

No bonus in flowing into city

Sungai Bunus suffocates from huge amount of garbage and industrial effluents



Stories by **BAVANI M.**
bavanim@thestar.com.my

SUNGAI Bunus in Kuala Lumpur flows past Kampung Baru, Jalan Semarak, and parts of Setapak.

This tributary of Sungai Kelang is notorious for being one of the most polluted rivers in the city.

The river is categorised as Class IV-V. Class I is pristine and suitable for drinking while Class IV and V are very polluted and not suitable for bodily contact or recreation purposes.

The main culprits contributing to the pollution of Sungai Bunus according to studies done by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) are those who live and work near the area.

They include the local communities, operators of food outlets,

workshops, wet and night markets, as well as street hawkers, institutions, industries, corporations and developers who discharge waste into the river.

According to a DID study, about 500 tonnes of waste is disposed of daily in the Bunus basin alone.

DID river basin and coastal zone management director Datuk Lim Chow Hock said the discharge of untreated domestic and industrial effluents had severely affected the quality of rivers in the Klang Valley.

Major polluters

The Sungai Bunus basin (*see map*) is located within the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) administrative area.

"The main pollutants of Sungai Bunus comprise mainly waste water discharged from food outlets, oil and grease from workshops, as well as residential sewage, sullage and rubbish," Lim said.



Dirty: A device used to trap rubbish in rivers.

"The river has become like a 'drain' to most people. In fact, out of 1,059 people surveyed living in the Bunus River basin, 52% said they were not aware that the drain behind their houses was a river, Sungai Bunus, and of those who were aware, 57% felt the river was very dirty," he said.

Last month, Federal Territories Ministry secretary-general Datuk

Adnan Md Ikhsan revealed that rivers alone contributed 10% of the total amount of garbage collected by City Hall every year.

Adnan said 25,000 tonnes of garbage were collected in the Klang River basin each year and that millions were being spent on clean-up efforts.

> SEE NEXT PAGE