

Warned not to interfere

River polluters threaten council officers when they investigate site, says source



By **SHEILA SRI PRIYA**
sheilasripriya@thestar.com.my

ASOURCE at the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) said the authorities were scared to put a stop to the illegal dumping of waste into Sungai Kelang as they have been threatened.

The source added that they had been warned by those conducting the illegal activity to "not mess" with them.

It is learnt the land where domestic and construction waste is being dumped from the Petaling Jaya Selatan (PJS) side of the river was privately owned.

StarMetro on Tuesday exposed the illegal dumping of waste in the river.

Up to 40 lorries can be seen going into the area daily for over a decade.

The authorities have been blamed for passing the buck and not taking action on the matter.

The source claimed they were chased away and barred from taking photographs of the illegal activities.

The source also lamented that Luas had not been cooperative over the issue.

"When MBPJ calls Luas for meetings, they do not attend.

"We need direction from the Land Office and the Selangor Water Management Authority (Luas) on how to address the issue," said the source, adding MBPJ had in the past carried out cleaning activities at the river.

A Subang Jaya Municipal Council spokesman said only the Land Office could comment on the issue.

Netizens have taken to social media to vent their frustration over the lack of enforcement.



Shameful: Unscrupulous parties have been dumping construction and domestic waste into Sungai Kelang.

StarMetro reader Loke Poh Lin hopes environmental groups will put pressure on the authorities to take action.

"It has been over 10 years and the authorities cannot do anything. What a shame," she said.

Another reader, Adrian Yeo commented that "rivers and rubbish" are both under the state's jurisdiction.

Jason Kay said the culprits must be nabbed and prosecuted.

Vijaya Kumari said the lorry drivers were paid to dispose the rubbish.

"However, they take the easy way out by dumping the rubbish in any vacant spot," she added.

Azeez Awol said illegal dumping was happening "everywhere" especially in new hous-

ing areas.

"If the authorities are serious about stemming this problem, they should check where new projects are being developed.

"The construction waste is being dumped into the river."

Jessica Teng is surprised that illegal activities are taking place in areas such as Puchong and Petaling Jaya.