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Ministry upgraded and repaired heritage buildings to highlight local culture and attract more tourists in line with Visit Malaysia 2020.



Khalid (second from left) overseeing a bus under the GO KL free bus programme from the Titivangsa terminal to Mindef in Kuala Lumpur. — Filepic

Driven by past year's achievements

FT Ministry lists accomplishments that include saving RM480mil in funds for City Hall

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HITTING the brakes on dubious land deals in Kuala Lumpur has earned accolades for the Federal Territories Ministry.

The move has saved Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) over RM480mil in funds, said minister Khalid Abdul Samad.

"Over 97 dubious land deals were reviewed.

"Moving forward, all deals will be made in accordance with the law and will follow the evaluation done by the Valuation and Property Services Department," he said when presenting the ministry's report card.

Another achievement, he said, was the revival of the Federal Territories Residents Representative Council (MPPWP) that was suspended in 2015.

"This council ensured that residents in each parliamentary constituency would have access to their local authorities," said Khalid.

Under the system, he said, parliamentary constituencies were divided into zones with each zone being helmed by a village head.

DBKL also took over the free bus service GO KL from the Transport Ministry.

Initially covering four routes, the service was expanded to cover seven routes.

Khalid said there were plans to expand it to three additional routes by early 2020.

"The buses travelled from high-density residential areas to key areas in the city while also connecting passengers to LRT, MRT and KTM stations to help reduce personal vehicle usage," he added.

Another feather in the cap for the ministry is the change in the tax system for stratified property — from quit rent to parcel rent.

From yesterday (Jan 1, 2020) unit owners will have to pay parcel rent directly to the Federal Territories Land and Mines Office (PTFGWP).

Previously, unit owners paid quit rent annually to their respective management corporations (MC) and joint management bodies (JMB), which in turn pay PPTGWP under the master strain title.

"Many owners had issues to sell or lease their units following outstanding quit rent owed by their JMB and MC.

"With parcel rent, property owners will no longer be held back by their errant neighbours who fail to pay up," said Khalid.

"Under the new system, the rates will also be determined by the unit size, property type such as residential, commercial or industrial, and tenure — either leasehold or freehold," added Khalid.

Last year, the ministry also brought down its hammer on the monopoly of trading sites by unscrupulous intermediary parties who charged exorbitant fees on traders



Khalid showing the ministry's report card for 2019 together with ministry secretary-general Datuk Rosida Jaafar (right) in Putrajaya.

and hawkers.

"In 2019, all licence application must be made online and directly to DBKL to ensure fair practice," said Khalid.

Hoping to attract 30 million tourists, Khalid said the ministry spent RM4mil on promotional programmes, especially under the Visit Malaysia 2020 campaign.

He said the amount spent included the advertisements on board advertisements on domestic, Indonesia and Thailand-bound routes.

"Work is already in progress to revive heritage buildings such as Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad and Panggung Bandaraya in the city to shed light on the history and culture here," added Khalid.

Another move to note for 2019 is encouraging private developers to adopt the People's Housing Project (PPR) and Public Housing Project (PA) under its "Wilayah Peduli, Harapan Dipenuhi" initiative.

"Under this initiative, private developers had to work closely with the local community to repair, maintain and beautify the area.

"So far, seven developers have done this and several more have registered interest to take part," said Khalid.

The initiative also included job carnivals targeted at the B40 segment and cleanliness competitions.

Khalid has high hopes the initiative would serve as a stepping stone for many to break out of the poverty cycle.



Khalid at the 'Wilayah Peduli, Harapan Dipenuhi' Initiative in Sentul. — Filepic