

## Cleaner Sg Rambai once garbage trap fully installed

**BUKIT MERTAJAM:** The long-standing issue of garbage floating in Sungai Rambai here will soon be over once a garbage trap is installed next month.

Central Seberang Prai Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) engineer Mohd Nasyarul Ahmad Rizan said they had installed a 30m log boom early this month.

He said both projects cost RM100,000.

"Both projects began in early November. Once the second project is completed, it can trap garbage such as food waste, leaves and plastic in the river.

"The trap is capable of holding up to 120kg of garbage, and DID will clear them regularly.

"Trapping garbage will ensure less waste flowing into the sea," he said during a site visit near Persiaran Janggus on Tuesday.

Padang Lalang assemblyman Chong Eng, who was present, urged nearby residents to join in efforts to keep the river clean.

"We will not improve much unless the people change their mindset in maintaining the cleanliness of the river.

"They should dispose their waste accordingly as looking after the river is the responsibility of all," she said.



**Stemming the flow:** The 30-metre log boom holding back garbage in Sungai Rambai in Bukit Mertajam. — GUANG MING/The Star

## Oil spill in Mantin river sniffed out



**Water hazards:** A Hazardous Materials Management Team member taking samples from the river in Mantin before clean-up work begins. — Bernama

## Odour leads to discovery of pollutant

**SEREMBAN:** An unpleasant smell that suddenly hit residents around Batu 4, Mantin, was due to chemical substance from an oil spill in a river.

"It was found that there was an oil spill and some dead fish in the river.

"Besides that, the water pH scale level was at 5.8 (acidic)," said Seremban Fire and Rescue Department chief Mohammad Idris.

The department received a report from the public at 5am yesterday and a six-man team arrived at the scene half an hour later.

Following the discovery of the oil spill, the Seremban 2 fire station's Hazardous Materials Management Team, involving 10 personnel, was deployed to the site.

"They have taken samples from the river and brought them to the Department of Environment (DOE) laboratory," he said.

A chemical clean-up work was currently underway.

Negri Sembilan DOE acting director Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab said the samples had been sent to the Chemistry Department.

"Initial investigations revealed that the substance was scheduled waste.

"In the meantime, other agencies and state authorities have been informed to take precautionary measures to prevent the waste from flowing into the water treatment plant.

"The situation around Batu 4, Jalan Mantin-Seremban, is under control as the smell and water pH level are back to normal.

"However, precautionary measures have been taken to prevent the waste from flowing into Sungai Linggi where the water treatment plant is located," she said.

Residents living near the river should avoid approaching or bringing livestock to the river for the moment to allow cleaning work to be done, she said.

She urged the public to contact the nearest DOE office if they see a tanker or truck carrying barrels near riverbanks, lakes and remote areas.

"Take down important information such as truck registration number, the type of truck and others.

"If possible, take pictures to get details of the vehicle such as company name," she said. — Bernama