

Still a river of rubbish

Public has yet to see the effects of various rehab programmes planned for Klang River

FOR the last three decades, we have been reading about how millions are spent to clean-up and beautify the 120km-long Klang River — the latest being two years ago under the Greater KL programme by the Federal Government.

The project known as “River of Life”, covers beautification works and a development along the Klang River.

It was also reported that a rail system would be built along the river from Klang and Hulu Klang, a move that will help ease traffic congestion in the Klang Valley.

The Selangor Government had also announced beautification programmes for the river which would cost the state a pretty penny or two.

Mentri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim, who spoke at great length regarding the proposed Klang River rehabilitation programme, said the project would be carried out over a period of a period of five years and a task force had identified four companies that would be taking part in the project.

I recall that the MB had said a lot of wonderful things including a programme that was aimed at turning the polluted river into a source for clean drinking water.

He said a Korean company was among the four chosen for the project and the company had successfully cleaned up a polluted river



in Seoul, South Korea and turned it into a source for clean water supply.

Another exciting announcement that caught my attention was that the river would be turned into a source of transportation — cruise service — between Klang and Kuala Lumpur. This was followed with reports that Selangor was in the midst of identifying the right company or partner to initiate the programme.

Despite the wonderful talk, the public has yet to see a tangible effect on the still-murky river.

The politicians had been trying to convince us that the Klang River will be transformed into something resembling the River Thames in London.

After all these years, many residents are doubting what had been said in regards to the river beautification programme.

Judging from the current filth and condition of the river, the public should not be blamed for being sceptical.

How else could one feel when

nothing seemed to have taken place?

The people from Klang and Shah Alam have gotten used to seeing the river filled with rubbish.

While Shah Alam residents are exposed to the undesirable sight of floating trash from a bridge in Taman Sri Muda, the Klangites are also subjected to a dirty river as they drive along the Jambatan Kota, Jambatan Musaeddin and Connaught Bridge.

Klang residents had expressed their displeasure over the presence of the huge volume of trash in the river as it gave a negative image of the royal town.

While we are still hoping for the river beautification programme to take off, the question is why are the authorities not doing anything to prevent domestic and industrial waste from being dumped into the river.

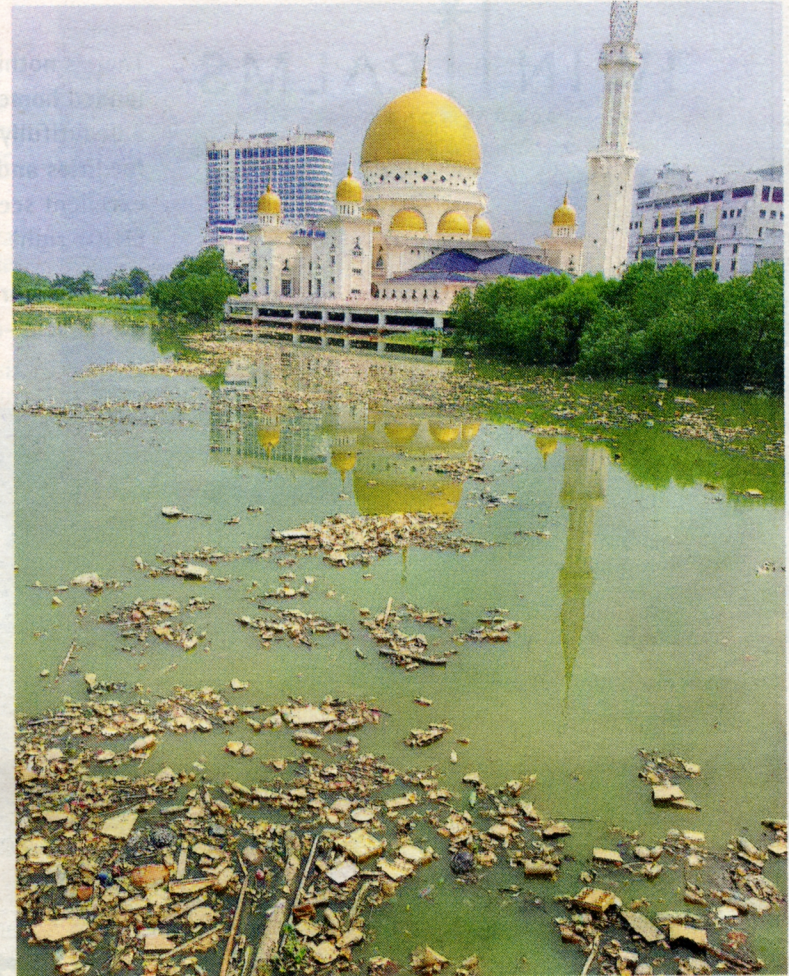
Where are the enforcement authorities?

Why are the authorities not stopping the culprits from polluting the river?

For now, the end result of the rehabilitation programme seemed distant.

I think it is important that the authorities get their act together to prevent the rampant waste dumping before they can even think about cleaning it up.

Let us be practical and do it step-by-step.



Time to clean it up: The dirty Klang River has marred the image of the town.