

ECOSYSTEM

'Human waste may contaminate Tasik Kenyir'

HULU TERENGGANU: With more people visiting Tasik Kenyir and staying overnight on houseboats, authorities are concerned that the discharge of human waste directly into the lake will damage the ecosystem, especially the water quality of the lake.

The lake, which is as big as Singapore, could end up becoming the country's biggest man-made sewer, and instead of attracting visitors, it could discourage them

from spending time there, touted now as a paradise for adventurers and anglers.

Acknowledging the potential problem, the Central Terengganu Development Authority (Ketengah) has, in stages, redesigned and installed holding tanks in houseboats.

There are 73 licensed houseboats operating in Tasik Kenyir whose owners have been instructed by Ketengah to install holding

tanks with the capacity to collect 200 litres of human waste each.

Ketengah general manager Omar Ismail said: "The waste will be dumped into an eco-berge, which is a huge holding tank with a capacity to store 16,800 litres of human waste, anchored at Pengkalan Gawi.

"It will act as a collection point before it is transferred to Indah Water Consortium mobile tankers on the mainland."