

Kindness kindles hope

ABOUT two weeks ago, my husband and I were travelling down a busy road in Kuala Lumpur when we had a flat tyre. What could have been a stressful and chaotic situation instead unfolded into a profound reminder of humanity's capacity for kindness, compassion and community spirit.

First, as we tried to navigate safely to the side of the road, the drivers around us exhibited a rare and heartwarming patience – not a single honk disrupted the moment.

Then the second kindness: We eventually pulled over near a DBKL (Kuala Lumpur City Hall) team at work among the roadside trees. Observing us from a distance, one of the crew members assessed the scene, then moved their lorry closer to our car, creating a protective barrier between us and the busy road.

Their supervisor, a soft-spoken Malaysian gentleman, approached us. Sensing that my husband might not be able to handle the situation – he had undergone a stent procedure in October – the supervisor instructed one of his team members to assist us. It felt like divine intervention, a moment when humanity truly shone through. We couldn't help but feel an immense



Helping hands: The DBKL team replacing the flat tyre on the letter writer's car.
— Photo provided

sense of gratitude.

As the crew worked on replacing the tyre, my husband, ever curious, struck up a conversation with the supervisor. He asked if they were cutting down the trees.

The supervisor's response was

both thoughtful and profound: "It is not wise to cut down these trees; they have been around longer than us. We just trim the branches." To me, it seemed as if his words carried a wisdom that echoed far beyond the moment.

What made this moment even more touching was the camaraderie that followed. The whole crew gathered round, and their smiles and willing hands spoke volumes. It was a moment of unity, where differences in nationality and background dissolved, leaving only the human instinct to help.

In a world often consumed by haste and self-interest, this incident stood as a beacon of hope. It was a reminder that our humanity is most evident in the small, selfless acts we perform for one another. These acts ripple outward, touching lives and fostering a community grounded in empathy and mutual respect.

Knowing that such kindness still exists makes me believe that 2025 holds the promise of being a better year for everyone.

As we drove away, our hearts were full. We left with more than just a fixed tyre; we carried with us a renewed faith in the goodness of people. It is this spirit – of generosity, humility and compassion – that will continue to define us, not only as Malaysians but also as human beings. Let us nurture it, celebrate it and, most importantly, pass it on to those who come after us.

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