

SWCorp: Waste separation delayed at high-rises

THE enforcement on high-rises to separate their domestic waste has been delayed yet again because of difficulties in getting the residents to cooperate.

A source from the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Corporation (SWCorp) enforcement unit said they faced many issues when trying to get residents to practice separation at source (SAS).

Currently, it is mandatory for only landed households to separate their waste at source.

The Government introduced SAS two years ago, but SWCorp has been struggling to convince the Joint Management Bodies (JMB)

and residents to segregate their waste.

"It seems like SAS is the hardest thing to accomplish for residents living in high-rises, despite regular engagement with the community through the condo management.

"The JMBs say that trying to convince residents to separate their waste was proving to be harder than expected.

"Perhaps enforcement is the only thing that can help them change their attitude," the source said.

SWCorp deputy Federal Territories director Mohd Zahir Shaari confirmed that SAS on high-rises was delayed but could

not say when it would be implemented.

"We are still engaging with the public but despite providing the necessary facilities for them, many still refuse to separate their waste.

"Even the recycling cages we gave them are abused and thrown away," Mohd Zahir said.

Asked for the demographics, Mohd Zahir said it involved high-rises from across the board.

"They come both from affluent and low-cost areas.

"We hope they will come to realise sooner or later on the importance of waste separation," he said.

In September 2015, the Government implemented the SAS

programme under the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act 2007 (Act 672) in Melaka, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perlis, Kedah and the Federal Territories.

Under the ruling, offenders will be compounded between RM50 and RM500 for both landed and non-landed premises for failing to separate their waste accordingly.

For landed premises owners, for the first offence the fine is RM50, RM100 (second offence) and RM500 (third offence).

For non-landed property, the JMB can be fined RM100, RM200 and RM500, respectively.

After the third offence, legal action will be taken.



A bag filled with rubbish hangs from cable at a flat in Bukit Bintang. Rubbish is also trapped in the window panes.



A view from above showing rotting rubbish on an awning.

community in the area.

"The stench from rotting rubbish and the filth was just too much to bear and I felt too sick to eat anything after the assignment," he reported.

Azhar said when he spoke to people around the area about the rubbish, many ticked him off for intruding into their private space and told him to leave.

It has been reported that more than 100 tonnes of domestic waste was collected from 10 rubbish hotspots in the city centre in 2013, and the number of hotspots have almost tripled with an increase in waste collected.

When contacted, Alam Flora chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Zain Hassan said: "We, as responsible members of society, need to know the proper way to dispose of waste and understand the implications of throwing rubbish from

high-rise buildings or anywhere else for that matter.

"Children need to be taught about proper and safe disposal of rubbish.

"Residents need to take the initiative to correct others when they see such wrongdoing.

"We must keep our surroundings neat and clean so that we can all lead a healthy life in better living conditions.

Two weeks ago, a 15-year-old boy died from severe head injuries after being struck by a chair that was hurled from an upper floor of the Seri Pantai PPR (People's Housing Project) flats in Pantai Dalam, Kuala Lumpur.

The incident resulted in outrage by the public and calls for the Government to take stringent measures to curb indiscriminate rubbish dumping at high-rises.



An Alam Flora worker trying to scrape out rubbish stuck on an awning.



TRAFFIC MATTERS

● There will be several road closures near the Pasar Besar Klang to facilitate construction works for the LRT3 project for 24 hours daily. The right-most lane starting from the exit of Pasar Besar Klang until the junction of Jalan Pekan Baru 26 (Klang Parade-bound) will be closed from Jan 29 - Feb 19. While the right-most lane from Yao Shan Fang (Chinese Medical Clinic) until the junction of Jalan Pekan Baru 26 (Setia Alam-bound) will be closed from Feb 20 - 28.

● There will be permanent right lane closures along Jalan Kepong at Pekan Lama Kepong (Sungai Buloh-bound and Jinjang-bound) for a stretch of 250m until April 26, 24 hours daily. The closure will start from Balai Polis Kepong until the junction of Jalan Metro 2 (Jinjang-bound) and Jalan Metro 2 until Masjid Amaniah (Sungai Buloh-bound). To maintain two lanes at both bound, all parking lots in front of shoplots along Pekan Kepong will be closed and used as slow lane at both directions.

● There will be continuation of lane closures along Lebuhraya Pintasan Dengkil FT29 (northbound and southbound) from now until July 23, 7am - 7pm and 8pm - 6am daily.

TELUGU CLASSES

The Telugu Academy of Malaysia is expected to be inaugurated next month and fully operational by April. As such, the academy will be conducting Telugu language as well as dance and music classes. Those interested can call 016-277 4453 (ADR Naidu).

MBPJ MOBILE COUNTERS

Petaling Jaya Municipal Council's Mobile EZ Pay Counter is making its round in the city until Jan 31, from 10am to 3pm, daily. Services offered include the sale of parking coupons and payment of assessment taxes. The counters will be stationed at PJU 10 Damansara Damai near Shell station and McDonalds until Jan 29 and near the Taman Megah SS24 market from Jan 30-31. For details, visit www.mbpj.gov.my.

CARING CAMPAIGN

The public is encouraged to join in the #DaretoCare campaign where they can fill brown paper bags with gifts they wish to donate or essentials such as household and personal care items, stationery and dry food products. They can also leave encouraging messages on the back of the paper bag to brighten up the recipients' day. The bags can be dropped off at any one of the four SkyWorld property galleries until Feb 15. For details, visit www.skyworld.my/#DaretoCare

STAR SUBSCRIPTION

Subscribe to *The Star* bundle at RM490/year or StarBiz Premium Plus at RM250/year and receive a complimentary 2D1N stay at Marina Island Pangkor & Hotel worth RM500. Visit the booth at Export Day 2018, Matrade Hall, Level 3, Menara Matrade, Kuala Lumpur on Jan 30, from 8.30am to 5.30pm. For details, call 012-307 2928 (Vijian) or 012-390 5954 (James).

TALKS

● D' Happy Club and Sunway University will hold a talk on Positive Mental Health on Feb 2, from 10am-noon at 124, Jalan SS2/6, Petaling Jaya. For details, call 012-323 0560 (Christopher).

● Malaysian Association of Professional Speakers is having two talks titled "Reputation: Years to Build, Minutes to Lose" and "Think and Grow Rich" on Jan 29 at 7.45pm, at Brickfields Asia College, Jalan Utara, Petaling Jaya

● A Spiritual Discussion titled Spiritual Wisdom on Conquering Fear will be held on Feb 4, from 3.30pm to 5pm at the ECKANKAR Satsang Malaysia Bhd, 31-J-3, 3rd floor, Kelana Mall, Jalan SS 6/12, Petaling Jaya. For non-Muslims only. For details, call 017-8866 399 (Rinnie Tan) or 012-220 9683 (Soundram).