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Subang Jaya's `millennium eyesore'

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IT could well be a case of RM3 million "gone down the drain". Subang Jaya's Millennium Park is not just a "white elephant" but a painful and pathetic sight. Located along Jalan SS13/1A near the Jalan Kewajipan roundabout, the park - initiated by the Subang Jaya Municipal Council is hardly patronised by the public, even on public holidays!

Take the Awal Muharram on March 26, a public holiday, as an example. Not a single soul was in sight during a "check-out" from 10am to 1pm.

What was more appalling was the condition of the park, which has been dubbed the most expensive public park in the Klang Valley.

The "culture of maintenance" - which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been urging Malaysians to practise - was sorely lacking.

Manholes were found left uncovered. The leaves of decorative palms were not only withering but also drying up. The pond, filled with "sickly-looking" waterlilies, was also a pathetic sight.

When the park was opened early last year, it was a sight to behold! But lack of supervision and maintenance by the MPSJ has turned the "pride of the council" into a liability!

Ratepayers, who had, right from the beginning opposed to the idea of the park project, have every reason to vent their anger because it was their money that went into the construction of the "prestige" project.

The few people who have patronised the park say it was not strategically located, and was in an area that was busy with traffic and too close to the low-cost flats.

They feel that for a project of such "stature", it should be somewhere quiet and with lots of greenery around.

It is now not uncommon to see children, especially from the low-cost housing areas, abusing the facilities. The pond is often used as a wading pool and the fountain and the decorations as playthings.

If the council wants to keep the park going, it should find ways to attract visitors. At least, this will justify the money spent on it.

Let's hope that the Children's Gallery coming up near the Sunway Pyramid and the RM17 million 3K Project (Community Recreation Complex) located along Jalan Kewajipan will not suffer the same fate!