

Don't clear the natural filters

I FIND it ironic that we intend to pump in RM903 million to clean up Sungai Skudai, Sungai Segget and the Tebrau Straits in view of the waterfront development under the Iskandar Development Region programme.

These rivers are fringed by mangroves and nipah trees which are a natural and water purifier. If development takes place, they will be cleared. Department of Environment guidelines state that factories, eateries and housing estates should not be built near rivers. How can we talk about loving our rivers while polluting them?

C.C.K.
University College of
Science and Technology
Kuala Terengganu



Keep development away from rivers.

Waste water

I REFER to the comments on river pollution in "Indah Water doing a good job" (NST,

Nov 6) by Michael D'Oliveiro.

Clearly, there has been misapprehension regarding the article "The rivers continue to die" (NST, Oct 30) as it by no means indicated any laxity

on the part of Indah Water treatment plants.

The article only focused on the sources of river pollution, of which one example was kitchen wastewater ending up in rivers.

Only new housing projects after 2003 are implementing the Road, Drainage and Building Act 1974 (Act 133), where kitchen pipes are linked to the sewer system. Housing projects before 2003 do not comply with this enactment and, thus, all domestic wastewater end up in the drainage system without treatment and goes straight into rivers.

P. AGAMUTHU
Institute of Biological
Sciences
Universiti Malaya