



Bird's eye view of MPSJ in USJ 5 which is set to become a city council next year. — Filepic

Dream come true for MPSJ

Yearender



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SUBANG Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) capped off a memorable year by finally being accorded city status, five years after first applying for it.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari announced earlier this month that MPSJ would be upgraded to a city council.

With this, MPSJ will join the ranks of two other city councils in the state — Petaling Jaya City Council which achieved the status in 2006 and Shah Alam City Council in 2000.

Selangor local government, public transportation and new village development exco member Ng Sze Han also confirmed that the state has received approval from the Cabinet for MPSJ's upgrade as well as for the Kuala Langat District Council to be become a municipal council.

"The next process is to gazette it," he said.

MPSJ, which was carved out of the Petaling Jaya District Council and become a municipality in its own right in 1997, first applied for

Subang Jaya will become the third city council in Selangor, after Petaling Jaya and Shah Alam



Subang Jaya municipality has many bustling commercial areas.

city status in 2014.

The then council president Datuk Asmawi Kasbi said MPSJ hoped to not only attain city status but also gain a standing among local authorities internationally by 2030.

"We have fulfilled all the criteria so far to achieve city status. However, it is not in our power to decide. We will send a formal request," he said.

Three years later, in 2017, then MPSJ president Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said the council was ready for city status as it had not only met but surpassed the criteria needed.

"We are on par with Kuala Lumpur City Hall, as well as the Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya city councils," he declared.

Under Nor Hisham's watch, the

council also scored high in the Malaysian Urban-Rural National Indicators Network on Sustainable Development.

Administered under the Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Ministry, it determines the sustainability level of an urban area by using a set of 36 indicators under six dimensions. It serves as a guide to identify

About MPSJ

COVERING 16,180ha, Subang Jaya Municipal Council's administration covers Subang Jaya, Bandar Sunway, Putra Heights, Seri Kembangan, Seri Serdang, Fuchong as well as parts of Balakong and Batu Tiga.

According to the Statistics Department, the population in MPSJ was 798,830 in 2015.

Bandar Sunway and Subang Jaya, former mining land and rubber and oil palm estates respec-

tively, have been transformed into bustling commercial areas.

The first major housing estates of SS12 to SS19 were developed from 1974 by Sime UEP, which was also involved in 80% of projects in USJ, Subang Jaya.

In 1997, Subang Jaya was carved out from the Petaling Jaya District Council and upgraded to become a municipality.

There are multiple international colleges and universities, medical centres and parks in the municipality.

MPSJ has also been seen as a

stepping stone for higher positions, with some past presidents moving on to become mayors or appointed to the Federal Government.

Three Kuala Lumpur mayors, namely Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail, Datuk Seri AB Hakim Borhan and Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan (the current mayor) have come from MPSJ.

With this status upgrade, current MPSJ president Noraini Roslan, the council's first woman president, is set to become a mayor in her own right.

MPSJ presidents

1997-2003 — Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail (former KL mayor)
2003-2005 — Datuk Seri AB Hakim Borhan (former KL mayor)
2005-2006 — Datuk Mohd Arif Ab Rahman
2006-2011 — Datuk Adnan Md Ikhsan (FT Ministry secretary-general)
2011-2014 — Datuk Asmawi Kasbi
Jan 2015-May 2017 Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan (present KL mayor)
January 2018 to present — Noraini Roslan