

Headline	Old tin mine strikes gold		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	17 Oct 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Streets Central	Circulation	136,530
Page No	5	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	395 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 12,887
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 38,660



Old tin mine strikes gold

OFTEN when I meet new people and am asked where I live, I would tell them I stay in Selayang and the conversation would abruptly end there.

I would assume that's because they have no clue where Selayang is or the mere mention of the place does not spark any interest in them to get to know more about my neighbourhood.

And at times, I can't help but ponder if it's because of past negative perceptions tagged to the place such as the influx of migrants, a dirty wholesale market, and a slum which gives people an impression that I live in a terrible area. And often I would get responses like: "Wow that is so far away. How do you get to work?"

I would be lying if I said such perceptions did not affect me. It has made me wonder whether I should move out to other areas which are more well-known such as Damansara or nearer to my workplace in Bangsar.

Would I want to leave this neighbourhood where I was born and raised after 32 years? Not in a million years!

Selayang is no longer Kuala Lumpur's backwater these days.

It is transforming tremendously and the neighbourhood landscape is fast changing with residential and commercial developments.

Selayang itself is a big area made up of three districts namely Gombak, Rawang, and a portion of Setapak.

Its history began with the migration of urban settlers under a resettlement scheme in Selangor in the 1960s. Thus, clusters of villages were formed. These included Kg Sungai Tua and Kg Selayang Lama, which are now seen as traditional villages, and Kg Selayang Baru where I live. Tin mines covered one third of the area here and wild rubber trees covered the rest.

When I was little, I was told that Selayang, named after the horse mackerel, used to be a fishing village.

The story goes that the area used to be surrounded by the sea, which explains why the surrounding neighbourhoods have maritime connotations such as Kg Laksamana, Kg Nakhoda and Sungai Tua.

Surprisingly, the tale of the area as an ocean

is also tied to a popular Malay folklore, *Si*

Tanggung, the story of a ungrateful son who was cursed and turned into stone by his own mother after he refused to allow her to board his vessel.

It is said that the vessel capsized and the crew on board turned into stones and became a hill. Most people know it as the iconic Batu Caves today.

Selayang is also well-known for its wholesale market where abundance of goods especially seafood is sold.

Be it myth or legend, Selayang has outgrown its image as just a place where you can go to get fresh fish and vegetables at 3am in the morning.

Located 14km away from Kuala Lumpur city, there are many other interesting places to visit such as the Selayang Hotsprings, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Templer's Park, Taman Rimba Komanwel and Bukit Lagong park.

My favourite outing spot is the Batu Dam located further up from the Sungai Tua road, which is also popular with anglers and the view of the man-made lake is scenic and tranquil.

Travelling by car will take 20 minutes from Jalan Kuching (if the traffic is clear) and 45 minutes by RapidKL-U3 bus, which will bring you to the last station at the Selayang main township — Bandar Baru Selayang.

Located near Bandar Baru Selayang or BBS for short, is the the Selayang Municipal Council headquarters, Selayang stadium, Selayang hospital, Selayang magistrate court, Selayang Mall shopping centre and recently the UiTM Selayang Faculty of Medicine.

Selayang is accessible via many highways including the Middle Ring Road 2, Sprint Highway, Duta-Ulu Kelang Expressway (Duke) or KL- Kuala Selangor Expressway (Latar).

The old trunk roads from Sungai Tua can get you to Kuala Kubu Baru and from Rawang you can even exit to Tanjung Malim in Perak.

Property ownership is booming in Selayang with new housing estates being developed.

In a way, it is a positive sign that Selayang is growing rapidly but I fear that with developments there is bound to be problems.

Issues such as population density, traffic congestion and sustainability of environments should be planned carefully by the State government if it sees Selayang's potential.

And Selayang, which was once a tin mine, is in fact a gold mine to me and I'm not about to

Headline	Old tin mine strikes gold		
MediaTitle	New Straits Times		
Date	17 Oct 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Streets Central	Circulation	136,530
Page No	5	Readership	330,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	395 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 12,887
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 38,660

move out from this neighbourhood anytime soon... or ever.

And Selayang, which was once a tin mine, is in fact a gold mine to me and I'm not about to move out from this neighbourhood anytime soon... or ever.

