

The single-storey museum is nestled in a recreational park.

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The newly-refurbished building in Taman Jaya gives visitors a glimpse of Petaling Jaya's history and modernity

PETALING JAYA: The newly refurbished Petaling Jaya Museum in Taman Jaya is open to the public. It is offering visitors more of the city's history, information and artifacts from the yesteryears in a cosy atmosphere.

Located in Jalan 10/7 in Section 10, the single-storey museum, nestled in the middle of a serene recreational park was launched by Mayor Datuk Mohamad Roslan Sakiman on Saturday.

Roslan said the museum, which was first opened in 2007, was closed in December last year for refurbishment and renovation.

"We have adopted the modern-museum-in-a-park concept, where visitors can spend their time browsing in the museum, and spend time leisurely with their family and friends at the Taman Jaya park just steps away.

"Visitors can learn about Petaling Jaya, its birth and how it was founded by Sir Gerald Templer, how it evolved from being Malaysia's first satellite town to what it is now," he said.

Also present at the launch were council community development department director Aznan Hassan, enforcement director Fauzi Maarop, public complaints director Tengku Nazaruddin Zainudin and councillors Tony Cheong, Anthony Thanasayan,

Richard Yeoh, Halimey Abu Bakar and Chan Chee Kong.

Roslan said the council had worked with the National Museum to further improve the museum and welcomed contributions and feedback from the public.

One of the council's plans, said Roslan, was to invite schools to bring their pupils and students to the museum to learn all about Petaling Jaya.

Roslan said since its opening, the museum had attracted 14,000 visitors and the number was expected to soar in the future as there would be activities such as poetry declamation and Orang Asli arts and craft workshop.

The Petaling Jaya Museum Heritage Club, which has about 300 members, also works closely with the council.

The museum, which has two curators, houses five galleries with depictions of the history of Petaling Jaya, the early administration of Petaling Jaya, a themed exhibition area, Hall of Fame, the multi-racial population in Petaling Jaya as well as economic development from a rubber estate and tin mining area to the current development and evolved Petaling Jaya.

Laminated on the walls of the museum are information of the birth of Petaling Jaya, how it was founded and its early developments, the earliest map of Petaling Jaya and earliest housing estate in Petaling Jaya.

Displayed on the walls are also information on Local Agenda 21, the official attire of the Petaling Jaya mayor and the electricity, water and sewage disposal facilities.

Visitors can use the research rooms, as well as learn more about the municipal council presidents before it was declared a city council and the past and current mayor.

Other items on display are arm indicators and name tags used for identification while patrolling by Sector 1B Neighbourhood Association Petaling Jaya, a latex cup and objects found on Bukit Gasing, diorama of the morning market in Old Town, Section 1 as well as a bowling ball, used by the then prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, which was donated by Hotel Shah's Village owner, Datuk H.M. Shah, and an old enforcement officer's motorcycle and uniform.

The museum is open on Saturdays to Thursdays from 9am to 5pm. It is close on Fridays and public holidays. Admission is free and the museum is disabled-friendly.

Roslan also launched the Star Rating landmark adjacent to the museum as a symbol of the council's achievements in the Star Rating system by the Housing and Local Government Ministry.

He announced that the council was offering bicycle rental services at RM5 for 30 minutes for visitors at the Taman Jaya park.