

Integrated hubs to make KL a great place to work, live and play



KL STREET WISE
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OVER the next few years, Kuala Lumpur (KL) is expected to move up a big notch in terms of its vibrancy and attractiveness, as an increasing number of integrated hubs will emerge.

These projects include the ongoing Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) project, Bandar Malaysia project and others. These will add to the established hubs like KL Sentral, KL City Centre (KLCC), Bangsar South and Mont Kiara to name a few.

For many, these may seem like a real estate play. However, if you look closer, it is actually more than that. These projects, once completed, are part of the pieces that will greatly improve the way people work, live and play in KL.

These hubs are ideal for many reasons. For a start, it will be well connected with transportation infrastructure.

Take Bandar Malaysia for example, it will be one of the key terminals for the high-speed rail (HSR) project that links between KL and Singapore. Besides that, it will also be connected via the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line 2 that will make commuting within KL extremely easy.

All these elements will complement the thousands of homes, including



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5,000 affordable homes, to be built on the 486-acre (196.68ha) site.

Then there's TRX. Currently under construction, once completed, the multi-billion project is expected to help transform KL into a serious financial centre.

The TRX development is expected to house 250 global financial services companies and create 40,000 skilled and knowledge-based jobs. Having state-of-the-art offices is only one of the elements for TRX, as there are plans to build homes, hotels and even retail outlets on the 70-acre land.

Of course, these projects will also synergise with some of the existing

projects (existing and upcoming ones) will help improve KL's appeal in terms of life and work. Let's look at how these hubs impact other parts of our lives.

Today, the Greater KL is home to some of the largest malls in the world. Also, most of these malls are located at these hubs, or are very accessible to these hubs, as they are well integrated with the MRT lines.

Malls aside, these hubs are also rather accessible to many international schools, colleges and universities. On top of a selection of international schools and colleges to choose from, there are also French, German and Japanese international schools, which can significantly help many expatriates' families in terms of their children's education. It is also home to many universities, such as Monash University, HELP University, USCI University and others.

Of course, these hubs are also home for many restaurants and cafes. One of the more popular restaurants in the city is Nobu, located in KLCC. Nobu, one of the world's top Japanese restaurant (first started out in 1994 in New York and is co-owned by actor Robert De Niro), made KL as its first branch in South-East Asia.

In KL Sentral, one would have access to a wide offering of cuisines, from the stalls at the food court in Plaza Sentral, the wide variety of restaurants in Nu Sentral, to the fancy restaurants in one of the five-star hotels — all just within

minutes of walk away.

In fact, also within walking distance are Taka by Sushi Saito and Ginza Tenkuni at the newly opened The St Regis Hotel.

Sure, if one were to look at these elements individually, it may not be an attractive proposition. The truth is, these hubs have all the elements that enhance the quality of people's lives.

Imagine having a place where one can live and work, as well as send their children to school, watch movies, have dinner and do some grocery shopping.

More importantly, if they want to go to other hubs or key destinations within the city, it is highly likely the destination is only one rail ride away. These are clear examples that the city has offerings that suit everyone's interests.

I believe this is just the beginning as better things are yet to come for the city. I am looking forward to it. I believe all Malaysians, locally or abroad, as well as foreign investors, are looking forward to it too.

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