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DID headquarters a sight to behold for visitors

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Visitors to the Drainage and Irrigation Department headquarters in Jalan Sultan Salahuddin will be pleasantly surprised by the sight of a man-made waterfall.

Strategically situated at the porch, the waterfall spans the ground and first floors.

Built some eight years ago at a cost of about RM20,000, it bears testimony to the fact that the DID is one government department which practices the "culture of maintenance" espoused by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir had on Tuesday lamented the lack of consciousness among Malaysians, including government departments, on the need to upkeep property.

The DID waterfall was constructed soon after the publication of a book, Waterfalls In Malaysia by the department, in co-operation with Malaysia Airlines and the then Tourism Development Corporation (Malaysian Tourism Promotions Board).

Asked about the effect of the waterfall on the department's working environment, director-general Keizrul Abdullah believes that it does, to a certain extent have a positive effect.

"The sound of flowing water is very nice and soothing."

The waterfall's surrounding landscape is tended by the department's sole gardener who is one of seven general workers contracted from maintenance company, Wira Enterprise.

Running on a tight budget, the water supply is only turned on when visitors come by.

Nevertheless, the rocks and surrounding foliage are a pleasant sight to behold.

"We have to clean the waterfall everyday if water supply is turned on, as we don't have a sieving pool which facilitates the recycling of water," explained the department's maintenance unit head Esah Mohd Yunus.

Apart from the waterfall, another attraction of the department is the sight of potted plants along the corridors and corners.

Moved around every few weeks, the plants are produced from the department's little nursery.

"We are working on a very limited budget," said Keizrul, explaining that the yearly cost of maintaining the department, situated on a four-storey building, stands at RM120,000.

Building maintenance at the department includes air-conditioning servicing and repairs, general cleaning, dispensing of rubbish and electricity bills.

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