

# KERATAN AKHBAR

## NAMA AKHBAR: THE STAR (VIEWS)

TARIKH: 30 OKTOBER 2019

MUKA SURAT: 16

### It's not just plastic bags and straws

I REFER to the report "Wednesday and Friday also 'No Plastic Bag Day' in Penang" (*The Star*, Oct 28). It seems that when there is any talk or action on reducing or banning plastic usage, it only refers to bags and straws.

We seem to be missing the complete picture as there is a bigger single-use plastic world out there and it is staring us right in our faces every day.

This is the world of plastic bottles, cups, containers and cutlery, which are just as widely used as bags and straws and take the same hundreds of years to decompose.

The microplastics and chemicals in these materials are as detrimental, and may be even worse, to our health and the environment as the bags and straws because they have been manufactured to withstand higher temperatures and breakage.

The volume of these materials ending up as litter in our parks, roads and waterways or waste to be disposed of is likely higher than plastic bags and straws.

Sadly, there is no action or guidelines on handling or reducing these materials in the Roadmap Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics 2018-2030 until much later. This is a gross failure in policy-making.

We will do well not to ignore the plastic bottles, cups, containers and cutlery. Dealing with them later is no solution at all.

Decisive action must be taken now.

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