

Illegal rubbish dump the cause of soil erosion



Extent of damage: Nor Hisham (left) with officers from Gombak District and Land Office, Selayang Municipal Council, Department of Irrigation and Drainage and Public Works Department at the site.

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Photo by **FAIHAN GHANI**

RECENT heavy rainfall and the weight of an illegal rubbish dump have caused soil erosion in Taman Seri Gombak and this has affected Sungai Chinchin, said Gombak district officer Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan.

According to residents, the dumpsite on a 1.05ha piece of land has been in existence since 2011.

The rubbish not only include domestic waste but also construction materials.

"Residents alerted us that the erosion has affected up to 200m of the slope," said Nor Hisham.

"The land belongs to five individuals and its status is for agriculture use.

"We will issue a notice under 7A (subsection 128) of the National Land Code to the owners today.

"The landowners have three months to take remedial action and change the status of the land. If they fail to do so, the land will be seized," he said yesterday, adding that they are allowed to appeal.

Following complaints, Nor Hisham, along with officers from Selayang Municipal Council (MPS), Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), Public Works Department (PWD) as well as Gombak Land Office visited the site.

He said that because of the erosion, barely any water was flowing in Sungai Chinchin.

"Now Sungai Chinchin has become a drain rather than a river," he said, adding that MPS will cordon off the area with yellow tape while PWD will check on the erosion and DID will look into ways to save the river.

"MPS and Kampung Sungai Chinchin village head Khazari Mat, 60, will monitor the area," he said.

Khazari said the 300 residents in the area were worried about the situation, adding that a lot more lorries filled with rubbish were seen coming into the village lately.

He said residents also feared that the site would become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

"We hope authorities will take immediate action to stop the illegal activities," he said.