

10/01/2000

Selangor's Vision 2005 a national project

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IN 1992 Malaysia was chosen to host the 16th Commonwealth Games; and in September '98 we successfully did it. The "Malaysian Project", which took six years to accomplish, passed so fast.

Likewise, let's put Selangor's target to achieve industrialised state status by 2005 on the national agenda.

Whatever happens to Selangor affects the rest of Malaysia. If Selangor does well, especially economically, other states will benefit. And Selangor (especially the Klang Valley) has people from all over Malaysia - that's Malaysian or national enough, so state patriotism aside please!

Everything is in Selangor: the federal territory of Kuala Lumpur which is the federal capital and the commercial capital of Malaysia; the fastest-progressing economy; the construction industry; the highest number of entertainment outlets, shopping centres and sports, medical and educational facilities.

With Selangor and Kuala Lumpur being the most populated region in Malaysia, and having the highest migration inflow, the Government should discourage the building of single and double-storey homes. Start a "Highrise Homes-Only Policy", as is already seen in some parts of Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya because of acute land shortage.

Land saved should be used for more industrial areas, commercial and mixed development areas, agriculture, in particular edible crops, playgrounds, padangs and sports facilities, forest and recreational parks and learning institutions. People today may be demanding more and more land, but we must think of future generations.

Water consumption will also be very high. So rivers and water catchment areas should be left untouched by development. The Government should also build reservoirs and huge water storage tanks at suitable locations.

And we have to make public transport a priority. We can't have our roads jammed with private vehicles especially during peak hours, as this affects productivity. So an integrated network of mass rail transit (with buses playing a lesser role) for the whole state of Selangor should already be in the pipeline. Make Selangor a city-state like Singapore.

And finally let Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stay another full term in office. We can't separate Dr Mahathir from Malaysia, and vice versa, and we would not be where we are today without his vision. So should we then kick him out with the excuse of "being too long in power" or "we want change for the sake of change", or because the orang putih hate his outspokenness?

And finally, note that it's no coincidence but by design and purpose (takdir) that the present Yang di-Pertuan Agong is the Sultan of Selangor. All the more reason why Selangor's Vision 2005 should be made a national project, a Malaysian endeavour.

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