

MBKS partners with DBKL, first link with M'sian local authority

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KUCHING: Kuching South City Council (MBKS) and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) have formalised a partnership aimed at enhancing governance, innovation, and quality of life in both cities.

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which took place in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, also marked the first such collaboration between MBKS and a Malaysian city.

Kuching South mayor Datuk Wee Hong Seng said the idea was sparked during a conversation with Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif in Penang last year.

He said they had noted that while MBKS had forged ties with cities in China, South Korea, and Japan, no similar partnership existed with another Malaysian local authority.

"DBKL has long been a benchmark for city governance in Malaysia. Its experience in managing a complex and fast-growing metropolis is invaluable," he said in a speech.

Wee shared that MBKS will adapt DBKL's proven initiatives in integrated transport, smart city applications, and urban regeneration, while sharing its own expertise in cultural tourism, community wellness, and inclusive urban design.

The MoU outlines cooperation in five key areas: technology and data sharing, city beautification, tourism and culture promotion, community wellness, and sustainable development.

Among the planned collaborations are joint tourism campaigns, public space enhancements, health promotion



Wee and Maimunah sign the MoU documents.

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Datuk Wee Hong Seng

programmes, waste reduction strategies, and biodiversity initiatives.

Wee said the partnership would also benefit from integrating MBKS' Unicef Child Friendly Cities Initiative with DBKL's community education efforts, while adopting DBKL's smart parking and mobility systems to improve convenience in Kuching South.

Beyond specific projects, he said the MoU will facilitate staff development through exchanges of methods, tools, and perspectives to strengthen institutional capacity.

"Residents in both cities will see the impact in cleaner streets, better connectivity, safer neighbourhoods, and

more vibrant public spaces. Tourism will benefit from shared promotion and combined events. Businesses will find opportunities in a more dynamic urban environment."

He said the partnership is built on mutual respect and shared ambition, with success to be measured by tangible improvements for the people.

"Together we can build cities that are efficient, sustainable, and humane," he added.

He pointed out Kuching South is recognised as a Unesco Creative City of Gastronomy and a Craft City, and is part of both the Alliance for Healthy Cities and the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities.