

Clean rivers start with markets

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KUALA LUMPUR: The cleaning up of rivers for the city's River of Life (RoL) project will start with the building of wastewater treatment plants at wet market sites in Chow Kit, Pudu, Sentul, Selayang and Air Panas next year.

The projects will be undertaken by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) at these sites, which are notorious for their heaps of rubbish and pollutants.

"The wastewater plants will be

built at these five oldest wet markets in the Klang Valley," said DID hydrology and water resources director Datuk Lim Chow Hock.

Lim said wet markets like the Pudu wet market, which has been around for 60 years, were the main contributors of solid waste in the Klang Valley due to its size and the lack of proper garbage disposal facilities.

"The system for solid waste collection in the areas is not perfect as the garbage collections and transportation facilities available have been around for so many years and

can no longer cope with current needs.

"The waste from the animals they slaughter and other wastes are simply dumped into the drains."

Thus, treatment plants would help solve these problems and help clean up the areas, he added.

"We will start building the plants next year and will expand to the other areas as well once the main five have been built.

"We also plan to educate stall owners to keep up with the standard of hygiene set by the authorities."

Lim said owners or traders must

comply with the requirements should they want to continue operating their business.

He also said DID was working with the local authorities to make it compulsory for eateries and restaurant owners in the Klang Valley to install individual grease traps at their respective premises.

"These grease traps would help trap the oil and grease, which is one of the main sources of pollutants in our rivers," he said.

The RoL is an entry-point project identified in the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley National Key

Economic Areas (NKEA) under the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP).

It is divided into three components — river cleaning, river master planning and beautification and river development.

They cover the key heritage sites and buildings such as Dataran Merdeka, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, Central Market, Petaling Street and Masjid Jamek.

The rehabilitation and beautification works would cover a total of 10.7km stretch of the Klang and Gombak rivers.