

## Partially hidden excavator proof of illegal activity at site

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SOLID Waste Management and Public Cleanliness Corporation (SWCorp) will go in pursuit of culprits behind an illegal dumpsite that was discovered in Presint 11, Putrajaya. Its Federal Territories director Mohd Zahir

Shari said site operators would be nabbed and brought to book.

"We will continue to monitor the site for any activity."

"We are confident that the operator will resume its operation," he said.

SWCorp carried out an operation just before Chinese New Year, involving 19 of its enforcement officers, to uncover the illegal dumpsite in Putrajaya.

The site, which was located deep within an oil palm plantation was used to discard construction and domestic wastes.

"During the operation, authori-

ties found an excavator which was believed to have been used to flatten the ground.

The machine was partially hidden behind the oil palm trees.

However, no rubbish trucks were seen and no one was caught in the act of dumping waste.

Mohd Zahir said the site had been operating for three days prior to the enforcement operation based on the evidence found.

"The worry is that contaminants from the site will seep underground and can contribute to water pollution," he said, adding that the site was barely a kilometre away from the Putrajaya Wetlands Park.

"The site can also emit dangerous chemical fumes due to the decomposition of waste materials over time," he added.



Mohd Zahir said SWCorp had staked out the site and witnessed rubbish trucks plying the area from 10am to late evening over a few weeks.

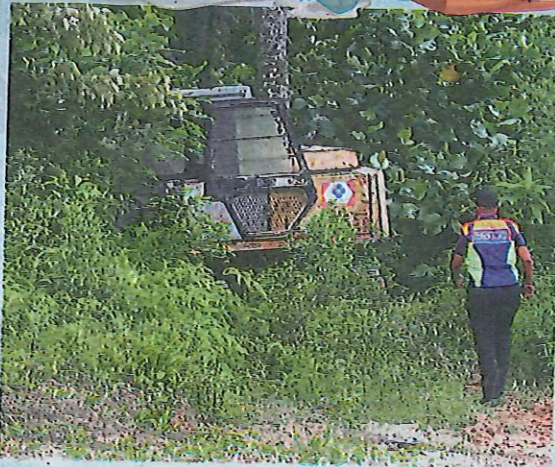
"On average, there were around 15 to 20 rubbish trucks entering and leaving the site every half an hour," he said.

He explained that the truck drivers would find secluded areas to dump waste, to avoid paying tipping fees at landfills.

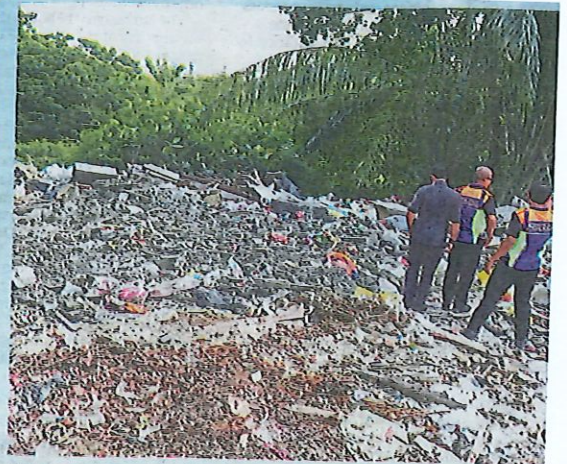
The easy way out was dumping rubbish at an open space instead.

"The tipping fee charged is usually between RM20 and RM35 per truck."

"By disposing of rubbish elsewhere, these truck drivers think they are saving money," said Mohd Zahir, adding that they were scarring the environment through illegal dumping.



An excavator at the illegal dumpsite is believed to have been used to flatten the area to accommodate more waste.



SWCorp enforcement officers will not rest until the culprits are brought to book.