

MALAYSIA'S SMART CITIES FRAMEWORK

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS TO CONVERT CITIES

Transforming cities will improve people's safety, quality of life, says Dr M

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THE government may turn to digital solutions to help convert cities here into smart cities, which is among the main thrusts of the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025), said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We envision smart cities that are integrated with sustainable technologies such as 5G connectivity, cashless communities, autonomous public transport, drone delivery, energy-efficient buildings, and the smart treatment of water and waste management.

"This will not only improve public safety but also the people's quality of life," he said in his speech that was recorded and played during the opening of "Cities 4.0: The Launch of Malaysia's Smart Cities Framework" here yesterday.

Present was Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin.

Dr Mahathir said the government wanted to develop a functional, resilient and efficient mobility system for the prosperity and wellbeing of the people.

Although the smart city concept has existed for nearly 30 years, he noted that the key issue hindering the development of



Housing and Local Government Minister Zuraida Kamaruddin (centre) at the opening ceremony of Cities 4.0 Conference and Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With her are (from left) Confexhub chairman Datuk Abdul Aziz S.A. Kadir, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrain Shah Raja Ahmad Baharuddin Sháh, Housing and Local Government Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohammad Mentek and Human Life Advancement Foundation chief executive officer Junaidi Said. PIC BY SALHANI IBRAHIM

smart cities in the country was because many smart city players worked in silos.

"In this context, the Housing and Local Government Ministry has prepared the Malaysia Smart City Framework.

"This comprehensive framework comprises all three tiers of government, as well as private

sector participation to streamline and coordinate smart cities development in Malaysia."

"This is also to ensure a more informed guideline and decision-making process by the government, which takes consideration of views from relevant stakeholders," said Dr Mahathir.

Among the issues the govern-

ment wanted to address with the implementation of the Smart City initiatives, he said, included public transportation, one of the major concerns among the people.

He said the government was supportive in laying the foundation to build smart cities.

This, he said, was reflected in

the government's recent launch of the Kembara Digital Programme, where Malaysians are set to enjoy high quality and affordable digital connectivity.

"Leveraging on the National Fiberisation and Connectivity Plan, I aspire to see smart cities grow efficiently to become smart regions."