

Kuala Lumpur is located at the confluence of Klang and Gombak Rivers in the state of Selangor. Characterized within the borders of Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, it has an area of 243 sq. km and a population estimated at 1.6 million. Its transformation to a world of urban agglomerations with significant spurt of urbanization was influenced with a vision to become a world-class city in a fully developed country by the year of 2020.



Figure 1: Location of Kuala Lumpur



Figure 2: Kuala Lumpur and Its Conurbation

► *Administrative arrangement and planning fabric*

Rapid urbanization of Kuala Lumpur is inevitably the result of its top-down approach in planning system with market-oriented policies to attract foreign investment along with the concentration of economic activities within an area named ‘Golden Triangle’. The top-down strategy was initiated with (1) Vision 2020, (2) country’s Five Year National Development Plan and (3) the federal government’s nationwide spatial framework known as National Physical Plan (NPP), complemented by the regional administrative policies envisioned in the (4) National Urbanisation Policy (NUP) which promotes sustainable urban development of the city. In terms of uniformity in laws and planning at lower level, to formulate structure and local plan; the city administration (City Hall of Kuala Lumpur) has joined forces with Federal Department of Town and Country Planning by creating blueprints that outline goals, strategies and policies from NPP and NUP to be incorporated in Kuala Lumpur Structure Plan 2020 and Draft Kuala Lumpur City Plan 2020.

► *Urban identity and some critical issues*

Kuala Lumpur with 100% level in urbanization is the most populous administrative district in the country with a multi-ethnic society comprising of three major races: Malay (41%), Chinese (39%), Indian (10%) and foreign population (7%). The reversal in net in-migration to a net out-migration became particularly evident due to the scarcity of affordable housing in city centre. Federal government administrative functions have been gradually transferred to Putrajaya which made Kuala Lumpur’s principal functions to be redefined into a centre for commerce, consumption and finance. In the year of 2000, the percentage of existing land uses according to sector were separated into Residential (22.66%), Commercial (4.51%), Industrial

(2.28%), Institutional (6.69%), Open Space, Recreational and Sports Facilities (6.52%), Community Facilities (5.71%), Infrastructure (20.77%) and Utilities (4.73%). Meanwhile, 23.77% of the geographical area in Kuala Lumpur was Undeveloped Land and 2.36% of total land use was under the category of Squatters' Settlements. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Kuala Lumpur has increased from RM63.515 million in 2006 to RM77.389 million in 2010, an average annual growth rate of 4.8%. There has been a major contribution from service sector which consist of finance, business services, restaurants, hotels and many more.

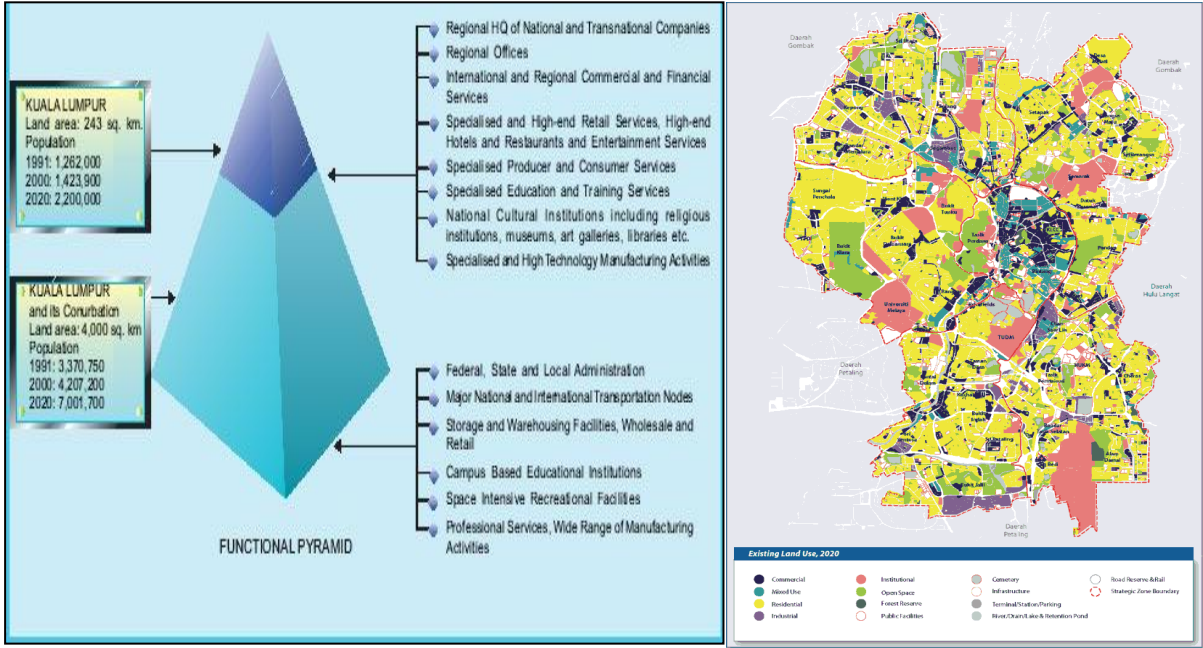


Figure 3: Functional Pyramid of Kuala Lumpur & Its Conurbation Figure 4: Proposed Land Use Map In 2020

The mushrooming of squatter settlement in the middle of an alpha world city is intolerable. Thus, due to the implementation of Zero Squatter Policy, there is a decline in number of squatters. Its urban vulnerability of flash flooding has encouraged a development of Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART TUNNEL) that functions as storm drainage and road structure. Since the opening of Light Rail Transit (LRT) System 1 in 1996, rail-based public transport indicated a paradigm shift for passengers to opt for public transportation. However, there are still issues occurred relating to the optimal usage of rail-based public transport such as inadequacy in interchange facilities for parking or pedestrian linkages, and low quality of support services (feeder bus frequency and service coverage).

► **Urban evolution and growth story**

The development vision for Kuala Lumpur is to become a world-class city with four principal constituents namely a world-class working environment, a world-class living environment, a world-class business environment and world-class governance. The consequence of rapid transformation to a modern city with iconic skyscrapers during Mahathir’s era has led to dilapidated housing issues located strategically in the city centre. While acknowledging the unsustainable state which severely illustrated a disparity image in the city, federal government is optimistic about the prospects of conducting urban regeneration towards potential sites in terms of physical, economic and social aspects. In Draft Kuala Lumpur City Plan 2020, City Hall of Kuala Lumpur has identified a number of potential sites for urban regeneration project.

