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Vision to create a world-class city

THE following is the interview with Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Kamaruzzaman Shariff:

Q: Tan Sri, ever since the Government administration moved to Putrajaya, many people felt the city has been neglected and dirtier, which is quite noticeable in some areas. More so with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad now living in Putrajaya. What is your comment?

A: Perception, I would say. As for being dirty, you can say it is true in some areas. Debris left behind by floods is one contributory factor.

Our vision is to make Kuala Lumpur a "garden city of lights". We want to make it a world-class city, taking the good features from various cities and incorporating them in our planning.

Our endeavour is to have a clean, tidy city. A lot of things have been done and more is being done. We have received lots of reports from people that the city is now cleaner. The cleaning of the city has been privatised to Alam Flora, which is paid RM100 million a year to collect and dispose of garbage.

The main city centre is clean. But of course, there are some lapses here and there, which involve enforcement; that is, we have to make sure Alam Flora does its job accordingly.

Prior to privatisation, City Hall spent between RM60m and RM70 million. So, with privatisation, we expect to see a cleaner city.