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People's basic necessities must be provided first

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I WOULD like to comment on the article, Objections over plan to develop Lake Gardens (NST, Oct 25) under the column "Seremban Views".

It looks like certain quarters are blaming the New Straits Times for publishing the idea to develop the Seremban Lake Gardens. It is the NST's utmost responsibility to keep the public informed of the policies and plans of the Government, be it the Federal or State Government. Hats off to you NST, you have done a great job.

Can someone enlighten me, what does it mean "to further develop the lake gardens". When we say that we are going to further develop the lake gardens, one would expect to see more trees planted, safeguard the existing endangered trees, keep the lake clear of rubbish and of course the grass to be trimmed, the children's playground and the jogging track maintained.

If the State Government is going to build condominiums and a shopping complex and call that further development of the area, they must be kidding.

The condominiums are for the rich. Can't the State Government understand that our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has initiated a tree planting campaign? The Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh is trying to make it a reality.

Our Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is encouraging every developer and State Governments to build more low-cost houses whereas some state leaders are ignorant of all those calls.

Seremban is also having water problems, for more than a year. No one seems to be interested in looking into it.

Therefore, I request the State Government improve the basic necessities of the rakyat rather than build condominiums for the rich and shopping malls.