



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Dumping waste is a crime

KUALALUMPUR: Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd, the national sewerage company, views the irresponsible acts of dumping illegal waste into our waterways as a crime, and urges the government to practise stringent enforcement and punitive measures to preserve the environment and sustain a healthy standard of living for Malaysians.

Its chief executive officer, Narendran Maniam, said the company sought the cooperation of the public to report any suspicious act or incident they may come across by contacting the authorities or IWK directly.

Narendran said there had been numerous media reports of these irresponsible acts, the latest of which were the severe pollution cases in Sungai Semenyih and Sungai Selangor in September.

In the case of Sungai Semenyih, Selangor Environment, Green Technology, Science, Technology and Innovation and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Hee Loy Sian revealed that investigators detected a type of solvent smell in the manholes. The substance flowed into IWK's sewage treatment plant (STP) in Bandar Mahkota and IWK took immediate action by momentarily halting the operations to prevent the flow of substance into the river.

In July, a thick layer of black oil that was found at the entry point of IWK's STP in Batang Kali was quickly cleaned

up after it was detected. The Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS) conducted an investigation and found that the black oil was believed to be disposed of from the industrial area around IWK's STP.

Not forgetting in March, when the illegal disposal of chemical waste polluted Sungai Kim Kim, Johor, resulted in 6,000 victims and 111 schools being closed temporarily. The government estimated the cost of cleaning up the 1.5km stretch of Sungai Kim Kim at RM6.4 million that subsequently called for the strengthening of enforcement and environmental law to care for our environment.

IWK operates and maintains almost 7,000 sewage treatment plants across more than 19,400km of sewer pipelines. Currently, it provides sewage services to approximately 26 million people.

The STPs are designed to treat only domestic wastewater, hence when substances enter into the STPs, the natural water cycle is disrupted. If the substance enters the river, it will pollute the water. Polluted water from the river is collected at reservoirs and is channelled to the water treatment plants before being distributed to consumers.

"IWK undertakes a huge responsibility as efficient management of the sewage system impacts the lives of people. We should not tolerate incidents that cause harm to our lives

and wellbeing. In nature, the act of dumping illegal waste is akin to a criminal conduct as it threatens public health and the survivability of future generations," said Narendran.

The National Water Services Agency (SPAN) will take stringent actions against the perpetrators under Section 61(1) of the Water Services Industry Act 2006 (Act 655), whereby a person who commits an offence is liable to a fine not exceeding RM100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both.

As the government strives to impose harsher punishment on wrongdoers, the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry has put through its proposal for amendments to the Environmental Quality Act 1974 (EQQA 1974), which include elements to spruce up enforcement.

Informers will be given a reward for any service, information and assistance in tracing any offence, as well as witness protection in legal proceedings.

Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr A. Xavier Jayakumar had voiced the intent to review by-laws and legislation to better protect Malaysia's water resources. Among the laws that will be reviewed is the Water Services Industry Act 2006, which the ministry hopes to table in Parliament at the end of next year.

Endangering the environment and public health is a crime



DO NOT dispose of household waste that can damage the sewage system



DO NOT discharge waste through illegal means



DO NOT harm our environment or public health with irresponsible actions

Call the authorities or our careline

+603 2083 2828

if you notice any wrongdoing

iwk.com.my
IndahWaterKonsortium
iwkComms
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