

vision

THE CITY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2003

Hotel copy, not for resale

www.visionkl.com

KDN PP 9302/5/2003

KEYS TO THE CITY

KL's Mayor Sheds Light
On His Plans For
The Capital



Greener Pastures

Datuk Mohmad Shaïd Mohd Taufek, the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, is thinking big – and thinking green. *By Patrick J. Cusick*



Datuk Mohmad Shaïd Mohd Taufek, Datuk Bandar, KL's Lord Mayor, exudes the air of a man who means business. Someone who doesn't suffer fools and who has little time for formalities. These are our first impressions as we enter the Mayor's office for *VisionKL*'s interview.

The Mayor, though welcoming us warmly, is eager to get on with things and we oblige. Our first subject is inspired by the magnificent panorama of KL which we can see from the Mayor's office. Did all the many small pockets of lush tropical greenery in the city come about by design, we wonder, and will they still be there in the future?

"Yes, of course they will," answers Datuk Mohmad amiably. "The preservation of all this natural beauty has been a deliberate policy. Years back, I remember speaking with Tan Sri Elyas Omar (KL's second mayor) in this very room. We talked about the future development of KL and as we spoke, he pointed out the different areas of rain-forest around the city and how he wanted these spots preserved."

"I also remember suggesting certain spots which I, too, thought should remain untouched," he reminisces. "And here we are today with all these very same places still intact and adding beauty to the city."

KL's Mayor ponders for a moment. "At that time, of course, I had no idea that I would one day be Mayor! Being in this position now and still seeing the same preserved enclaves of forest gives me great pride as well as a sense of purpose to continue the good work," he says.

