

Bandar Cassia set to be well-developed township



The view of Batu Kawan Industrial Park from the sky and the infrastructure network that PDC has built to enhance the connectivity of Bandar Cassia.

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BANDAR Cassia in Batu Kawan is set to be the crowd focal location once Penang Development Corporation (PDC) transforms it into a fully developed township in the next 15 years.

PDC chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Bazid Abd Kahar said Bandar Cassia is the third township that is currently being planned and developed rapidly by the corporation.

"The first and second towns developed by PDC are Bandar Bayan Baru and Bandar Seberang Jaya since 1975 and 1976 respectively.

"We acquired Bandar Cassia in 1990 and we are still developing it until now.

"With the size of 6,000 acres, we have a masterplan to transform it into a complete township.

"By a complete township, we want the people who live there to have access to everything from education, job opportunity, infrastructure, medical, leisure place, eco-tourism, industrial area, sports facility, housing to public spaces and many others.

"After all, we want to position Bandar Cassia as a highly-developed town area with sustainable economic development and high quality of life.

"And we will do our best to complete the Bandar Cassia development plan," said Mohd Bazid in an exclusive interview with Buletin Mutiara recently.

According to Mohd Bazid, PDC wants to develop Bandar Cassia into an eco city and also

to turn it into a medical hub and digital technology hub.

"Every development in Bandar Cassia has been planned carefully by PDC for future needs.

"As an example, we are now working to ensure that every road in Bandar Cassia is constructed wide and spacious so that there will be no need for road widening projects in the future," he added.

Mohd Bazid said from 6,000 acres of land in Bandar Cassia, there are about 3,000 acres that are still available.

"So, once the Covid-19 situation is under control in our country, we plan to engage actively with more potential investors (foreign companies) to spur their interest to set up businesses in Bandar Cassia to fill up the available land," he said.

Mohd Bazid added that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the development plan for Bandar Cassia has not been neglected.

"PDC also is taking advantage of this pandemic period to reassess the budget for the entire development plan and at the same time adjusting the pace of the development plan," he added.

He said PDC also wants to build more housing units (mixed housing development project) to cater for the increased population in the future.

"So, for those who are looking to buy a property, I would like to encourage them to choose Bandar Cassia for its strategic location and plenty of public amenities. It will be the best place to gather for work, eat, drink, and invest," he added.

Penang invited to World Cities Summit 2022

PENANG has been invited to take part in the hybrid World Cities Summit 2022 at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The event is scheduled to be held from April 17 to April 21.

The invitation was extended to Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow by Singapore National Development Minister Desmond Lee during a virtual bilateral meeting on July 12.

Lee, in thanking Chow for Penang's participation in this year's World Cities Summit 2021 hosted by Singapore last month, also invited Penang to take part in the follow-on series of high-level webinars from last month to November this year.

The coming webinars are on Sept 2 (Making Sense: Leveraging the Science of Cities), Sept 23 (Planning for a Rainy Day: Climate-Ready Cities), Oct 21 (Hope You are Well: Building Healthy and Happy Cities) and Nov 18 (Rethinking Global Cities in New Era).

Chow thanked Lee for the invitation, saying that the issues are very relevant to sustainable and smart cities.

"We will like to take part in the series of webinars and learn lessons from our colleagues throughout the world who have similar experiences and much to share. Congratulations for the successful World Cities Summit (2021) and we look forward to future summits in the years to come," Chow said.

Both Chow and Lee also exchanged notes on climate change, Covid-19 pandemic challenges and immunisation programmes.

Penang on track to hit vaccination target

PENANG has reached a sufficient vaccination centre (PPV) capacity in its drive to achieve herd immunity by the end of October, says Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow.

He however said the state government needs to plan the optimal use of supplied vaccines to meet the needs of various targeted groups.

"I urge everyone to unite all efforts to move to recovery soonest," he said.

Chow had earlier visited the PPV at the Georgetown Specialist Hospital in Jalan Masjid Negeri.

During the visit, Chow was briefed by the hospital's authorities on the vaccination progress.

The centre had begun operating recently and aims to administer 50 doses daily.

It is open from Monday to Friday.

Also present during the visit were state Tourism and

Creative Economy Committee chairman Yeoh Soon Hin, State Secretary Datuk Abdul Razak Jaafar, hospital's founder and chairman Datuk Dr Liong Meng Loong and consultant physician and nephrologist Dr Christopher Lee.

Chow, accompanied by Yeoh (back row, right) and others, at the PPV in Georgetown Specialist Hospital.

