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Improve tree planting, pruning and maintenance

AT A time when Kuala Lumpur City Hall is planning to plant more trees in the city, steps should also be taken to ensure that our trees are properly taken care of.

There should be close cooperation between the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and DBKL on tree maintenance and appropriate landscaping.

An arborist from FRIM has said it is challenging to be a tree in an urban environment as unlike in the wild, trees are exposed to air pollution from various sources and have limited space for growth.

I have observed that many trees in our city are disease-ridden, termite

infested and have tree roots bulging out, leading to cracks on road kerbs, among others.

Regular tree pruning is necessary to ensure that the branches will not cause obstruction to road signage.

Regrettably, most of the signs in Kuala Lumpur today are either fully or partially concealed by branches, and their foliage causing great inconvenience to motorists looking for directions.

Generally, I get the impression that our tree maintenance programme leaves much to be desired.

DBKL should intensify its tree-pruning schedule to remove dead or dying branches as these can pose

a danger to the public, fall and cause obstructions during storms.

It is advisable for DBKL to provide a bigger budget for tree-planting and maintenance so that city folk will truly benefit from the programme.

We need more trees to provide oxygen and greenery, but we must also see to their proper treatment and maintenance.

DBKL must ensure that trees removed for infrastructure or development projects be replanted or replaced by contractors to suitable sites when the projects are completed.

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