

01/02/2003

FT Day message from Datuk Bandar

"FOR the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, this is the 29th anniversary celebration, which coincides with the Chinese New Year - the "Year of the Goat". Once again, city streets are deserted as KLites, as usual, balik kampung for the long weekend. Feb 4 will also be a holiday for the Federal Territory.

"While we welcome the two celebrations, let us take a ride in the time capsule back to 1857, when Kuala Lumpur began as a mining village at the confluence of the Gombak and Klang rivers with a population of only 80.

"From an area of 0.647sq km in 1895, Kuala Lumpur has grown and developed into an area of 243.65sq km with a population of 1.4 million and is still growing.

"Today, the city boasts the world's tallest building, modern transportation systems, intelligent buildings, ICT-imbued communication nodes, modern business and commercial centres, better quality housing, improved environment with parks and recreational facilities, and many other changes and developments over the last 150 years.

"However, in the wake of fast and unprecedented economic and social development, attendant problems on the quality of life also march in tandem. City Hall is faced with, among others, the task of overcoming garbage, traffic, dadah addicts, vagrants, vandalism, ageing population, youths and single parent problems.

"The Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020, which will be displayed for public scrutiny and comment next month, will address most of the above issues. I appeal to all residents and stakeholders in the city to work together with City Hall in the spirit of affirmative co-operation to help build Kuala Lumpur into a garden city of lights with a soul as envisaged by our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"On this joyful occasion, City Hall has arranged a variety of entertainment programmes and activities for city dwellers to participate. I extend a warm welcome to all to join in the festivities with their families and friends.

"Gong Xi Fa Chai and Selamat Hari Raya Aidiladha."