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WASTE management company Alam Flora Sdn Bhd is facing a major hurdle when dealing with waste management in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.

The contractors hired to collect rubbish in the township said it was "challenging" to clean up Brickfields because of the indiscriminate dumping everywhere.

"We are facing problems from businesses such as restaurants, scrap metal yards and recycling centres as well as residential areas and things are getting out of hand," said an Alam Flora contractor who wished to remain anonymous.

"Brickfields alone is taking up so much of our time and it is taking a toll on our workers, but work must be done," he added.

A worker by the name of Suman Ahmad said managing waste disposal has become a major concern there despite several attempts to get the community involved.

"There is a lack of commitment and participation from the business community whenever a *gotong-royong* is organised," he said.

"It is a shame because they are a major contributor to the waste," he added.

According to him, organic waste was often dumped into the drains and they had to spend hours cleaning up the mess.

He added that it was obvious the restaurant workers were not trained to properly dispose of waste.

As a result, Suman said they were now forced to clear waste dumped into drains, in alleys and on sidewalks as designated rubbish disposal sites were not being utilised.

"We cannot ignore the rubbish so we have no choice but to pick it up," Suman said.

Brickfields Rukun Tetangga chairman S.K.K. Naidu conceded there was a problem with Brickfields when it came to waste collection.

"I was told that Alam Flora contractors often get bullied by business operators when they (operators) get told off for indiscriminate dumping.

A challenge for rubbish collectors

Indiscriminate dumping and apathy in Brickfields make waste management difficult



Alam Flora workers have to pick up rubbish from non-designated spots as a result of indiscriminate waste disposal by business operators.

"I feel sorry for them because they do not have the power to enforce or do anything about it," he said.

Brickfields is one of the townships that fall under the River of Life (RoL) Phase 5 of the public outreach programme, also known as RoL-POP 5.

Under the programme, the Government, through the Drainage and Irrigation Department and its consultant Global Environment Centre, planned to create awareness among stakeholders on how to care for their rivers.

RoL-POP started with Phase 1, involving the upper Sungai Klang basin, proceeding to Phase 2 for the Sungai Batrus basin.



StarMetro's report on Aug 25.

Phase 3A, 3B, 4 and 5 are being implemented concurrently from 2017 to 2020.

Phase 5 covers a 98.49km catchment area, including Sungai

Gombak, Sungai Batu, Sungai Jinjang, Sungai Keroh and Sungai Klang (western catchment) – all of which come under the jurisdiction of Kuala Lumpur City Hall.