

‘Time to clean up our rivers’

METRO NEWS

Thursday, 26 Oct 2017

by yvonne nathan



Noor Azman (wearing black cap) with the top three winners of a waste bin mural painting competition during the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya's National Environment Day 2017 celebration.

THE increasing amount of waste that makes its way into our rivers was highlighted at the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya level celebration of National Environment Day 2017.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said data provided by the Drainage and Irrigation Department showed the amount of waste collected at the end of 2015 was 59,316kg.

"In 2016, the amount doubled to 123,154kg, while up to June this year, 58,847kg of waste was collected from rivers," he said

Tengku Adnan added that both society and the Government played an important role in caring for the environment.

“We are often exposed to news on environmental issues such as pollution, illegal logging, excessive exploitation of natural resources and unmanaged toxic waste disposal.

“We need enforcement to control illegal waste disposal activities as well as raise awareness through public outreach programmes.”

Tengku Adnan said among the measures taken to clean up rivers was the River of Life project (RoL) launched in 2011.

“RoL will transform eight rivers which flow in Greater Kuala Lumpur and Klang Valley.

“The project will inject new life into the river and potentially become a site for various recreational activities as well as boost the economic value of the riverfront, especially the Klang and Gombak rivers.”

Tengku Adnan added that the MRT was another project which supported sustainable development efforts by reducing the use of fossil fuels.

“Around six million now use public transport in Kuala Lumpur and the number is expected to increase to 10 million by 2020,” said Tengku Adnan.

Visitors took part in a number of activities, including Zumba dances and a 4.5km Eco Funwalk.

Several booths were set up to provide free medical check-ups and Kad Ceria registration, among others.