



City News

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KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL

SPORTS VILLAGE IN SETAPAK

A sports cum quality housing complex will be built on a 30 acre site at the Jalan Air Jernih/Jalan Air Tasik Mukim of Setapak. The site also sits on a triangle formed by the Taman Genting Klang border on the north, Sekolah Menengah Air Panas on the south and Jalan Air Jernih on the east.

Quality housing for bachelors and single girls, including youth who will be working in the city will be provided besides provision of community facilities and amenities of international standard.

These facilities will also cater for the population living around the area.

The complex will occupy 2.13 acres of sports housing, Bachelor's Housing Complex 3.13 acres, mosque 1.70 acres, Community Centre 0.92 acres, Rugby Stadium 8.35 acres, Multipurpose Stadium 2.98 acres, X-Games 0.77 acres, Futsal Court/Hall 1.98 acres, Bowling Centre 0.50 acres, Archery Field 0.70 acres while 6.84 acres will be allotted for parking and roads.

The Multipurpose Stadium will accommodate a boxing arena, netball court, basketball court, sepak takraw court, futsal court, underground shooting practice range and sports administration office.

The Community Centre will house the Multipurpose Hall, discussion and function rooms, library/reading room and a hawkers court. With regards to the sports housing complex, the two block medium height 17-25 storey buildings will have 420-700 units of housing.

The bachelor's housing complex consisting of 2 blocks medium height 17-25 storey apartments will have 420-700 units.

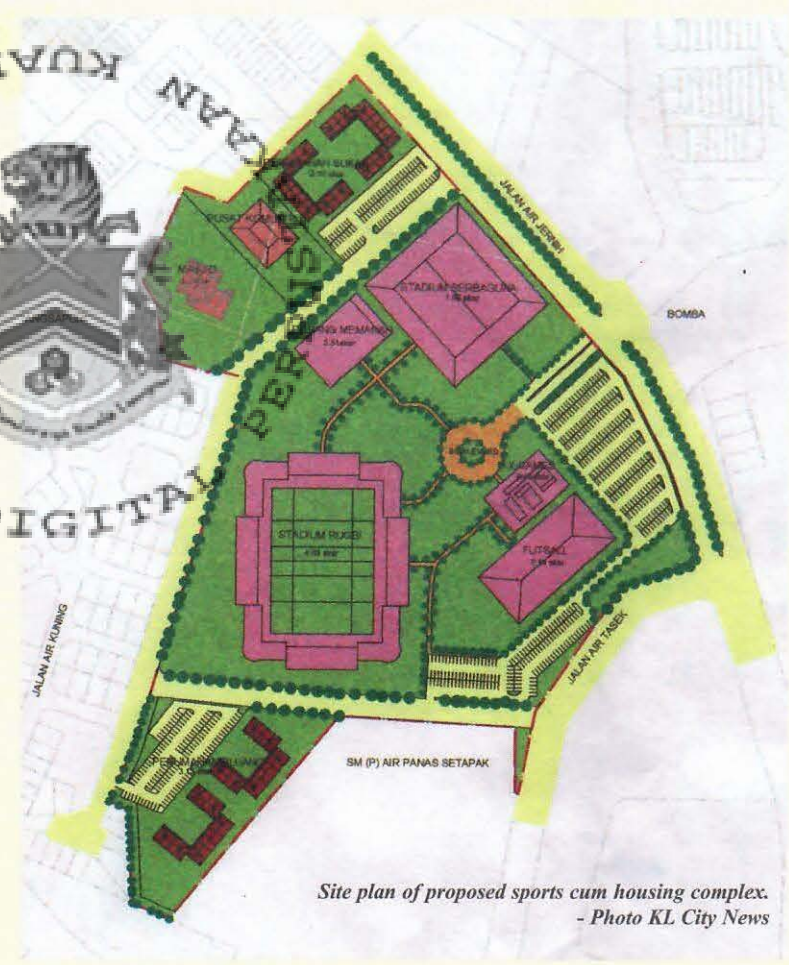
According to the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020, the area is slated for housing redevelopment including urban renewal with the objective of creating mixed development with sports and recreational facilities.

The main residential development around this proposed site is Taman Genting Klang, Pangsapuri Setapak Ria and the Air Panas New Village. The current population around the proposed development site is around 28,000 people.

Situated in the Wangsa Maju-Maluri Setapak Strategic Zone according to the KLSP2020, the site is currently occupied by the Vector Centre City Hall Kuala Lumpur, an office and animal pound. 250 units of squatters, a temple and two longhouse blocks comprising of 24 housing units.

Revealing the above to City News, the Mayor Brig.Gen. Datuk Mohamad Shaid bin Mohd Taufek said, City Hall has also introduced a RM1 million Scholarship Fund for promising athletes and sportsmen/sportswomen in primary, secondary schools and universities situated in the Federal Capital.

The Mayor hoped that with this incentive Kuala Lumpur will be able to draw from the wide reservoir of talent found in educational institutions in the city.



Site plan of proposed sports cum housing complex. - Photo KL City News

This, he hoped will produce world class athletes and sportsmen/sportswomen to compete in international games like the Commonwealth Games, SEA Games and even the Olympics.

The Mayor lamented that for a long time the city has not produced any athletes/sportsmen of international repute and standing. In fact, the city which is also the Federal Capital of the nation should be in the forefront producing athletes of renown. This move he hoped will fill the lacuna and void, thus developing quality sportsmen and sportswomen.



From the Mayor's Desk

Come mid December 2004, I would have served the city of Kuala Lumpur as Mayor for three years. The three years have passed by in a twinkle and I realize how much more needs to be done to move City Hall's agenda forward to transform Kuala Lumpur into a World Class City – A Garden City of Lights.

Since assuming office, one of my major concerns was to change the work culture, work ethics, attitude, performance and commitment of all level of staff in City Hall. With a staff strength of about 8,700 it is very vital to ensure all staff fully understand and subscribe whole heartedly and sincerely to the vision and mission of City Hall - to create a world class city.

I had outlined more than 31 areas of concern, held motivation talks on Friday mornings to explain and extol good work ethics and conformity to these high ideals and objectives.

The introduction of Solution Kluang, streamlining and shortening the time taken for issuance of Development Order (DO), holding meet the client's sessions on every working Saturday are some new approaches that were introduced to ensure that the high expectations of City residents are fulfilled. I have also 'turun padang' to see for myself and institute remedial action to overcome problems.

In the area of sports and recreation, I have also introduced the weekly senamrobik sessions, constructed and rehabilitated vacant fields into playing fields for youth and children and encouraged X-treme sports and other games.

Boxing, sepak takraw and badminton have also been given a boost. The setting up of a RM1 million sports fund to encourage sports excellence in schools and universities in the city is yet another step to push the sports agenda forward and promote sports/games excellence in educational institutions.

The Kuala Lumpur International Marathon (KLIM) is now being actively pursued and promoted as an annual international event in the city's sports calendar with attractive prize money. This sport is fast gaining prominence as a regional international event, not to be missed and I thank the private sector for their spontaneous support.

X-treme Water Sports are also being promoted and the Taman Metropolitan Kepong Lakes will soon be the venue for international X-treme water sports events – a water sports city in the making.

On the social side, the aged, infirm, senior citizens, single parent mothers and the physically and visually challenged are given all the necessary help to get on with their lives. The plight of the urban poor is also receiving attention with affordable housing a priority and to achieve zero squatter status by 2005.

However, the cleanliness of the city, proliferation of hawkers, beautification programmes, pedestrian safety, snatch thefts and other social problems which plague the residents are also being given due attention and consideration.

Some of these development programmes and projects are short term in nature, while others are long term ones. It takes time from the conceptualization stage, planning and final implementation.

In this regard, I am grateful to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Shamsuddin Othman and the Minister of Federal Territories, Tan Sri Mohd Isa bin Abdul Samad for their trust and faith in me in fulfilling the task entrusted to me.

THE KUALA LUMPUR STRUCTURE PLAN (KLSP2020) - A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

After 5 years and 2 months of undergoing a series of procedures in its review process, the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan (KLSP 2020) was finally gazetted, released and simultaneously handed over to the Minister of Federal Territories, YB Tan Sri Hj. Mohd Isa bin Dato' Hj Abdul Samad on 4 November 2004. The long period taken was to ensure a thorough study of the structure plan.

Earlier, starting in September 1998, The Institute Sultan Iskandar (ISI) was appointed consultant to carry out the review study on the Draft Plan. The final draft report was submitted to City Hall on January 2003 by ISI.

In April 2002, permission was given by the Prime Minister to announce the draft KLSP2020. A public hearing committee to listen to objections and comments was appointed in accordance with provisions under Section 7(3) Federal Territory (Planning) Act 1982, Act 267.

In March 2003, the public were informed through advertisements, City Hall's website and other publicity means regarding the hearing.

An exhibition of the draft KLSP2020 was held at the foyer of City Hall with mobile exhibitions held at selected shopping malls and centres including City Hall branch offices.

An 18 member Public Hearing Committee (PHC) was formed comprising of 10 members of the Advisory Board City Hall, three senior City Hall officials and five representing professional bodies. The Committee sitting from May – June 2003, held 29 hearing sessions.

Between 14 August – 6 October 2003, the PHC held 27 discussions to coordinate and collate the comments. The committee found that 55% of objections related directly to the KLSP2020 while 13% of objections related to the detailed planning, 3% related to building control while 29% related to other management areas. The Mayor received the report on the Hearing on 8 December 2003.

Having received and considered the report from the Public Hearing Committee, the Mayor made changes and improvements to the KLSP2020 which took into consideration:

- * The Public Hearing Committee report
- * Inputs from City Hall

A total of 54 changes were proposed.

Subsequently, on 3 March 2004 the Mayor presented to the Minister and the Planning Advisory Board (Federal Territory Planning Advisory Board) the following:

- a) Draft KLSP2020
- b) Report on the Public Hearing
- c) Changes to the draft KLSP2020

On 8 April 2004, the Federal Territory Planning Advisory Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to the Government (KSN) met for the first time where the Mayor briefed the meeting on the above three documents. The Planning Advisory Board met seven times and subsequently made recommendations to the Minister on the KLSP2020, which was approved by the Minister (with changes) on 16 August 2004.

The Master Plan Department, City Hall Kuala Lumpur prepared the first report incorporating the suggestions/recommendations of the Planning Advisory Board in August 2004 and set down to printing the report which was carried out on 18 October 2004.

On 4 November 2004, the KLSP2020 was officially handed over to the Minister of Federal Territories and simultaneously gazetted in the Government notice, informing the public of the approval of KLSP2020 and where it can be obtained.

The KLSP2020 is now available for purchase at City Hall Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Raja Laut. The Bahasa Malaysia version costs RM120 while the English copy RM150.

FACELIFT AND LANDSCAPE UPGRADING FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT

The 38 year old National Monument situated in Jalan Parliament/Jalan Sultan Salahuddin recently underwent an upgrading and landscaping exercise to spruce up the memorial which is a major tourist attraction.

The lower level open plaza now houses five souvenir and refreshment kiosks, open skylight bright modern, beautiful and spanking clean toilets that cater not only for men and women but which is also disabled friendly. The administrative and control centre is also housed under this single roof.

The open plaza with water elements, incorporates a cascading fountain that operates at regular intervals. The plaza centre is honoured with a 100 year old *Mimusops-elongii* or locally called *Bunga Tanjung* tree.

The fragrance plaza concept is well embodied with scented plants and shrubs such as *sundal malam*, *kemboja plumeria obtusa*, *brunfelsia calyciana*, *michelia champaka*, royal palms, *heliconia*, *spathyphyllum commutatum* and many other colourful plants.

The upgrading works at the lower level, which adjoins the Laman Asean also has a 200 metre ramp with rest stations for the handicapped and senior citizens. Piped music is played and channeled through cleverly camouflaged lamp stands, placed strategically at various spots in the open plaza. The whole area is lighted and well illuminated with coloured lights during the night turning it into a fairyland.

City Hall has also held meetings with tour operators and the Kuala Lumpur Tourist Association (KLTA) on arrangements to ensure proper disciplined parking for tour bus operators. Signs in English, Bahasa Malaysia, Arabic and Japanese are located at strategic places.

The idea of building a National Monument as a memorial to the fallen warriors of World Two was mooted by the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, the late YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj in 1963.

The monument built by Mr. Felix de Weldon was complet-



The newly renovated lower level of the National Monument on the left is the administrative block and the newly renovated toilets. On the right is the 100 year-old Bunga Tanjung tree. - Photo KL City News

ed in early 1966 and officially declared open on 8 Feb 1966 by His Royal Highness, Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin.

The 48,562 sq metre National Monument Complex comprises of five main components:

- i) The National Monument
- ii) A fountain
- iii) A pavilion
- iv) A war memorial

and the surrounding garden, which are well trimmed and manicured.

On 31 July every year a 'Warrior Day' commemorative wreath laying ceremony is conducted at the monument in memory of the fallen warrior.

City Hall Kuala Lumpur on its part, spent RM3,930,000.00 to spruce up the area and to add more facilities. The upper level, where the monument proper lies with a grand entrance was renovated by the Ministry of Works. The renovation and upgrading works, which started with Phase I in May 2003, was handed over to City Hall on 29 October 2004.

CITY HALL FLYING SQUAD

Ever heard of the Flying Squad of City Hall Kuala Lumpur. Set up officially on 9 February 1991 and currently having a complement of 44 personnel headed by a Chief Inspector, the Squad responds to emergencies to help rescue and save lives. The Squad is directly under the Enforcement Directorate.

The Squad also helps other emergency agencies according to priority and ability. It also specializes in responding to emergency rescue services to the public.

The squad also carries out and coordinates rescue work for government agencies within and outside Kuala Lumpur and is divided into two departments:

- a) Operations and Training
- b) Administration and Logistics

The roles and responsibilities are:

- * carry out work and help accident victims
- * carry out work and help save drowning victims particularly during floods (natural disaster)
- * coordinate and help in search and rescue operations to save/evacuate victims trapped in collapsed buildings and
- * provide emergency first aid and paramedic services

The Squad has undergone courses in Mental and Physical Stress at the Outward Bound School (OBS) Lumut and other courses such as: the Scuba International School – Center for Rescue Training which is a recognized basic and professional programme.

They have also attended courses on paramedical work recognized by the General Hospital Kuala Lumpur and the Emergency Medical Technician Canada.

They have also attended basic training in search and rescue at the Civil Aviation College Subang. 14 members of the Squad have also undergone an intensive course sponsored by the Disaster and Relief Team (DART) in Singapore. Training at the Fire and Rescue Department, Federal Territory has also been part of their training.

The expertise of the Scuba Unit is very much sought after by other government agencies particularly in search and rescue efforts of drowning cases. The Squad also helps in natural disaster activities.

Besides the above, the Scuba Unit also helps in International water sports events, like the Commonwealth Games, the SEA Games, Xtreme sports and other events in and around the Federal Territory.