

MPK to take action against illegal factories along river reserves

By **BRENDA CH'NG**
brenda@thestar.com.my

ACTION will be taken against all factories operating without licence along Sungai Semenyih and Sungai Langat once the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) completes its checks.

Over the past two weeks, MPKj's enforcement team has been at Sungai Langat and will continue its work until every factory is checked.

"We do not know how many are legal or illegal as we are still in the data collection stage but there are about 69 factories operating along Sungai Langat," said the council's Planning Department director Datuk Nizam Sahari during the full board meeting yesterday.

He added that officers were also identifying factories which were operating on river reserves or government land.

If found operating on reserve land or without a licence on private land, MPKj can get a court order to demolish the factories, take them to court and issue summonses.

To date, MPKj together with the Hulu Langat Land Office has demolished four factories operating on government reserve land along Sungai Semenyih.

"We are also taking illegal



MPKj will be taking action against illegal factories operating along Sungai Semenyih and Sungai Langat once it completes its checks.— filepic

factory owners along Sungai Semenyih to court but we cannot give the details yet as the process is ongoing," he said.

MPKj is also stepping up enforcement on illegal dumpsites by seizing 15 lorries caught in the act this month and another 13 in December.

"We have managed to close down four illegal dumping grounds at hotspots including Sungai Ramal and Jalan Kuari Sungai Long," said MPKj president Mohd Sayuthi Bakar.

He added that new dumpsites were slowly popping up, mostly by the roadside, and officers had been tasked to ensure rubbish was

cleared before they become permanent.

On a separate matter, MPKj will be getting Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) and Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) to investigate traders at the Sungai Long market who operate along the road.

"We have reason to believe the traders are connecting illegal pipes under the covered drain and this is causing the drain to become clogged," said Mohd Sayuthi, adding that traders also dump their waste into the drain.

Mohd Sayuthi said there were about 300 traders, taking turns to set up stalls there with about 100 operating at any given time.

"Not only is this causing a massive traffic congestion, there is also a high risk of floods happening," he said, adding they would act against those who sublet their stalls.

Currently, all petty traders, night market traders and *pasar tani* vendors in Selangor are exempted from paying a licence fee.

Also exempted are all residents staying in low-cost flats as well as villagers who will not have to pay their property assessment tax this year under a Selangor government initiative.

"This year, all 446 new and traditional villages under MPKj will continue to be exempted," said Mohd Sayuthi.

He added that under the initiative, MPKj gave out RM450,000 worth of business licences to over 6,000 traders and hawkers.