

RM500mil can rejuvenate Klang River

THE Klang Valley is one of the most densely populated regions in Southeast Asia. The latest census shows that it has a population of over four million residents.

This intense growth in population focused in this region not only requires vast development in infrastructure, housing development and socio-economic planning but also a proper urban sanitation system.

Its effects can be seen in disasters such as floods in urban areas where population and built-up area are dense such as in the Klang Valley.

The Klang River which is the 'artery' of the Klang Valley is one of the most polluted rivers in Malaysia. Heavy development has narrowed certain stretches of the river until it resembles a large storm drain.

Further, the river also collects large amount of solid waste along its 120km route.

Latest statistics show that the river collects more than 77,000 tons of solid waste per annum.

This contributes to flash floods especially after heavy rain.

In recent years, the relevant authorities have implemented various river rehabilitation programmes and campaigns such as '*Cintailah Sungai Kita*' and '*River of Life*'.

However, public awareness has been below satisfactory.

The river is still heavily polluted by improper discharges such as domestic waste, livestock waste and industrial waste.

Nevertheless, it's believed that positive scenario can be created through the RM500mil allocated for the '*River of Life*' project to rejuvenate the Klang River.

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