NST 03/11/06 -

Give agencies enough funds

IT is high time the government pumped in additional funds into Ninth Malaysia Plan projects to clean and protect our rivers. More funds should be allocated for this purposes in subsequent development plans.

The Budget allocation for the "Love Our River" campaign is sufficient only for beautifying areas around river banks and putting up billboards.

The problem that needs to be addressed is the chemical pollutants and rubbish in rivers caused by development activities, wet markets, industries, squatters and others.

Our leaders can only make comments about the worsening condition of our rivers while no serious effort is made to support the relevant agencies financially.

We have researchers and experts whom the government can mobilise to find ways to clean and protect our rivers.

Why do we need to engage foreigners to study our rivers? How many studies do we need to conduct?

We have mega-projects like the Iskandar Development Region in south Johor and the authority is even dreaming of a Disneyland there, but having such projects is only a mockery if we have to bear the stench from Sungai Segget or Sungai Danga.

NORMAH MUSTAFFA
Kuala Lumpur

High cost

CLEAN rivers in our country are shrinking in numbers due to the dumping by factories, abattoirs and irresponsible citizens along Sungai Gombak, Sungai Langat and Sungai Selangor.

Now I understand why Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas) is hoping to implement the 15 per cent tariff hike in Selangor, Putrajaya and Kuala Lumpur.

Beautification projects mean nothing if the people do not mend their ways and stop polluting rivers.

It has its reason to do so and has repeatedly stressed that the cost of processing raw water has risen tremendously due to poor civic consciousness and couldn't-care-less attitude of the public.

A Universiti Malaya lecturer told a symposium recently that to clean and maintain Sungai Langat alone might cost about RM20 million annually.

So it is high time we mended our ways and use our water resources wisely.

MOHD AZAD
Selangor