

Cleaning project halted

Gombak villagers living on river reserve to be relocated

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THE cleaning of polluted rivers under the River of Life (RoL) project has been delayed because the work on the retention pond project in Kampung Puah, Gombak had to be stopped.

Federal Territories Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Adnan Md Ikhsan said the project was almost completed but the pond needed to be expanded further.

"However, we need to get the 15 families in the village to relocate so that the Puah Pond can be made bigger," he said during a briefing on the RoL for the media at Menara DBKL in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said Kampung Puah was a heritage village and the authorities need to redevelop the area too.

"The villagers will have to move out for this to happen.

"We have offered them alternative housing in PPR Bukit Jalil," said Ahmad Phesal, adding that he would be meeting them on June 4 regarding the matter.

"The villagers are staying on

the river reserve and we need to clear the area for the RoL project," he added.

Meanwhile, Adnan said the project was expected to be completed within schedule by 2020.

"It is 41% complete. We are just 2% behind schedule and we should see an improvement in the water quality of rivers as early as 2017," he said.

A total of RM2.98bil is being invested to clean up the 110km stretch of the Sungai Kelang to raise the water quality from its current Class III and Class IV (not suitable for bodily contact) to Class IIB (suitable for bodily contact and recreation).

The RoL project is part of the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley National Key Economic Area (NKEA) to transform Sungai Kelang and Sungai Gombak into a waterfront.

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– DATUK SERI AHMAD PHEMAL TALIB



1 The River of Life beautification project aims to transform Sungai Kelang and Sungai Gombak into a waterfront. – filepic

2 Ahmad Phesal (left) and Adnan at the press conference.