

No more illegal plastic factories

Selangor to come down hard on unlawful operations

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PETALING JAYA: Six illegal plastic recycling factories in Ijok have been shut down since early July, says Hee Loy Sian.

The Environment, Green Technology and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman said the move showed that the Selangor government was serious in clamping down on such activities.

"There will be no compromise for operators of illegal plastic factories and stern action will be taken against them," he said in replying to a question at the state assembly sitting yesterday.

Ijok assemblyman Dr Idris Ahmad had asked about the steps taken by the state government to tackle the issue of illegal plastic factories.

Hee said during another joint operation, the authorities inspected a total of 10 premises in Ijok, Bestari Jaya and Jeram.

"Nine of the premises had their electricity and water cut," he said.

However, Idris argued that despite stern action taken, illegal plastic factories were still operat-

ing and that the owners were not afraid of enforcement.

"The problem is far from being resolved. Despite cutting the electricity and water supply or issuing fines, these factories are still operating and posing a health risk to the people in the vicinity," said Idris.

He added that due to the burning of plastic, it resulted in air pollution.

"Plastic is piling up everywhere and becomes a potential mosquito breeding ground.

"Ijok is one of the hotspots for dengue fever as a result," he said.

To this, Hee pointed out that a number of compounds could be issued based on the offences such as a RM1,000 fine if unlicensed, a RM25,000 fine for failure to produce an approved building plan and that the land office could also seize the land for wrongful use.

He said offenders could also be slapped with a fine of up to RM100,000 or up to five years' jail if these factories were found to be causing pollution.

Hee said they would work closely with the Kuala Selangor district council to identify such sites.