minister of Federal Territory Ministry in 1980-1981 and subsequently as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department from 1981-1984.

It is interesting to note that when YAB Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir was made Deputy Prime Minister by Tun Hussein Onn in 1976 and concurrently Minister of Trade and industry in 1978, Datuk Seri Abdullah was a Parliamentary Secretary.

Datuk Seri Abdullah then moved on to the prestigious portfolio of Minister of Education from 1984-1986 – a route that normally one anticipates leads to the highly esteemed position of Deputy Prime Minister or even the Prime Minister's post.

Between 1986-1987, he took over the Ministry of Defence portfolio before becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs (after a brief hiatus from 1991 –1999) one of the longest portfolios held thus far in the Cabinet. Datuk Seri Abdullah made a name for himself in this portfolio and numerous friends in the international scene.

In February 1999, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs. He is also the Deputy Chairman of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC).

Datuk Seri became head of UMNO Bertam Branch and Kepala Batas Division in 1979 and still holds that position. Rising through the ranks he become the Deputy President UMNO since May 2000 and now the acting President.

Tun Dr. Mahathir has done so much during his tenure of office. We have full confidence in YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to take us to a higher ...continued on page 2





## FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK....



### FAREWELL TO A GREAT LEADER AND WELCOME TO A NEW CAPTAIN

**T**he last few weeks has seen hundreds of articles, advertisements, SMS messages in the print and electronic media expressed in thousands of words, an outpouring from the hearts, expressions of love, gratitude, adoration and anxiety from young and old, from all walks of life.

All these are testimony of the faith, hope and trust the nation had on our visionary Prime Minister, YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. Not even the world's tallest tower, the Petronas Twin Tower stands as tall as our Prime Minister in the eyes of the developing countries and even in some of the developed countries.

Malaysians today can walk tall and upright with confidence, dignity and honour in the eyes of the world. The voice of the oppressed and the developing countries cannot be anyone else but Malaysia – personified and represented by our Prime Minister. The legacy that he has left behind is for all Malaysians to cherish, nurture and preserve and to build upon.

From the 1st November 2003, we will see a new Chief Executive Officer leading the country into the millennium. YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi brings with him a wealth of experience. He has held some very important posts in the Civil Service from 1964 – 1978 (14 years).

From 1978, starting as a Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Territory Ministry, he has held many important portfolios in the Cabinet rising to the coveted high post of Prime Minister of Malaysia within 25 years (Note: Datuk Seri Abdullah was also born in the month of November).

His vast experience in the Civil Service and also in the Cabinet will benefit the nation tremendously. City Hall will benefit most from his experiences.

We wish YAB Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad a well earned rest and bid him adieu and at the same time congratulate and welcome YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. While happiness is tinged with sadness, we should never forget the two ladies behind these illustrious sons of Malaysia.

Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah and Datin Seri Endon Mahmood who have been the solid pillars behind these two successful men.

As the saying goes, 'Behind the success of every man, there is always a woman'. Our deepest respect, appreciation and congratulations to these two successful ladies too, who have been fantastic wives and mothers.

...from front page

plane of progress and achievements in the millennium.

His corpus of knowledge and experience both in politics and the government, strengthened and fortified with a strong religious background and upbringing, places him in good stead to give us a clean, honest and efficient government. We are solidly behind him in shepherding us along the journey of a progressive ICT, mature, cohesive nation and society.

Fondly called 'Pak Lah' he is interestingly a 'Sagittarian star' just like 'Che Det' our fourth Prime Minister. Coincidentally, 'Pak Lah' was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and subsequently now as Prime Minister during the holy month of Ramadhan Al Mubarak both on a Friday.

## ONE STOP BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT INFO CENTRE IN CITY

**A** business development body shall be set up to coordinate the various aspects of commercial development in the city. This body will disseminate information on the facilities available, regulations and formalities for setting up business and the estimated operating costs of doing business in Kuala Lumpur.

This was revealed by the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohamad Shaïd bin Mohd Taufek when delivering a paper titled: 'Kuala Lumpur in the 21st century: Challenges and Opportunities' at the National Forum on City Development, jointly organized by REHDA, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, and the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute held on 8 September 2003 at a well known hotel in the city.

The Mayor stated that it would be a big challenge to set up this body and to make it effective. To ensure that the body become a centre for reliable, authentic, high-speed, free flow information related to promoting investment, it should be provided and equipped with full time capable management, strong legislative power and sufficient funding.

He stated that the first goal of the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan (KLSP 2020) is to enhance the role of Kuala Lumpur as an international commercial and financial centre. Kuala Lumpur shall attract regional headquarters of transnational and multinational companies operating on a global or sub global scale by promoting itself as a competitive location in the Asia Pacific Region.

The city he added has the potential and opportunities to become an international and financial centre as it has a ready pool of high quality commercial and office space at competitive prices. Kuala Lumpur ranked as the fifth cheapest location for establishing multinational companies. The average annual cost of maintaining an office in Kuala Lumpur was about 24 percent of the costs in Singapore or 23 percent of those in Hong Kong. Net prime office space rental rates were also much lower than those in Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Sydney.

To realize this goal, Kuala Lumpur should provide good transportation and telecommunication networks, high end services in finance, shopping, entertainment, housing, education and recreation, a wide range of specialized business services, a qualified labour pool, educational and training facilities.

Datuk Mohamad Shaïd said the contribution and assistance of the private sector is greatly appreciated in terms of their participation and commitment in providing the above facilities.

'Foreigners setting up business in Kuala Lumpur will find the City business friendly with highly qualified management and support staff who speak fluent English, Bahasa Malaysia or Chinese. With our international cuisine and affordable accommodation this should not be a problem for foreigners,' said the Mayor.



## SAFETY – A VITAL ELEMENT IN TALL BUILDINGS

**S**afety has been thrust into the spotlight on the world's nations and a renewed focus on safety in tall buildings has occurred following terror attacks on September 11, 2001 on the World Trade Centre building in New York.

This was stated by the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohamad Shaid bin Mohd Taufek when officiating at the CIB-CTBUH International Conference on Tall Building : Strategies for Performance in the Aftermath of the World Trade Centre and the 2nd CIB Global Leaders Summit on Tall Building held in Kuala Lumpur on 20 October 2003.

Fire protection needs to be progressively increased and upgraded for taller buildings and methods of escape be thoroughly re-oriented particularly on life safety issues.

Systems to ensure life safety for the occupants should be self contained as external accessibility is often not attainable.

'Incidence of failures and malfunctioning of safety control systems must be effectively integrated and components of higher reliability and regular maintenance should be addressed. In this regard, constant testing and monitoring of the systems should be carried out,' he said.

The mayor observed that making tall buildings more people friendly and creating a 'barrier free' environment is being attempted and he welcomed such a move.

Another area to be addressed he said is the safety of the handicapped, the aged and the



File photograph

weaker sex.

A safe and continuous power supply, effective automatic lockout for fire and smoke and reliable communication system with the central fire control stations should be achieved.

There is also a need to embrace the idea of risk, a certain level of confidence expected by the people and adopting measures that are reasonable in the face of perceived risks.

If the public and employees in a tall building perceive a danger or threat to their safety, they may not want to work in such an environment or even enter the building. Current occupants may also move out of the building.

In this regard, building codes, fire codes,

those who enforce these codes and building owners, including enforcement authorities must work in harmony to provide a safe environment for all including those with severe mobility impairments.

The Conference organized by The Construction Technology and Management Centre(CTMC) and Sultan Iskandar Institute of Highrise and Urban Habitat (ISI) of University Teknologi Malaysia(UTM) was attended by approximately 200 foreign delegates and 20 local participants.

### Note:

**CIB** – The International Council on Research and Innovation in Building and Construction

**CTBUH** – The International Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat

## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

**K**uala Lumpur City Hall has launched the E-City Residents Project on 1 June 2003 in two pilot project areas namely Public Housing Sri Perak Bandar Baru Sentul and Public Housing Jalan Jelatek near-by Datuk Keramat.

The pilot project which was approved by the Strategic Thrusts Implementation Committee (STIC) on 15 August 2002, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be funded under the Demonstrator Application Grant Scheme (DAGS) sponsored by the National Information Technology Council (NITC).



Mock Cheque (RM1.5 million) Receiving Ceremony for E-City Residents Projects in Sri Perak and Jelatek Public Housing. From left, Dr. Shamsul Bahar Tan Sri Abd. Kadir (Managing Director Bionergy Sdn. Bhd.), Encik Zainol Abidin Ahmad (City Hall Kuala Lumpur), Encik Alias Yasin (Rural Urban Development Ministry) and K.J John (DAGS Secretariat). - Photo KL City News.

Various pilot projects have been identified and the E-City Residents project was approved in December 2002 by the DAGS Evaluation and Evaluation

Committee (DEDC).

The project was also endorsed by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment on 2 April 2003. The E-City residents (*E-Warga Kota*) programme strives to introduce and complement the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) where the existing infrastructure will be upgraded and local computer centres will act as ICT resource centres and named *E-Wargakota* Service Centres.

Training facilities will also be established to help the various constituents in the software applications.

A computer, ICT savvy culture will be promoted to bridge the digital divide between the 'haves and the have nots'.