

SPEECH BY
PRESIDENT OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
SEBERANG PERAI
LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
SUNWAY HOTEL
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Honorable Dr Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC

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Executive Director of DELGOSEA Network

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Sr Hj Rozali bin Hj Mohamud
Secretary of Municipal Council of Seberang Perai

Distinguished Guests

Members of Media

Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalamualaikum and very good morning.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all distinguished guests and speakers of Local Economic Development (LED) Training to Seberang Perai.

Distinguished guests, speakers, ladies and gentlemen, at today's training, there will be 7 sessions which are:

- i. Introduction on LED,**
- ii. The Global and National Context on LED**
- iii. Business Enabling Environment / Economic Governance Index**
- iv. Learning on best practices, DELGOSEA and LED Network**
- v. Breakout Session: Local Economy Assessment**
- vi. The SWOT Analysis**
- vii. Group Presentation**

The objective of this training is to:

- a. Introduce the concept of Local Economic Development (LED) to Seberang Perai government officials as well as MALA members
- b. To share inspiring experiences and the lessons learned of city government on the efforts of its previous experience on localizing MDGs and its way forward in localizing SDGs.

- c. To analyze challenges and propose possible solutions in improving Local Economy in Seberang Perai and other municipalities in Malaysia.
- d. To understand business enabling environment and/or economic governance index.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Local Economic Development (LED) is closely related to New Urban Agenda and also Sustainable Development Goals. The New Urban Agenda is the outcome document agreed upon at the Habitat III Cities Conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. It will guide the efforts around urbanization of a wide range of actors — nation states, city and regional leaders, international development funders, United Nations programmer and civil society — for the next 20 years. Inevitably, this agenda will also lay the groundwork for policies and approaches that will extend, and impact, far into the future.

Where else, Sustainable Development Goals is consist of 17 goals in total. In which each goals has its own agenda. As for goal number 8 - **Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All.**

This goal is about creating decent jobs and economic opportunities for everyone. Local governments can generate growth and employment from the bottom up through local economic development strategies that harness the unique resources and opportunities in our territories. Local governments can identify children at risk of child labor and work to ensure they attend school. We can also work in partnership with the informal sector to improve their working conditions and social protections, and to encourage formalization where appropriate. Local governments can act as an example in providing safe and secure working environments, and in guaranteeing equal pay for equal work. We can also include these practices as part of our procurement criteria when working with the private and third sectors. Local governments are best placed to work with communities to assess the benefits and costs of tourism in our areas and to develop strategic plans to ensure activity in this sector is sustainable.

SDGs should be integrated into the city med-term plan and annual work plan.

De Pauh Garden is an example of LED Project in MPSP. The land provided is of MPSP, which is offered to a potential individual to provide work to locals and training for students as well. Furthermore, MPSP also provides platform to locals to encourage them and also for them to generate income through few activities such as ROPEWALK, *Pasar Ramadhan* (which is held during the fasting month of the Muslims), Night Market (*pasar malam*) and also Uptown.

Small or Medium Enterprise (SME) is to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of small or medium sized enterprises (SME), including through access to financial services. SMEs contributed between 51.7% and 97.2% of total employment in ASEAN, 30% and 53% of the Asean state's GDP and 10% and 29.9% to the exports. In Seberang Perai, we have a total of 34 SME projects. There are 12 projects in Seberang

Perai Utara, 11 projects in Seberang Perai Tengah and 11 projects in Seberang Perai Selatan. Through Local economic Development (LED) it will help all the SMEs that are interested to become more manpower-lean, to develop a stronger city, and build a better quality workforce.

This year, MPSP also held its first Seberang Perai International Conference on Ecotourism and Conservation Efforts (SPICEC) 2016. We want, Seberang Perai, the future of Penang, to emerge as the world class tourist destination targeting the eco-travelers in specific. Seberang Perai's rich natural heritage will definitely enchant the tourists who are looking for relaxation away from concrete jungles. Besides this program, the local community can take this opportunity to sell their product such as local foods, handmade product and etc. As an example, community of Permatang Nibong has their own made product to sell to the visitors. These products are made from recyclable items into bags, pouch and accessories. Other than that, they also implement bio-diesel project and sell compost as a source of income to the community.

We will be having site visit tomorrow, which is also the last day of this training. I hope we will benefit from this training and build a foundation on how to organize the Effort for LED strategic planning, guidance on how to bring a stakeholder group to consensus, an important skill when determining the critical issues that form the basis of the LED strategy and concludes with defining critical issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and supporting organizations UCLG ASPAC, DELGOSEA Network and MALA for choosing MPSP as the venue for this Local Economic Development (LED) training and making Local Economic Development (LED) Training happen.

I wish Local Economic Development (LED) Training to be successful and congratulations to the organizing committee for their hard work and effort to ensure Local Economic Development (LED) Training successful. To our international speakers and participants don't forget to enjoy Penang Foods and take some time to visit interesting tourist spots in Seberang Perai and Penang Island.

Thank you.