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Ipoh City Council has failed to keep roads, drains clean

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IN 1986, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad came to Ipoh to launch the "Clean and Beautiful Malaysia" campaign.

After 10 years, not a single local authority has achieved the objectives of this campaign. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government should carry out an inquiry into the local authorities' failure.

The primary function of every local authority is to keep the town clean and this is paid for by the residents. It is not the fault of the residents that the town is dirty. They will not co-operate unless local authorities show more professionalism and determination.

There must be sufficient rubbish bins at strategic places; roads and drains must be cleaned and swept daily; and household refuse collected daily or on alternate days, failing which residents will continue to dump their refuse where convenient.

Since 1995, the Ipoh City Council has failed to notice a sharp deterioration in the cleanliness of the city. Roads and drains, especially in residential areas, are seldom cleaned and swept. Garden and other bulky refuse are not collected on schedule and left to rot at roadsides. Shortage of manpower and equipment is not a valid excuse.

Contractors continue to dig and damage roads. Unwanted materials are dumped indiscriminately at the proposed site of a bus station 200 metres from City Hall and the open space at the junction of Jalan Silibin and Jalan Tun Abdul Razak. The grass along many roads and in playgrounds are overgrown because grass-cutters only come around once or twice a month.

City councillors have failed to monitor cleanliness and look after the residents' interests.

The Housing and Local Government Minister should form a special squad to monitor essential services of all local authorities and appropriate action should be taken if they were negligent.