

Tales of the mosques in the city

Mosques in Kuala Lumpur are unique and have their own place in history. **NURADZIMMAH DAIM** joins a tour for some history lessons and to hear a few interesting stories



Masjid Asy-Syakirin, KLCC has a serene and modern interior. — Pictures by Mohd Anezyam Aiap



Artifacts dating back to the second century are displayed at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

KUALA LUMPUR: Every building has a story behind it, especially mosques. In a media tour organised by the Heritage Commission (Jabatan Warisan Negara), pressmen were taken to mosques all over the city and interesting stories and histories were revealed about these Muslim places of worship.

For instance, in Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru, the mosque committee stressed that it was not the building design that made it special.

"What makes this mosque unique is its *bubur lambuk* prepared during Ramadan. It is the time that people from all walks of life are waiting for... to eat *bubur lambuk* Kampung Baru."

"It has a special taste that is different from what we buy at Ramadan bazaars," said committee secretary Mohdin Ali.

He added that the mosque had even made it into the *Malaysia Book of Records* in October 2005 for preparing 120 large pots of *bubur lambuk*.

There is a mosque called Masjid Jami'ul Ehsan in Kampung Puah, Setapak, which has two buildings. The one in front is smaller and older than the

one behind.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia lecturer and research fellow in the Institute of Malay World and Civilisation Dr Asyari Muhamad, an invited speaker in the tour, explained that the mosque's original building had once faced demolition but it was maintained and gazetted as a heritage building.

"The old building of Masjid Jami'ul Ehsan has the typical look of early 19th century mosques in Malaysia, which were mostly without domes and only housed a prayer hall," he said.

Other mosques visited during the tour were Masjid Negara, Masjid India, Masjid Jamek Sultan Abdul Samad (better known as Masjid Jamek in Jalan Tun Perak), Masjid Wilayah and Masjid Asy-Syakirin KLCC.

The tour group was also brought to the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia near Masjid Negara.

The artifacts displayed there were mostly from the Middle East including the Al-Quran, jewellery, armour and weapons dating back to the second century.

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Non-tolled MRR2 must still be maintained

I AM a regular user of the Middle Ring Road 2 (MRR2) from Kepong to Kuchai Lama and also a user of the North-South Expressway (NSE) from Seremban to Johor Baru.

While the NSE is excellently maintained by PLUS through its contractor (Propel Bhd), the MRR2 is in the need of maintenance.

The public seem to be under the impression that since the NSE is a tolled highway, it is maintained better. However, the MRR2 is not a tolled highway and its maintenance is not as good as the NSE.

We need to realise that our taxes were used to build the MRR2, and we have every right to seek excellent maintenance of it. There is a maintenance contractor for the MRR2 but its performance (maybe

due to lackadaisical monitoring) is poor.

Roads are not swept of sand and litter, especially in the medians. The guardrails are not repaired on time, the landscaping is poor and safety aspects are almost non-existent.

How can such a thing be allowed to continue, especially when the MRR2 passes through densely populated areas?

I found out that the rates paid to the contractor for the maintenance of the MRR2 is marginally higher than the amount paid to Propel Bhd.

We do not need any explanation but want to see immediate action taken to improve the condition of the MRR2.

AZ
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Masjid Jami'ul Ehsan in Kampung Puah, Setapak.



The faithful praying in the Masjid India's prayer hall.



Masjid Jamek Sultan Abdul Samad in Jalan Tun Perak.