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Action speaks louder than pledges

Y.H.

YOUR editorial "The Malaise of Delays" (July 6) provides an accurate analysis of the most crucial aspects of life in Malaysia.

The case in point is delays in the completion of government projects which are vital to the country. One sees so many uncompleted government projects standing out like sore thumbs on the landscape.

Those involved in the bidding for such projects seem not the least bothered by stalled works. The "Third World mentality" is so ingrained that even Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is sick of it. He has been telling civil servants, corporate decision-makers and contractors of the consequences of such mentality.

So often, Malaysians have been told of the need to possess a "First World mentality". Volumes have been written on the virtues of a "fast-track system" for implementers of various multibillion ringgit public infrastructure projects. It is one thing to know all these theoretical considerations and speak about their virtues in glowing terms. It is quite another thing to put theory into practice.

Malaysians, it seems, are proud of themselves with their accomplishments at the theoretical level.

We have corporate charters, corporate missions, corporate objectives and departmental goals. The pledges are written beautifully in gold lettering and nicely framed.

But action is what we need. As long as Malaysians are content with being good theoreticians, our successes will remain at the "Third World" level and Malaysia will just slide by rather than move forward to greater heights of accomplishment.

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