

# Plagued by rubbish

Residents want authorities to find a permanent solution to the illegal dumping and open burning activities in Ara Damansara

story by  
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ARA Damansara is a bustling township but modern development aside; the area is also facing issues such as illegal dumping, especially along the Sungai Kayu

Ara riverbank.

Beneath the bridge along Jalan PJU1A/3 Ara Damansara are piles and piles of garbage and construction waste dumped by the riverbank.

Further down the river, at the dead end of Jalan PJU1A/7 is another illegal dumping site where trash is thrown by the riverbank.

However, these two spots along the river are not the only places where illegal dumping is evident in

Ara Damansara.

*StarMetro* visited the area and saw rubbish strewn along the roads along Jalan PJU1A/39, PJU1A/7 and also at Taman Perindustrian Jaya which housed factories.

"Illegal dumping has been happening for more than 15 years and we have seen part-time factory cleaners dumping trash there.

"After they clean the area, they are supposed to dispose the trash at a proper dumpsite but they just

find it more convenient to throw it by the river," said Ara Damansara resident Jackie Song.

Song who used to work at the industrial park previously and her former colleagues had seen people dumping the trash along the riverbank as early as 5am.

"In fact, Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) already knows about this issue as many residents have lodged complaints to them over the years," she said.

Residents claim they got pushed around from one department to another at the council and to-date, no proper action had been taken. Some residents also lamented that they did not get a reply or update from MBPJ on their plans to resolve the illegal dumping issue at Sungai Kayu Ara.

So far, residents have only seen MBPJ clearing trash at the dump-

site once, and even that was not done properly.

"They came only once in June but only removed some trash.

"Officers also used the plastic tape to barricade the area but the tape was broken within a few hours after they left," said AraGreens Residences resident Sal Lim.

AraGreens Residences is along Jalan PJU1A/3, beside the river where the illegal dumpsite was located.

Lim said the flimsy tape was useless as anyone could just pull it apart and start dumping again.

Residents in AraGreens had also witnessed open burning taking place at the Jalan PJU1A/7 dumpsite at least three times this year.

"We cannot really see it but we can smell the smoke and it's really bad. The burning usually hap-

pens in the evenings," she said.

Residents contacted the Fire and Rescue Department on all three occasions and they managed to put out the fire.

During *StarMetro's* visit to the dumpsite in Jalan PJU1A/7, there was a strong stench emanating from the ground where a fresh layer of sand could be seen.

Some residents believed that the sand was used to bury rubbish underneath it to make way for more rubbish to be dumped there later.

"Apart from the smell, we also get huge fruit flies flying into our homes.

"I have now installed netting to prevent the flies from getting into my apartment," said another resident Lim Kok Wei.

Residents want the authorities to get to the root cause of the illegal dumping issue for a perma-

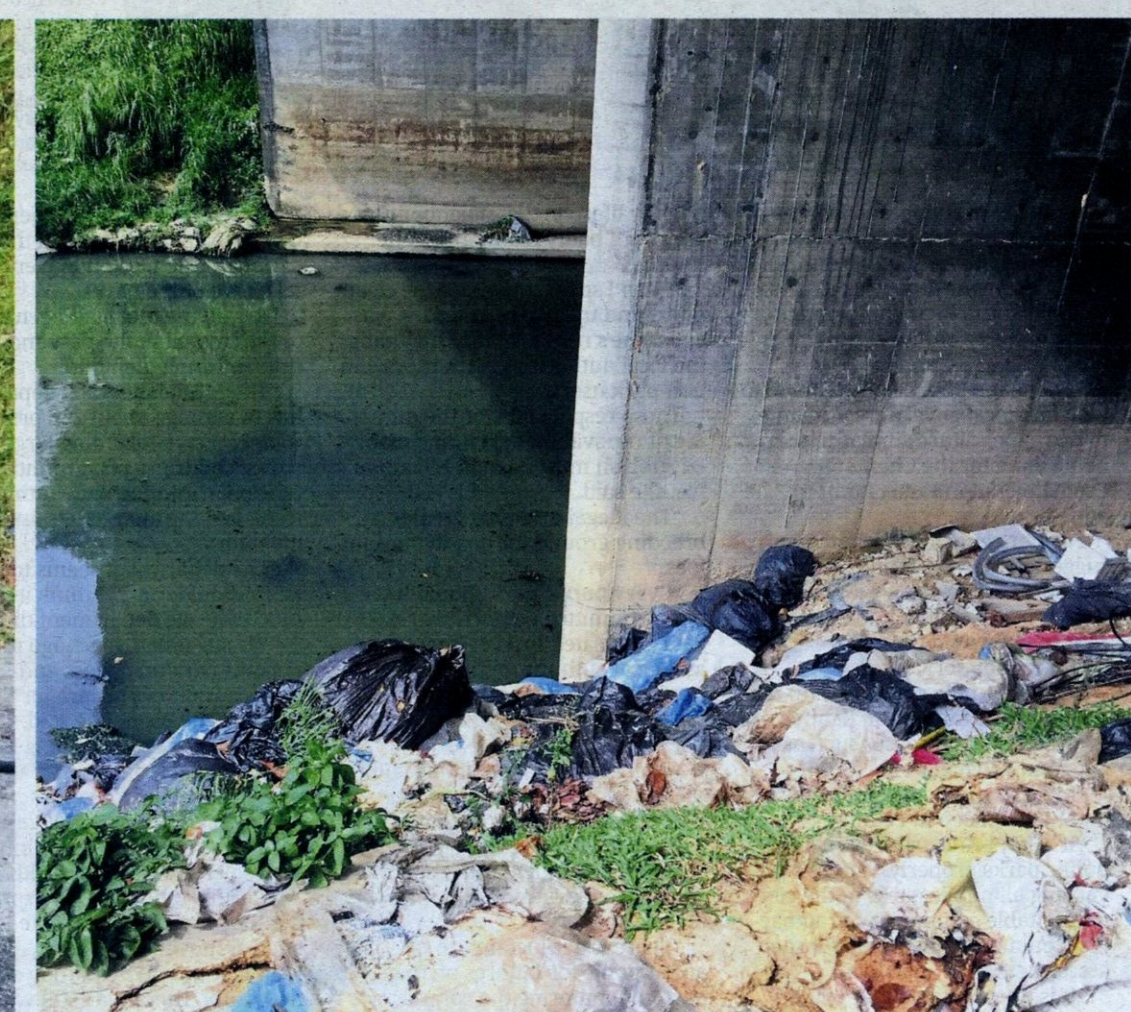
nent solution. "Authorities are not working together to resolve the illegal dumping issue," he said.

When contacted, MBPJ said they were aware of the issue based on complaints from nearby residents.

"Our officers have visited the site and have on three occasions collected the rubbish this year," said MBPJ public relations officer Zainun Zakaria.

She added that officers had also held a few meetings to find a solution to the problem, however, the area came under the jurisdiction of the Petaling District's Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

"Every time we go back, there is a fresh load of rubbish and it is not easy to catch the culprit," she said, adding that MBPJ had alerted DID and would work together with them to resolve the problem.



Firemen putting out fire at an illegal dumpsite under the bridge along Jalan PJU1A/3 In Ara Damansara.

Some of the rubbish dumped under the bridge along Jalan PJU1A/3.