

11/08/1997

Perhaps RM500 fine can keep KL litter free

Ahmad Aris Eckhardt

INDISCRIMINATE littering has long been known to take place in suburbs of townships where housing and industrial projects are in the various stages of construction. The sites would often be converted into temporary dumpsites until the infrastructure is completed.

It is most ironic that such uncouth habit should now encroach into the heart of bustling Kuala Lumpur near prestigious five-star hotels and other establishments.

With nocturnal revellers indulging in unwholesome "lepak" and indiscriminately dumping cigarette butts, plastic bottles and wrappers in every nook and cranny, City Hall workers must have a gargantuan task collecting them the next day. Even the decorative flowerpots are used as ashtrays to deposit cigarette butts and groundnut shells. It is said that the garbage collected in the morning would reappear at the same spot by midday.

Such negative practice has now incurred the wrath of our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who, over television, lambasted the city dwellers for their irresponsible attitude.

Seperti "kera diberi bunga" (like a monkey being given a flower), the members of the public have no sense of appreciation for things of beauty, let alone protect them from being abused.

With the Commonwealth Games taking place in September next year, it is time that the city's surroundings be spruced up before the arrival of the distinguished guests and competitors.

It has been announced that City Hall has now seen it fit to increase the maximum compound fine for littering to RM500. I hope such a step, though drastic, may deter people from littering.