

# Appeal to mayor regarding falling-tree incidents

THE recent spate of falling trees in Kuala Lumpur's city centre has shocked many, but the reaction from Kuala Lumpur (KL) City Hall and the Federal Territories (FT) minister to these occurrences is more bewildering.

Reports have indicated that the minister has ordered the immediate felling of "all high-risk trees". This is a knee-jerk reaction that lacks thoughtful consideration.

Over the past two years, numerous incidents of tree falls have been recorded in areas such as Kepong Baru, Segambut and Kepong Garden, primarily stemming from inadequate tree trimming practices.

The indiscriminate removal of lower branches has led to top-heavy growth, exacerbating the risk of collapses during heavy rainfall.

It is evident that the contractors employed by KL City Hall are not adhering to established trimming protocols established by its team of arborists.

KL City Hall personnel should inspect the trees after every trimming, but their presence at these locations is rarely seen.

My repeated attempts to address these concerns through KL City Hall's Adu@KL 2.0 platform have yielded no satisfactory responses.

Even personal visits to its offices have been met with dismissive instructions to submit formal complaints via written letters to the director. This level of service is unacceptable for a public institution entrusted with citizen welfare.

The FT Ministry and the mayor must engage in meaningful dialogue and devise a comprehensive plan to address the tree fall issue without compromising environmental integrity or public safety.

While tree removal may seem like a quick fix, it is not the best approach. Collaborating with organisations such as the Malaysian Nature Society can yield sustainable solutions that prioritise safety and conservation.

In light of these concerns, we request a response from either the mayor or the FT minister to this open letter, signalling a commitment to proactive and responsible governance in safeguarding our urban environment.

**Malar Balasingam**  
**Kepong Baru**