

Effective way to clean rivers

PERIODICALLY cleaning up our highly-polluted rivers will only have short-term effects if people continue to dump household and other wastes into them with impunity.

If the authorities are keen to find a durable and lasting solution to this problem, they should emulate the fine example set by the Malacca government in permanently cleaning up the once highly polluted Malacca River.

Houses, shops and other buildings located on either side of the river should be relocated further inland or 30m from the riverbank. The 30m buffer zone between the buildings and the riverbank should be planted with flowering plants and shrubs and maintained. Solar-powered LED lights should be installed in the buffer zone.

All the buildings nearby should also be constructed to face the river.

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