

Improve quality of city

KL residents told to change their attitude

By ANGELA RAO

KUALA LUMPUR residents have been asked to change their ways and think about what they can do to improve the "quality of the city."

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia, cited floods as "an example of negligence" by the people.

If the people stopped throwing garbage into the rivers, the occurrence of floods would be reduced, he told reporters in an interview in conjunction with Federal Territory Day last Friday.

"City Hall need not have to remove tonnes of rubbish from rivers daily," he said.

Pandikar Amin said that similarly, a change in attitude was needed on the other issues.

"For example, we are now going to upgrade and beautify Jalan Petaling and give the traders proper stalls and clean up the area.

"But what's the point when tourists see bird droppings on the old buildings and shrubs growing out of the roofs?" he asked.

Referring to the pre-war shophouses, he said that some of the owners were not bothered about the appearance of their buildings.

"The shophouses are so old, but nothing has been done to refurbish the place. The least they could do is paint the facades," he added.

Pandikar Amin also hit out at those who protested against the weekend pedestrian mall introduced in Bukit Bintang.

Rather than just making criticisms, he said the protesters should suggest ways to improve on the concept.

"Everyone has negative things to say but no (constructive) suggestions.

"Although Bukit Bintang is a DAP constituency, we still beautify the place," he added, referring to statements by Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun who said that the business community and residents were against the pedestrian mall project.

"The DAP should not run down the Government's policies, it should contribute what it can. If business is affected, find ways to attract business ... it can be done," he added.

The minister blamed the traffic problems in Bukit Bintang as a result of the weekend closure on the people's attitude.

"Despite the fact that they know the road is closed, they don't use alternative modes of transportation," he added.

Pandikar Amin said City Hall had plans to extend the pedestrian mall to Jalan Petaling, Jalan Alor, Lorong Haji Taib, Lorong Haji Hussein, Masjid India and Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman.

"But then, how can we carry it out if suddenly the traders and hawkers are incited to protest and then refuse to move?" he asked.

Meanwhile, the Federal Territory Day celebrations on Friday proceeded smoothly in various locations, with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Bandar Kol Datuk Mohamad Shaid Mohd Taufek leading the events in Putrajaya and Taman Tasik Titiwangsa respectively.