

KUALA LUMPUR (Oct 29): The Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has been urged to consider the proposed development of a common utility tunnel (CUT) system, similar to that in Putrajaya, to improve the efficiency of underground utility maintenance in the federal capital.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said that the CUT system in Putrajaya provided protection to utility infrastructure, such as electricity cables, water pipes, and telecommunications from construction damage, while also allowing safe access for maintenance.

"The system can also be integrated with the city's control centre using telemetry technology for safety monitoring. By adopting this technology, DBKL will certainly be able to improve both efficiency and safety in the maintenance of underground utilities.

"This is in line with CHASE City's vision for a safe, healthy, and sustainable city," she said in reply to a question from Datuk Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik (PH-Balik Pulau) during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat on Tuesday about the government's plans to upgrade and maintain underground utilities in Kuala Lumpur.

Zaliha stated that improvements would continue to be implemented to strengthen DBKL's role in increasing the efficiency of underground utility maintenance in the federal capital.

She also proposed to the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur for DBKL to emulate the best practices of local authorities in developed nations like the United States, the Unit-

DBKL urged to develop common utility tunnel system to enhance underground maintenance

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ed Kingdom, and Australia, which played a greater role in mapping underground utilities.

Zaliha said that local authorities in those countries were responsible for coordinating with different utility companies, ensuring that works related to underground utilities were performed in an orderly manner, without disrupting other services or infrastructure.

She stated that, for the time being, DBKL was only indirectly involved in regulating works related to underground utilities, particularly in terms of issuing dredging permits, monitoring safety, and ensuring that projects were executed according to specified standards.

She explained that this was due to the fact that the responsibility for upgrading and maintaining underground utilities, such as sewerage, water supply, electricity, and telecommunications in Kuala Lumpur, rested with the companies that owned those assets.