

Dear Fellow Residents of Kuching South

Greetings!

Kuching City South is a community. We live and work side by side. We share space and connect on a daily basis. We each play our role in this great community to create sustainable relationships for the future. This is why I would like to begin by expressing my deepest appreciation for your steadfast support and resilience shown towards Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan (MBKS) over the past year. Your valuable feedback and active cooperation have been pivotal in enhancing our services, contributing significantly to the continuity of Kuching South.

At MBKS, we strive to serve all the residents of this city. We want to make Kuching clean and safe, liveable and vibrant, close and connected, beautiful and sustainable. As we approach the New Year, it gives me great pleasure to inform you about the exciting initiatives and activities we have lined up for 2024. These plans are designed to make the upcoming year a remarkable one for our community.

In preparation for the festive season, we have initiated a spring-cleaning initiative that will run from 1 December 2023 to 9 February 2024. In collaboration with Trienekens, we are providing Roll-On-Roll-Off (RORO) bins at strategic locations for residents to responsibly dispose of their bulky household items. Please do not fill these with tree branches or construction waste. This facility is intended to assist residents in clearing their homes during this busy period, thereby avoiding unsightly and illegal dumping practices. Details of the cleaning schedule have been published in local newspapers and are also available on our website at (<http://www.mbks.gov.my>).

Looking to the future, we continue the push to make our own practices more sustainable and more convenient for residents. I am thrilled to announce MBKS's shift towards e-billing for assessment rates, in line with the latest technological advancements. Starting from 2025, we will discontinue the printing of hard copy bills. Please opt for e-billing by downloading the necessary form from (<http://mbks.sarawak.gov.my>) under Downloadable-form > Application Form for e-bill for assessment rates bills. E-billing forms can also be obtained at the MBKS One Stop Service Counter and UTC Kuching/Sibu/Miri. For more information, please contact the Rating and Valuation Division at 082-354200 ext 6246/6247/6249.

Beyond this, we have several other exciting developments planned for the year ahead. In our promotion of eco-friendly practices, we are transitioning the majority of our standard lighting fixtures to LED. This initiative aims not only to improve environmental sustainability, but also to brighten our spaces with additional decorative lighting.

We hope everyone will continue to enjoy our important markets and hawker centres in the year ahead, as well as our farmers' markets and many special bazaars. At MBKS, we will be supporting these key sites of community with pop-ups and events and with better information across our digital platforms. We will complete the KSH Hawker Centre, which will offer a variety of local food options. We will also be opening the tender for the construction of our gastronomy centre, poised to become a hub of culinary and cultural excellence in Kuching.

We will continue to maintain and upgrade all our infrastructure. We are working on Hui Sing Garden, ensuring it continues to be a vibrant and welcoming space for all. We are constantly resurfacing our roads and repairing our drains. Our city has been strengthened by decades of investment and we must ensure it lasts into the next generation.

At MBKS, our ongoing commitment is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kuching City South. This goal is driven by the effective implementation of policies, diligent service delivery, and active community engagement. We are dedicated to fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among our community members, and we warmly invite everyone to participate in the various events and programs scheduled for the year. Our collective efforts are crucial for the continued progress and enhancement of our city.

As we look forward to the opportunities that the New Year brings, let us also reflect on the lessons learned in the past. Together, let's continue our collaboration to forge a brighter future for our city. Our united efforts can create a significant impact, nurturing a stronger and more vibrant community for all.

I want to thank my staff, my Councillors and my supportive Ministry for making this all possible. But most of all, I want to thank you, the people of Kuching South, and extend my best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!

Your City, My City, Our City.

Sincerely,

Wee Hong Seng,