

DEVELOPMENT OF KUALA LUMPUR URBAN PARKS: THE PAST AND IT'S PRESENT

Melasutra Md Dali

Introduction

Towns and cities are a result of different historical and cultural trajectories, visible in layers of their architecture and in the incredible mixes and juxtaposition of old and new. No town is without this confluence of styles and resonances. As Mumford expressed:

...Cities are a product of time. They are the moulds in which men's lifetimes have cooled and congealed; giving lasting shape, by way of art, to moments that would otherwise vanish with the living and leave no means for renewal or wider participation behind them.

Kuala Lumpur's history of open space¹ started with the British colonial past, subsequently reflecting the cultural values and lifestyles of the immigrants and their descendents, the rapid population increase, the pace of economic growth and the influence of Western planning theories. All of these have left their mark on the provision and utilization of open space in Malaysia.

This article discusses the historical and contemporary demographic shifts and changes to Kuala Lumpur, particularly where these are relevant to provision of parks and open space. Among the most important shifts are the changes in population and household composition, changes of land uses to housing as well as commerce, and the growing concern for a better quality of urban life.

Historical evolution of urban parks

The evolution of present-day patterns of urban parks in cities has been a continuous process. This section traces this evolution and examines the impact of the major changes that have shaped the city park heritage. The purpose here is not to detail the history of urban parks in a historically rigorous sense, but rather to review the existing literature in order to form a basis for discerning general trends.

Parks in the Pre-Industrial Era

The beginnings of the present pattern of parks can be traced to the ancient period. The public squares of ancient Greece and Rome were places of assembly and meeting, for political and philosophical debate, and variously as markets. To some extent these areas were even used for active pursuits such as archery practice for the military. In short, the early parks were central and crucial for community activities.

Early in the 18th century a new kind of urban park known as a pleasure garden was developed. These pleasure gardens provided areas for walking, promenading, festivals and sporting events. Pleasure gardens tended to serve as an alternative to the countryside's natural beauty, with the green simulating the country environment.

Reform parks, small active play spaces provided in densely populated areas, which appeared around 1900, were an outgrowth of the Progressive and social work movements, and were intended to improve the living conditions of working people. Located in the inner city, they became examples of the first true neighbourhood parks. 'Play areas' or children's playgrounds became an important feature of such parks. A reaction to what was seen as the elitist values of the Romantic landscape aesthetic produced a stark functionalism in the design of reform parks. Ebenezer Howard, through his book *Tomorrow: A Peaceful Path to Social Reform*, propounded a new form of urban development based on community land ownership. He put forward the idea of a community planned at the outset with parks and a full range of facilities. He also demonstrated the use of street trees and

showed how green space could reach right into the heart of the town and be interlocked with its other components. This led to the development of green areas around British cities. By 1990 more than one half million hectares of green belts had been designated in England.

Parks in the Post-Industrial Era

The Recreation Facility era (1930-1965) in the US grew out of the English reform park idea discussed above, but with the difference that the recreation facilities were now merely provided as a public service, on demand—they were no longer seen as a mechanism of social progress. The person epitomizing this period was Robert Moses, who headed many public agencies and at the same time was New York's parks commissioner (Stephen Carr, 1992).²

Active recreation was the password of this era. The term 'facility' was used because new construction was not necessarily a building, but could be a stadium, a swimming pool or a checkerboard and tables. Although these various facilities were additions to parks, they were not unique to them. No new building type was developed for parks. These changes of activities and their physical forms evolved from a complex social context. Significantly, the Depression and the Second World War called for a tangible symbol of progress, and parks served the nation by sustaining morale. Society was progressively improved in three ways—professionalization, standardization and suburbanization, which eventually had an impact on park evolution.

Suburbanization provided the rationale for extending parks into new areas, and it also contributed to the banality of the recreation facilities. Suburbs in many ways offered several solutions to the conflict between rural and urban life. The existence of open space within this new setting enabled urban park policy makers to focus on active recreation and large-scale 'facilities'. The recreation-facility-era planners operated as if the city were a system and city planning a problem of system management. Parks were viewed as one of many elements essential to an overall balance, along with schools, hospitals, housing, and industrial sectors.

The discussion above has shown that there has been a long evolution of urban park development and justification for its existence. Each of the phases discussed above represents a set of community expectations, with each new phase not so much displacing the old ones, but adding to them. Each new phase has emerged alongside earlier models so that at any given time one could find examples of several types. The most important lesson in park history is that form

always reflects immediate social goals, an ideology about order, and an underlying attitude towards the city.

The following paragraphs will discuss the Kuala Lumpur park system as an exemplar in the context of different and evolving ideas and range of needs and expectations that Malaysian society has held and still holds for their parks.

Early History of Kuala Lumpur Parks (1857–1880)

Malaysia does not have a long history of urban development. It started off as a predominantly village-based society around 1800. Most towns and cities constructed over the last 200 years (with the notable exceptions of Malacca and Klang) came about as a direct result of British colonialism. Kuala Lumpur is no exception: located at the confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers, it was originally known as Lumpur (Malay for mud and silt) and later became Kuala Lumpur (muddy estuary). Situated at latitude 3° 8' north and longitude 100° 44' east, it has a uniform climate with high temperatures and heavy rainfall.

The history of Kuala Lumpur began in 1857 when Raja Abdullah,³ together with his brother Raja Jumaa't, launched an expedition to search for tin in the upper reaches of the Klang river. They discovered large tin deposits in the area known today as Ampang. Although the members of the original expedition were almost completely wiped out by malaria, some mines were opened and commercial quantities of tin started coming down the river a short time later. It had been a profitable business for Raja Abdullah, with the growing volume and value of its exports of tin. Even though Kuala Lumpur had its origin only in 1857, there had been Malay settlements in the Klang Valley from much earlier times. By 1859 Kuala Lumpur had developed into a small trading post. Built by Chinese immigrants engaged in tin mining, the original settlement was a collection of thatched huts that served both as residences and shops, although there was also a Malay kampong (village) and cemetery near the site.

The Chinese community involved in tin mining at that time was ruled by a series of men known as Capitan China, the most famous of whom was Yap Ah Loy, the third Capitan China of Kuala Lumpur.⁴ During this time the population of Kuala Lumpur was estimated to be around 2,000. To restore law and order, Tunku Kudin⁵ advised the Sultan to request the aid of the British Governor to set up a new administration. J.G Davidson was appointed the first Resident and set up his headquarters in Klang in 1874, then the capital of Selangor.

This phase could be described as a period of establishment, during which Kuala Lumpur was governed by no specific rules and regulations. There is no evidence of formal town planning in the development of the town, and it was very much responding to the necessities of the time.

Parks during the Colonial Kuala Lumpur

Gradually the administration of Kuala Lumpur became more complex, with the intervention of modern governance in town planning, following much the same path as in Britain. In 1896 the Residency was moved to Kuala Lumpur, and Frank Swettenham was appointed as Resident General. This move precipitated a change from the predominantly wooden buildings to a settlement of brick buildings. After a series of disastrous fires, and also in order to improve sanitation, Swettenham ordered the reconstruction of the Chinese section of the town. Kuala Lumpur was transformed from a ramshackle town of wooden huts to one with thoroughfares, brick houses and shops. By 1887 there were 518 brick houses in Kuala Lumpur, while the population had grown to 4,500.

The importance of Kuala Lumpur increased when it became the administrative capital of the four Federated Malay States in 1896. By then the population had risen to 25,000. In the same year Kuala Lumpur received its first piped water supply, from the new reservoir at Ampang. In the following year the Moorish-style government buildings, which are now a landmark of Kuala Lumpur, were completed to house the administration. The Klang River became a natural boundary between the colonial town and the local town, with the market, businesses and shop-houses of the Chinese on the east side of the Klang river and the British and European quarters, administrative buildings and cricket club on the west bank.

During this time changes in the social habits of the local people were evident. A modern way of life developed and Western cultural influence had a great impact on the town and other major cities in Malaysia. Western values were promulgated through direct contact with English education and various mass media. While most of the immigrants lived in cramped quarters with no time to spare for relaxation, it became fashionable for wealthier families to own a country house surrounded by a large green space and a well kept garden. The Europeans set an example of provision of open space by setting aside spaces for leisure and recreational activities. An example of such a place is the Parade Ground (Merdeka Square), which was

developed from a swampy open space on the west bank of the river. Designed to be a recreational garden, the area was laid out with ornamental flower beds and became a playing-field for cricket and other team games, and was originally known as 'Padang' (field).⁶ It turned into a gathering area for the European community. They also built the Selangor Club and St Mary's Church around the padang. During this time a few sports such as soccer, cricket and rugby were introduced and became popular among the European and English-educated local population. In fact, clubs for the Asian population were also established, particularly among the wealthy Chinese.

Kuala Lumpur Park Development after Independence

While the origin of Kuala Lumpur was due to the tin mining industry, its subsequent growth owed much to rubber and its role as the centre of British Administration in Malaya, and by the middle of the 20th century Kuala Lumpur was firmly established as the administrative and commercial centre of the country. Reflecting this was the change in the demographic structure, with a rapid increase in the Malay population, most of whom were employed in the public sector. In 1957, following independence, Kuala Lumpur was designated the capital of Malaysia.

In 1972, in recognition of its growing status, Kuala Lumpur was declared to be a city—the second one in Malaysia, after Georgetown in Pulau Pinang. At this time it covered an area of 93 km²; the boundaries were further extended in 1974 when Kuala Lumpur was declared as Federal Territory, thus breaking its historical state ties with Selangor. Today the Federal Territory is a centre for industrial, commercial, administrative, social and cultural activities, and supports a population of approximately 1.4 million, with an average annual growth rate of 7.5 percent. The city now occupies an area of 243 km².

The development of Kuala Lumpur after the 1980s was very much characterized by what is envisaged in the Master Plan 1984 and planned in the Fourth Malaysian Plan (1980–1985). It was governed by the need to coordinate development with the surrounding areas within Selangor state, and was conditioned by Malaysia's economic growth and prosperity. It was greatly facilitated by the political stability of Malaysia over the past twenty years, which has assisted the emergence of Kuala Lumpur as a city of increasing importance and attraction to the city people as well as to the international community. The development can be comprehended as very much physical and even quantitative in nature, with emphasis on providing housing and jobs,

with direct implications on the provision of social services such as education, health, open space and recreational facilities.

The urban parks created after independence have been significantly transformed in terms of function and physical appearance. As well as what already existed, newly introduced urban park types were the formal public parks, better known as lake gardens—Tasik Perdana and Tasik Titiwangsa. At the same time, to add beauty and create more green areas. City Hall⁷ had developed smaller areas into mini gardens and playing and sport fields. These areas performed various functions, whether as a place for recreation or sport, or as beautiful landscaped areas.

After the 1980s the public open spaces that were created were diverse in number and type, combining the traditional types of open space with contemporary ones. City Hall has continually searched for available land within the city area, and has actively developed ex-mining land and turned it into attractive theme parks, and has preserved the virgin jungle as nature parks. By 1985 Kuala Lumpur had developed eight theme parks and five forest areas within its territory. The development of these parks was directed towards the beautification of the city environment. Despite years of muddling through and with limited landscape design input, these parks resulted in the creation of a beautiful city, with extensive tree planting and the setting aside of green space throughout the city.

These beautification and greenery programs were launched in 1980, and initially started with the planting of 160,000 trees, increasing to 270,000 by the year 1990. The tree plantings have been carried out in all important areas, including roadsides, open spaces, public parks and car parks. The effort was amplified by the involvement of private developers through the setting up of a nursery whereby plants could be easily purchased by homeowners. Although all of these contributed to the beautification process, the need for public open space areas was still lagging.

In summary, over the past 40 years of development of Kuala Lumpur has been transformed from an administrative and tin mining outpost to a major economic centre, competing with Singapore in the Southeast Asian region. It reflected in the discussion that the development of urban park in Kuala Lumpur originated in the British colonial period, later assuming a formal role in the early development of formal town planning. Contrary to the modern tradition of public parks, the open spaces created during this period were largely exclusive space, or private space for limited users. Development of the Padang or Parade Ground in Kuala Lumpur, now known as

Dataran Merdeka, replicated the concept of Pleasure Grounds, dating back to the 1600s in European cities.

Changing parks needs in Modernizing Kuala Lumpur: Trends affecting more park spaces

The city is exhibiting tremendous population growth rates concurrent with industrialization, which is putting pressure on the existing infrastructure and land use patterns. Large segments of the older parts of the city, consisting predominantly of shop houses, are being destroyed to make way for modern built forms. This period also saw the emergence of a trend towards the expansion and improvement of existing public parks.

Factors which have contributed to the park needs of the community, and which will continue to exert greater influence in the future, include the distribution and quality of land, the population density and distribution, and the relationship between different groups and age classes. The increasing amount of leisure time available to individuals and the concern for quality-of-life amenities within the residential locality have created demand for more open space for recreational purposes. On the other hand, increasing competition for space by non-residential uses within the urban area increases the cost and reduces the supply of parks. This section discusses some of the parameters that need to be considered in the planning and provision of urban parks.

Demographic and land use changes

As the 20th century progressed, most Malaysian cities underwent great changes. Because of economic development, industrialization, technological innovation, rapid population growth and increased migration, Kuala Lumpur has become increasingly crowded. The population growth in Kuala Lumpur during the 20th century is noted in the following Table 1.0.

Table 1.0 : Population changes in Kuala Lumpur 1911 to 2000

Year	Population	Annual percentage increase over the period
1911	46,718	
1947	175,961	3.8
1964	399,864	4.9
1970	475,000	2.9
1980	919,610	6.8
1990	1,262,150	3.2
2000	1,423,900	1.4

Source: Malaysia, 2000.

Of the total population in 2000, 27 % (384,453) of its population was in the 0–14 category and 46.0% (654,994) in the 15–39 category. These percentages shown that Kuala Lumpur has a youthful population, with around seventy percent of the population are under 40 years of age. The need for healthy and purposeful outlets for the energy of these various age groups is obvious. The population is also unusual in the sense that it comprises many ethnic groups, with the dominant group being the Chinese (44.7%) followed by the Malays (38.4 %) and the Indians (11.8 %). The distribution of these ethnic groups relates back to the history of their migration, their lifestyles, economic growth and the physical planning of the area—all of which have left their mark on the utilization of land in the Kuala Lumpur area. In the early development of Kuala Lumpur, the Malay people of higher economic status lived in the eastern part of Kuala Lumpur, formerly known as Ampang. The middle class concentrated in Kampong Bharu and the Dato Keramat area. Most of the Chinese people are concentrated in the business centre of Kuala Lumpur (CBD) and newly built villages on the northeastern and southern part of Kuala Lumpur. The Indians are concentrated in two areas of the city, namely Brickfield, southwest of the Railway Station and the Sentul area, near the Sentul Railway Workshop, as a result of their former employment by the Malayan Railways. However, the present distribution of settlements by no means follows the occupations of the residents. The present settlement pattern shows high ethnic diversity of all races. However, there are socio-economic differences among the groups, especially manifested in the Chinese, who are financially better-off, and continue to live within the city centre, even if not maintaining their business premises there.

As is typical of cities in many developing countries, development priority was given to housing and job creation activities, i.e. commerce and industries. As a result, urban parks were often not included in development plans, let alone in city planning and budgeting. Kuala Lumpur, being an administrative centre, allocated a high proportion of land for institutional and public purposes such as government buildings, universities and schools. Table 2.0 shows that the built-up area for residential development has increased greatly, followed by commercial uses and public facilities. All these developments have been possible through the reduction of Kuala Lumpur's natural area, as shown in the 'Other land uses' entry in the table.

Table 2.0: Kuala Lumpur's land use and land use changes for 1980 to 2000

Land use activities	1980	%	1984	%	2000	%
	(hectares)		(hectares)		(hectares)	
Residential	3822	15.8	4651	19.2	5489	22.6
Commercial	504	2.1	613	2.5	1091	4.5
Industry	474	1.9	577	2.4	553	2.2
Institutional land	1851	7.6	2253	9.3	1620	6.7
Public Facilities	922	3.8	922	3.8	1382	5.7
Recreational and open spaces	585	2.4	1274	5.2	1579	6.5
Other land uses	16059	66.3	11053	45.6	12503	51.6
Total land	24,221		24,221		24,221	

Source : (Planning, 1997) (Malaysia, 2000).

During the years 1980 to 2000 the Malaysian gross national product (GNP) increased greatly, albeit with interruptions. With a strong economic performance regionally and locally, Kuala Lumpur experienced a rapidly changing landscape, fast becoming a city of towering buildings, high-rise housing, the centre of financial activities and a place for shops and entertainment. This rapid development resulted in transformation of the physical landscape of Kuala Lumpur, along with substantial and irreversible changes in the lives of its inhabitants. The direct implication of these changes is densification of the city area, reducing the per capita green space.

Although this is but a brief overview of Kuala Lumpur's population and land use changes, it is possible to discern some implications, especially in relation to open spaces. The lives of Kuala

Lumpur's residents have radically changed in the last few years. These changes, of course, are continuing, and we can see only the direction of movement and not the result. The changes have brought about changes in land use and the way people recreate and use their leisure time. What is obvious is the need for more recreational spaces, particularly in the urban area, to cater for the increasing number of people. The increase of population has also changed the land area available for natural or green areas. Thus there is a conflict between progressive development on the one hand, and scarcity of land for open spaces on the other.

Changing attitudes towards better quality of life and environment

Park in urban areas is required not only for active and passive recreation and for aesthetic reasons, but to provide the opportunity for people to go out in the open air, and get the self-confidence that comes with being in nature. As Malaysia prospered, and the basic needs of people for food and housing were taken care of, the need for leisure became more prominent. In addition, with improved education and greater knowledge about health, people are generally becoming more concerned about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The government itself has adopted various policies in an attempt to improve the standard and quality of life of its residents. The policies considered most relevant to the discussion of park planning are discussed below.

National Sports and Recreational Policies

The National Sports Policy,⁸ adopted in 1989, provided general guidelines for the development of sports and focused on high performance competitive sports and mass participation in sports programs. Although the programs are seen to take place at national or state level, the initial objective of the policy is to promote a healthy lifestyle as well as goodwill among Malaysian children, and to show the importance of inculcating sporting interest in younger people.

The Rakan Muda Program (Young Partners),⁹ introduced in 1995, is designed specifically to cater for the needs of the younger population, which is growing rapidly. This program, part of the Vision 2020 effort, is a Malaysia blueprint of new vision for the youth. Rakan Muda is an all-encompassing program created to effectively capture the imagination of youth towards purposeful development and active

contribution to nation building (Sports, 1994). The program allows young people, through various media, to participate in any program they like.¹⁰ Although discussion on implementation and effectiveness of the programme is beyond the scope of this writing, it does show the effort invested in channelling the energies of the young people towards healthy, productive and interesting activities. It is clear that the program requires cooperation, support and assistance of all parties and, needless to say, the physical area for running the activities.

Healthy Malaysian—Sports for All or Malaysia Cergas—is a program introduced by the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Culture in 1993 as a vehicle for encouraging the community to be healthy through exercising. The changing attitude toward exercising is not only reflected in the involvement of the youth, but it is also popular among the elderly, though they are more involved in less strenuous exercise such as tai chi and brisk walking.

Thus, one must acknowledge the need for space and facilities for such activities, either in parks or other open space or sport complexes that are readily available and accessible. Present levels of participation will directly relate to present levels and patterns of provision and promotion of the programs, and awareness of the citizens. As already noted, sports and recreational participation is supply-led. In part, the facilities which have been and are being developed are a response to a perceived market need but, in part, they also create their own markets. The type of facilities being developed, and the ways in which they are being managed and promoted, are therefore of great importance in determining the success of such program.

Environmentalism and Sustainable Development

Environmentalism in its various forms is a growing concern in Malaysian society today. Rapid industrialization, high population growth, increasing urbanization and growing scarcity of land and other resources have inevitably brought about environmental degradation. Several major environmental problems that have emerged in recent years are identified in the Eighth Malaysian Plan.¹¹

Further development and industrialization in the future without proper management will exacerbate existing problems. Thus, urban parks should be seen not only as a recreational space but also as an instrument against urban deterioration. One emphasis of the Plan is on environmental protection, restoration and awareness, which has served to expand people's awareness of the importance of

environmental issues and environmental quality. Within the framework of the greenery concept, urban parks can be considered as cores and corridors that are able to play a crucial role in schemes developed to sustain biodiversity and habitat. As such, the government has intensified its effort on environmental and sustainable development education, for the people to adopt more environmentally friendly consumption patterns and lifestyles.

In a developing country like Malaysia increased leisure time and concern for quality of life amenities drives demand for open space. Narimah (1993), Director of the Institute of Public Health, claimed in the seminar of open spaces that quality of life is often not talked about, mainly because it is generally considered to be not so much a basic necessity, but rather the pursuit of the affluent. However, to have quality living in every sense of the term, and to enhance enjoyment of life, there is a need for the urban population to have access to some forms of recreation and cultural activities.

In a planning context these changes of attitude imply that it is necessary to move beyond a narrow focus on recreation activities, buildings and parks toward a mission of improving the quality of community life and its environment. This wider concept of open spaces in the broad context of quality of life and environmental concerns requires a commitment to research and to demonstrating new ways of thinking about provision of open spaces in cities. On the other hand, increasing competition for space by non-residential uses—often thought to be of economic value to the city—increases the cost of land and squeezes the supply of open space for recreational uses. It seems always the case that recreational uses cannot compete with the more intensive economic uses invading these areas. In addition, because of the less intensive use of open space areas, insufficiency of funds is the standard excuse of local authorities to limit maintenance. Thus, there is competition for a smaller amount of dollars. Therefore, rising land cost, increased competition for the available budget and limited space in urban areas make the preservation of open spaces for recreation more problematic, while the concern for a healthy society, environmental quality, population increases, and the disappearance of open areas indicates a continuing need for such spaces.

Urban parks and the restructuring of Malaysian society

Malaysia has developed a long-term vision known as Vision 2020,¹² to become a fully developed nation by the year 2020, i.e. 'a confident Malaysian society that is infused by strong moral and ethical values'.

As the country rushes towards developed-nation status, the urban sector has contributed significantly to economic growth. However, this economic growth has put a severe impact on the environment, as evidenced by many urban problems and issues such as air pollution, water pollution, loss of green areas and natural habitat. This has, inadvertently, threatened to undermine the quality of life as a developed society—affecting the social, built and natural environments that should allow people to live comfortable, healthy, productive and secure lives.

Therefore, to achieve Vision 2020, Malaysia has formulated a comprehensive and universal planning doctrine as a guiding principle in the development planning processes, called the Total Planning Doctrine. This calls for the maintenance of the relationship between 'Man and his Creator', 'Man and Man', and 'Man and the Environment', in order to attain balanced and sustained development economically, socially, spiritually and environmentally.

Conclusion

The early development of Kuala Lumpur was concentrated on its physical development, particularly on the issue of economic growth and housing rather than on recreation and leisure. Consequently, the development of recreational areas, particularly of local parks, depended on the availability of financial and natural resources. The long-term result is that such areas have become insufficient and impoverished aesthetically, socially and culturally. With the new emphasis on the Garden City image, increasing attention has been given to the provision of open spaces, especially to the provision of public parks in the urban areas.

As we progress into the 21st century, cities are expanding, and undergoing vast changes. Subject to forces of industrialization, technological innovation, and rapid growth, cities have become eroded, and people are therefore being increasingly cut off from the countryside. Exacerbating factors relate to the increasing shift to high-density and high-rise residential environments – and nowhere are such trends more obvious than in a city like Kuala Lumpur. These conditions, with people wedged into less humane, 'concrete' environments, eventually spawned concern among urban residents and advocates, and particularly among the middle and upper classes in urban society, engendering various agendas of promoting the public interest for a better quality of urban life.

With the increasing consciousness of healthy living and improved quality of life, the amount of space thought necessary for recreation has increased considerably. Effort toward providing better parks for recreation then becomes the duty of the planning profession. With the foresight of city elders to preserve space as public parks, we have the remarkable legacy of historic sites that continue to perform an invaluable role as an integral part of the physical structure and daily life of the city.

Notes

- 1 Under Act 267 open space is referred to as any land, whether enclosed or not, which is laid out wholly or partly as a public garden, park, sport and recreation ground, or pleasure ground, walk or a public place.
- 2 He was New York's park commissioner from 1934 to 1960, and set up the new playgrounds in the park system. The number of playgrounds during his time as commissioner increased from 119 to 441 and many of the areas were grafted onto the great landscape parks of the mid-to-late 1800s.
- 3 Raja Abdullah bin Raja Jaafar was essentially a businessman, who became ruling chief of the Klang Valley in about 1853.
- 4 Appointed by Sultan Mohamad in 1868; his appointment was disputed by a rival clan, called the Ghee Hin, led by Chong Chong, the Capitan China of Kanching. The Ghee Hin wanted to take over the lucrative tin mines of Kuala Lumpur, which were under the control of the Hai San clan (Sheppard 1986). When the Civil War ended, the tin mines around Kuala Lumpur had been destroyed, rice fields had been abandoned and law and order had broken down.
- 5 Tengku Kudin was the son-in-law of Raja Mahdi, brother of Raja Juma'at, and 'Viceroy' of the Sultan of Selangor.
- 6 The original padang ground was an uneven and swampy open space, occupied by a few vegetable-growers' hut and plots. It was used for daily drill by the police, whose barracks were located at the south-west end. The original plan proposed buildings surrounding the padang as a 'defensive police station' with government quarters on the higher ground behind the site of the present Royal Selangor Club. The Parade Ground became an important spot for official ceremonies such as police parades, and the celebration (in mid-1897) of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
- 7 Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (City Hall of Kuala Lumpur or CHKL) is a municipal government established in accordance with Local Authorities Elections Ordinance, 1950, and Kuala Lumpur was granted municipal status in 1952. With the declaration of Kuala Lumpur as a city in 1972, Kuala Lumpur Municipality became known as City Hall. The city commissioner became the lord mayor. City Hall is placed under the Prime Minister's Department for his personal interest in the development of Kuala Lumpur. Therefore, Kuala Lumpur's administrative structure differs significantly from the provisions of the Local Government Act. This implies that CHKL has no connection with state agencies, and thus is primarily running on its own. At present CHKL has twenty-four departments, one of which is the Parks and Recreation department.
- 8 The National Sports Council was entrusted with the development and promotion of sporting programs. It was also supported by the School Sporting Council, which is responsible for organizing sports training at school levels.

- ⁹ The Rakan Muda program was implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, under the auspices of the National Youth Policy. The ultimate goal of the program is to imbue youths with the right attitudes and positive values necessary to meet new challenges and expectations brought about by rapid development, while at the same time countering negative influences arising from changing lifestyles.
- ¹⁰ There are 10 lifestyle programs: Rakan Sukan (Sports), Rakan Wajadiri (Martial Arts), Rakan Cinta Alam (The Environment), Rakan Seni Budaya (Culture and Arts), Rakan Rekacitpa (Innovations), Rakan Wirausaha and Wiramahir (Entrepreneurship), Rakan Kecergasan (Physical Fitness), Rakan Masyarakat (Community Service), Rakan Rekreasi (Recreation) and Briged Rakan Muda (Uniformed Corps).
- ¹¹ The sequence of Malaysian Plans is a set of plan outlines for every five years that ensure balance and equitable growth of Malaysian development. The Eighth Malaysian Plan covers developmental policies and strategies for the years 2001–2005.
- ¹² Vision 2020 was inspired by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad with its goal to develop Malaysia to be an industrial nation by the year 2020. The strategy focuses on establishment of a competitive and diversified economy, adaptive and innovative technology, and through privatization of large scale development.