

STATUS UPGRADE

# SEBERANG PERAI NOW NATION'S 14TH CITY

This would not have been possible without residents' cooperation, says new mayor

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**S**EBERANG Perai yesterday officially became the nation's 14th city, with its outgoing municipal council president, Datuk Rozali Mohamad, appointed as its first mayor.

Penang Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas officially declared the Seberang

Perai Municipal Council (MPSP) as the Seberang Perai City Council (MBSP).

The historic ceremony at Dewan Millennium in Kepala Batas near here kicked off with the arrival of Rahman and his wife, Toh Puan Majlimor Shariff, which was followed by the singing of the national anthem, *Negaraku*, and state anthem, *Untuk Negeri Kita*.

This was followed by Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin handing over the declaration letter by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah on Seberang Perai's new status to the Yang di-Pertua Negeri.

"It has been granted by Sultan Abdullah, who declared, established and directed MPSP, which henceforth from Sept 16 this year

will become a city called MBSP and not MPSP, with all the rights of a city," Rahman said in reading-out the declaration.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow read out the letter of appointment of Rozali as Seberang Perai mayor before the Yang di-Pertua Negeri.

Rozali took his oath as mayor before being presented with the Chain of the Office and the Official Mace (*cokmar*).

Rozali thanked and congratulated Seberang Perai residents on the new city status.

He said without the residents' cooperation, it would have been impossible for Seberang Perai to achieve its new status.

"That's why I am going to announce a few goodies for the people, which include 18 programmes and six guidelines that



Penang Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas (right), handing over the Chain of the Office and the Official Mace to newly-appointed Seberang Perai mayor Datuk Rozali Mohamad at a ceremony in Kepala Batas yesterday. PIC BY SHAHNAZ FAZLIE SHAHRIZAL

would give the people the feel of an upgraded city.

"The incentives and programmes will fulfil the wishes of the people as they are outcomes of town hall sessions and discussions with the people," he said.

Talk of Seberang Perai's status being upgraded began after the Penang Island City Council obtained city status in 2015.

The cabinet approved the state

government's application for Seberang Perai's change in status in May this year.

MPSP was the largest municipality in the country, administering three districts with 54 localities.

The elevation sees Seberang Perai becoming the country's largest city council, covering 747.8sq km with a population of 946,200 people.