

# Deeper stain on the Pearl of the Orient

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SOME things just don't change about Penang. Two years after a concerted effort was initiated to clean it up and bring back the shine to the Pearl of the Orient, the island is still dirty. And 16 years on, the DAP hasn't given up its hope of capturing the state.

As for cleanliness, even the State Tourism Committee chairman Teng Chang Yeow admitted that Penang is still dirty, as was reported in this paper last week.

"The general perception among people is that Penang is dirty. There is rubbish everywhere and the toilets are filthy. Then there are flash floods every time it rains. The local authorities must work doubly hard to keep the state clean," he said.

It's tiring to keep on talking about this subject. But if it is not resolved, there's more worry to come — perhaps a greater one — over the messy traffic system.

Given the present situation, sometimes we wonder whether the island would turn out to be a gridlock of cars when the second bridge linking the island and mainland opens, and the

present bridge is widened.

It appears to be headed that way now. Naturally, the improved links would open the island to more cars, and if the planners don't wake up, there'll be trouble.

Just look at the Jelutong coastal highway from the bridge to town. Does it look like a solution to congestion at all?

As for politics, the DAP seems to know when it is the best time to set its sights on Penang again.

This time, party members have urged their top leaders to contest in the state in the next general election. And Penang DAP chairman Chow Kon Yeow said last week that leaders like DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng should contest in Penang as it was one of the party's frontline states.

He said there were positive vibes on the ground that people wanted change in Penang. "I think we (the DAP) stand a good chance, the mood out there is that people are fed-up with what is happening."

The DAP should be brave enough to declare *Tanjung 4* now.



File picture of rubbish strewn along the banks of Sungai Pinang at Kampung Sungai Pinang.