

Headline	Urban villages embrace progress		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	01 Feb 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	S5	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	503 cm ²
Journalist	Farhana Syed Nokman	AdValue	MYR 16,410
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	MYR 49,231



Urban villages embrace progress

MODERNISATION: Villagers are now enjoying a better standard of living, thanks to rapid development

FARHANA SYED NOKMAN

RESIDENTS living in urban villages around Kuala Lumpur have benefited from the rapid development taking place around them.

With modernisation and skyscrapers changing the city's landscape, the villages within the city, too, are undergoing development to give its residents a better environment to live in.

One of the oldest villages which has been around for more than 110 years in the heart of the city is Kampung Baru.

Covering an area of 101 hectares and with a population of 30,000 people, it still retains its rustic charm within the city.

There are six villages in the Kampung Baru area, namely, Kampung Atas A, Kampung Atas B, Kampung Pindah, Kampung Periuk, Kampung Masjid and Kampung Hujung Pasir.

Villager, Mohd Sulong Abdul Kadir, 60, who lives in Kampung Atas A, said urbanisation has brought many changes to the village.

"The government has plans to modernise Kampung Baru to ensure that it is in line with the rapid development in the city.

"Instead of resisting change for the better, we should change our mindset and cooperate with the authorities to improve our quality of life.

"Many of the villagers in Kampung Atas A have sold their land to make way for development.

"For example, Naza Group of Companies has bought seven land lots here for its offices and showroom. This has created job opportunities for the villagers.

"The founder of Naza, the late Tan Sri SM Nasimuddin SM Amin used to live here," said Sulong, who was born and raised here.

Sulong also said that as the village was seeing urbanisation, some of the villagers here have rented out their houses to students and foreign workers.

"There are a few colleges and universities around here such as Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), Universiti Teknologi Mara and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's medical faculty," he added.

A student, Wan Rosliza Wan Harun, 23, from Kelantan who used to rent a room at a village house, said the room rents were between RM300 to RM500.

"I had stayed there for only six months, paying a RM500 monthly rent. The room only had a toilet.

"After that, I moved out to rent a flat nearby," said Wan Rosliza, adding that the majority of

students who rented the rooms at the village were male.

Meanwhile, in Kampung Malaysia Tambahan which is located between Kuchai Lama, Desa Petaling and Sri Petaling, the villagers have accepted the development around them with open arms.

In fact, their travels within the city is now easier with the newly built Bandar Tasik Selatan Terminal (BTS).

According to the village head, Sazali Salim, 46, the terminal was built partly on village land.

"Our grandparents, who were soldiers and policemen, settled here in 1965. It used to be a tin mine.

"The village developed year after year.

"Now, we have two halls, a futsal court and a playground. Many of us were also given the chance to operate stalls at the terminal," said Sazali, adding that there are 7,000 people who live in the village.

However, Sazali is not in favour of any new housing development within the area.

"We have one apartment, Pangsapuri Sri Malaysia, just beside our village and since it was built, we have had to

deal with a variety of social problems. In addition, the area is also congested."

Kampung Malaysia Tambahan is connected to the neighbouring townships and the capital city centre via the Sungai Besi Expressway. The village consists of Kampung Malaysia Tambahan and Kampung Malaysia Raya.

At Kampung Pasir, in Pantai Dalam, development has brought many benefits to the village.

According to Kamarudin Wahid, 67, not many people knew of the existence of Kampung Pasir those days.

"The village used to get flooded whenever the nearby Klang river burst its bank. During the rainy season, floods could last for at least three days. In the 1980s, our drainage system was upgraded by the government.

"In 2000, when construction of the New Pantai Expressway started, some of the villagers were given a house at PPR Pantai Permai.

"Most villagers welcome the development as it benefits us. I've seen remarkable improvement in this village.

"Now, we are satisfied as we have our own surau, school, a football field and also a hall for our community projects," added Kamarudin, who has been living here for almost 42 years.

Headline	Urban villages embrace progress		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	01 Feb 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Supplement	Circulation	136,530
Page No	S5	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	503 cm ²
Journalist	Farhana Syed Nokman	AdValue	MYR 16,410
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	MYR 49,231



*Rapid development around
Kampung Baru has
resulted in villagers enjoying
a **better quality of life.***