

Clogged river tributary and drug haunt

Stench and abandoned house in Taman Sri Muda add to residents' woes



Clogged up: The blue metal drums stretching across the river have stopped a vast amount of garbage and has not been cleared regularly.

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Photos by ROHAIZAT DARUS

RESIDENTS of Jalan Muhibah 25/7 in Taman Sri Muda, Shah Alam, have been putting up with the stench coming from a clogged river tributary near their homes.

An uncleared log boom is the cause of the problem. It has also enabled scavengers to collect recyclable materials that ended up floating nearby.

A resident, who identified himself only as Chandran, said he had seen people coming on bicycles and motorcycles to collect recyclable items such as plastic bottles and aluminium cans from the site.

"The stench is worse during a downpour when the river overflows and spills rubbish onto the road," said the Taman Sri Muda resident of 25 years.

He said the situation was made worse by a collapsed drain that could not channel the high volume of water during a downpour.

Chandran also highlighted an abandoned and unkempt corner house in Jalan Muhibah 25/7 that was a cause for concern among the residents.

"The house was abandoned about four years ago after the occupants left. It has since become a haunt for drug addicts almost every night," he said.

"The house next to the abandoned property has been broken into several times. We believe it is the work of drug addicts looking for cash and valuables," he said.

Although complaints have been lodged with the police, Chandran said the police patrols were only done during the day when there was no one in the abandoned house.

"Several manhole covers have also gone missing. Erratic power supply to streetlights along Jalan Muhibah 25/7 is another problem we are facing," he said.

Chandran said he and his neighbours had complained about the clogged river tributary, abandoned house and other issues to the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) but no action had been taken.



Width of one pen: Chandran highlighting how narrow the collapsed drain has become after it was damaged by numerous heavy vehicles that were parked next to the site.

Another resident, who identified himself as Gerard, urged the council to buck up and clean up the neighbourhood soon.

MBSA corporate communications deputy director Shahrin Ahmad said the waste traps or log booms were installed by the Irrigation and Drainage Department (DID).

"The log booms prevent large pieces of garbage waste from entering the nearby retention pond. As the matter comes under DID, we will inform them to clear the garbage soon," he said.

On the abandoned house, Shahrin said the MBSA would serve a notice to the house owner to clean up the area.

"If the owner fails to take action or cannot be traced, MBSA will clean it," he said, adding that the issue of drug addicts was a matter for the police to deal with.