

History of Sungai Segget

THE rivers in Johor Baru were literally used as a dumpsites. The city council of Johor Baru used to remove three tonnes of garbage from 26 rivers each day. It was the dumping ground for not only household rubbish, but other items too, such as old washing machines, bicycles, cupboards as well as the sewerage that flowed into the rivers from the hundreds of squatter homes along the rivers.

This ultimately resulted in Sungai Segget, the river that flowed through the heart of Johor Baru city, to earn the dubious distinction of being one of the dirtiest in the country.

At one stage, Sungai Segget was covered because the filth and stench were just unbearable. Later on, a decision was made to open up the river and rehabilitate it.

The project to rehabilitate Sungai Segget took off in August 2012, some five years after the idea was mooted to transform Johor Baru into a canal city such as Venice and Amsterdam.

The river was chosen because it



Sungai Segget overflowing following a downpour along Jalan Wong Ah Fook in Johor Baru on Nov 24, 2015.

cuts through the heart of the city along Jalan Wong Ah Fook. The job to monitor the rehabilitation works comes under the purview of Iskandar Regional Development Authority and the Johor Baru City Council.

The cost to rehabilitate the river

was estimated at RM1.8bil and the project would take at least six years to be completed.

The rehabilitation works included upgrading the sewerage system of Johor Baru city and re-opening all the covered parts of the river that is 1.4km long and 25m wide. It



The Sungai Segget Rejuvenation Project is on track for completion under the Johor Baru Transformation plan.

starts from the Tropical Inn Hotel up to the sewerage or the watergate at the old Custom, Immigration and Quarantine complex.

The cleaning up of the river is a vital component to the redevelopment of Johor Baru that covers 485.62ha of the city's central area, including Bukit Timbalan, the former site of Lumba Kuda low-cost flats, Bukit Chagar Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex, Tanjung Puteri Lorry

Customs Complex and sites within the Johor Zoo, the Ayer Molek prison and Hospital Sultanah Aminah.

In the old days, Sungai Segget was the artery through which many activities took place. It ranged from trading to fishing.

Now the authorities are hoping that the rehabilitated river becomes a tourist attraction where flat bottom boats could ply the river like gondolas in European cities.