

Rubbish issue to be solved

By **ROYCE CHEAH**
royce@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The Selangor government is expected to come out with a solution to resolve the issue of bad rubbish when its state executive council meets tomorrow.

State executive councillor Datuk Ch'ng Toh Eng said he would bring up the matter at the meeting.

The rubbish issue had been bugging both the federal and state governments over several months and blamed for the leak that allegedly polluted Sungai Selangor.

A decision to close down the Sungai Kembong and Kundang

dumpsites resulted in a standoff last week, when 20 trucks which took rubbish to the Bukit Tagar landfill were refused entry.

Since last Friday, garbage lorries from Selayang and Rawang arrived in droves in Batang Berjuntai to dump their waste near Taman Hang Tuah.

Asked about these matters, Ch'ng said the trucks had no choice because the Bukit Tagar landfill refused to accept waste from them.

KUB Berjaya Enviro Sdn Bhd, which manages the Bukit Tagar landfill, meanwhile, has reiterated that it will not accept any waste from Selangor until the Housing

and Local Government Ministry gives the green light.

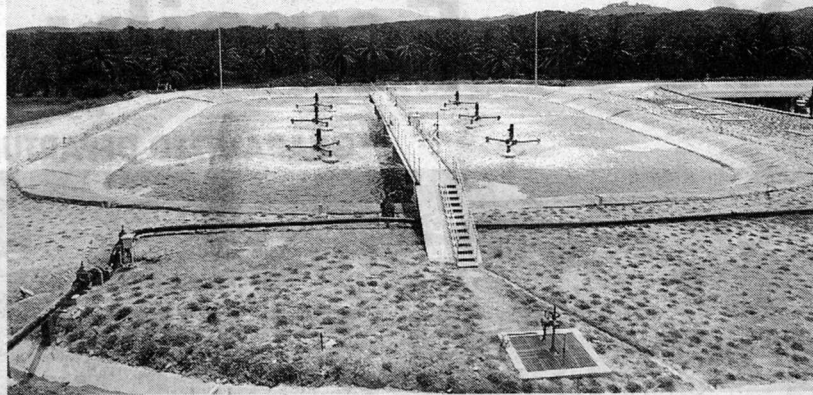
Managing director Chock Eng Tah said the decision was the government's alone.

He said the "standoff" incident was unfortunate but the company was not aware the trucks were coming. There was no prior notice, he claimed.

Chock said they have a well-organised procedure when receiving large amounts of waste.

"It cannot be just any truck coming here and dumping their waste.

"For example, their vehicles need to be registered with us, just like all the other trucks that dump



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT: One of the leachate treatment ponds in operation at the Bukit Tagar landfill in Hulu Selangor.

trash here, so that we know how much trash is coming in," he said.

He said the landfill had received about 480,000 tons of garbage since it opened last April.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk S. Sathinathan, who visited the site yesterday, said the Bukit Tagar sanitary landfill now has leachate (a goeey liquid loaded with pollution) treatment facilities that convert the foul-smelling liquid into water.

The water cannot be consumed and used only for the landfill's own irrigation purposes and for watering plants.