

Pond becomes a dump and residents are fuming

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TWO MONTHS and there is still no action. So, residents in Bukit Rahman Putra 7/3 in Sungai Buloh have begun to get restless.

Their complaint is a privately owned pond in Jalan BRP7/3 that has no water, but rubbish, mostly construction waste.

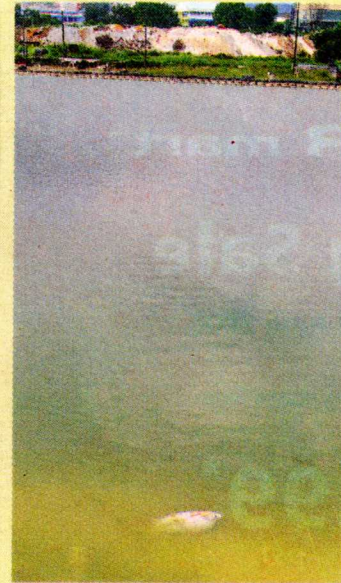
Residents are concerned that the pond on Malay reserve land is not just an eyesore, but an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Following complaints from the residents, the Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) blocked the entrance to the pond with earth and soil. But, a bulldozer cleared these away and garbage trucks were back at the scene to dump rubbish and construction waste. There were also discarded furniture and plastic bags.

The pond-cum-dump is only about a 100m from a row of houses.

Last Friday, three officers from the Selangor Department of Environment visited the site and said MPS ought to take action, and quickly.

Bukit Rahman Putra Gerakan branch chief Lee Hui Seng said the dump, about the size of a football



A dead fish in another pond near the dump could be a sign that toxic waste is also being discarded there.

field, would be a main contributor to the dengue menace in the area.

"Added to this, the environment in the vicinity has been badly affected," he said.

"I wonder if it is legal for an operator to dump rubbish and

construction waste on privately owned land or pond."

If not, said Lee, the council should take legal action against them.

A resident, Allan Yeap, who has been living in BRP 7/3 for more than seven years, said there was a pungent smell emitted from the pond on certain days.

"It could be toxic," said the 42-year-old. "And, even mosquitoes and flies have begun to come to our houses more often these days."

Yeap said MPS practised double standards.

"It is heavy penalty for us if we are late in paying our assessment fees," he said. "But, the illegal dumping of rubbish has been going on for months and no action has been taken, inconveniencing the people.

"Why then must we pay our fees at all?"

Another resident, Vincent Wong, who is also Bukit Rahman Putra Gerakan committee member, claimed the pungent smell was worse on rainy days.

MPS president Zainal Abidin Azim said he would visit the site today.

"If the dump is illegal, we'll close it down," he said.



They have found a convenient place to dump waste even if it means at the people's expense.