

'Residents used waterfall as dump'

NEGLECT: They are not cooperating with authorities, says Chow

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THE blame game has started on the poor state of Air Terjun Bayan Lepas, known by the locals as "Air Terjun Pak Lah".

The state government yesterday pinned the blame on local residents.

State Local Government Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and Penang Island City Council (MBPP) had taken

steps to improve the waterfall's condition.

However, he said the authorities had received lukewarm cooperation from local residents, who treated the waterfall in Kampung Masjid here as a public dumping ground.

"The council can do the cleaning up, but it is not sustainable without local residents' participation.

"I will direct DID and MBPP to take action," he told the *New Straits Times*.

Asked about the complaint that the murky water was caused by development near the waterfall, Chow said that was only one aspect as rubbish from neighbouring high-rises was the main culprit for the condition of the waterfall.

It was reported that the waterfall suffered from neglect after the area was privatised.

Nearby residents complained that the area was dirty and high-rise pro-



A notice warning trespassers erected on the road leading to Air Terjun Bayan Lepas in Kampung Masjid, Penang. Pic by Muhammad Mikail Ong

jects taking place near the waterfall caused the water to be murky.

They were also concerned about immigrants in the area and feared

that the area had turned into a drug haunt.

They had urged the local council and other authorities to take action.

Checks by NST yesterday showed a notice warning trespassers had been placed on the road leading to the waterfall.