PM: National public trust to manage the 26.7ha Taman Tugu park site

» REPORT ON PAGE 8

Headline | Taman Tugu to be placed under Awan`s care
MediaTitle | New Straits Times (Sabah)
Date | 05 Sep 2017
Section | News
Page No | 1,8
Language | English
Journalist | N/A
Frequency | Daily

Color | Full Color
Circulation | 24,000
Readership | 72,000
ArticleSize | 482 cm²
AdValue | RM 4,573
PR Value | RM 13,718
URBAN FOREST PARK
Taman Tugu to be placed under Awan’s care

Kuala Lumpur: National public trust Amanah Warisan Negara (Awan) will be the custodian of Taman Tugu.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who announced this yesterday, said the 26.7ha site in the heart of the capital city here would be placed under the trust in perpetuity, as an urban forest park.

Najib said the government had approved an additional 10.12ha of adjacent land to be allocated for the Taman Tugu project, bringing the total land area to 36.8ha.

"Together with the nearby Perdana Botanical Garden, the total land area will 133.9ha. This will make Taman Tugu comparable to Hyde Park in London and other green lungs in major first-world cities, such as New York City," he said during a tree-planting ceremony at Taman Tugu yesterday afternoon in conjunction with Hari Hasanah, an event by strategic investment fund Khazanah Nasional Bhd on Sept 3, to promote, and foster unity and patriotism among Malaysians, in line with the Ne-garaku campaign.

Najib said the project was close to his heart as it was a Transformasi Nasional 2050 (TN50) project meant for the future generation.

He noted that from the many TN50 dialogues, one of the recurring themes was that people wanted a clean environment and to live in a liveable city.

"This project has the underlined support of Malaysians despite initial opposition by some. "But, after Khazanah engaged them, they understood and supported the project," he said.

He said 1,000 species of trees would be planted amidst camping, running and hiking sites in the park, adding that the species would be chosen to reflect the nation’s heritage.

"People will no longer have to go far to appreciate nature’s diversity."

He said the project, alongside the River of Life project which sought to transform Sungai Klang and Sungai Gombak, were testament to Malaysia being ranked as among the best places in the world to retire.

In March, Malaysia was ranked sixth in the Annual Global Retire-ment Index, compiled by the experts at International Living, edging out the likes of Portugal, Nicaragua and Spain.

Najib also announced a design competition for gazebos and benches to be placed in Taman Tugu. The competition is being organised in collaboration with Malaysian Nature Society.

The transformation of Tugu Negara is a collaboration between Khazanah and Kuala Lumpur City Hall, supported by other agencies, including the Federal Territories Ministry, Economic Planning Unit, Public-Private Partnership Unit, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia and a non-governmental organisation Malaysian Nature Society.

The first phase of the RM650 million project is expected to be ready by mid-2018. Upon completion, it will provide additional publicly accessible green space for the community between Taman Tugu and its surrounding areas.

The project complements the 11th Malaysia Plan as well as Greater Kuala Lumpur and Klang Valley initiatives to transform Kuala Lumpur into a world-class city by 2020 by, among others, enhancing its pedestrian network.