

# 60 tonnes of rubbish dumped into Sungai Klang daily

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Sixty tonnes of trash. Enough to fill 75 Kelisa cars. This is how much rubbish the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) scoops out of the Sungai Klang every day.

When it rains, says DID director-general Datuk Keizrul Abdullah, it goes up to 80 tonnes, the amount of rubbish cleared from a river in Alor Star in one month.

"The amount of rubbish dumped into the waterways is just staggering, costing taxpayers millions," he said.

"The money can be put to better use, such as building schools and providing better health care."

Keizrul added it was not impossible to clean up even the infamous Sungai Klang.

A clean Sungai Klang would also solve some of the Klang Valley's water woes.

"There is enough water there. Instead of buying water from elsewhere, give me the money to clean up the river," he said, adding that people would not be so quick to pollute the river if they knew it was a source of drinking water.

Keizrul acknowledged that enforcement was important, but said it was expensive. Strict en-

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forcement would mean 24-hour  
patrols of the country's 189 river  
basins and 35,000km of rivers.

"We should have a system whereby people can help to monitor rivers and all the DID has to do is conduct spot checks."

To promote self-enforcement, Keizrul explained what authorities in Europe have done to protect the Rhine.

"They have limited what can be expelled into the river and made it compulsory for factories along the river to take their water downstream."

Keizrul said it is important to take care of rivers.

"When you pollute the rivers, you are telling the world that Malaysians are dirty people. It reflects badly on us."