## Parking woes, illegal dumping near hospital

Board of visitors in Serdang seeks new minister's intervention to resolve issues

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THE board of visitors at Hospital Serdang wants the authorities to address the lack of parking space and an illegal dumpsite near the hospital.

Board secretary Liew Yew Fook said a piece of empty land located opposite the hospital had been used as a place to throw rubbish for at least half a year.

"Trucks come here late at night and dump all sorts of rubbish – food as well as construction and garden waste.

"Hospital patients and visitors have complained about the stench, and are worried that the dumpsite could become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests.

"Although there is a locked fence around the land, the lock has been broken, making it easy for anyone to trespass and dump rubbish," he said, adding that the land was more than 4ha.

Liew said the hospital's management and board had highlighted the matter to the site landowner Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), but no action was taken.

"On July 2, I also lodged a complaint with Sepang Municipal Council (MPSepang), the local authority in charge of the area, but was told that the council needs two weeks to investigate the matter," he said.

Liew added that they had requested UPM to allow the hospital to use the dumpsite land as a parking space for hospital visitors and staff due to the severe lack of parking space.

But their request was turned down by the university, citing it being a legal matter.

"Due to the lack of parking space, staff and visitors are forced to park along the Jalan Hospital Serdang main road. This can stretch up to 2km and spill onto the exit to the South Klang Valley Expressway (SKVE)," he said, adding that the parking problem had worsened with motorists resorting to double-parking.

Liew said the board had also submitted a proposal to the Health Ministry and the Prime Minister's Department-a few years ago to build a five-storey building with 2,000 parking bays in the hospital grounds.

"We have not received any reply on the proposal. We hope the new government and Health Minister Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad will look into the matter and take immediate action to address the lack of parking space," said Liew.

Meanwhile, UPM Industry and Community Relations deputy vicechancellor Prof Datuk Dr Renuganth Varatharajoo said despite their efforts to keep the empty area locked, the lock had been broken a few times.

"We alerted our security personnel on the matter and they will seal the entrance so that lorries cannot enter.

"We can only report to MPSepang if the illegal dumping activities continue, and hope they will take quick action on the matter," he said.

