

KL to get \$60m park project

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — It will not be long before city folk and people all over the country can have a "splashing" time at the largest water theme park in Malaysia and South-East Asia.

The park is part of the \$60 million Tasik Desa recreational project, about 3km outside Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Bandar Datuk Elyas Omar today performed the ground-breaking ceremony.

The project, a joint venture between City Hall and Marine World Development Malaysia Sdn Bhd, is expected to be completed by September.

It covers an area of 10 hectares and the 10-hectare Tasik Desa.

There will be an underwater aquarium complex, micro world, touch tanks, a floating restaurant, souvenir shops, mini theatrette and water theme park.

The water theme park, costing about \$12 million, covers an area of 6.2 hectares and consists of nine water play activities for the young and old.

It will have three main pools — a wave pool three times the size of an Olympic swimming pool, a children's pool with a "lazy" river meandering around it and a treasure pool for children to snorkel to a "shipwreck" with hidden treasure.

The water theme park is expected to be completed by July while the aquarium and floating restaurant by September.

Marine World Development managing director Mrs Rose Scantlebury said the technology used in the construction of the project was perfected by Underwater World International and Waterplay Australia.

"The aquarium will be the first to use the technology of changing lake water into salt water," she said.

A special feature of the aquarium, which will hold three million litres of water, is the 100-metre-long acrylic tunnel which will allow visitors to experience a Jules Verne-like trip on the "ocean" floor to discover the mysteries of Malaysian sealife.

Mrs Scantlebury said one of the reasons why Kuala Lumpur was chosen for the project was because the city had no facility of this nature at present to draw local and foreign tourists.

"The project is viable as Malaysia, and Kuala Lumpur in particular, is a stopover destination for international travellers," she said.

The design consultant for the project is Roger Gregson & Associates (Perth) and the implementation architect is Veritas Architect.

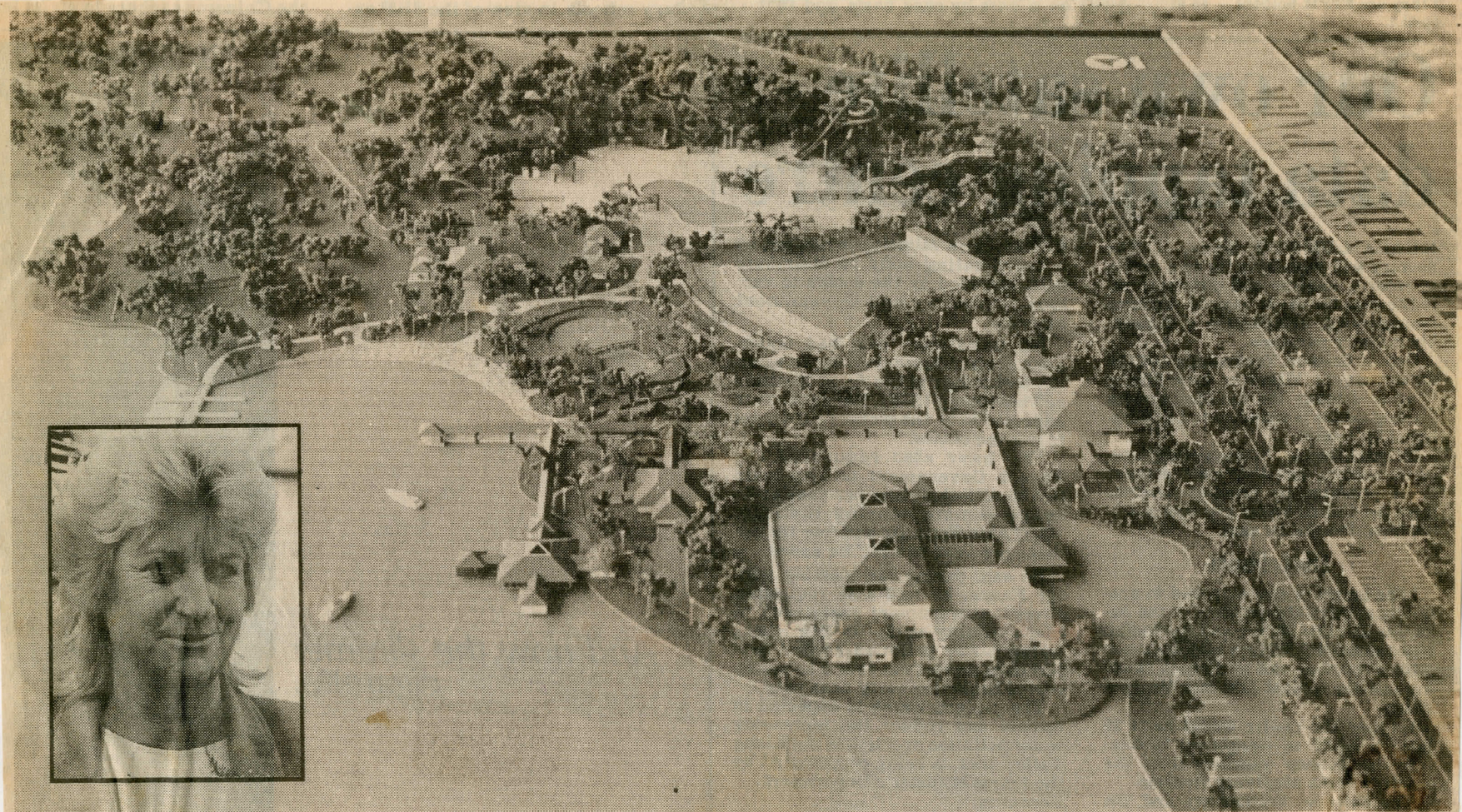
Datuk Elyas announced that every natural and man-made lake in the city would be gazetted as a garden for recreational purposes.

"Recreational facilities in the city are far from enough for the 1.5 million population and the allocation

of \$40 million for this year is insufficient.

"City Hall has identified two former mining pools as recreational parks — at Kepong and Kampung Batu," he said.

The move to gazette the lakes is to beautify the city and because there are few gardens for recreational purposes.



The model of the \$60 million Tasik Desa recreational project. INSET: Mrs Scantlebury