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Residents upset over unbearable stench

Story and photos by ELAN PERUMAL

ILLEGAL waste dumping activities at the upstream of Sungai Kuyoh are making life miserable for more than 3,000 residents at Taman Kinrara in Puchong.

According to the residents, the river is producing an unbearable stench and is also causing health problems for them.

Kinrara assemblyman Dr Kow Cheong Wei, who visited Taman Kinrara recently, said the Selangor State Drainage and Irrigation Department had approved a RM30,000 special allocation for the cleaning up of the river which measured 2.7km on the Puchong side.



At the river site: Dr Kow (right) discussing with MPSJ councillor Datuk Theng Bok.

Sungai Kuyoh, he said, was linked to a retention pond on the upstream and the flow of water was very slow in the downstream which led to Sungai Klang.

“The waste from the upstream get clogged due to the slow water flow. As a result, rubbish gets clogged in the river, producing the stench,” he said.

Dr Kow said the situation had affected the business at the morning market and the shops facing the river.

Since the illegal dumping activities were taking place at the upstream, he said the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) had taken action on the culprits.

"The DBKL has issued fines to the several factories caught dumping waste into the river." he said.

Dr Kow said that the cleaning-up works was expected to start soon.

Besides the river pollution, he said the sulphur dioxide released from a former mining area at Taman Sri Manjung had also produced strong stench at the area.



Eye sore: Sungai Kuyoh has been polluted by the dumping of waste upstream.

He said the stench was felt more strongly during the wee hours, possibly because, with fewer vehicles on the road during the period, there was less carbon monoxide in the air. (Carbon monoxide neutralises the stench.)

Dr Kow said that the Petaling Jaya City Council was also attending to the problem of waste in the narrow river, which shared its boundary with Kuala Lumpur.