

Complaints falling on deaf ears

Taman Kinrara residents desperately seeking help over garbage problem

Story and photo by VINCENT TAN

vincent.tan@thestar.com.my

THE mounting garbage problem on the Petaling Jaya side of the Klang river, opposite Section 5 of Taman Kinrara in Puchong, has become so serious that Taman Kinrara residents have called on Puchong parliamentary BN coordinator Datuk Loo Yeng Peng to help solve it.

They have also sought the help of Kinrara BN liaison officer Datuk Wong Hock Aun over the issue, which was first highlighted in a *StarMetro* report "Stop the open burning" on May 2.

The residents said they had also made several complaints to the local authorities.

"This problem has been going on for the past two years," said a resident Mohd Nazir Yahya, 58.

"I managed to get Petaling Jaya deputy mayor Puasa Md Taib to visit and see for himself. We also called the Selangor Water Management Board (LUAS), the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (JPS), but nothing has been done so far," said Mohd Nazir.

Ramesh Sivananthan, chairman of Sri Nagamuthu Mariamman temple nearby, said the odour of burning rubbish from the opposite banks could be very strong

at times, even at night.

"Usually, the lorries come at night. The drivers will first make sure no one is around before dumping their loads."

"You can see scavengers going through the rubbish for scrap metal, or they burn the old circuit boards to get the precious metals.

"We tried going over to ask them to stop but they carried on," said Ramesh.

Loo said the local authorities should be more vigilant in preventing illegal dumping.

"On top of the poor enforcement, the plight of the residents are not attended to," he said.

He added that the area across Section 5, Taman Kinrara was Taman Medan.

"Besides the foul smell and unsightliness, it also directly pollutes the Klang river where all the rubbish flows into.

In 2008, Selangor Mentri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim said the state would allocate RM10bil to clean and manage the rivers in Selangor. But the situation has not improved. In fact, it is now worse," said Loo.

Loo added that he had been informed by residents it was not just the small lorries dumping garbage there, but also the compactor trucks.



Solve it please: Ramesh (right) explaining the situation to Loo (second from left). A mound of uncollected rubbish can be seen in the background on the opposite bank.