

# River project to transform KL

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KUALA LUMPUR: With the launch of a RM4 billion river cleaning-up and beautification project yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak hopes Kuala Lumpur will eventually become one of the great cities in the world.

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 Sungai Klang that runs through the city as an urbanised natural asset that holds the potential to become a vibrant and beautiful waterfront with high commercial value.

Identified as an Urban Pulse Project under the Greater Kuala Lumpur-Klang Valley Regional Development Area, the RM4 billion project seeks to transform Sungai Klang and Sungai Gombak into an urban waterfront at par with those in cities like London, Paris, Melbourne and Amsterdam by 2020.

Apart from sewage being dumped into the river, Najib said about 1.26 tonnes of garbage also found its way into Sungai Klang annually, but the authorities managed to wrap up only 25 tonnes.

Under the Sungai Klang river project to boost tourism, the goal is to have a network of 100 kilometres of a polluted and dirty river into a model river, complete with beautiful walkways, bridges and fountains," he said, when launching the River of Life project here yesterday.

The River of Life project comprises three components, which are the cleaning up, beautification and river asset development, along the river corridor. The cleaning will be conducted along a 1,000m stretch throughout the Klang river basin.

The idea is to improve water quality from the upstream Klang River Catchment, which would make the river suitable



RM4-billion Sungai Klang river beautification project in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — NST pictures by Anwarul Haq

for recreational activities by 2020.

A sum of RM25 billion had been allocated for the clean-up and beautification works.

The transformation of the river will include beautification of the river banks from Telok Anson to BUKU.

The Kuala Lumpur City Hall held a River of Life master plan competition that ended on June 15 and they have shortlisted two of the 22 entries.

There are three international firms

partner with two from local planning companies.

The master plans are available for the public to view and vote at [www.riveroflifeproject.org](#) — from 10 days until 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 winning proposal will be announced on July 28.