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Need for civic consciousness

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The public should make cleanliness a part of their culture and attitude and not wait for periodic reminders and criticisms before adopting such habit.

Selangor State Local Authorities, Urbanisation and Squatters Committee chairman Datuk Fuad Hassan said merely relying on enforcement would not be effective in curbing littering.

"There should be an internal awareness of the need to ensure cleanliness and we should make cleanliness a part of our culture," he said at the launch of the Selayang Municipal Council cleanliness and anti-dengue campaign at Taman Selaseh 2 playground in Gombak.

He said the people should not wait for criticisms from leaders like Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had hit out at the public for littering.

Fuad said the people should follow the Japanese and Koreans who had acquired the habit of not littering in public even if there were no enforcement officers to monitor their acts.

Speaking to reporters later, Fuad said that cleanliness programmes such as the one held today would help encourage society to change its attitude.

Fuad said that similar cleanliness campaigns should be organised at all levels especially among the younger generation as it would be very effective. He added that such campaigns should be held periodically.

He also lamented that there was not enough garbage bins although the amount of rubbish had drastically increased over the years.

Fuad said there was a need to emphasise on cleanliness with the State's rate of population growth, the rising number of squatters as well as longhouses and areas where development was unplanned.

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