

All in a year's work

MPSJ addresses heavy traffic, garbage collection and development plans



Valley View

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Photo by SHAHRUL FAZRY ISMAIL

WASTE collection in Selangor took centrestage at the end of last year as the state government took over the garbage collection service from Alam Flora and the start of 2012 saw many local councils working to iron out the hiccups of the changeover.

Most of the Alam Flora contractors continued providing their services but by March this year, many of them had been changed because they were not performing up to par.

The Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) was dealing with hundreds of complaints on waste collection in the first week of March and had to bring in back-up contractors to clear the backlog of rubbish.

The number of complaints gradually decreased as the new contractors eased into their job scope but not leaving anything to chance, Bandar Puteri 8 Residents' Association mooted the idea to allow residents to evaluate the services of cleaning and garbage contractors before they were paid by the council.

This evaluation system will only work for RAs which are active but for now, the council has yet to implement the system in other neighbourhoods.

Meanwhile, residents in Subang Jaya, which has long been infamous for its traffic congestion, have had to brace themselves for worsening conditions as the construction works for the LRT extension commenced early this year

The traffic snarl along Persiaran Kewajipan has gotten from bad to worse with the closure of lanes on either side of the arterial road, and



According to schedule:

Construction of the Kelana Jaya LRT extension project has been going smoothly although it is causing prolonged traffic snarl in Subang Jaya.

the construction work is slowly making its way towards the SS15 area.

To alleviate congestion, MPSJ has worked closely with Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd to map out traffic diversion routes and identify alternative routes such as the opening of a U-turn along Jalan Kemajuan in SS17.

The temporary U-turn sparked a debate among the community about the safety aspects but it was a much needed relief for SS17 residents who no longer have to endure the long wait at the Persiaran Jengka intersection.

A proposed redevelopment of the Grand Dorsett hotel took centrestage in May as residents from SS12 and its surrounding areas protested the additional block of hotel suites after finding out that the units were sold.

The parking requirements for hotel suites differ from residential units and residents fear that if the sold units were occupied, cars would end up parked haphazardly along the roads.

Adding to their concern was traffic congestion because the only access into the area from Persiaran Kewajipan is SS12/1 and that is already slow-moving even in its current condition.

The month of May also saw an outcry from hikers at the Ayer Hitam Forest in Puchong who were denied entry by security guards one Saturday morning.

The forest was technically under the jurisdiction of the Selangor Forestry Department and the Selangor government had granted an 80-year lease to Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 1996 for education and research in forestry.

Technically, the forest reserve was not opened to the public but many hikers would enter through an opening at the western border in Taman Wawasan 5/1, Puchong, and the incident prompted Kinrara assemblyman Teresa Kok to call for a dialogue between hikers, the Forestry Department and UPM's Forestry Faculty.

While it is understandable that the public needs their recreational

space, but they must also understand why the UPM faculty is protective over the well-being of the forest.

Besides more than 800 students who use the forest as an external laboratory, the teaching staff use the forest to conduct research and allowing unrestricted, hence uncontrolled access to the forest not only leads to the degradation of the forest but could also affect research data.

Subang Jaya ended the year in the limelight with the sighting of a Virgin Mary image on one of the window panes at the Sime Darby Medical Centre.

Hundreds of Catholic devotees and curious onlookers flocked to the hospital to catch a glimpse of the "apparition" and the glass panes have since been moved to Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Klang.

Looking ahead, residents in Subang Jaya and Puchong could be dealing with more traffic diversions and lane closures as the LRT construction works go into full swing in 2013.