

Don't use them as dumping ground

THAT the rivers in this country are dying due to pollution is a foregone conclusion ("Rivers in peril" — NST, Oct 30).

This will be the situation so long as people and factories along river banks treat them as dumping grounds and as open sewers. Gone are the days when one could swim in pristine rivers as most of them, especially those in the

city, now look like open sewers with all the rubbish thrown in.

Even the quality of our drinking water will be compromised if this problem persists. As long as our citizens do not appreciate our natural heritage and treat our rivers with respect, taxpayers' money will literally go down the rivers in trying to rehabilitate them.

Factories and abattoirs should be banned from operating along river banks and our enforcement officers should be proactive in prosecuting those who pollute our rivers.

This will be a lesson to others to not take the rehabilitation of our rivers lightly.

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This stretch of Sungai Gombak in Kuala Lumpur is more an open sewer than a river.