

# An open dirty secret

Unscrupulous parties have been using Sungai Kelang to dump garbage

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IT'S a decade-old problem — domestic and construction waste being dumped into Sungai Kelang from the Petaling Jaya Selatan (PJS) side of the river.

The authorities have not only turned a blind eye to the situation; they are also passing the buck on which agency should take action.

Dominic Khoo, who lives in Puchong, said he was shocked when he first witnessed the daily dumping.

"Lorries dump the waste at the riverbank.

"The rubbish is then dispersed into the river by cranes. It is a heart-breaking sight," he said.

Khoo has lodged several complaints with the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) to no avail.

"I have emailed several authorities. All I receive is a thank you note!

"I also forwarded the email to Puchong MP Gobind Singh Deo but nothing has been done.

"The dumping still continues," he said.

*StarMetro* got a bird's eye view of the problem from a condo located

in Jalan Pipit, Puchong.

Mountains of rubbish were visible at the riverbank. Scavengers were also seen burning tyres and other items at the site.

A *StarMetro* reader who lives in PJS 3, Joseph Nathan, said two routes led to the riverbank from PJS3 and PJS4.

One route passes the Seri Manja flats in PJS3/40.

Another is through Taman Dato' Harun in PJS 4.

Joseph said the dumping mostly took place at night or during the wee hours of the morning, although sometimes it occurred in broad daylight.

About 40 lorries can be seen

going in and out of the site daily.

There are people guarding the entrance to these areas, claimed Nathan.

He added that a gate was built at the entrance to the location.

"The lorries carting the waste will usually stop at Taman Perangsang and dispose the waste there.

"Scavengers will then salvage items that can be recycled. The rest is dumped into the river.

"This has been happening for almost 10 years. Doesn't the government want to catch the culprits and put a stop to it?", he asked, adding that the Malaysian

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**Saddening:** Rubbish is seen floating along the Klang River.

## Illegal dumping damages private property

ILLEGAL dumping by private contractors in the Seri Petaling area are not only an eyesore, the perpetrators have damaged public property along Jalan 2/149 too.

Seri Petaling Residents Association committee member Ng See Eng said this had been going on for a few years.

"These dumpsites are located

either by the roadside or slightly away from the road.

"The waste is typically construction debris," he said, adding that there were five such locations.

Some of the kerbs have been damaged by the dumping probably due to heavy vehicles going over them.

Two of the dumping sites are on

service roads in closed-off areas.

One of the gates leading to the service road by a monsoon drain is broken and the drain wall partially destroyed while another site is along a service road leading to a water tank and pump house.

Ng said that complaints to Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) would be directed to Alam Flora, which

would then clean up the areas.

"I was told that the expressway concessionaire which built this road has yet to hand it over to DBKL.

"As such no one is taking responsibility to maintain the area," he said.

The dumping continues barely a week after the sites are cleared, he added.



# Sungai Kelang has suffered a decade of abuse

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Anti-Corruption Commission should investigate.

Joseph claimed that recently, enforcement officers visited the site and had to break the gate to the entrance to gain entry, adding that they looked like they were from the Land Office.

"Within a few days, the gates were rebuilt and it is business as usual," he said.

A spokesman from the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) said the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) should ensure there was no dumping of waste into the river.

A source from DID however, said it was MBPJ's responsibility.

"MBPJ must ensure illegal



activities do not take place in places under its jurisdiction.

"DID only looks into issues such as flooding," he said.

Luas could not be reached for comment.

State executive councillor for Tourism, Consumer Affairs and Environment, Elizabeth Wong said it was the duty of MBPJ to put a stop to illegal dumping as rubbish disposal was under the local councils.

"A joint operation headed by MBPJ and including personnel from relevant agencies such as the Land Office and DID, will prevent further encroachment.

"A meeting was chaired by the State Secretary in December over the issue and a clean-up has been planned in the affected areas.

"Operations have already begun in selected areas last month," said Wong in a text message to *StarMetro*.

1 A mountain of rubbish piled at a location on the Puchong side of Sungai Kelang. This photo was taken from a condo in Jalan Pipit.

2 Trash being burned at the dumpsite.

3 Rubbish clearly visible along the stretches of the river.

— Photos by  
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