

Local trees sturdier than imported ones

KUALA LUMPUR: Local authorities have been urged to give priority to planting local trees which are sturdier than imported ones and will not get uprooted easily.

Botanist emeritus professor Datuk Dr Mohamed Abdul Majid, former dean of Universiti Malaya's Faculty of Science, said imported trees are usually not resilient to local conditions and climate.

"Such trees are prone to infections. This is one of the reasons why their roots rot," he said, referring to the incident on Monday when a 130-year-old raintree fell near the KL City Centre in Jalan Ampang, injuring a couple.

Mohamed said trees with rotting roots will have brittle branches while the tree itself will die and be easily uprooted.

KL City Hall said the tree fell because some of its roots were rotten. Raintrees, which originated from South America, were brought to the peninsula in the late 1800s.