



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Community cleans up drains

Kampung Pengkalan Gate folks pitch in to clear away 400kg of rubbish



The signboard put up by GEC for monitoring of Kinta river's health. — Photos: RONNIE CHIN/The Star

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ABOUT 70 residents in Kampung Pengkalan Gate, Ipoh, took part in a gotong-royong to clean up the drains and nearby river.

The event, held in conjunction with World Clean-up Day, served to raise awareness among the community on the importance of a clean environment.

It was launched by Ipoh City councillor Kamaruddin Abdul Aziz, who is in charge of the zone.

Volunteers and council workers collected some 400kg of rubbish during the clean-up.

The event was jointly organised by Ipoh City Council, Global Environment Centre (GEC), Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and National Unity and Integration Department.

Kamaruddin said he was proud to see many of the residents coming out to take part in the clean-up.

"We always encourage the people to be more involved and take responsibility to clean up their neighbourhood," he said, elaborating that the council often received complaints about dirty drains.

"We try our best to assist despite a lack of manpower.

"The city council is committed to keeping the city clean but we also require the

public's help.

"It is great that the community in Kampung Pengkalan Gate has stepped up to do their part," added Kamaruddin.

He stressed that it was important for drains to be clean.

"The function of a drain is to channel rainwater to the river and eventually the ocean.

"If not kept clean, it will also affect the rivers and ocean," said Kamaruddin.

The clean-up was also part of the Integrated Management of Upper Kinta Basin project initiated by GEC to ensure the conservation, sustainability and cleanliness of areas upstream of the basin.

The project is a collaboration with DID and funded by Hasanah Foundation.

GEC project officer Norazrin Mamat said a workshop and a River Ranger Training programme were organised under the project to empower local communities to care for rivers near them.

"Apart from cleaning up their drains, the Pengkalan Gate community is also responsible for monitoring the quality of water in the river," he said.

"We provide them with the necessary equipment and they will key in the data every month.

"We have also put up a community river monitoring signage near the area, which the public can refer to for information."