

# Mayor: KL needs clear S.O.P to tackle natural disasters

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuala Lumpur needs a clear standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure swift response to natural disasters, said Mayor Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Following the sinkhole incident in Jalan Masjid India two weeks ago, she said there were valuable lessons to be learnt and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (City Hall) must boost its disaster preparedness and resilience.

"Yesterday, I spoke with my colleagues to discuss improving our disaster response.

"This includes upgrading infrastructure to withstand natural events such as floods, landslides and sinkholes, as well as ensuring that emergency services are adequately equipped for crises," she said at the 15th International Conference on World Class Sustainable Cities (WCSC 2024) yesterday.

Maimunah said a clear SOP included having a focal point to allow emergency action to be taken swiftly and a proper communication strategy to reduce public anxiety.

On Aug 23, G. Vijaya Lakshmi, 48, from Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, India, went missing after falling into the 8m-deep sinkhole.

The search-and-rescue operation was called off after nine days.

Maimunah also urged the public to support the city's "blue bicycle lanes" initiative to promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce traffic congestion.

She said City Hall was working on improving bicycle infrastructure and pedestrian pathways.

"I'd like everyone's support because we will take enforcement action immediately when we see vehicles parked on bicycle lanes."

She also called for increased public engagement in tackling

city issues and revitalising Kuala Lumpur.

"We welcome critical and constructive comments, but please accompany them with solutions on how we can work together to improve the city."

Maimunah said her plan to revitalise the city involved returning to basics by providing essential amenities to the public, which she believed would attract investors to the capital.

She said fundamental services must be provided to residents to create a liveable, safe, clean and walkable city with an improved economy, which would encourage people to return to the city.

"When we talk about urban regeneration, it's for the locals first. When they are happy, the investors will come in.

"I think this is very important for generating economic activities, providing facilities and sparking youth interest in returning to the city, which will ultimately attract investors."

Maimunah said her goal was to build a city that catered to all, balancing the needs of both the community and businesses.

She began her tenure as city mayor last month, having previously served as the mayor of both the Penang and Seberang Perai City Councils.

In February, City Hall announced that it had prepared the draft Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 (KLLP2040), which is intended to replace the Kuala Lumpur City Plan 2020 in accordance with the Federal Territory (Planning) Act 1982 (Act 267).

The draft KLLP2040 was created to translate the goals and strategic direction of the Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2040 into a more detailed physical plan, aiming to achieve the vision of a "Kuala Lumpur City for All".