

'No factories can operate along S'gor main rivers'

THE state government will not compromise in relocating factories or demolishing them if the factories located near riverbanks are found to be contaminating rivers in Selangor.

New Village Development and Legalising of Factories Committee chairman Ean Yong Hian Wah said the state government would not allow factories to operate along the main rivers in Selangor to prevent contamination.

He said a task force comprising former army personnel and local enforcement had been set up to monitor the waterways of Selangor.

He also touched on the recent contamination of Sungai Semenyih that caused water supply disruption and left many residents all over Klang Valley without water for days.

"The Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ) had checked 35 premises along Sungai Semenyih and found eight unlicensed premises operating there," he said.

"To ensure Selangor's raw water source is protected, several suggestions were highlighted at the state executive council meeting.

"Besides stepping up enforcement along all rivers feeding water to treatment plants that supply water to consumers, more units



Kajang Municipal Council officers visiting the site of the factory in Jalan Sungai Lalang, where contamination from the factory had leaked into Sungai Semenyih. — filepic

should be set up for the purpose of testing water samples and relocating factories currently sited close to rivers, not just upstream but downstream too.

"If the relocation process is unable to be carried out, the factory owners must contribute towards a fund to build, manage and maintain a special facility to treat effluent waste.

"Closed-circuit television cameras must be installed along the river system to monitor the situation

and watch for illegal activities," said Ean Yong.

He said a survey by land office and local councils for the legalising of factories found a total of 2,978 illegal factories and the licence application for 1,087 of them were approved.

He said there was no inventory from other local councils with regard to factories near Sungai Selangor, adding that the numbers were still being collated.

Ean Yong was answering a ques-

tion posed by Yeo Bee Yin (DAP-Damansara Utama) who wanted to know how many factories were located along the banks of Sungai Selangor, Sungai Langat and Sungai Semenyih, and an additional question posed by Shuhaimi Shafiei (PKR-Sri Muda) who said the river contamination problem was becoming widespread and what was the state government doing to assure that a contamination case would not happen again.