

# Pergerakan tanah akibat hujan tanpa henti

Runtuhan di Bangsar Indah Condominium  
bagaimanapun tidak melibatkan mangsa

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KUALA LUMPUR

Tiada mangsa yang terlibat di sekitar kawasan tanah runtuh di Bangsar Indah Condominium, Bangsar di sini pada Selasa.

Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan,

Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim berkata, pihaknya bersama pasukan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) ke lokasi terbabit untuk meninjau pergerakan tanah yang berlaku di sekitar kondominium tersebut pada Selasa.

Beliau menerusi satu hantaran di Facebook memaklumkan kejadian tersebut berlaku akibat hujan tanpa henti pada pagi Selasa yang menyebabkan kerosakan serta menjejaskan kemudahan di sekitar bangunan berkenaan.

Sehubungan itu, beliau menasihati penduduk sekitar kondominium tersebut untuk mengambil langkah berjaga-jaga sekiranya berlaku runtu-

han tanah dalam masa terdekat. "Hujan lebat berlarutan telah menyebabkan tanah di kawasan Bangsar Indah Condominium, Kuala Lumpur runtuh. Kejadian yang berlaku pada pagi ini (Selasa) menyebabkan kerosakan dan menjejaskan fasiliti di sekitar bangunan ini.

"Saya serta pasukan KWP dan DBKL telah meninjau kawasan berkenaan.

"Tiada kecederaan dilaporkan, namun langkah berjaga-jaga telah diambil untuk penduduk di kediaman ini bagi mengelakkan berlakunya lagi runtuhan tanah dalam masa terdekat," katanya dalam hantaran tersebut pada Selasa.



Runtuhan tanah di Bangsar Indah Condominium, Bangsar berlaku akibat hujan tanpa henti pada pagi Selasa.



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## Lenggong, Labuan get geopark status

**IPOH:** Lenggong in Perak and Labuan have been recognised as the latest national geoparks after the Kinta Valley National Geopark in Perak, Jerai National Geopark in Kedah and the Kinabalu National Geopark in Sabah.

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said the recognition was given under the National Geopark Development Programme led by the federal government through the ministry.

"The recognition of Lenggong and Labuan as national geoparks was made on Dec 16 during the National Geopark Committee Meeting No. 1 of 2021," he said in a statement yesterday.

He added that the 2,068 sq km Lenggong National Geopark, that is

rich in unique rock landscapes, biological heritage (eight bio sites) and cultural heritage (19 cultural sites), also features various international-standard geological formations.

Previously, nine geo-archaeological sites in Lenggong had received World Heritage Site status from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Takiyuddin said the Labuan National Geopark, with an area of 402 sq km, features the evolution of sedimentary rocks and landscapes that formed Labuan Island as well as biological sites.

"Among them are mangrove forests (Kinabenuwa), coastal forests (Tanjung Kubong), wildlife sanctuary (Pulau Ular) and marine parks (Pulau

Rusukan Besar, Pulau Rusukan Kecil and Pulau Kuraman), that are the habitats for various bird species (swiftlets, Pacific Reef-egret, Anhinga and Crimson Sunbird).

"The diversity of cultural heritage can also be seen in the community that lives in water villages."

Takiyuddin said the recognition of Lenggong and Labuan as national geoparks was a significant achievement for the country, especially the state government and local authorities, as it reflects efforts in conserving nature and sustainable management of geosites of extraordinary value, in line with the National Development Agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. - Bernama





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A LITTLE over a week after Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim was appointed Federal Territories Minister, Kuala Lumpur moved into Phase Two of the National Recovery Plan (NRP).

As the Covid-19 infections in the federal capital continued to drop and the pace of vaccination rose, the new minister quickly became aware of the tremendous task that lays ahead as he prepared to rev up the economy of the three federal territories — Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan.

In an interview with *StarMetro*, Shahidan talks about the recovery strategy he has planned to boost the economy of all three areas as well as on specific issues in the capital city.

### Plan for three FTs

Shahidan said Covid-19 has impacted the tourism industry in all three federal territories and continued to have a serious impact on the lives of its citizens.

"While we are aware that Covid-19 is still around, we must nevertheless focus on restoring the economy, business and the community that has suffered for almost two years," he added.

For Kuala Lumpur, he assured stakeholders that plans are in the works to revitalise the economy of the federal capital and one of it was to encourage domestic tourism.

The ministry and its agencies, he said, were working on programmes to entice out-of-towners to spend time sightseeing in Kuala Lumpur.

"We are looking at designing familiarisation tours catering to specific groups.

"We will also leverage on celebrations like Hari Raya, Chinese New Year and Deepavali to promote these tourist spots," he said.

Also in the works are tourism activities such as virtual tours, Kuala Lumpur Augmented Reality Trail (KLact), #MYKualaLumpurStory and "Wilayah Sihat" programmes.

Part of the promotion includes organising video competitions, and working with social media influencers and local celebrities to promote Kuala Lumpur as a tourist destination.

For Putrajaya, Shahidan said special programmes and products were being planned, including improved infrastructure and facilities like the Putrajaya Steps, a new recreational spot connecting Dataran Perdana to Taman Putra Perdana.

Bicycle tracks will also connect to the area. There will be efforts to further improve existing places of interest such as the glamping activities, 17.4ha nursery called the Garden Park with over 150 plant species at Putrajaya Wetlands Park and the Putrajaya Sports Arena.

A new addition to Putrajaya's landscape is the Pantai Berpasir (sandy beach) at Anjung Floria in Precinct 4.

Located at the former site of the Floria DiRaja Putrajaya, the sandy beach project is man-made and spans 600m in diameter and 100m in length.

It is touted to become the next tourist destination in the administrative capital.

Labuan, Shahidan said, took a hit in domestic tourism with revenue dropping by more than half.

"But we are working with Labuan Corporation to change that.

"Some of the projects are on the drawing board, while some have already been implemented.

"The construction of a bridge at the Kinabenuwa Eco Tourism Centre is one such example and the sunset viewing spot at Selera Manikar is also being upgraded."

He added that Labuan Corporation had also introduced new and improved tourism products and destinations that have potential such as stargazing and sunrise watching at the Wak Kiman campsite.

Other adventures awaiting the avid traveller are yachting, abseiling, kayaking, camping and bird watching at Labuan bird park.

# Getting to grips with massive task ahead

FT Minister has plate full to accomplish new plans and make good on promises made by his predecessor



Stakeholders of Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital, have been assured by Shahidan that steps will be taken to improve the economic situation. — Filepic



Shahidan provided his personal contact number for Kuala Lumpur residents to complain about pothole problems in the city.



Shahidan says he received more than 1,000 calls a day on his personal number when he first shared it.

Labuan Corporation has also upgraded and improved facilities in the Chimney trail, Labuan Geopark, marine museum, Selera Manikar and Anjung Budaya.

"We are also working with the local community to empower and support them to improve their living standards, which will also help boost the economy in the area," he said.

### Liquor guidelines

On the controversial topic of liquor, Shahidan said the liquor guideline was about controlling access to hard liquor.

"We never banned the sale of hard liquor. You can still buy hard liquor in supermarkets, hypermarkets, malls and dedicated outlets selling only liquor.

"You can even buy it at restaurants, bars, pubs, lounges, just not at Chinese medicine shops, sundry shops and convenience stores," he reiterated.

"This guideline is for controlling access to hard liquor, which have led to a lot of social problems," Shahidan said.

"Chinese medicine shops can still sell pure mixed liquor products for traditional medicinal purposes, provided they obtain

the necessary approval from the Health Ministry.

"The ministry and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) are sensitive to social issues in the city and we have to balance the needs of everyone," he said.

### Affordable housing

On how he plans to balance the need for more green spaces with the need for more affordable housing, Shahidan said, "We are currently working on a plan and it is called KL Urban Renewal Programme.

"In a nutshell, it is a housing redevelopment initiative that is meant to replace ageing and dilapidated old buildings by demolishing and rebuilding bigger and better ones with all the facilities of a modern condominium."

He highlighted that the ministry and DBKL encouraged developers to build affordable homes, known as "Residensi Wilayah Keluarga Malaysia", for the M40 group and "Residensi Prihatin Keluarga Malaysia" for the B40 group.

They had identified sites that were ripe for redevelopment, he added.

"We encourage developers to come forward with plans for sustainable redevelopment projects."

ward with plans for sustainable redevelopment projects.

"In fact, we also launched the KL Urban Renewal guidebook in January this year as a guideline for developers who are interested in participating in the KL Urban Renewal programmes," said Shahidan.

He reiterated that the programme was not only about building new homes, but to revitalise old brownfield and greyfield areas in Kuala Lumpur.

"We are looking at giving old areas a new lease of life and making them liveable and socially viable areas to bring up families in a safe environment," he said.

He added that transit-oriented development (TOD) projects were also in the pipeline and an effective model for affordable housing.

Shahidan added that for stratified properties, open spaces would be integrated into the development like a rooftop garden or a vertical garden concept.

"With population growth and continuous development happening in Kuala Lumpur and with land being scarce and all, it is going to be a challenge to balance development and land use policies," he pointed out.





The 17.4ha nursery called Garden Shop in Putrajaya Wetlands Park boasts of more than 150 species of plants.



Labuan's tourism industry suffered much during the MCO. — Filepic

## Greening KL

Shahidan said the ministry was committed to planting one million trees in all the three federal territories until 2025, in line with the theme "Greening Malaysia: Our Trees, Our Life", and based on the concept of Urban Forest Development and Flowering City.

"My predecessor, Tan Sri Annuar Musa, initiated the beautification of the seven lakes and ponds located towards the north of Kuala Lumpur near Batu Metropolitan Park earlier in the year.

"This programme includes the process of upgrading recreational infrastructure and pedestrian/bicycle paths that will benefit the people of Kuala Lumpur.

"The planting of trees in this area is part of a plan to turn the area with its seven lakes into a passive and active leisure recreation centre.

"This includes a 62.5km line of bicycle routes involving an area around the lakes with a connection route to Kuala Lumpur Forest Eco Park," he said.

"For the beautification project of the seven lakes, he said DBKL had prepared a landscape development proposal.

A total of 8,197 trees have since been planted in the area.

Shahidan said the upgrading of footpaths and recreational area would begin in the first quarter of next year.

"We also welcome the involvement of the

corporate sector through strategic collaboration under their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme," added Shahidan.

The park, measuring 231.48ha, is expected to be completed in five years.

## Pothole issues

One of the first things Shahidan did when he took office was the rather unprecedented move to share his personal contact number with the public.

He welcomed feedback on potholes, a rather persistent issue that has been plaguing the city.

Does he regret it?

"I received more than 1,000 calls a day after sharing my personal number, not only about potholes in Kuala Lumpur but also on other matters that needed to be addressed.

"I also received calls from people living in other states who wanted to share their problems with me.

"No regrets, but there were some who called for no apparent reason," he added.

While the calls have reduced since he shared it on Oct 7, Shahidan is happy that 253 complaints on potholes were received and forwarded to DBKL up until Nov 30.

"I am happy to say that almost 95% of the complaints received through the line have been successfully resolved," he added.



Rubbish has been dumped by unscrupulous people in parts of Kuala Lumpur.

## KL folk want better facilities and maintenance culture

BANGSAR resident Datuk M. Ali has called on Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim to tackle core issues like transportation and hygiene.

While appreciating Shahidan's move to share his mobile phone number with Kuala Lumpur residents to complain about potholes, Ali said people were still grappling with basic issues.

"For example, rubbish and construction debris are being dumped into drains in Jalan Semantan and Jalan Johar in Bangsar.

"The drains are filled with debris.

"We are puzzled about who is dumping it here," he said, adding that he had complained about it to Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Department of Environment, Drainage and Irrigation Department and the Health Ministry, but has yet to receive any response. He also highlighted the filthy conditions of drains behind the commercial shops in Bangsar that needed major clean-up.

Echoing Ali's sentiments was Brickfields Rukun Tetangga (RT) chairman SKK Naidu,

who suggested that an open recreational space be created for residents and children to enjoy.

"Our township has lost more than six playgrounds and football fields in the past 20 years.

"Now our children have to go elsewhere to play football.

"We need our own field and we hope that the minister can come down to Brickfields and see for himself just how dense this township is, and how badly we need a space for our children to play and have fun," he said.

CK Lee, a Taman United resident from Jalan Kelang Lama, wants Shahidan to push for better public transport connectivity.

"Even though there are LRT stations around the area, the connectivity is not there.

"Feeder buses do not ply the areas within the neighbourhood and people still need to take a taxi or drive to the stations, which defeats the purpose," he said.

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