

'Balance modernity with cultural spaces to give city soul'

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur must balance a modern skyline with public cultural spaces that reflect the city's diverse heritage and give it a sense of soul.

Badan Warisan Malaysia (BWM) president Lim Wei-Ling said while the city boasted impressive skyscrapers, it must balance modernity with vibrant cultural public spaces that foster people's connection to its diverse heritage and encourage cultural exchange.

Lim said the newly launched Warisan KL project presented an opportunity to address this by enhancing heritage sites and creating dynamic spaces for people to gather and celebrate the city's rich history.

"Badan Warisan Malaysia was pleased to attend the launch of the Warisan KL project and applauds it as a positive and much-needed initiative to restore and revitalise key heritage sites in the city."

Lim Wei-Ling

"We are heartened that Dataran Merdeka and Carcosa Seri Negara will be given renewed attention as these landmarks hold immense historical and cultural significance," she said.

She added that once restored, these spaces had the potential to become central hubs for tourism, cultural activities and community interaction.

Earlier yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched the Warisan KL initiative, aimed at rejuvenating the city's historical core into a creative and cultural district.

The initiative, formally known as "Warisan KL: Warisan Ibu Kota Malaysia Madani", is a public-private collaboration led by Kuala Lumpur City Hall and ThinkCity, in response to the gradual hollowing out of Kuala Lumpur's historic centre.

Spanning a 20sq km area, Anwar said the initiative would feature 10 flagship projects designed to reposition Kuala Lumpur as a global creative hub — uniquely Malaysian, inclusive and well-connected.

» Turn to Page 5



CARCOSA SERI NEGARA

The site of the 1957 Federation Agreement signing will be reimagined as an inclusive eco-cultural destination, featuring galleries, storytelling spaces and programmes.

TRADE QUADRANT

The old commercial precincts from Sungai Klang to Jalan Tun Perak will be enhanced to attract new businesses and support cultural industries through improved public spaces.



MEMORIAL TUN ABDUL RAZAK

Exhibitions and programmes will highlight the Father of Development's legacy and vision of progress for Malaysia.

DATARAN MERDEKA HERITAGE AREA

The Sultan Abdul Samad Building will be refurbished and pedestrian linkages and blue-green infrastructure will be improved.



WARISAN KL: BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE CAPITAL'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE

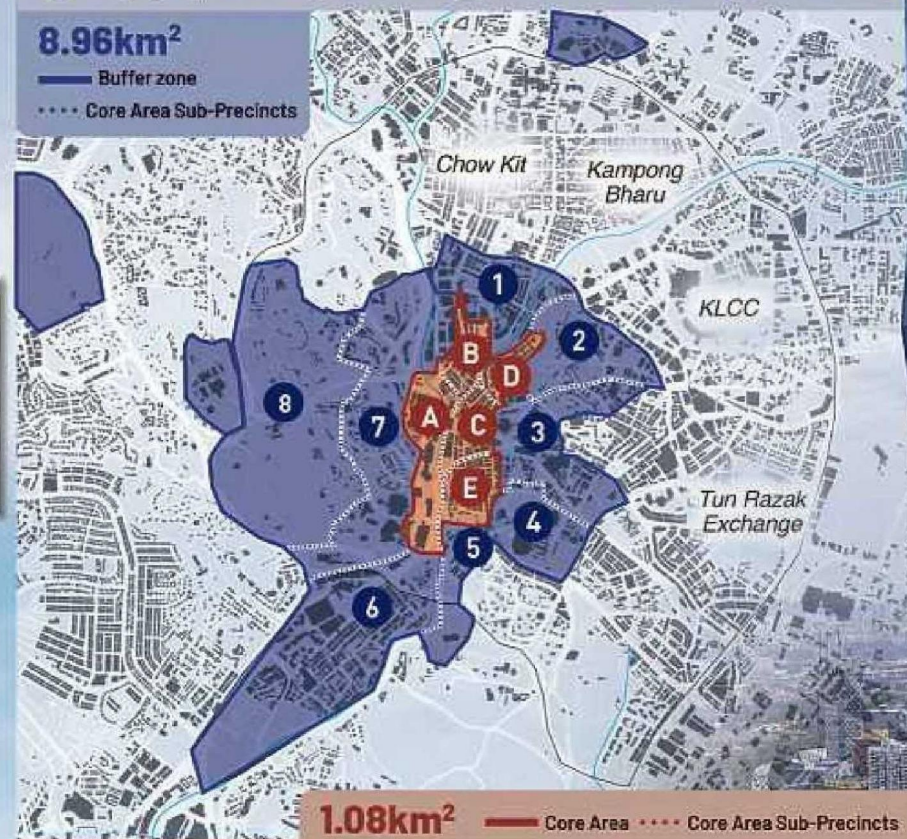
Kuala Lumpur's historic core is revived with 10 flagship projects, blending heritage, creativity and infrastructure to transform the city into a cultural and creative hub

- 1 Chow Kit South
- 2 Bukit Nanas
- 3 Bukit Ceylon
- 4 Merdeka 118 Area
- 5 Kampung Attap Enclave
- 6 Brickfields
- 7 Cultural & Institutions
- 8 Central Park

8.96km²

— Buffer zone

..... Core Area Sub-Precincts



1.08km²

— Core Area Core Area Sub-Precincts

A Civic Precinct

B Traditional Shopping Street Precinct

C Heritage Triangle Precinct

D Education Precinct

E Petaling Street Precinct

MASJID JAMEK ENCLAVE

The area's identity as a cultural anchor will be strengthened with the refurbishment of the mosque, improved walkability and the activation of surrounding public spaces.



KL RAILWAY STATION

The station will be reimagined as a railway-themed cultural hub, with enhanced connectivity to nearby landmarks and public spaces, as well as an improved urban plaza.

GREEN CONNECTOR NETWORK

The Green Connector Network will make the city more walkable by connecting parks, laneways, landmarks and transit routes through nature-based infrastructure.

FASHION AND TEXTILE

Improved infrastructure, walkways, public spaces and better stall organisation will strengthen Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman's identity as a cultural and economic hub.

CONTENT AND PROGRAMMING

Grants, residencies, museum partnerships and creative activations will empower local talent and drive the experience economy.

MERDEKA 118

Connectivity to neighbouring communities in Pudu and Kampung Attap will be improved and public spaces will be reimagined.

INFOGRAPHIC NST BY MOHD FAIZIZ'AAN

'Landmark restoration will boost heritage tourism, preserve character'

» From Page 4

On which facilities should be prioritised to attract more tourists, Lim recommends focusing on the heritage trail from Kuala Lumpur Railway Station to Masjid Jamek, encompassing iconic sites such as Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Dataran Merdeka and Masjid Jamek, among others.

She said these landmarks formed part of the historic heart of Kuala Lumpur and their

restoration and activation would boost heritage tourism while preserving the city's unique character.

"BWM strongly supports this initiative and looks forward to collaborating with stakeholders to ensure that the project not only conserves our heritage but also elevates Kuala Lumpur as a culturally vibrant and livable city."

"With the Warisan KL project in place, Kuala Lumpur is set to become a truly global city that encompasses and embraces both

modernity as well as respect for culture and heritage — valuing and preserving the tradition and historical significance of its diverse communities."

Inbound Tourism Alliance Consortium president Uzaidi Udanis said the initiative would highlight the city's soul.

Aside from refurbishing and upgrading buildings, or "hard-



Uzaidi Udanis

ware", he said emphasis must also be placed on the "software" — features such as cleanliness.

"There is some imbalance in the city. Areas such as Petaling Street and Little India in Brickfields have improved significantly, but I was quite surprised by the condition of the areas around Masjid India, which are not up to standard," he said.

"One of the tourist spots there, Haniffa, was once considered a one-stop shopping centre, especially popular among tourists from Indonesia, Brunei, the Middle East and India."

"However, the area around it is now crowded with beggars and the homeless. We need to clean up the area."

He added that there should also be more activities, food trail signages and pedestrian-friendly walkways, especially those that connect with the Light Rail Transit system.