

# PM LAUNCHES WARISAN KL

10 projects to blend city's cultural heritage with modern development

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday launched the Warisan KL initiative, a billion-ringgit plan to revitalise 20sq km of the capital.

It includes 10 key projects aimed at blending cultural heritage with modern development to position Kuala Lumpur as an inclusive global creative hub.

Anwar said at the launch the city should reflect its people's spirit and legacy, and not be known merely as a city of skyscrapers.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Mayor Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif and the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

"As a heritage city and one that is often discussed as a city of development, I have always emphasised a higher level of thinking.

"A city must be vibrant and alive, with attractive and captivating physical features that align with technological advancements and the spirit of the times. However, it must also be deeply rooted in tradition and culture.

"If we are truly serious about emphasising identity, then Kuala Lumpur should be made unique, where its uniqueness lies not merely in its buildings or the



Think City managing director Datuk Hamdan Abdul Majeed (fourth from right) briefing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the Warisan KL initiative in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa (second from right) and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif (third from right). BERNAMA PIC

Twin Towers, but in its identity."

The project, formally named "Warisan KL: Warisan Ibu Kota Malaysia Madani", is a joint effort by Kuala Lumpur City Hall and Think City, is aimed at addressing the city centre's steady decline.

The key sites include Dataran Merdeka Heritage Area, Carcosa Seri Negara, Merdeka 118, Masjid Jamek Enclave, the Trade Quadrant, Memorial Tun Abdul Razak, Green Connector Network and Kuala Lumpur Railway Station.

Funding will come from both the public and private sectors, with total costs expected at around RMI billion.

The restoration of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building and Carcosa Seri Negara for example, is

expected to cost RM600 million and will be funded by Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

Warisan KL builds on the 2019 Kuala Lumpur Creative and Cultural District masterplan and aligns with the Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040.

Anwar added that while the country must pursue progress through digital technology, such ambition must be grounded in historical awareness and moral responsibility.

He also highlighted the need to reinterpret Malaysian history from a national lens rather than a colonial one, pointing to the role of early Malay leaders like Raja Abdullah in founding Kuala Lumpur, followed by key contributions from the Chinese and Indian communities.

"This city was not built by one race alone. Figures like Yap Ah Loy played an essential role, just as the sultan of Selangor did, in shaping the early landscape."

Anwar said the Warisan KL project had been in the works for two years under a committee led by Minister in the Zaliha and Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

"Our planning must directly and thoroughly focus on the needs of a modern nation, without sidelining the people. I have stressed to City Hall that I cannot accept grand or merely imposing projects.

"That may be other people's vision but I want small buildings and stalls that are clean, attractive and honour the 80 per cent of our people."