

HISTORICAL LEGACY, HERITAGE

PM allocates RM1b to preserve KL's iconic landmarks

SHAH ALAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has allocated RM1 billion to preserve Kuala Lumpur's historic landmarks.

The initiative includes the official recognition of iconic sites such as Dataran Merdeka, the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Kuala Lumpur train station and Carcosa Seri Negara as part of the capital's heritage.

The plan, discussed during a cabinet meeting, reflects the government's commitment to safeguarding Kuala Lumpur's rich historical legacy and ensuring its preservation for future generations.

Anwar said Khazanah Nasional and Kuala Lumpur City Hall had briefed the cabinet on the plan, with Khazanah pledging the RM1 billion funding.

Speaking at the Selangor PKR branch annual meeting, Anwar who is also PKR president, said: "I presented to His Majesty, the sultan of Selangor (Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah) that the Sultan Abdul Samad Building stands as a symbol of the great heritage of the Malay sultanate.

"For the first time in history, with Khazanah's RM1 billion investment, we are taking concrete steps to preserve Kuala Lumpur's heritage."

Anwar stressed the importance

of expanding heritage preservation efforts to other significant sites, underlining Malaysia's multicultural identity and the contributions of all communities to the nation's history.

Meanwhile, heritage conservation experts are urging that the declaration of the area from Dataran Merdeka to Carcosa Seri Negara as a Kuala Lumpur Heritage Site be accompanied by a comprehensive and sustainable management plan for the long-term maintenance of these landmarks.

Badan Warisan Malaysia president Lim Wei-Ling welcomed the announcement, calling it a commendable step towards protecting an area of great historical and architectural importance.

She also said while the declaration and restoration were crucial, a clear, actionable plan must be put in place to ensure the ongoing maintenance of these buildings.

"Heritage conservation is not just about preserving buildings — it's about ensuring they continue to serve a meaningful purpose for future generations.

"For too long, we've seen cycles of restoration followed by deterioration due to a lack of a sustainable upkeep strategy. This must change," she said.



Iconic sites such as the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Carcosa Seri Negara and Dataran Merdeka are part of Kuala Lumpur's heritage.

Former Museums Department director-general Datuk Ibrahim Ismail also highlighted the potential economic benefits of the heritage site declaration, saying that the recognition would attract more visitors.

He cited the Majestic Hotel and the Sultan Abdul Samad Building

as examples of structures with rich histories that could be promoted as significant heritage sites.

Ibrahim also stressed the importance of responsible management, ensuring that the funds were used appropriately and not for purposes that contradicted

the objective of preserving the area's historical essence.

"The funds must be used for the preservation of the buildings and cannot be used for modifications that alter the original structures. We cannot allow new additions that conflict with the historical significance of these sites."