



**PUZZLING ...** A bus crashed into a house at Taman Bukit Senang, Senai, early yesterday. The house occupants were puzzled as there was no driver in the bus at the time of the incident. — **BERXPRESS**

## Dept disputes online report on plastic waste

■ BY IAN MCINTYRE  
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**IPOH:** The Perak Department of Environment (DOE) has disputed a report on a British-based online news site that plastic waste, including those from Wales, were found in a six-metre-high mound of discarded rubbish in the jungle.

Its state director Norazizi Adnan said that the waste was in essence confined and secured in an urbanised facility that recycles and converts it into processed engineered fuel (PEF). The PEF was then sold to cement operators in Malaysia.

Norazizi told journalists that the premises was operating legally and it was licensed by the Ipoh City Council.

"We monitor the operations to ensure it adheres to the Environment Quality Act 1974," he stressed.

Norazizi was asked to comment on a foreign report that there existed a six-metre-high plastic waste dumped in the state.

Underlining that the report was not factual, Norazizi said for now, the plastic recycling company has not flouted any regulations under the DOE.

It is also learnt that the company has allowed its operations director, K. Muralindran, to grant an interview with journalists, who visited the purported waste site.

He was quoted as saying that the waste was recycled diligently and sold to cement operators who use it to replace coal.

"We get the supply of plastic from 50 local recyclers and as far as we are concerned, the plastics is sourced locally," he said, adding that the company receives at least 4,000 tonnes of plastic waste monthly.

Monthly updates were also sent to the DOE and checks were conducted.

State executive councillor Dr Abdul Aziz Bari, who is in charge of environment matters, said that he has directed the DOE to probe the documentary's claims of unfiltered waste lying around in the jungles of Perak.

## ONE MILLION VEHICLES EXPECTED IN KELANTAN

**TANAH MERAH:** As many as one million vehicles are expected to enter Kelantan for the Aidilfitri celebration on June 5. Kelantan police chief Datuk Hasanuddin Hassan said the entry of vehicles into the state would be in stages as the school holidays had already begun. "We expect there will be an increase in traffic flow but it would occur in stages and not in one go as had happened previously," he said. "Whatever it is, we hope drivers will be careful when driving and not race on the road to avoid crashes," he told reporters after launching the "Ops Selamat" programme at the Kelantan state level at the grounds of Taman Kota Harmoni yesterday. Hasanuddin said in this regard, those returning to the hometown for Raya were reminded against being too excited going home to the extent of neglecting safety aspects on the road. Meanwhile, Hasanuddin reminded those leaving home for the raya to take appropriate measures to prevent incidents of house-breaking which often occurred during the festivities.

## BLEAK RAYA FOR FAMILY LEFT HOMELESS BY FIRE

**JOHOR BARU:** A family's joy at celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri, which is just around the corner, turned into sadness when their home in Jalan Enggang, Felda Taib Andak near Kulai, was burnt down yesterday. Noor Laili Hasan, 40, said her parents' home and a Proton Savvy were almost completely gutted. She said only the living room and balcony of the four-bedroom house were saved. During the incident, she said, her father Hasan Sirun, 77, her mother Khairiyah Ikhsan, 67, her children Muhammad Fiaz Rusli, 5, Nur Fiaz Adrin Rusli, one, and her niece Farhana Nabila Nazri, 21, were home. "Almost all our preparations for Raya were destroyed. The cookies and clothes were all ready, but we accept this fate, it is a test (from Allah)," she said. — **Bernama**

# Temporary licence granted for waste recycling factory

► Company given until October to obtain environmental impact assessment

■ BY CHARLES RAMENDRAN  
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**SEPANG:** A plastic recycling factory, owned by Chinese nationals that was shut down in March following complaints of air pollution by residents in Sungai Pelek, was granted a temporary operating licence following intervention by the Department of Environment (DoE).

Selang Municipal Council (MPS) president Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim yesterday said the factory, Jinye Manufacturing Sdn Bhd at Jalan Sepang Batu 2, Sungai Pelek had

appealed against the shutdown of its operations by the council in March.

He told *theSun* that after the shutdown, the company had subsequently installed air pollution control equipment and efficient processing systems in its factory as required by law.

He said that following a technical review conducted by the DOE on the factory, MPS issued a six-month temporary licence in April.

Mohd Fauzi said this was to enable the factory operator to prepare its environmental impact assessment (EIA) report.

"The factory owners have until October to obtain an approval on its EIA report for it to continue operating. If it fails to do so, MPS will close down the factory again," he said.

*theSun* raised the matter with Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin yesterday but she has yet to comment on the case.

On Sunday, *theSun* carried a report of 200

residents, led by Sungai Pelek Joint-Associations of Religious Houses president Joshua Tee, protesting opposite the factory calling on the authorities to shut down the business as it had caused health and environmental problems.

Yesterday, Joshua told *theSun* that he was frustrated and disappointed with the DOE for allowing the factory to resume its operations.

"The DOE is supposed to protect the people from polluted environments but it had allowed a group of foreign nationals to operate a business that is detrimental to human lives. We are puzzled at what is going on. Last week, we reported this matter to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) as we are suspicious of the turn of events. However, the MACC told us that it had no grounds to investigate as the matter is under the DOE. We are really in a dilemma," he said.

Joshua said as of yesterday, residents continued to complain about noxious fume emissions from the factory.

## 25 families lose their homes in blaze

**PETALING JAYA:** Social workers from a non-governmental organisation are appealing for donations following a fire on Saturday that left 25 families homeless in Taman Pandan Jaya.

L. Kogilavani, a spokesperson from the NGO called Jiranila, urged the public and charity organisations to donate diapers, pillows, blankets, toiletries, water and non-perishable food.

"The victims urgently need help with basic necessities, like clothing, toiletries and basic food provision. If you have any used clothing or extra toiletries that you can spare, please do let us know. I am collecting from friends and family."

"There are also toddlers involved, so milk bottles, diapers, blankets will very much help too," she said.

Those wishing to donate can contact Kogilavani at 016-3378607 or visit Methodist Centre at Jalan Embun in Ampang. She can be also be reached at margaret.van@gmail.com.

On Saturday, a fire broke out at Taman Pandan Jaya where eight housing units were destroyed.

Firemen from Pandan Fire Department were dispatched to put out the blaze. No one was hurt in the incident.



**SAFETY FIRST ...** Road Safety Department director M. Thurkhan Devi fastening a helmet on a motorcyclist during a road safety campaign yesterday in conjunction with the upcoming Hari Raya celebrations. — **BERNAMAPIX**