

KL residents call for progress in housing areas

They welcome infrastructure projects in DBKL's 2020 budget

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A BIG portion of Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) management and development expenditure next year will go towards improving road and drainage.

The allocation is almost 30% of the total expenditure of RM2.29bil. The amount of RM661.02mil is expected to cover works that include upgrading of main and residential roads, drainage, slopes, back lanes, river banks and gross pollutant traps (used in stormdrains).

However, this is RM31mil less than the sum for this year which saw RM692mil allocated for road and drainage works.

DBKL also plans to roll out a new technology for road resurfacing and thorough mapping of the road system.

In tabling the budget, Kuala Lumpur mayor Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said such efforts would help address flash floods in the city and other public concerns on the city's overall infrastructure.

"DBKL will also work with Malaysian Rubber Board (LGM) to upgrade the roads using rubberised bitumen that incorporates Cuplump Modified Asphalt technology.

"This project will be implemented on the access roads to Parliament building, Jalan Parlimen and other connecting roads."

"We are also in the midst of coming out with a Kuala Lumpur Utility Application System to map and track road utilities in Kuala Lumpur," he said in a press conference at Menara DBKL, Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur.

DBKL is expected to collect RM2.52bil in revenue including RM1.24bil (49.1%) from assessment next year.

It is an increase of 2.3% from this year at RM2.5bil excluding funds from the Government.

There is an increase of about 8% for management expenditure totalling RM1.83bil, compared to 2019's RM1.6bil.

The management expenditure is divided into five components — services and supplies at RM1.142bil (62.5%), emoluments at RM504.8mil (27.6%), inventories and grants at RM103.2mil (5.7%), overtime claims at RM67.4mil (3.7%) and other expenditures RM9.5mil (0.5%).

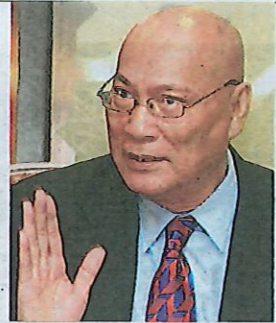
Meanwhile, development expenditure next year drops by more than 4.6% to about RM1.15bil from this year's RM1.2bil.

DBKL receives RM449mil (39.2%) in grants from the Government for development.

Of the 14 management and development programmes, the next biggest allocation is for management and administration expenditure — at RM486.44mil.

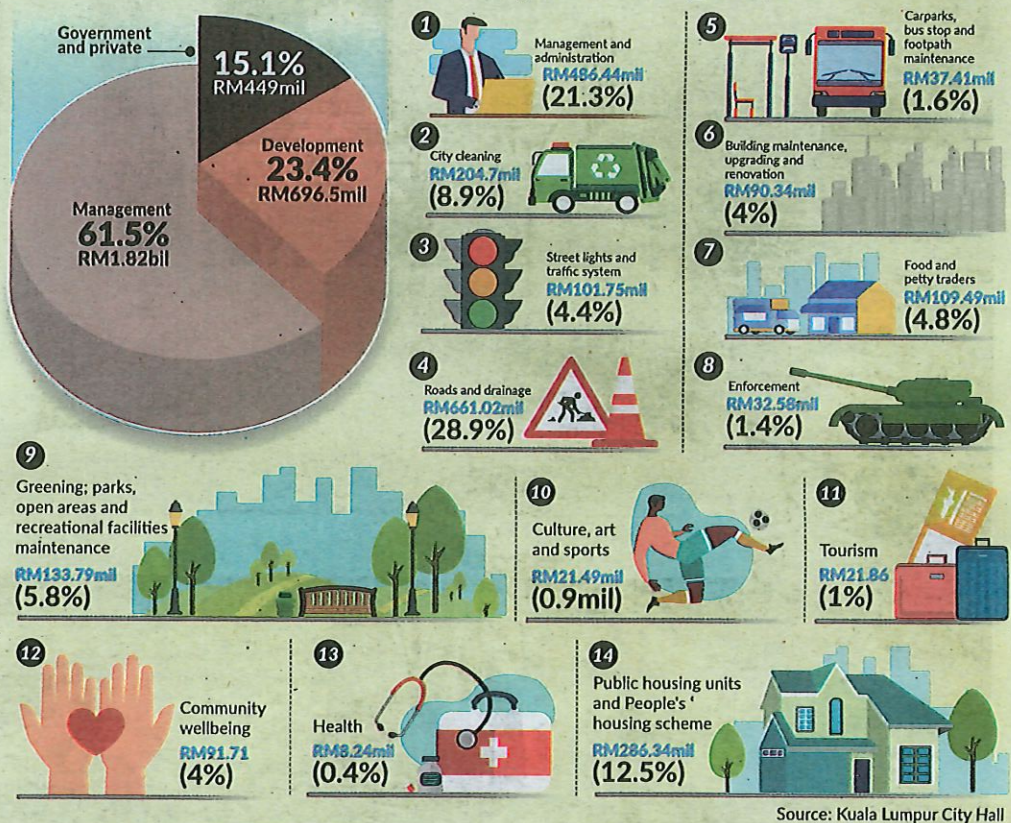
"We will also allocate RM20mil for two new GoKL free bus services routes next year and set aside RM7.5mil to rejuvenate and upgrade heritage buildings such as Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad and Panggung Bandaraya in conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year 2020," said Nor Hisham.

The specific routes and number of buses required have not been finalised.



Nor Hisham says DBKL's road and drainage programmes will help address flash floods in the city.

DBKL's management and development budget for 2020



Source: Kuala Lumpur City Hall



Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad is one of the buildings to be upgraded under DBKL's budget next year. — AZHAR MAHFUF/The Star

On other facilities, four new libraries will be completed in 2020 located in Pudu Ulu, Masjid Al-Rahimah (Kampung Pandan), PPR Sri Semarak and at PPR Kelantan.

The sum allocated for hawkers and petty traders programme has increased by RM22.21mil compared to this year's RM87.28mil.

To improve the economy of Kuala Lumpur hawkers, DBKL will continue with the upgrading of the Raja Bot market and redevelopment of

the Selayang daily market that can house 754 lots. The latter project will cost RM28mil.

Federal Territories Hawkers and Petty Traders Association of Malaysia (GPPPKM) president Datuk Seri Rosli Sulaiman hopes DBKL can deliver the projects on time.

"We hope DBKL can pick up the pace and complete the project as promised."

"For all the funds that DBKL has allocated, it must use it to improve the facilities and infrastructure for

the market traders," he said.

Most Kuala Lumpur folk welcomed the 2020 budget but some think DBKL should adopt a more holistic approach to tackle specific community issues.

In welcoming the budget's focus of improving roads and drainage, Bangsar Baru Residents Association former president Datuk George Joseph hopes DBKL does not only upgrade drainage in the city centre but ensure distribution included residential areas too.

"Some of the pipes in Bangsar are more than 40 years old," he said.

He urged DBKL should also allocate monies to improve security in housing areas.

"The biggest problem in residential areas is criminal activities," he said, suggesting that DBKL instal CCTV to deter crime and not limit the function to merely easing traffic congestion.

A statement from DBKL read that RM26.5mil would be used for paying equipment rentals for Integrated Transport Information System (ITIS) involving closed-circuit television cameras and variable message signboards.

PPR Intan Baiduri Residents Association chairman Abd Rashid Abd Samad is happy that RM15.6mil has been allocated to replace and upgrade lifts.

He, however, added that DBKL should tackle lack of civic-consciousness among the city folk.

"DBKL is considerate to allocate such amount for lift repairs, but I think enforcement should be beefed up among Public Housing Units (PA) and People's Housing Scheme (PPR).

"If the lifts are constantly vandalised by the people, it will not help even if the allocation is doubled.

"For example, one of the lifts here was replaced last year but it had already been vandalised," he said, adding that more awareness programmes should be held here.