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Datuk Ahmad Phesal Talib launching the Local Agenda 21 Kuala Lumpur office at City Hall. Pic by Halim Salleh

Report paints bad picture

KUALA LUMPUR: Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said that a recent newspaper report on the conditions of the City Orchard Park has given the city a bad impression.

The report had stated that the park had trees that were either dead, disease-infected or immature, besides the area being a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

"The park was once a dumpsite so a lot of effort is needed to revive the place.

"The Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) told us that the ground is suitable for fruit trees," he said.

Phesal also said that fruit trees need a lot of attention and that the

public cannot expect to see them grow and bear fruit overnight.

"Our efforts are noble. Please get clarifications before commenting," he added.

The park, which will be officially launched at a later date, is already open to the public.

"We want to wait till the trees and landscape are fully ready before launching it," Phesal said after opening the Local Agenda 21 Kuala Lumpur (LA21 KL) office at the City Hall headquarters.

The office will be where City Hall's LA21 KL partners meet to discuss and work on their respective activities.

Since the programme started in 2006, there are now over 100 partners

which consist of non-governmental organisations, private sectors and schools.

With 178 countries involved in the Local Agenda 21 programme, Phesal said that it is crucial for city folk to participate in developing a sustainable world-class city.

"We need a civilised society and prevent vandalism which is very rampant in the city.

"Public facilities are broken in about a month and often City Hall gets the blame for poor maintenance.

"The public need to cooperate as our initiatives are for the benefit of everyone," he said. **By Farezza Hanum Rashid**