

RM1.2 million to upgrade Kundang landfill

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kundang landfill in Rawang is being upgraded at a cost of RM1.2 million, to contain the flow of leachate and reduce the risk of environmental pollution.

The upgrading work is expected to be completed within the next couple of months.

In a statement issued yesterday, Alam Flora Sdn Bhd, which manages the landfill, said the upgrading work by a contractor appointed by the Majlis Perbandaran Selayang (MPS) began in February and is scheduled to be completed by June.

The company said this in response to *The Malay Mail* report on Tuesday, highlighting the problem of leachate from the dumpsite, flowing into the adjacent Sungai Air Hitam.

The river which flows into Sungai Kundang and Sungai Selangor is being polluted by a thick black liquid from the 17-hectare dumpsite.

A reader, I. Senthilkumar, who is also a civil engineer,

By P. SELVARANI

claimed the leachate was flowing into the river because the dumpsite "may not have been well-lined."

He said the base of the dumpsite had to be properly lined and pipes installed to drain the leachate away for treatment, prior to its release into the river.

He also said that if the untreated leachate flowed into the river, it would pose a danger to the public as the ammonia content was high.

Alam Flora corporate communications division senior manager Ravindran Raman Kutty said the upgrading work included:

- The safety closure of the closed cell located near Sungai Air Hitam;
- The construction of a waste containment berm (artificial ridge of earth);
- Construction of an access road to a new cell and tipping platform;
- A perimeter drainage system; and,
- Leachate collection and

re-circulation system.

He said Alam Flora was concerned with environmental protection and that it had worked to rectify the problem since the landfill was handed over in September 1998.

Kutty said in mitigating the environmental risk, the company had designed a landfill upgrade plan for the Kundang landfill.

"Based on this plan, the MPS applied for a RM1.5 million grant and RM1.2 million was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to upgrade the site and safeguard the surrounding environment and reduce pollution into the river," he said.

Kutty said the upgrading work was progressing as planned and upon completion, it would mitigate the environmental impact of the Kundang landfill.

He stressed that Alam Flora was working closely with the local authorities, the State Governments and the Ministry to upgrade the landfills it operated.



Kutty:
Work to be completed by June

This is why they call it Sungai Air Hitam

By K. THASALINI

At Alam Flora Sdn Bhd, the upgrading work by a contractor appointed by the Majlis Perbandaran Selayang (MPS) began in February and is scheduled to be completed by June.



Senthilkumar: Dumpsite has to be properly lined



FLASHBACK: Our report on Tuesday