



Aerial view of the illegal dump behind Jalan Kampung in Kampung Baru Sungai Buloh that has left residents worried for more than two years. — filepics

By **PRIYA MENON**
priya@thestar.com.my

ILLEGAL dumps in Shah Alam will become a thing of the past if mayor Datuk Ahmad Zaharin Mohd Saad has his way.

He will spearhead a task force to be set up to put an end to illegal dumps. This will be done with help from external agencies.

“We will bring in all the relevant agencies including the land office, the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and the police to resolve this issue fast,” he added.

The task force will include several key departments in the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) including the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department, licensing, enforcement and legal departments as well as selected councillors.

The mayor hopes to come up with long-term measures to address the problem of illegal dumps.

There are currently 33 hotspots in the city spanning 290.3sq km that is divided into 56 sections, some of which are suburban areas including villages.

Ahmad Zaharin has been on his toes with the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department trying to clean up the illegal dumps that mushroomed over the last few years.

However, the mayor has had enough and is adamant to get the perpetrators out of his city.

Shah Alam is a favourite spot for waste disposers and lorry drivers to dump garbage because the area is wide and such activities go unnoticed for weeks.

He said operators look for locations hidden from public eye or along roads less travelled.

Among the highly sought parcels of land are land reserves under the purview of DID, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Public Works Department as well as abandoned and undeveloped private spaces.

Two of the biggest locations are in Section 32 and Kampung Baru Sungai Buloh.

The council through its Kota Kemuning branch office started cleaning up the land and are expected to complete works in a year.

“It is not easy for us to monitor all lands under our jurisdiction

Task force to target illegal dump operators

Team led by Shah Alam mayor set to come up with long-term measures to address problem



Ahmad Zaharin (yellow cap) has been on his toes with the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department cleaning up these illegal dumps that have mushroomed over the last few years.

especially if we do not own it,” said Ahmad Zaharin.

“There are many procedures to follow and departments to deal with when an illegal dump is found.

“This problem was one of the reasons why we had to set up the task force. It would be a lot easier if everyone can manage their own land.”

The council addressed the problem with 90% of the cases being resolved, he added.

Snooping and conducting regular checks at familiar illegal dumps kept the council team busy.

“We even caught several lorry drivers and seized their vehicles and issued compounds. We are not taking this lightly,” he stressed.

The city council is now building

up a case to charge the operators in court and spending a lot of money to clear up the mess created by them.

Next in the pipeline is the installation of the mobile closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV) at hotspots as announced last year.

The cameras will be set up by the end of May and will be used as evidence to charge the suspects in court.

“We cannot station our officers at the locations indefinitely.

“These cameras will enable us to monitor the sites without wasting our resources and manpower,” said Ahmad Zaharin.

The move was lauded by residents in Kampung Baru Sungai Buloh who had been living with the stench from a dump in their

backyard, off Jalan Kampung.

Located by the river bend, the height of the rubbish mound increased since *StarMetro* first visited in February last year.

The dumpsite, located on TNB reserve while the river reserve is under DID.

The mountain of garbage reached the same height of buildings around it.

To make matters worse, operators burned rubbish, causing acrid smoke to encircle the neighbourhood.

“We just want this to end, the stench is unbearable and our workers fall ill all the time.

“Now, we have to bear with the smoke and I don’t think we can stand it any longer,” said factory operator Tan Bee Hong.