

Too lenient to end illegal dumping

Two-week clean-up of riverbank to start on May 19

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IT WILL cost millions of ringgit to clear rubbish dumped in rivers by unscrupulous people but the penalty imposed on the culprit is only RM500.

Even after the matter is taken to court, the maximum fine that can be imposed is RM2,000.

These were revealed during a meeting at the Petaling District Land Office last Friday to discuss illegal dumping of rubbish in the Klang River.

At the meeting, a Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) spokesman

said they could compound a vehicle owner only if residents sent them images of the illegal activity complete with the vehicle registration number.

Others present at the meeting were representatives from the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), Penchala fire station and Taman Medan assemblyman Haniza Talha.

It was also decided that all the relevant authorities would join forces to clear the waste dumped on the Petaling Jaya side of the riverbank, for two weeks starting May 19.

The clean-up was also aimed at putting out the continuous peat fire that had gone on for over a month, mostly in Taman Sri Manja in PJS3.

A land office spokesman said the



Stop the pollution: Illegal dumping on the banks of the Klang River has led to peat fires. — Filepic.

relevant authorities would embark on a large scale cleaning process while the firemen would put out the peat fire.

"We will form a temporary operation base at Jalan PJS3 during the clean-up period.

"We will also take all safety precautions and engage the police to ensure the cleaning process runs smoothly," he said.

StarMetro first reported on the issue of waste dumping based on a public tip-off in February.

The problem that began over 10 years ago had escalated to peat fires.

The affected residents in the neighbourhood had pressed for the authorities to address the problem quickly.

Although baffled by the lenient penalty imposed on the culprits, Haniza asked that the source of the problem be addressed.

"These activities have led to continuous peat fires and other environmental problems.

"We need to look at ways to curb the problem from recurring. Severe punishment must be imposed to ensure it does not happen again," she said.

She added that the entrance to the dumping ground should be sealed once the area was cleared and that the idle land should be put to good use later.

Recalling MBPJ's idea to turn some parts of the riverbank for recreational use, Hanizah hopes it would take place soon.