

# River project to transform KL

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## River project to transform KL

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KUALALUMPUR: With the launch of a RM4 billion river cleaning up and beautification project, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Abdul Aziz bin Mohamed Yusoff will inaugurate the project at the Kuala Lumpur Riverfront.

However, he said the project required not just physical development but a change in the people's thinking and attitude, especially towards rivers.

The RM4 billion project along the river through the city is an urban renewal project that will transform the riverfront into a vibrant and beautiful waterfront with high commercial value.

Initiated as an Urban Policy Project under the Greater Kuala Lumpur Strategic Vision (GKLS) by the Kuala Lumpur City Council (KLCC), the project aims to transform the riverfront into a vibrant and beautiful waterfront with high commercial value.

Apart from bringing the riverfront into the city, Najib said about 120 acres of parking also being built to ease the traffic congestion, but the authorities managed to bring up only 25 acres.

To realise the vision of the project to boost tourism, the project is the first example of the transformation of a polluted and dirty river into a vibrant river, complete with beautiful walkways, bridges and facilities, he said, when launching the River of Life project last year.

The River of Life project comprises three components, which are the cleaning up, beautification and riverbank development along the river corridor. The cleaning up will be completed along a 12.5km stretch throughout the Klang river basin.

The beautification project includes the improvement of the Klang River Corridor, which would make the river suitable



RM4-billion project to transform the Kuala Lumpur Riverfront. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (right) and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (second from left) look at the River of Life project after the launch of a RM4 billion river beautification project in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — NST pictures by Anwarudin Saad

for recreational activities by 2020.

A sum of RM2 billion had been allocated for the clean-up and beautification works.

The beautification project will include development of the riverbank from Telok Ayer Stambek to BKK-10.

The Kuala Lumpur City Hall held a River of Life project competition that started on June 22 and they have shortlisted two of the 22 entries.

There are three international firms

participating with two from local planning companies.

The winning plans are available for the public to view and vote at www.riveroflife.com.my — from 6 to 10 p.m. on July 28.

A panel of expert jurors have also been appointed to assess the plans. The winning plan will be based on a combination of votes from the public and the jurors. The project will be completed by July 2011.