

'Put it down in black and white'

Appeals for removal of Alam Flora recycling cages must be made in writing, says SWCorp

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ANY request for the removal of Alam Flora recycling cages for high-rise properties in Kuala Lumpur must be made in writing to the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp).

SWCorp acting Federal Territories director Mohd Zahir Shaari said the written request must come with valid reasons as to why the community does not want the cages.

"If they don't want it, they must give good reasons for us to remove it. The recycling cages are compulsory under the Act, and cannot be removed just because they are not working for you," he said.

Mohd Zahir said the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act 2007 (Act 672) was enacted for the people to separate their waste at source, and to encourage the recycling habit.

"We have an agreement with the management bodies and they have to make it work. I am aware of the challenges but they must do their part in communicating with residents," he said.

Mohd Zahir was responding to a *StarMetro* report titled "Junk the recycling cages" in *Star Online* where residents in Taman United, Jalan Kelang Lama wanted the cages removed for being a health hazard.

Mohd Zahir said he would visit the site next week with community leaders to assess the situation.

"We have received a list of areas where the community does not want cages, but we still have to evaluate their request," he said.



An Alam Flora worker has to spend time sorting the rubbish from a recycling cage in Taman United.

During a walkabout on Thursday, residents took community leaders, representatives from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), SWCorp and Alam Flora Sdn Bhd to show them several cages with a mix of domestic waste and organic waste.

They said the cages were not being used properly, were an eyesore and health hazard.

While the cages were meant for high-rise residents to separate paper, plastic and glass waste, people have taken to throwing all sorts of rubbish into the cages.

Someone even left a burnt motorcycle beside one cage.

Residents, who were interviewed, said the cages were an eyesore and health hazard.

They said that effluents from the rubbish were polluting the river nearby. About 1,150 recycling cages were provided for residents living in high-rise buildings in Kuala Lumpur to separate their recycled

waste early last year.

However, more than half of those cages were not being utilised.

Seputeh DBKL branch chief Abdul Syatar Abdul Halim, who was present during the walkabout with his officers, took photos of the problems highlighted and promised to look into the matter.

"We will put in the paper work for some of the issue raised but we still need to get permission from the headquarters on matters concerning road and drain maintenance," he said.

Abdul Syatar said he would raise the matter with the relevant government authorities.

Residents had sought help from Seputeh MCA division vice-chairman Banie Chin and Seputeh MP Teresa Kok over the complaints.

Chin and Kok visited the place on different days, and promised to resolve some of the long-standing issues in the township.