

Settle the Sentul crematorium issue



IT'S tiring, talking about the same subject, with no solution at hand.

The inability to deliver a promise, in this case to get the long-overdue Sentul crematorium up and about, leaves us with no choice but to bring up the subject again.

It has become so ridiculous that there have been suggestions from Bandar Baru Sentul residents that we are as good as politicians in getting their heads scratched.

The politicians promise, we write. They don't deliver, and then make another promise, and we write again. In the end, nothing gets done.

Sincerely, we are as frustrated as the residents.

A problem with a simple solution,

really, that requires the authorities' assistance in constructing just a simple retaining wall and a bit of shelter at the rundown Sentul Crematorium so that bereaved family members of the deceased would be protected from the searing sun, or rain, while the neighbouring residents are spared the sight of bodies being openly burned and the smoke that comes with the ritual.

Simple, really. And yet, promises have been made for more than a year, and not fulfilled.

In May last year, the Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk M. Saravanan announced the formation of a crematorium committee that would comprise leaders from the Sikh, Hindu and Buddhist

communities in Sentul. May we ask what happened to the committee?

The epoch resurfaced yesterday with residents once again crying foul about unkept promises. This time it prompted a member of the MIC Youth wing, S. Subramaniam, to lead a group of disenchanted residents to mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail's office to submit a memorandum.

One was also handed over to the office of Saravanan, who had also said some time last year that the RM200,000 needed for the exercise was already in the bag and construction work would begin "in a week's time".

He later denied making the promise.

Saravanan subsequently said he was under the impression that the Sentul Crematorium Association had the funds and it only required City Hall approval.

However, after all the gaffes, Saravanan, who is also the MIC information chief, promised that the party would help out if the association had difficulty raising funds to modernise the crematorium.

Nicely buttered.

Yet, it has been many months and still the issue has not been resolved. Surely, there are enough big shots with enough money to help the poor folk out with RM200,000, and douse the burning issue once and for all...