

THE frequent occurrence of flash floods in the city after a downpour is clearly caused by poor drainage and our deplorable maintenance culture.

In my view, poor maintenance is attributed to the lackadaisical attitude and minimal attention to the infrastructure.

Lack of supervision and lack of budget are the other major factors.

The lack of maintenance culture in our country is a matter of serious concern.

For example, if we bother to look at our public drains today, particularly those around construction sites, we will see that they are clogged up with all kinds of debris and litter.

This is aggravated by irresponsible people who dump garbage into the drains.

Poor maintenance culture or inadequate budget for maintenance result in irregular clean-up of these drains and damaged drains are not repaired, which leads to flooding.

This culture is not only reflected in the way we take care of our public drains.

Look at the condition of our roads. Potholes that are left unattended for weeks or even months endanger road users.

Failure to prune tree branches and leaves that obstruct road signage along our highways, federal, state and town roads are also hazardous.

Poor maintenance of public buildings and infrastructure such as those in playgrounds can also lead to accidents and injuries.

It is time to upgrade our mentality

Proper maintenance of infrastructure crucial for development



Signs of poor maintenance: Petaling Jaya hit by flash floods after a downpour two weeks ago. — filepic

Public toilets that are not properly maintained cause public inconveniences.

Incidences of defects and breakdown in new government buildings and infrastructure are still fresh in our minds. Problems of such nature are embarrassing and too

serious to be ignored.

Malaysia is known as a country that prides itself in the provision of first world infrastructure but not in terms of maintaining it.

All authorities and every Malaysian must imbibe the culture of strong maintenance and make it

a way of life. Let us not have First World infrastructure and a Third World mentality when it comes to maintenance.

The time has come for the Government and the private sector to adopt a new mindset that emphasises on development of a strong

maintenance and safety culture.

The Government's Transformation Programme should include the maintenance culture as one of its key drivers.

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