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# Trees need love, too

**I** REFER to the *Streets* article on Jan 17 entitled "Understanding challenges faced by trees in the city".

At a time when the local authority is planning to plant more trees in the city to protect our environment, steps must be taken to ensure that the tree-planting programme is properly guided, and that the trees planted are regularly inspected, pruned and maintained.

I welcome the proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and City Hall for the former to impart knowledge on tree maintenance and appropriate landscaping.

A FRIM arborist rightly said that it was challenging to be a tree in an urban environment, which exposes the tree to elements in the city that are unnatural to it.

In an urban landscape, trees are not only exposed to pollution from various sources, but also suffer human violation and limited space for growth.

I have observed that many trees in our city are planted in inappropriate settings, afflicted by diseases and infested by ter-

mites. Some of the roots are bulging out, leading to cracks on the road curbs.

Regular tree pruning is necessary to ensure that the branches do not obstruct road signs from view.

Generally, I get the impression that our tree maintenance programme leaves much to be desired. City Hall should intensify its tree pruning efforts to remove dead or dying branches as they could hurt passersby or cause an obstruction on the road should they drop off in a storm.

It is advisable for City Hall to provide a bigger budget for the planting and maintenance of the trees so that city folk would truly benefit from the programme.

We need more trees to provide oxygen and greenery for our environment, but we must also see to their proper treatment and maintenance so that public safety is not compromised.

**Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye, KL**