

Making KL a world class city

The Sun - 18/5/2007

I SPEAK as an ordinary middle-class citizen who works and lives in Kuala Lumpur. After living here for so many years, I would like to express my concern about the presence of hawkers in Kuala Lumpur - which aims to become a "world class city".

I wonder how hawkers are allowed to operate in so many places like along roads, beside monsoon drains, in buffer zones, along backlanes and even firebreaks, pedestrian walkways, verandahs and behind shophouses. No vacant space is spared.

The hawkers prepare the food in the places they operate from. Nobody cares where the water supply comes from, how they wash the utensils, where they dispose of the daily rubbish. These places have become a haven for rats, flies and cockroaches.

I think politicians and the elected Members of Parliament must stop this habit of going round helping these hawkers to operate in these places to get their support and be popular among them. If they want to really help they should find proper places in the city where there is sufficient water supply, parking space and the food is served with care for hygiene and health.

Some places that they should

foreign tourists to KL only want to see the KLIA Airport, the Petronas Twin Towers, Dataran Merdeka and the Lake Gardens. Most of them like to walk around the older parts of the city, taste local hawker food, the ordinary Malaysian way-of-life and see the cultural activities that they hardly see anywhere else during their tour around the world.

The Pudu Raya area is congested, chaotic, dirty and polluted. Buses are just parked anywhere and the engines are not switched off. Hawkers, jay-walkers, ticket touts and taxi drivers harassing passengers over fares (because they refuse to charge them according to the meter) are found everywhere. On top of all these, beggars, drug addicts and snatch thieves are just waiting for an opportunity to strike. This place has also become a meeting place for all foreign workers during weekends and public holidays where it looks like we are in an alien country.

Our prime minister has his vision for this country but sadly the people down the line are just not doing their job. People must change their mindset about cleanliness. Syabas to our new Inspector-General of Police. He has given rise to some optimism with his comments and actions to fight crime, besides the efforts to clean up the police force. The recent action on illegal immigrants too has brought hope because they are getting involved in crimes. To our elected representatives, I say, please stop all the rhetorics, we want to see action without fear or favour.

This is a wonderful country, and everybody has the responsibility to preserve its beauty. If everybody plays their part, Malaysia and its people will benefit from a better quality of life.

We are quick to condemn others but we fail to see the filth in our own backyard. The government is spending a lot of money for the "Visit Malaysia Year" campaign and activities. Let it not go to waste. There is no need for more laws, what is needed is the even enforcement of the existing laws. In the end everybody will benefit from a clean and healthy Malaysia.

Concerned but hopeful
Kuala Lumpur

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visit include the area near the market in Chow Kit, Masjid India where hawkers are an eyesore, the entrance to Pantai Hillpark near Angkasapuri, Bukit Kerinci, Taman Sri Sentosa where all along the roads, buffer zones have been turned into hawker stalls, parts of Jalan Kelang Lama, Pantai Dalam and Kampung Baru. Why can't it be like in Subang Jaya and Petaling Jaya where hawkers are located in only designated areas? If they can do it, why can't Kuala Lumpur do likewise?

Let us not be mistaken that

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