

Story and photos
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A road by any other name

A trip to Shah Alam would have you mulling over the street names for a long time

HOW would you feel if you live in Jalan Sayang (love) or Jalan Playar (pliers/tool)? Or would one feel more at home with Jalan Bijak (intelligent) than Jalan Kelawar (bats)?

Well, when you drive into Shah Alam be prepared to encounter such peculiar and intriguing road names that go into thousands.

Each road is named after certain themes attributed to different sections of the city.

The inspiration is many, ranging from local fruits, trees, fish, birds, traditional figures to colours and sports activities and all boils down whether it's suitable to the area. Even global currency, precious stones and metals have not escaped the long list.

"One can learn about certain terms and pick up new words while driving around the city.

"I never knew that Pualam is actually another name for marble that's used for flooring.

"The same goes for the scientific names of orchids in Kota Kemuning," said Samrizad Abu Hanifah.

Samrizad who comes to Shah Alam regularly to visit his sister finds the road names interesting and more often than not he ends up looking for some of the roads' meanings and the history behind it after every trip.

He said that sometimes he would even turn it into a game with friends, in guessing the meaning of the word or the common name for it.

Shah Alam resident Nurul Aini Ismail said that there were times she wondered whether the names were spelt correctly.

"I stumbled upon a road named Pergisir in Section 15 (Jalan 15/9) but could not find the meaning of the word.

"I have been wondering about that word for quite sometime," she said.

All the road names in Section 15 are named after crafting tools. Other names include Jalan Playar (pliers), Jalan Pahat (chisel) and Jalan Gergaji (saw).

Some of the names were conceptualised based on what's renowned in that part of the area. Section 1 for instance, uses the theme related to knowledge since UiTM is located there. Section 13, where the Stadium Shah Alam is located, aptly uses sports activities as its theme.

"We try to assign suitable names for the area.

"Usually the developer would come up with the suggestions but sometimes the names from our side too," said Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) one-stop-centre (OSC) director Aniza Osman.

Aniza said a monthly meeting is held to determine whether a name of a particular road falls under her department based on the jurisdiction.



Aniza Osman: 'Usually the developer would come up with the suggestions.'

She said for each new development, the developer would come up with the proposal of names for the roads in their area.

"We will make sure that the names are suitable and are according to the themes assigned for their area.

"The names then have to be referred to the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka to find out whether they are correct in terms of spelling and whether the terms exist in the first place," she said.

Aniza said there were instances of residents complaining about the inappropriate road names in their areas. Most of them lodge a formal complaint seeking for the names to be replaced.

She said assigning specific theme for each section of the city was also for the convenience of the public.

"It is easier for everyone to know the location of the road, even when they do not know the section.

"For instance, if someone does not have the whole address but only knows the road name like Jalan Ferum, then we will automatically know that it is in Section 7 since it is a type of mineral," she said during an interview at her office in Wisma MBASA in Shah Alam recently.

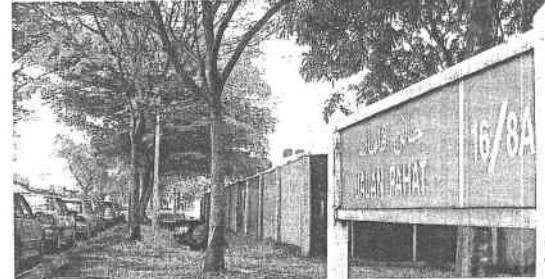
She added the system had been in use since the early planning of the city.



Handy tools: Jalan Pergisir in Section 15. All road names in Section 15 are named after crafting tools.



The metal connection: Another road in Section 7 with Ferum or iron for its name



Aptly named: Jalan Pahat (chisel) in Section 16 where the industrial area of Shah Alam is located.

All street names in Shah Alam are named according to specific themes. Below are the themes for each sections in the city.

- Section 1 (UiTM) - education
- Section 2 - floral
- Section 3 - tropical forest trees
- Section 4 - fruits
- Section 5 - administration
- Section 6 - birds
- Section 7 - jewels and minerals
- Section 8 - geological terms
- Section 9 - Selangor Malay leaders

- Section 10 - clothing culture
- Section 11 - Palace official titles
- Section 12 - Sports activities
- Section 13 - City Centre Activities
- Section 14 - crafting tools
- Section 15 - crafting tools and spices
- Section 16 - fish

- Section 17 - palm trees
- Section 18 - fishing, farming and crafting tools
- Section 19 - animals

- Section 20 - Industrial based on the
- Section 21 - existing persiaran
- Section 22 - economy

- Section 23 - economy
- Section 24 - vegetables
- Section 25 - good values
- Section 26 - names of places in Sabak Bernam,

- Section 27 - names of places in Hulu Selangor & Kuala Selangor

- Section 28 - names of places in Gombak, Klang & Hulu Langat

- Section 29 - names of places in Sepang & Kuala Langat

- Section 30 - Mining types in Malaysia

- Section 31 - names of capes in Malaysia
- Section 32 - orchids
- Section 33 - rivers in Malaysia
- Section 34 - musical instruments
- Section 35 - car spare parts
- Section 36 - Malay warriors
- Section 37 - traditional kueh
- Section 38 - occupations
- Section 39 - literature
- Section 40 - global currency
- Section 41 - lakes in Malaysia
- Section 42 - celestial
- Section 43 - mathematical terms
- Section 44 - telecommunications

- Section 45 - building parts & architectural terms
- Section 46 - colours
- Section 47 - islands in Malaysia
- Section 48 - mountains in Malaysia
- Section 49 - herbs
- Section 50 - starts with "seia"
- Section 51 - have not defined yet
- Section 52 - insects
- Section 53 - terms in physics
- Section 54 - hills in Malaysia
- Section 55 - estuary
- Section 56 - measurement
- Section 57 - measurement