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Living to the Dead Smart Urban Planning: Geospatial Approach for Sustainable Urban Cemeteries Management in Malaysia

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Abstract

Smart urban planning is partly focused on managing the living to the dead, aiming for better living conditions and sustainable growth in the future. While planning for living is a priority, death is inevitable and requires wise forecasting and future planning for the dead. This paper highlights the geospatial approach to accommodating urban cemetery management in Malaysia. Low-cost drone images extract the cemeteries' lot through object-oriented image processing in ECognition software. The analysis of forecasting the land demand for future cemeteries has been conducted, involving the main and post-processing stages in GIS. The finding shows that the capacity of cemeteries can easily be identified and establishes the range of total number between 800 and 1000 plots (bodies) that can fit in the one-acre area of the cemetery. The result led to the decision on how many acres are

required for a specific forecasting time. A proposed layout for the new cemetery land can be made with a readily estimated cemetery lot to accurately predict the vacancy lot according to the land features provided by the drone imageries that finally proved the usefulness of geospatial in ensuring sustainability and smartness in planning from live to dead aspects. © The Author(s), under exclusive license to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2026.

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