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Looking out for the poor

Mayor promises to resolve maintenance issues at PPR flats

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KUALA Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib has assured that Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will take the necessary action to resolve maintenance problems faced by People's Housing Project (PPR) residents, including those that will be redeveloped soon.

Residents at PPR flats in Kuala Lumpur are urged to forward their complaints on maintenance to DBKL for it to take prompt action.

"As some of the PPR flats have been around for more than 30 years, there are bound to be problems such as leaky water tanks and pipes.

"Leaky water tanks and pipes are regarded as serious and should be resolved immediately. For PPR flats that will be redeveloped, we will look into the severity of the problem and act accordingly," said Ahmad Phesal.

He said this in response to water leakage problems faced by residents at Block 35 Sri Johor PPR flats in Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras (see accompanying story).

He said DBKL had received posi-

tive feedback from various residents' associations on services provided and action taken to resolve problems.

Earlier, Ahmad Phesal launched a tree-planting programme at the Police Training Centre (Pulapol) in Jalan Semarak, Kuala Lumpur, a joint effort between DBKL and Pulapol.

"DBKL is committed to ensuring that efforts are taken to green the city under the Government's National Key Economic area (NKEA) and Greater KL.

"Trees play a huge role in maintaining a balance in the eco-system, especially in the urban and developed areas. It not only reduces the effect of global warming but absorbs carbon monoxide produced by vehicles and factories in Kuala Lumpur," he said.

Ahmad Phesal also stressed on the importance of planting trees in the city in order to have a greener and healthier environment.

"We are currently working closely with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM). We have identified

19 recreational parks to store saplings, as part of our efforts to preserve what's considered as our national treasure," he said.

He added that DBKL was also in the final stages of drafting a memorandum of understanding with FRIM, as the latter's expertise was needed in ensuring the right tree species were chosen, the techniques and supervision for the trees.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Phesal noted that the response from the public on tree-planting initiatives had been very positive.

"People are not happy when we trim trees. They are afraid that we will cut them down and this is a positive indication that people real-

ise the importance of trees in solving global warming issues," he said.

Last year, 37,000 trees were planted in Kuala Lumpur, which exceeded DBKL's target of 30,000 trees.

About 700 cadet inspectors, sergeants and Pulapol staff took part in the tree-planting programme, with 30 forest saplings and 1,800 flowering shrubs planted.



Green gesture: (From left) Ahmad Phesal, Pulapol commander SAC Zulkifli Mohamed and DBKL deputy director-general (project implementation and maintenance) Mohd Najib Mohd planting a meranti sapling during the tree-planting programme.