



Facelift for 'slum area'

But City Hall wants to discuss idea with Tiong Nam residents first

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TIONG Nam settlement, one of the oldest Chinese residential and commercial areas in Kuala Lumpur, is slated for redevelopment.

The redevelopment plan mooted by Kuala Lumpur City Hall will see the entire area given a facelift.

Mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail told *Malay Mail* that City Hall was currently studying whether the area could be re-

developed and the task is being undertaken by the Master Plan department.

"The area can be perceived to be a slum area and we plan to change its image. This will be a pilot project for us," Ahmad Fuad said.

Should the pilot project be successful, it would act as a catalyst for future redevelopment for other areas like Petaling Street, Pudu as well as areas in the Batu constituency.

Said Ahmad Fuad: "We are putting the people in the area as

our priority and this is why we are looking for a good developer to anchor the project."

He added that it would be good if big industry players like Permodalan Nasional Berhad, Sime Darby, Petronas or the Employee Provident Fund act as trustees for the project.

Development based on the trust concept, he said, would be where landowners (beneficiaries) in the area would get returns in cash, kind or both depending on the value of their land.

"Alternatively, we might also

consider land acquisition to revive the area, but we want to go to the people with this idea first," he added.

The Tiong Nam area is smack in the middle of the Sime Darby building, The Mall and Jalan Raja Laut. It would be the first Chinese area in the city to be redeveloped after Kampung Baru which is predominantly a Malay area.

He added that City Hall was currently doing the paper work to be presented to the Federal Territories Ministry as well as other relevant ministries.