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PM LAUNCHES RIVER PROJECTS

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River of Life, Blue Pool projects will beautify Sg Klang, Sg Gombak

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak launched the first phase of the River of Life (RoL) and Blue Pool projects at Masjid Jamek Sultan Abdul Samad here last night.

The beautification projects cover the river stretch around Masjid Jamek-Dayabumi Complex.

Situated at the convergence point of Sungai Klang and Gombak, Blue Pool is designed to transform the rivers into a stunning, sensory experience.

"The RoL project will bring a stronger impact to the country's progress through the nation's capital," Najib said.

"As we focus on increasing the liveability index of the city through this project, Kuala Lumpur will be on a par with other world-class cities."

He said Kuala Lumpur was going through major changes in stages and in 50 years, with the completion of all the major rail projects, the city would be placed among other first-class cities.

He called for greater enforcement to ensure the cleanliness of rivers.

He said rivers were the nation's heritage and should be preserved by everyone.

"This is just the beginning. With continued support from the people for the government, *Insyaallah* (God willing), there will be more to come."

Equipped with a dancing symphony fountain, blue corridor, fog and lightning effects, the Blue Pool will enhance the focal point of the Masjid Jamek Sultan Abdul Samad and create a recreational area for people.

A new bridge, Sultan Abdul Samad Bridge, has been built to connect the mosque with the Sultan Abdul Samad building and Dataran Merdeka, reducing travelling time for pedestrians by half.

RoL is an entry point project identified in the Greater Kuala Lumpur national key economic area under the Economic Transformation Programme.

There are three major components to the RM4.4 billion RoL project: river cleaning, master planning and beautification, and river development.

It aims to transform Sungai Klang and Sungai Gombak into bustling waterfronts.

River cleaning is being conducted along a 110km stretch along the eight rivers covering Selayang Municipal Council, Ampang Jaya Municipal Council and City Hall.

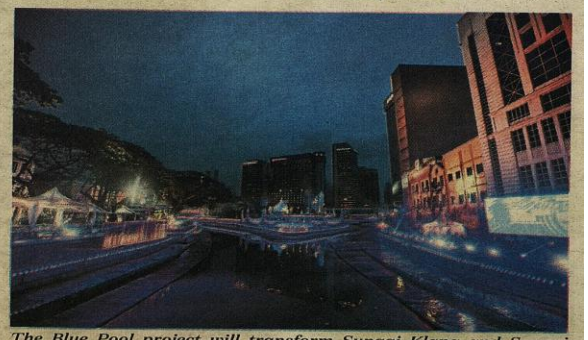
The economic viability of the area would be increased through master planning and beautification works along the 10.7km stretch of two river corridors.

As for river development, potential government land will be identified and tendered out to private developers through competitive bidding to boost development.

As of this month, 80 per cent of the project has been completed.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, at the launch of the first phase of the River of Life and Blue Pool projects in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIX BY SAIRIEN NAFIS

Page 1 pic: Fireworks at the launch of the river projects in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.



The Blue Pool project will transform Sungai Klang and Sungai Gombak into a stunning, sensory experience.