

Selangor govt defends Greater KL plan
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SHAH ALAM - Selangor Menteri Besar Khalid Ibrahim defended the federal government's Greater Kuala Lumpur plan saying it would stoke the state's economic growth.

The plan would increase the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and employment opportunities, he said Tuesday at the state legislative assembly sitting, The Star reported.

According to Khalid, the Klang Valley area has better potential for growth when compared to other states like Johor, Terengganu, Kelantan, Penang or Kedah.

"Research shows that if RM1 is put in there, it will be multiplied two times, which is not as much as in the Greater KL or Klang Valley where the multiplier is more than five times. The potential for growth is better in the Klang Valley," he said.

He also said the Klang Valley area has been included as part of the Greater KL region, which is one of the major areas for development under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

The landmark project 'Warisan Merdeka' which included building a 100-storey high skyscraper sited adjacent to Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Negara, had come under public scrutiny after it was announced in the 2011 Budget.

The latest comment came from DAP MP for Taiping, Nga Kor Ming, who said Tuesday that the government's plan to spend RM5 billion on another skyscraper is a waste of public fund as there are still plenty of office space left empty and under utilised in KL.

"According to NAPIC, there are about 26.6% of the office space in KL is empty and under utilised. The current supply of office lot in KL is 6,750,000 square feet and there are as high as 1,790,000 square feet currently left empty and untenanted," he said in a statement.

He further said: "Judging from this fact, the Government's decision to spend a whopping RM5 billion to build a 100 storey "Menara Warisan" is perceived as another wastage of public fund."

The Taiping MP suggested that the fund can be better utilised to build schools, hospitals, universities and other public amenities for the people's interest.

"But it is with regret such legitimate request had turned to deaf ears," he lamented.

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