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DBKU intends to turn ageing depot into green building

KUCHING: The Kuching City North Commission (DBKU) plans to turn its ageing depot into a Green Building Index (GBI) facility under a proposed RM8mil renovation.

The proposal is part of its five-year CBS – Clean, Beautiful and Safe, or *Cantik, Bersih dan Selamat* in Malays, master plan.

“Initially we wanted to convert our headquarters into a GBI certified building. A study was done and the cost estimates that came back was RM60mil,” Datuk Bandar Abdul Wahap Abang Julai told *The Star* in a recent interview.

“People told us: ‘with RM60mil, the state government might as well fund a new building,’ — which of course, is true.

“Instead we will turn the depot into a green building. The aim is to make it a model facility for future endeavours.”

Design plans had been submitted to the State Planning Unit for approval, he added.

Abdul Wahap said the conversion would be modelled after the passive house concept to reduce its ecological footprint.

Design considerations include sun orientation, natural ventilation and other factors aimed at creating ultra-low energy buildings.

The Datuk Bandar said the converted building would also have other features such as rain harvesting with underground water tanks, active windows and reflectors.

“Part of the plans include drive-through facilities. Why not build a drive-through counter, right?”

“People can pay their bills like that,” Abdul Wahap said.

DBKU’s other projects in the pipeline include constructing a new swimming pool near e-Mart Express in Matang as well as creating more sporting facilities within the city centre.