



KERATAN AKHBAR

AKHBAR	:	THE STAR (STARMETRO)
TARIKH	:	3/2/2017
JABATAN	:	JAS
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN

Stink keeps residents indoors

Kemuning folk want authorities to find culprit causing smog in neighbourhood

By **PRIYA MENON**
priya@thestar.com.my

THE sight of a cloud of smog creeping into the neighbourhood is a signal for Kemuning Permai and Kemuning Bayu residents to shut their windows and doors.

Since September last year, they have been experiencing an acrid smell in the air every day, while the smog is evident after sunset and at dawn.

They believe it is from a factory nearby that has been in operation for more than 30 years.

However, the residents said the smell and the smog only got worse.

Kemuning Residence Owners' and Residents' Association (KKROA) chairman Ahmad Nazmi Ab Razak said initially, they thought the smog was from open burning at an illegal dumpsite nearby.

"We had resolved the problem after the Fire and Rescue Department came in and put out the fire within two weeks.

"The issue was resolved in October but the stench remained," he said.

The smell, added Ahmad, kept residents indoors every evening and many families were afraid to let their children out to play as well.

Philip Shigeo Brown said a neighbouring kindergarten in Kemuning Permai was also forced to keep the children inside, depriving them of much-needed exercise.

He said there were days when his living room was full of smog and he was worried for everyone's health.

"The risks may not be obvious now but there might be a long-term effect," he stressed.

Shah Alam Technology Park owner Chong Chin Liong said the smog could be the result of faulty machinery or filters.

"The smell has been around in



Residents from Kemuning Permai and Kemuning Bayu are forced to shut their doors and windows due to smog which they say comes from a nearby light industrial area.

the past but it was not so obvious.

"It is very strong at the food court in the light industrial area where we are based," he added.

Residents in Kemuning Bayu, however, are still unsure about the source of the smell.

A resident who wished to be known as Ho said the smell was unusual and did not resemble burning wood or other materials usually found at illegal dumpsites.

"It smells more like chemicals burning.

"Our guards said the smell was stronger between 2am and 3am," he added.

Fed up with their living conditions, residents of both Kemuning Permai and Kemuning Bayu lodged separate complaints with the Selangor Department of Environment (DOE), the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and the police.

The DOE even paid the suspected site a visit but left after checks revealed there was no air pollution.

However, residents claim the officers should have conducted a spot check between sunset and sunrise.

Ahmad Nazmi said DOE had refused to come down to check, forcing them to call the Fire and Rescue department who had readily checked on the complaint in the middle of the night.

"We are disappointed with the DOE and MBSA.

"The Fire and Rescue department have been really helpful but this matter is under the jurisdiction of the DOE. Only they can help us," he added.

However, MBSA said it has tried to help and have asked for relevant documents from the factory and is

presently waiting for the documents to be submitted.

MBSA's corporate communications head Shahrin Ahmad said they have sought the assistance of the Klang District Office to locate the landowner of the said factory.

"Our investigations revealed that the land was rented out to the current tenants.

"We will need the information to act under the Town and Country Planning Act 1976," he said.

Shahrin also said they will work together with relevant agencies to resolve the problem as soon as possible.

Letters have also been submitted to the Selangor state government, including the Mentri Besar's office and state environment committee chairman Elizabeth Wong.

Efforts to reach a representative from the company were futile.