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# Squirming at FRIM

This forest haven at the edge of the city has turned from a sight for sore eyes to an 'apalling' eyesore

ON Oct 24, my friends and I went to the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong as part of our photography assignment.

When I first heard of the green haven, I was very excited to go there because it was a popular spot for picnickers, joggers, tourists and nature lovers.

I placed high expectations for my photo shoots to be done there, believing the place would be full of attractive flora and fauna. I was also eager to take a look at the refreshing scene of the waterfall.

Seeing that the place is close to Kuala Lumpur, it was good to know I could still find a spot to gain experience in a place I could call home.

As I entered FRIM's grounds, I was amazed by the imposing sight of trees. Somehow, the place made me feel I was not in a metropolitan, full of cars, buildings and pollution.

While I was there, I had the intention of writing an article which might grab people's attention.

But once I was at the waterfall, I was upset by the lack of cleanliness in the surrounding area caused by irresponsible picnickers who marred the natural surroundings with litter.

It was a big letdown for me. I was devastated by such an awful sight. I was hoping a place like this could create a good mood for nature photography.

The place was supposed to be picturesque but its natural beauty was no longer there. It was as if my expectations only existed in my imagination.

It was appalling to take pictures there as I had to pick up rubbish every time I wanted to use my camera.

Why can't people be more concerned and aware of the surrounding environment?

I know we should not entirely blame the visitors because when I was there I could hardly see any warning sign prohibiting the

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public from littering.

Even if there were signboards, they were most probably hidden behind the trees or some where not strategic enough. At least several signs should be in places like the entrance or picnic spots.

Apart from them, more rubbish bins should have been placed around the picnic areas where visitors seemed to be keen to throw rubbish anywhere.

Moreover, this place is not private property but belongs to the government via the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry.

Besides it being under the government's auspices, visitors should respect the very existence of nature and should not throw trash, such as cans of alcoholic drinks.

FRIM is a family-oriented place where people bring families to enjoy its beautiful scenery.

Picnickers should value and appreciate the natural beauty of Mother Nature. The facilities provided there are adequate and should not be taken for granted.

In most developed countries, a place like FRIM no longer exists due to development. As we face

a global climatic and temperature changes, we should consider this issue, even though it might be petty to some people.

This little step could improve conditions before it is too late to regret as no one has ever brought up the matter before.

Who else should take care of the environment other than us? Those

living there? We should be proud this place is in our country.

Since I represent the youth and we are the nation's future leaders, I hope my generation and those beyond can still have a firsthand experience of what it is like to be in a forest — not just by looking at pictures and past documentaries.

I hope FRIM will take concrete action. Don't let irresponsible people degrade the place further.

Do call me if FRIM needs a helping hand to clean up the place.

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