

Headline	Lam Thye City Hall needs bigger tree budget		
MediaTitle	New Sunday Times		
Date	22 Sep 2013	Color	Black/white
Section	Local News	Circulation	156,910
Page No	34	Readership	295,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	129 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,104
Frequency	Weekly	PR Value	RM 6,311



Lam Thye: City Hall needs bigger tree budget

KUALA LUMPUR: City Hall needs to provide a bigger budget for tree planting and maintenance as its programme leaves much to be desired, said former member of City Hall's advisory board Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

He said many trees in the city were inappropriate for their setting, while others had diseases, were infested by termites or had bulging tree roots leading to cracks on curbs.

"Regular tree pruning is necessary to ensure that the branches do not obstruct road signages.

"Regrettably, most road signages are either fully or partially concealed by branches and foliage, causing great inconvenience to motorists looking for road directions.

"City Hall should intensify its tree-pruning programme to remove dead, dying or dangerous branches, as these can pose a danger to the public and cause road obstructions, especially during storms."

He said City Hall must ensure that any trees

removed for development projects were re-planted or replaced by the contractors in suitable sites.

"At a time when City Hall is planning to plant more trees in the city in the interest of protecting our environment, steps must be taken to ensure that our tree planting programme is properly guided, inspected, pruned and maintained.

"There also needs to be closer collaboration between the Forest Research Institute Malaysia and City Hall to impart knowledge on tree maintenance and appropriate landscaping.

"It has been pointed out by an arborist from FRIM that it is challenging to be a tree in an urban environment, as unlike in the wild, trees are exposed to elements in the city which are not natural for them.

"In an urban landscape, trees are not only exposed to air pollution from various sources but also human violation and space constraints."