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Authorities to blame for dirty environment

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THE recent comments by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, with regard to cleanliness is something that we should take seriously.

While the majority of urbanites are ethical enough to keep the environment clean, the "authorities" are partly to blame for the mess.

Municipal councils should place more rubbish bins in areas where the concentration of people is high and have more frequent garbage collection schedules.

This also applies to tourist spots and residential areas. Often, at picnic spots and tourist areas, we see bins stuffed to the brim with garbage.

I recently moved to a house in Petaling Jaya. I placed all the unwanted things that I wanted to dispose of in six black garbage bags and put them in front of the house. To my surprise, the garbage collector did not collect them.

When I called the Majlis Perbandaran Petaling Jaya, I was assured that all garbage bags would be collected. After the third day, only one garbage bag was collected.

One week later, my garbage bags were still there. I had to dispose of them myself.

Is there a ruling in Petaling Jaya that one household is allowed to dispose of only one garbage bag every alternate day?

What happens when someone throws a kenduri or a party and has extra garbage for the week? Do the occupants of the house have to bear with the stink of the rotting garbage as the garbage collector refuses to collect it?

In residential areas, it is common to come across broken garbage bags and garbage strewn all over the place.

Even though the culprits are stray animals, the onus to clean up the mess lies with the municipal council as it is responsible for catching the strays. Instead, the strewn garbage is left indefinitely.

The homeowners have to "hang" the garbage bags on the fence or tree branches. But does this solve the problem?

The municipal council should address these issues so that everybody can co-operate to keep the environment clean.