

Rooftops need care too for a clean Kuala Lumpur

Implement maintenance schedule and use automated systems to prevent buildup of dirt, algae

DURING breakfast recently at a hotel next to the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur, I noticed that the view from the 30th floor was distressing.

The roofs of several shophouses, mid-size office buildings and hotels were algae stained or had shrubs growing in some corners.

This neglected skyline is in contrast with the aspirations of Kuala Lumpur to provide a sustainable, healthy and liveable urban environment.

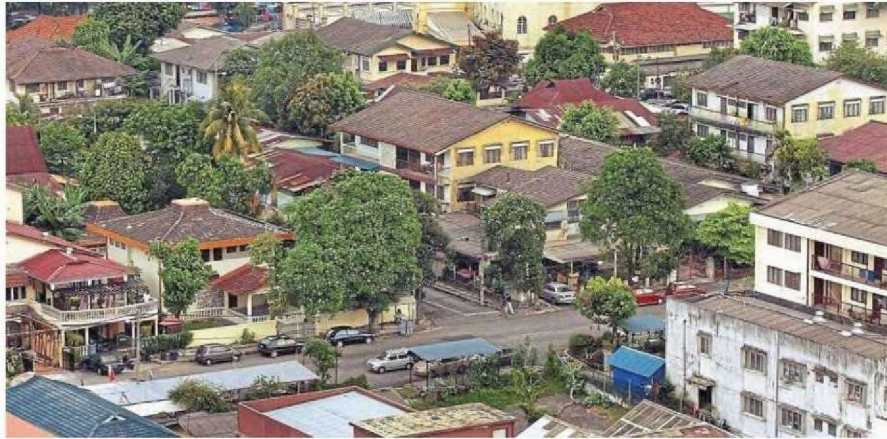
In contrast, during a visit to Singapore where I attended a friend's wedding and stayed in a hotel overlooking Serangoon Road, I was impressed by the immaculate condition of every structure which roofs were visible to anyone viewing from the 20th floor.

How can Singapore and Malaysia, sharing the same tropical climate, present such different visual narratives?

A conversation with a Singapore housing board officer revealed their practical strategies:

- > Regular cleaning schedules: Strict schedules prevent the buildup of dirt, debris and algae.

- > High-quality materials: Buildings use materials resistant to staining and discolouration.



An aerial view of some buildings in Kuala Lumpur. — Filepic

- > Professional cleaning services: Investment in professional cleaning ensure efficient maintenance.

- > Green initiatives: Rooftop gardens and green roofs enhance aesthetics and air quality.

- > Innovative technologies: Self-cleaning coatings and automated systems minimise manual cleaning.

- > Community involvement: Initiatives

encourage residents to participate in maintaining cleanliness.

- > Enforcement of regulations: Strict adherence to maintenance guidelines ensures clean roofs.

Why does Kuala Lumpur lag despite similar weather conditions?

Is it due to budget constraints, ignorance or waiting for national or international events to happen before

cleaning up?

We should learn from our neighbours. Adopting Singapore's strategies requires conviction, commitment and passion.

We, the citizens, too, must play a role by voicing concerns and providing feedback to ensure the authorities are accountable.

If we wish to avoid negative impressions from tourists, office workers or residents, city planners must address the state of our rooftops urgently.

Implementing practical strategies similar to Singapore's will help us achieve a truly clean and liveable city.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) should urgently address this issue.

Anyone on the 35th floor of the DBKL building at Jalan Raja Laut would undoubtedly notice the neglected roofs of the shophouses and buildings along the road, which perfectly illustrate the problem at hand.

Let's take action now to ensure our city is clean.

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