

Two new landfills for Selangor

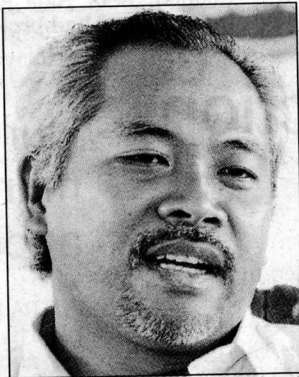
SHAH ALAM: Two new landfills will be built in Selangor, one in the north and the other in the south, to replace the Ayer Hitam landfill in Puchong which will be closed soon, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo said.

He said a Refuse Derived Fuel plant would also be built to cope with the increasing amount of waste generated in the Klang Valley.

Dr Mohamad Khir said the Ayer Hitam landfill had exceeded its lifespan but it could still be used for another few months with proper management.

The landfill had to be kept open longer because of the closure of the Kundang open dumpsite in Rawang and another dumpsite in Sungai Chembong, Semenyih, to prevent them from polluting rivers.

"It is not that we do not want to close the Ayer Hitam landfill but we are forced to extend its use until we have built a new landfill," he told a joint news conference with Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid who



Dr Mohamad Khir: *Ayer Hitam landfill will be closed soon*

met him to discuss environmental issues yesterday.

"I know the residents living near the Ayer Hitam landfill will be angry with me. I hope they will understand the situation and make some sacrifices for the sake of continuing to get the clean water they now have," he said.

Dr Mohamad Khir said the State Government had identified three or four sites to be developed as landfills but he declined to name them as it might trigger protests.

"We still have people opposing sanitary landfills,

which is why there is a crisis now. The Selangor people must accept that we need to dispose of waste and be prepared to make sacrifices," he said.

He said the proposals on the new landfills would be submitted to the Cabinet Committee on solid waste management chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on April 28 for a decision.

Construction of a new landfill would take two to three months, he added.

Azmi said the plans to build the new landfills must not be delayed otherwise the waste disposal problem in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur would become more critical.

"The problem with Malaysians is that they want the landfills but not in their own backyards," he said.

He said he would also ask for information on the failure of the Bukit Tagar sanitary landfill to operate at its full capacity.

Bukit Tagar is able to receive only about 1,000 tonnes of waste per day although it was planned for a capacity of 4,000 tonnes. — Bernama