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Sg Bunus next on clean-up list

DBKL aims to reduce its Class 3 pollution level

THE River of Life Outreach Programme has entered the second phase, which will cover the Sungai Bunus river basin.

In the first phase, the programme focused on Sungai Kelang.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib said that under the outreach programme, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) would create awareness on cleaning and maintaining rivers in the Federal Territory.

Sungai Bunus, which stretches up to 17.5km, is considered a Class III river, which is polluted.

"We are aiming to change its condition and bring it up to Class IIb, which means the water will be suitable for recreational purposes and water life," Ahmad Phesal said after launching the Sungai Bunus Carnival 2014 in conjunction with World River Day 2014 at Taman Kejiranan Ayer Panas.

He also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Local Agenda 21 Kuala Lumpur (DBKL), the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and partners.

The partners include residents' associations in the area such as Taman Bunga Raya Residents' Association, the Armed Forces and higher learning institutions such as Tunku Abdul Rahman University College.

"They will work with DBKL and DID on community programmes, awareness campaigns and activities to spread the message about the importance of taking care of our rivers.

"They will also be part of the planning and execution of the pro-

grammes," explained the mayor.

Ahmad Phesal said Sungai Bunus, located within Kuala Lumpur's borders, was important as its upstream portion extended through Wangsa Maju and it joined up with Sungai Kelang at Jalan Munshi Abdullah.

It is within the areas of important landmarks such as Jalan Raja Bot (Chow Kit) Market, National Heart Institute, National Library, Pulapol and Taman Titiwangsa.

Ahmad Phesal said that under phase two of the River of Life Outreach Programme, four pioneer

projects had been introduced with the slogan "River for your life".

He said the catchphrase was to remind the public and other stakeholders that it was every citizen's duty to take care of and appreciate the rivers.

The projects include a river carnival, an urban river awareness programme called "Hidden River" and an education centre on rivers.

Ahmad Phesal highlighted one of the findings from a survey conducted among people living near rivers.

"Of the 1,059 people inter-

viewed, 52% said they did not know the location of the river they were living near to," he said.

DID River Basin Management Division director Datuk Hanapi Mohamad Noor said some of the initiatives that the department undertook to improve the quality of water in Sungai Bunus included installing 498 gross pollution traps, which will trap rubbish before it entered the river.

"We are also building five wastewater treatment plants near wet markets. Four of them are already in place," he said.



Beautification programme: Ahmad Phesal (seated centre) signing the MoU for River Of Life. Standing are (from right) Alam Flora chief executive officer Mohd Zain Hassan and Hanapi (white shirt).