

Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 **launched**

KUALA LUMPUR: The launch of the Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 yesterday marks the start of a major revamp of the capital's development strategy, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Describing the plan as the most comprehensive one in Kuala Lumpur City Hall's history, Anwar said it goes beyond physical redevelopment, signalling a deeper philosophical and strategic shift to build a more humane, inclusive and equitable city for all.

He said the plan incorporates fresh thinking and advanced technologies, including digital innovation and artificial intelligence, particularly in public housing development.

"We're not building a new city like Putrajaya. We're working within the constraints of existing, immovable structures, which makes the task far more challenging.

"So, let's not assume that the launch of this plan is about reinventing Kuala Lumpur's image from scratch. We are operating within an old framework that may not fully meet our aspirations or needs," he said at the launch.

Also present were the prime minister's wife and Bandar Tun Razak MP Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif.

Anwar said modern urban development is not only about new construction but also about addressing legacy issues, including disorganised planning, ad hoc housing approvals and weak governance.

Acknowledging that the plan had been delayed, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he said the Madani government has since undertaken a thorough review and recalibration to ensure Kuala Lumpur's growth is sustainable and inclusive.

He said the delay was also due to the need for wide stakeholder engagement, including residents and businesses, to ensure that all voices were reflected in the plan, *Bernama* reported.

Anwar underlined that future urban development must prioritise the B40 and

► Blueprint goes beyond physical redevelopment, signalling deeper philosophical and strategic shift to build a more humane, inclusive and equitable city for all: PM



Anwar, accompanied by (from left) Maimunah, Zaliha, Wan Azizah and Nga, launching the plan in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. – **BERNAMAPIC**

M40 groups who have historically been left behind while the benefits of progress remained concentrated among the elite.

He admitted there has been pushback from privileged quarters over the redesign of public housing, but affirmed that the government would not waver in defending the interests of the marginalised.

"Too often, the needs of ordinary people are treated as an afterthought. Facilities are built where people already live in comfort. It's not wrong, but it is unbalanced.

"I always say development must be humane. That means making space for hawker stalls, *warung* operators and small eateries frequented by 80% of the population."

Anwar said urban growth must encompass a complete and sustainable

ecosystem, integrating education, healthcare, childcare centres and public transport.

He cited the concept of vertical schools – compact, multi-storey institutions prioritising safety, efficient design and access to nearby essential services – as an example of this integrated approach.

Anwar said the Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 translates this long-term vision into actionable strategy, strengthening Kuala Lumpur's planning framework in line with the sustainability agenda and the guiding principle of "A City for All".

The plan will serve as Kuala Lumpur City Hall's key reference in evaluating development proposals, managing approvals and charting the city's growth path.