

# Stand-off over rubbish

**SHAH ALAM:** The Selangor Government's decision to close down both the Sungai Kembong and Kundang dumpsites resulted in a "rubbish stand-off."

Garbage meant for the Kundang dumpsite was ordered to be sent to the Bukit Tegar landfill but when 20 garbage-laden trucks arrived there, the drivers were refused entry.

This caught both Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo by surprise as sending solid waste to Bukit Tegar was one of

the important steps taken to minimise river pollution.

Leaking leachate from Kundang was blamed for the smelly water in the Klang Valley while a similar problem at the Sungai Kembong dumpsite led to the closure of the Sungai Semenyih water treatment.

Azmi and Dr Khir were in a meeting on river pollution when they heard about the problem.

Azmi ordered his officers to find out why the lorries were not allowed in while Dr Khir directed the lorries to go to the Ayer Itam landfill in Puchong.

"Here we are, trying to find a

solution to a crisis situation but we are faced with logistics problems," Azmi said.

"The Bukit Tegar landfill has the capacity to take 4,000 tonnes of rubbish daily. It is only taking about 1,000 tonnes now. Why the refusal? I want to know."

Dr Khir said sending the garbage to the Ayer Itam landfill was the only solution although the landfill was full.

"It is supposed to close in two or three months. I appeal to the people staying around the area to sacrifice a bit for the sake of getting clean drinking water," he added.

Dr Khir said the Ayer Itam landfill was a success story of a well-managed landfill.

However, "the mistake by the past state administration was to allow housing projects to be built near the landfill."

Dr Khir also said two new landfills would be created.

"There will also be an environment-friendly landfill promoting the refuse-derived fuel in Kajang (which will be commissioned in June).

"The three landfills and Bukit Tegar will form the backbone of the solid waste disposal system for the Federal Territory and Selangor," he added.



Dr Khir: Was in a meeting on river pollution with Azmi when they heard of the problem