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YBrs/Dr./ Ir./ Ts./ Tuan/Puan,
Hebahan koleksi keratan akhbar terpilih minggu ini untuk makluman dan rujukan.

1.	TAJUK	LADANG BABI CEMAR 2 SUNGAI DIARAH TUTUP SERTA MERTA
	SUMBER	BH (19 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	17 (NASIONAL)

Ladang babi cemar 2 sungai diarah tutup serta-merta

JAS Kedah kesan operasi haram lepaskan sisa ternakan dari beberapa kolam

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Bukit Mertajam: Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) Pulau Pinang sudah mengarahkan operasi sebuah ladang babi di Sungai Lembu di sini, ditutup serta-merta selepas Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) Kedah mengesan berlaku kegiatan melepaskan sisa ternakan haiwan itu yang menyebabkan pencemaran Sungai Kulim dan Sungai Air Merah.

Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Agroteknologi, Keterjaminan Makanan dan Pembangunan Koperasi negeri, Fahmi Zainol, berkata arahan itu dikeluarkan selepas semakan mendapati ladang terbabit gagal memperoleh lesen secara sah untuk beroperasi.

"JPV mengeluarkan arahan mengosongkan ladang, selain meminta jadual pergerakan babi dari ladang itu ke rumah sembelih.

"Jumlah babi di ladang ini banyak dan perlu dilaksanakan berperingkat, penternak juga didapati tidak mahu mengikut arahan ditetapkan.

"JPV akan mengambil tindakan mengikut enakmen sedia ada terhadap penternak itu dan satu kompaun akan dikeluarkan," katanya mengulas isu pelepasan sisa ternakan babi yang dikesan JAS Kedah.

Fahmi berkata, Bahagian Kawal Selia Air (BKSA) juga akan memantau lokasi yang dilaporkan.

Terdahulu, JAS Kedah mengesan kegiatan melepaskan sisa babi disyaki dari ladang perkampungan Sungai Lembu, Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT), Pulau Pinang yang menyebabkan pencemaran Sungai Kulim dan Sungai Air Merah.

Pengarahnya, Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab, dilaporkan berkata, pihaknya menerima maklumat pencemaran itu Jumaat lalu, sebelum pegawai penyiasat JAS Kawangan Kulim digerakkan bagi mengesan punca kejadian.

Katanya, pemeriksaan lapangan dilakukan pegawai penyiasat meliputi kawasan hulu sungai berjaya mengesan aliran air hitam dari Sungai Air Merah mengalir masuk ke Sungai Kulim.

Dron kesan pelepasan sisa

"Pasukan penyiasat bertindak menyusuri Sungai Air Merah dan turut melakukan pemantauan menggunakan dron di sepanjang Sungai Air Merah.

"Pemantauan melalui dron di sepanjang Sungai Air Merah mengesan punca pelepasan air hitam itu disyaki berpunca dari pelepasan effluen atau air sisa daripada aktiviti penternakan babi di perkampungan Sungai



Aliran air hitam dari kolam ladang ternak babi di Sungai Lembu, Seberang Perai Tengah disyaki cemari Sungai Air Merah dan Sungai Kulim.

(Foto ihsan JAS Kedah)

Lembu, SPT, Pulau Pinang.

"Pemeriksaan lanjut di sekitar kawasan penternakan babi mendapati beberapa kolam yang melepaskan effluen ke Sungai Air Merah yang kemudian memasuki Sungai Kulim.

"Jarak antara kawasan penternakan ke pertemuan Sungai Air Merah-Sungai Kulim kira-kira tiga kilometer (km).

"Untuk rekod, terdapat Loji Rawatan Air (LRA) Toh Allang di Sungai Kulim yang membekalkan air bagi Pulau Pinang dan loji ini terletak kira-kira 7km dari pertemuan Sungai Kulim dan Sungai Air Merah," katanya dalam kenyataan kelmarin.

Sementara itu, Pengarah JAS

Pulau Pinang, Norazizi Adinan, berkata pihaknya turun lapangan sejak kelmarin dan siasatan diteruskan hingga semalam.

"Lima lokasi diambil sampel oleh JAS Pulau Pinang dan jika aduan berasas, tindakan susulan termasuk tindakan perundangan akan dikenakan terhadap pemilik kandang babi itu.

"Semua pihak yang mempunyai kuasa perundangan akan diminta untuk mengambil tindakan mengikut kuasa masing-masing.

"JAS mempunyai kuasa terhadap ladang ternakan kerana tiada kuasa khusus untuk pencemaran dari ladang ternakan," katanya.

2.	TAJUK	SUSPENDED WASTE DISPOSAL : PENANG PIG FARMS CAUSING POLLUTION IN SUNGAI KULIM
	SUMBER	NEW STRAITS TIMES (19 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	8 (NEWS/NATION)

SUSPECTED WASTE DISPOSAL

Penang pig farms causing pollution in Sg Kulim

ALOR STAR: The Environment Department has identified pollution in Sungai Kulim, believed to be caused by improper disposal of waste from pig farming in Penang.

Kedah Environment Department director Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab yesterday said investigations in the upstream area of Sungai Kulim were conducted following a level 1 notification of pollution event last Friday.

"Our investigative team noticed a flow of black water from Sungai Air Merah to Sungai Kulim.

"We traced the source along Sungai Air Merah.

"Drone surveillance along Sungai Air Merah pinpointed the origin of the black water.

"We suspect this pollution is coming from the disposal practices of pig farms in Kampung Sungai Lembu near Seberang



An Environment Department worker using a drone to survey a pond in Kampung Sungai Lembu near Seberang Prai, Penang, yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF THE KEDAH ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Prai Tengah in Penang."

Zakiah said checks in the vicinity of the pig farm found ponds leaking pollutants into Sungai Air Merah, which flowed into Sungai Kulim.

"Our measurements indicated that the levels of ammonia-nitrogen reached 2.91152 mg/l, surpassing acceptable limits.

"The findings have been forwarded to the Penang Environment Department."

She asked all parties to cease polluting rivers as pollution could lead to the closure of water

treatment plants (WTP) and affect domestic water supply.

"The pig farms are located 3km from the Sungai Air Merah and Sungai Kulim junction.

"Notably, the Toh Allang WTP in Sungai Kulim, which serves Penang, is situated 7km from this juncture."

Kedah Veterinary Services Department director Dr Saira Banu Mohamed Rejab said: "I have received information on the matter. Let us investigate it first."

Saira said it would release a statement today.

3.	TAJUK	SUHU MEMBAHANG : 10 KAWASAN SELURUH NEGARA DALAM KATEGORIBERJAGA-JAGA
	SUMBER	HARIAN METRO (19 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	10 (LOKAL)

Suhu membahang!

10 kawasan di seluruh negara dalam kategori berjaga-jaga

Kuala Lumpur

Sepuluh kawasan di seluruh negara merekodkan suhu panas tahap berjaga-jaga sehingga jam 6 petang kelmarin, menurut Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia).

Menurut maklumat jabatan itu di Facebook kelmarin, sembilan kawasan direkodkan di Semenanjung membabitkan Pulau Langkawi, Kota Setar, Yan, Pendang, Pokok Sena, Sik, Baling di

Kedah; Seberang Perai Utara di Pulau Pinang dan Kuala Kangsar, Perak manakala Sabah di daerah Beaufort.

Suhu tahap berjaga-jaga merujuk kepada suhu maksimum harian 35 hingga 37 darjah Celsius sekurang-kurangnya tiga hari berturut-turut.

MetMalaysia sebelum ini memaklumkan negara kini berada pada fasa akhir Monsun Timur Laut

yang dijangka berterusan sehingga penghujung Mac 2024.

Dalam tempoh

itu, litupan awan dan taburan hujan kelazimannya kurang di kebanyakan tempat terutama di kawasan utara Semenanjung termasuk Perak, Pahang dan Kelantan.

Ketiadaan hujan dalam tempoh lama boleh menyebabkan cuaca lebih panas dan kering berbanding kebiasaan.

Cuaca panas yang dialami ketika ini adalah fenomena berulang yang berlaku saban tahun pada setiap Februari hingga Mei dan dalam tempoh ini, suhu maksimum harian boleh melebihi 35 darjah Celsius pada awal petang.

MUHAMMAD Fadli Syahmi Zauwari Azaha, 15, membasahkan muka serta menghilangkan dahaga dengan minum air akibat cuaca panas ketika membantu keluarganya berkebun di Pekan Darat. Pekan Darat yang terletak dalam daerah Seberang Perai Utara, antara daerah yang diklasifikasi mengalami cuaca panas tahap berjaga-jaga selepas mencatat suhu harian antara 35 hingga 37 darjah Celsius. - Gambar NSTP/DANIAL SAAD



4.	TAJUK	LADANG ITIK BUKAN BABI PUNCA 2 SUNGAI DI KEDAH TERCEMAR
	SUMBER	BH (20 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	20 (NASIONAL)

Ladang itik bukan babi punca 2 sungai di Kedah tercemar

Bukit Mertajam: Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) Pulau Pinang mendedahkan sisa buangan yang dikesan mencemarkan dua sungai di Kedah berpunca daripada ladang itik di Sungai Lembu, di sini, dan bukannya ternakan babi seperti dilaporkan.

Ini berdasarkan hasil siasatan dijalankan bersama Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) dan Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai (MBSP), semalam.

Pengerusi Agroteknologi, Keterjaminan Makanan dan Pembangunan Koperasi negeri, Fahmi Zainol, berkata beliau bersama semua agensi berkaitan pada mulanya menjalankan siasatan ke atas ladang babi yang dimaksudkan.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, siasatan mendapati pencemaran yang berlaku di dua sungai di Kedah itu sebenarnya bukan berpunca daripada ladang babi terbabit, sebaliknya disebabkan ternakan itik yang terletak bersebelahan.

“Kita mendapati memang ada pelepasan terus daripada ladang itik terbabit yang terus (masuk) ke Sungai Air Merah dan juga menerusi Sungai Kulim,” katanya ke-

pada media di sini, semalam.

Media sebelum ini melaporkan JAS Kedah mengesan berlaku kegiatan melepaskan sisa ternakan babi disyaki daripada ladang perkampungan Sungai Lembu, Seberang Perai Tengah (SPT), Pulau Pinang yang menyebabkan pencemaran Sungai Kulim dan Sungai Air Merah.

Pengarah JAS Kedah, Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab dilaporkan berkata, pihaknya menerima maklumat berkaitan pencemaran itu pada Jumaat lalu, sebelum pegawai penyiasat JAS Cawangan Kulim digerakkan bagi mengesan punca kejadian.

Katanya, pemeriksaan di lapangan yang dilakukan pegawai penyiasat membabitkan kawasan hulu sungai berjaya mengesan aliran air hitam dari Sungai Air Merah masuk ke Sungai Kulim.

Fahmi berkata, walaupun keadaan itu mencemarkan alam sekitar, namun orang ramai tidak perlu bimbang memandangkan ia tidak memberi kesan kepada sumber air yang dirawat di kedua-dua negeri iaitu Pulau Pinang dan Kedah.



Fahmi (kiri) bersama Dr Saira Banu melihat anak sungai yang tercemar ketika melakukan pemeriksaan berhampiran ladang ternakan itik di perkampungan Sungai Lembu.
(Foto Danial Saad/BH)

“Isu ini tidak memberi kesan secara langsung kepada air yang dirawat oleh Perbadanan Bekalan Air (PBA) yang (loji air terawat) terletak jauh 14 kilometer dari lokasi ini.

“Pelepasan sisa ini didapati masuk ke Sungai Air Merah dan hanya melintasi garis sempadan negeri Kedah dan Pulau Pinang serta masuk semula ke Pulau Pinang,” katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah JPV negeri, Dr Saira Banu Mohamed Rejab berkata, siasatan mendapati ladang itik itu beroperasi sejak 15 tahun lalu dan tidak memperoleh lesen menternak.

5.	TAJUK	USAH BIAR PENILAIAN DEMERIT, KPI TINGKAT TEKANAN PENJAWAT AWAM
	SUMBER	BH (21 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	PERKHIDMATAN AWAM
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	12 (RENCANA)

12

Rencana

Rabu, 21 Februari 2024 R11

Usah biar penilaian demerit, KPI tingkat tekanan penjawat awam

- Penilaian demerit (potong markah) dikenakan jika penjawat awam gagal mencapai sasaran kerja ditetapkan

- Organisasi dan tempat kerja mungkin 'bertoksik' jika penilaian demerit tidak dilaksanakan dengan baik dan berhemah



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Kajian Sistem Saran Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) yang tertangguh sejak 12 tahun lalu bakal diumumkan pada suku keempat tahun ini. SSPA kali ini dikatakan mampu melegakan penjawat awam, khususnya berkaitan pelarasan skim gaji dan pembangunan kerjaya lebih menarik.

Paling ditunggu adalah pelarasan gaji dijangka meningkat 20 hingga 30 peratus daripada kadar sedia ada. Jika ini menjadi kenyataan, penjawat awam khususnya dalam kategori pelaksana berjumlah 60 peratus bakal menikmati skim gaji lebih baik.

Justeru, pelaksanaan SSPA baharu dijangka merungkit dan mengurangkan gejala negatif dalam kalangan penjawat awam selama ini.

Dalam pada itu, pengumuman Ketua Setiausaha Negara (KSN), Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali berkaitan Sistem Penilaian Demerit (DEEP) mengundang pelbagai persoalan dan polemik penjawat awam.

Sungguhpun, sistem DEEP belum dibuka kepada umum, penjelasan ringkas KSN kepada umum, penjelasan ringkas KSN menimbulkan banyak persoalan.

Berdasarkan maklumat awal, penilaian demerit terdiri daripada dua fasa. Pertama petunjuk generik iaitu laporan bulanan progresif. Fasa kedua, penilaian memfokuskan jumlah libat urus bersama pemegang taruh atau pelanggan melalui pelbagai platform, termasuk media.

Sistem DEEP juga dikatakan kaedah baharu menilai prestasi, khususnya ketua jabatan dan semua penjawat awam bermula dengan markah 100 mata, namun ditolak jika gagal mencapai petunjuk prestasi utama (KPI).

Jumlah terkumpul digunakan bagi penilaian kepimpinan dan KPI ketua jabatan serta penjawat awam. Ini berdasarkan alasan penilaian prestasi sedia ada bersifat 'pukul rata' dan tidak menggambarkan output KPI sebenar pencapaian pegawai.

Ringkasnya, penilaian demerit (potong markah) dikenakan jika penjawat awam gagal mencapai sasaran kerja ditetapkan.

Sistem DEEP yang bermula dengan 100 mata ini kurang meraihan falsafah pembangunan liberal demokrasi dan seolah memperlihatkan arahan bersifat paksaan atau kuasa penuh orang atasan.

Dikaji dari sudut konteks falsafah pembangunan liberal demokrasi, sistem DEEP bermula dengan suatu 'amaran tegas dan keras' untuk membolehkan penjawat awam melaksanakan tugas sebakinya.

Sistem penilaian prestasi seharusnya menggambarkan keupayaan organisasi meningkatkan kualiti modal insan dalam pelbagai perspektif, terutama keperluan untuk disantuni secara 'manusiawi' dan berhemah.

Disebabkan penilaian DEEP adalah sistem tolak markah, maka setiap penjawat awam sentiasa

berwaspada dengan 100 mata diberikan. Sekali pandang sistem ini meningkatkan komitmen dan akuntabiliti penjawat awam dengan tugas dipikulnya.

Bagaimanapun, ia juga bakal mewujudkan tekanan dan kelesaan di tempat kerja, sekali gus melemahkan motivasi pekerja pada jangka panjang. Di sini, sukar untuk mencapai keseimbangan antara kehidupan dengan pekerjaan. Tekanan untuk mencapai KPI akan menyebabkan individu menggunakan apa saja strategi untuk menghasilkan output KPI disasarkan.

Lagi tinggi KPI, semakin tinggi tekanan dirasai pekerja. Bermakna, sistem demerit dan KPI semakin meningkat tentu memberi lebih tekanan dan bebanan mental kepada penjawat awam. Akhirnya, meningkatkan kadar masalah kesihatan mental pula dalam kalangan penjawat awam.

Beri ruang perincian bakal

Dalam hal ini, penjawat awam sepatutnya diberi peluang meluaskan bakat dan kebolehan, bukan sekadar mencari 'salah dan kesilapan' mereka menerusi sistem penilaian demerit.

Sistem DEEP seolah seperti *watch dog* dan kamera litar tertutup (CCTV) memantau segala tindakan supaya arahan kerja dipenuhi mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP).

Sistem penilaian demerit juga akan menyebabkan tekanan domino antara individu, dirasai penjawat awam merentas jawatan dan tugas. Ketua jabatan yang di tangannya bermula dengan 100 mata tentu tidak mahu mengurangnya sehingga akhir tahun.

Maka ketua jabatan melakukan apa sahaja strategi untuk mencapai output KPI, sekali gus mengekalkan maksimum markah diperolehinya.



Penjawat awam sedang menunggu SSPA baharu.

Jika sebelum ini, markah Sasaran Kerja tahunan (SKT) ikut nilai mata diperoleh berdasarkan KPI bermula sifar sehingga melebihi 100 jika ditambah bonus tertentu.

Sungguhpun, pada fasa kedua penilaian DEEP menekankan libat urus antara pemegang taruh, tetapi jika birokrasi pada takuk lama dan tidak ditransformasi sebakinya, maka sukar untuk mencapai kesepakatan dan kerjasama dengan pemegang taruh.

Selain itu, ukuran dan penilaian prestasi penjawat awam menjadi statik kerana setiap individu cenderung memfokus garis panduan sedia ada sehingga tidak mengembangkan kemahiran, sikap dan pengetahuan baharu. Sekalipun ketegatiganya dijadikan aspek tertentu dalam penilaian prestasi.

Penilaian DEEP juga menyebabkan penjawat awam hanya bersedia menerima arahan ketua tanpa melihat kewajaran di sebalik kepentingan tugas diterima.

Ia seolah-olah 'makan tak cari, tetapi tunggu mulut disuap'. Ia mungkin sesuai pada peringkat pelaksana, namun kurang sesuai pada peringkat pengurusan dan profesional khususnya jurutera, penyarah dan penyelidik.

Organisasi dan tempat kerja mungkin 'bertoksik' jika penilaian demerit tidak dilaksanakan dengan baik dan berhemah. Jurang antara ketua untuk mencapai output KPI tahunan akan menjadi renggang dan tegang dengan staf bawahannya akibat 'kuasa' yang ada padanya.

Ketua yang nipis nilai kemanusiaan dan tusan akan mudah mengeksploitasi dan memanipulasi kuasa untuk mencapai KPI. Justeru, KPI hanya dilihat dari segi pencapaian dan kemampuan ketua melaksanakan tanggungjawab.

Barangkali, akan berlaku situasi yang mana, individu menolak atau menarik diri untuk menjadi ketua kerana takut dan bimbang tidak mencapai KPI disasarkan. Kedua, bersedia untuk 'berkonflik' dan menekan staf bawahannya bagi mencapai KPI.

Akibatnya, jawatan ketua dilihat sebagai beban merosakkan hubungan antara pimpinan dengan staf bawahan pada jangka panjang. Walaupun SSPA baharu memberi manfaat kepada penjawat awam dalam bentuk pelarasan gaji dan imbuhan lain, namun sistem DEEP boleh memberi kesan terbadap tekanan kerja.

Sebenarnya langkah kerajaan memperkenalkan SSPA bertujuan memberi imbuhan dan 'hadiah' kepada penjawat awam selepas sekian lama menunggu pelarasan gaji. Namun, pengumuman awal KSN berkaitan pelaksanaan penilaian demerit seperti tidak kena pada tempatnya.

SSPA baharu dan penilaian demerit mesti merangkumi nilai dan falsafah pembangunan Malaysia MADANI. Nilai kemanusiaan iaitu tusan perlu menjadi teras dalam amalan dan pelaksanaannya. SSPA baharu dan penilaian demerit perlu mempunyai elemen 'menang-menang' antara penjawat awam, organisasi dan negara.

Apas yang yang dibimbangi pelaksanaan SSPA baharu dan penilaian sistem DEEP yang kurang berhemah akan menjadi modal politik pembangkang untuk menarik undi penjawat awam pada Pilihan Raya Umum Ke-16 (PRU16).

6.	TAJUK	4 KAWAH AIR DI DASAR PANTAI BATU BUROK
	SUMBER	BERITA HARIAN (21 JANUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	18 {KOMENTAR}



Anggota bomba menggunakan dron dalam misi mencari dan menyelamatkan mangsa lemas berikutan keadaan arus kuat dan dasar laut yang dalam di Pantai Batu Burok.
(Foto Baharom Bakar/BH)

4 kawah air di dasar Pantai Batu Burok

Bomba kesan lokasi sedalam 3 meter berbahaya kepada pengunjung

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Kuala Terengganu: Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia (JBPM) negeri mengesahkan ada sehingga empat kawah air di dasar laut sepanjang Pantai Batu Burok, di sini.

Kawah air dengan kedalaman kira-kira 3.05 meter dan dipenuhi dengan sampah itu, berbahaya kepada pengunjung jika dihanyut ke kawasan berkenaan.

Pengarah JBPM negeri, Hassan As'ari Omar, berkata empat

kawah air di Pantai Batu Burok itu dikesan anggota Pasukan Penyelamat di Air (PPDA) ketika melakukan selaman dalam operasi mencari dan menyelamatkan mangsa lemas di lokasi itu pada Ahad dan kelmarin.

"Kita difahamkan, kawah air yang terletak kira-kira 50 meter daripada pesisir pantai itu terbentuk disebabkan berlakunya pusaran air.

"Kerja menyelamatkan mangsa lemas yang dihanyutkan arus ke dalam kawah itu mungkin terganggu disebabkan keadaan gelap dan dipenuhi sampah," katanya, di sini semalam.

Elak insiden lemas

Beliau ditemui media ketika meninjau operasi menyelamatkan seorang peniaga, Zulkarnain Mohamed Zubir, 44, yang dihanyutkan arus ketika bermain

ombak di Pantai Batu Burok di sini, Ahad lalu.

Mayat Zulkarnain ditemui terapung oleh sekumpulan nelayan di perairan Pulau Kapas dan Pulau Gemia, kira-kira 16 kilometer daripada lokasi kejadian, kira-kira jam 4 petang kelmarin.

Mengulas lanjut, Hassan As'ari berkata, pengunjung tidak digalakkan untuk mandi di sepanjang Pantai Batu Burok.

Katanya, semua pelancong dan pengunjung daripada luar Terengganu yang menginap di hotel dan inap desa di pesisir pantai diminta sentiasa berwaspada bagi mengelakkan insiden tidak diingini terutama lemas.

"Berdasarkan beberapa kes lemas di Pantai Batu Burok, kebanyakan mangsa ditemui dalam jarak antara tiga hingga 21 kilometer, dihanyutkan arus," katanya.

7.	TAJUK	EXTREME WEATHER EXTREME RISK
	SUMBER	NEW STRAITS TIMES (21 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	10 (WOMAN)



A woman farmer reaps leaves at a tea estate in Nuwara Eliya in Sri Lanka. Domestic violence is a little-studied side effect of climate change, where frequent heatwaves, droughts, floods and storms can exacerbate economic hardship, which in turn can fuel anger and violence. — AFP/ilepic

Domestic violence is the cost of climate change for Sri Lankan women.

AFTER years of scant rainfall in a remote region of Sri Lanka, farmer Renuka Karunaratna's crops failed and as the family's income dwindled, her husband took his anger out on her, beating her so badly she had to go to hospital.

"I have got beaten up so many times," Karunaratna said in her village of Sapumal Thenna in Sri Lanka's North Central Province. "I suffer a lot."

Domestic violence is a little-studied side effect of climate change, especially in poorer nations where increasingly frequent heatwaves, droughts, floods and storms can exacerbate economic hardship, which in turn can fuel anger and violence.

As families fall into penury because of failed harvests and lost incomes, researchers and affected women say men sometimes take their frustrations out on family members, with women often bearing the brunt of the violence, especially in cultures where such behaviour is already commonplace.

Karunaratna said she and her husband would fight over little things and he would often hit her. She had to seek hospital treatment several times.

She did report some of the incidents to the police but was told to try to make peace with her husband "for the sake of the children" — a common piece of

advice in conservative Sri Lankan society where domestic violence is relatively common.

Although Sri Lanka has few detailed statistics on the links between climate change-related crop failures and gender-based violence, Rashmini de Silva, a gender and climate change researcher, said when basic needs are not being met, women can suffer physical, verbal and psychological abuse.

"There are records of domestic violence where men beat their wives, when even the smallest issues in regard to buying food or expenses for children's education or farming have to be discussed," she said.

Sri Lanka is among the countries most affected by extreme weather events but even as it tries to build more resilience, it is still grappling with the fallout from its worst financial crisis in decades after a severe shortage of foreign exchange reserves shattered the economy in 2022.

It is estimated that close to 19 million Sri Lankans may live in areas that could become moderate or severe hotspots in terms of floods or droughts by 2050.

According to Sri Lanka's 2023 national policy on climate change, climate-induced hazards in the country have increased 22-fold during the last decade compared to 1973-1983.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in its sixth assessment report in 2022 that climate change can harm mental health, causing anxiety and anger and sometimes fuelling drug and alcohol use, and violence.

"During and after extreme

weather events, women, girls and LGBTQI people are at increased risk of domestic violence, harassment, sexual violence and trafficking," it said.

Angry men, silent women

In 2019, Sri Lanka's Department of Census and Statistics carried out its first dedicated national survey on violence against women.

The Women's Wellbeing Survey found women were more than twice as likely to have experienced physical violence by a partner than by a non-partner. Nearly 40% said they had experienced physical, sexual, emotional or economic violence or controlling behaviour from partners.

The survey also found that women did not disclose violence for fear of social pressure and stigma and because they did not want to disrupt the family. Meanwhile, more than one-third of women said men can have a good reason to hit their wives.

The financial and mental strain of living with the effects of extreme weather events seems to exacerbate the problem of violence against women in rural areas.

Another farmer from Sapumal Thenna — who asked that her name not be used for fear of reprisals — said she had not been able to grow enough rice to feed her family in recent years, with elephants sometimes eating part of the harvest while other stalks produced "empty grains" because of water scarcity.

She said food shortages had led to violence at home.

"With the economic problems,

I end up getting beaten up," she said. "When there is no money, when we talk about expenses, it builds up to a fight."

Just over a quarter of Sri Lankans were employed in agriculture in 2021, and about a third of those were women, according to government statistics.

Many women grow crops on family-owned land to feed their families, selling any surplus, while others work as farm labourers. Most of the country's food crops are grown by small-scale farmers with properties of less than one hectare (2.5 acres).

But as floods and droughts become more frequent — and as rain patterns and temperatures change, largely as a result of climate change — crop losses are becoming regular.

Less water, less work, less independence

Although Sapumal Thenna is surrounded by reservoirs built to collect rainwater for rice cultivation during the dry season, many farms do not have access to the canals that carry the water.

This means Karunaratna and other farmers are dependent on rainwater, and can only grow crops during the monsoon season, known as Maha, which lasts from September to March. A second monsoon, the Yala, which occurs from May to August, does not reach Karunaratna's region.

The women are trying to renovate a long-abandoned ancient water storage tank to store rainwater.

"If we have at least a little bit of water, we can farm paddy one season, and grow pulses in the

next," Karunaratna said.

These climate stresses — and the resulting domestic violence — are repeated in other communities across this island of 22 million people, including in Uva province in the south.

Since 1984, large areas of forest in the district of Monaragala have been cleared for banana and sugar plantations by multinational companies, contributing to an "acute change in climate," said K.P. Somalatha, a farmer and leader of the Uva Wellassa Women's Organisation.

A range of reservoirs, creeks and wells that once supplied water are also drying up because of this, she said.

"Rains stop, droughts come, and then there are cyclones," said Somalatha, who has worked in the area for more than two decades.

Harvest failures are becoming more common, decimating traditional vegetable cultivation, known as Chena, and slashing incomes for women, leaving them more reliant on their husbands, she said.

As the women lose the income that ensured their independence, some are denied permission by their husbands even to visit their own parents or siblings, exacerbating gender-based violence, Somalatha said.

"If they try to leave home, they are beaten up or scolded," she said. "Their dignity is shattered."

Women obey because they have to survive, she said. "What can they do if the husband beats them up when the doors are closed?" Somalatha asked. "They are terrified."

Thomson Reuters Foundation

8.	TAJUK	MOVE TO REPLACE RUBBISH BINS IN KL AND PUTRAJAYA KICKING OFF IN MARCH
	SUMBER	THE STAR (21 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	4 (NEWS)

FEDERAL Territories Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation (SWCorp) will be implementing a rubbish bin replacement programme in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya starting next month.

The programme would involve landed residences, high-rise and commercial properties in areas where rubbish or solid waste collection service fall under Federal Territories SWCorp's purview.

"The replacement exercise will be carried out by the government appointed concessionaire Alam Flora Sdn Bhd," Federal Territories SWCorp director Ummi Kalthum Shuib said in a statement.

"The bins that will be replaced are those provided by the government in 2018 or the preceding years," she said.

A total of 113,245 units in Kuala Lumpur and 5,060 units in Putrajaya are to be replaced.

The bin sizes consist of 120L mobile garbage bins (MGB) for landed premises, 240L MGB for commercial premises and 660L MGB for strata residential properties.

While the bin replacement

Move to replace rubbish bins in KL and Putrajaya kicking off in March



Federal Territories SWCorp's rubbish bin replacement programme in Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya is being implemented in phases. — Courtesy of SWCorp

programme would be fully implemented in phases from March, Ummi Kalthum said the initiative involving 120L MGB had begun in two areas with 717 bins replaced in Bukit Damansara and 129 bins in Taman Maluri in Kuala Lumpur.

"The rubbish bin replacement programme is also available for property owners who filed complaints about damaged or lost bins, through SWCorp's complaint system.

"Those wanting a replacement for lost bins must first lodge a

police report about the loss and submit a copy of the report to Alam Flora when collecting the replacement unit," she said.

She reminded residents, building owners and strata building management bodies to practise waste separation, as mandated under the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act 2007 (Act 672), failing which they might be fined up to RM1,000.

Ummi Kalthum said practising waste separation and recycling would help reduce the amount of wastes sent to landfills.

She urged property owners to take good care of the bins provided by the government.

An SWCorp official estimated that one 120L bin costs about RM100.

Any reports and complaints can be sent via swcorp.spab.gov.my, call 1-800-88-7472/03-2245 9292 or email to wp@swcorp.my

9.	TAJUK	PENCENARAN SUNGAI KULIM TAK JEJAS KUALITI AIR TERAWAT
	SUMBER	BH (22 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	14 (NASIONAL)

Pencemaran Sungai Kulim tak jejas kualiti air terawat

Bukit Mertajam: Pencemaran Sungai Kulim hasil sisa ladang ternakan baru-baru ini tidak memberi kesan ketara kepada kualiti air terawat Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang (PBAPP).

Ia berdasarkan ujian kualiti air yang dikendalikan PBAPP bersama Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang (JKNPP).

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif PBAPP, K Pathmanathan, berkata pihaknya menjalankan ujian berkecemasan sebagai prosedur dalam memastikan air terawat yang dihasilkan mematuhi parameter Program Jaminan Kualiti (QAP) yang ditetapkan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM).

"PBAPP menguji kualiti air mentah yang diabstrak daripada semua sumber air mentah di Pulau Pinang, serta air terawat daripada semua loji rawatan air (LRA).

"Sepanjang 10 hari yang lalu, keputusan ujian PBAPP tidak mendedahkan sebarang pelanggaran besar terhadap parameter ujian air yang di-

tetapkan oleh KKM.

"Oleh itu, pelepasan dari ladang yang dilaporkan tidak menjejaskan kualiti air terawat di Pulau Pinang," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Sentiasa berjaga-jaga

Mengulas lanjut, Pathmanathan berkata, bagaimanapun pihaknya akan terus berwaspada dan memantau kualiti air dari semasa ke semasa.

"Makmal Pusat PBAPP di Sungai Dua adalah penerima enam kali Anugerah Kecemerlangan dari Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM) yang mengiktiraf kecekapan dan pencapaiannya dalam bidang ujian air.

"PBAPP ingin memberi jaminan kepada semua pengguna air di Pulau Pinang bahawa kami akan melaporkan sebarang isu kualiti air yang dikesan dengan cara yang tepat dan cepat," katanya.

Terdahulu, JAS Kedah mengesan berlakunya kegiatan melepaskan sisa ternakan babi disyaki dari ladang perkampungan Sungai Lembu, Seberang

Perai Tengah (SPT), Pulau Pinang yang menyebabkan pencemaran Sungai Kulim dan Sungai Air Merah.

Pengarahnya, Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab dilaporkan berkata, pihaknya menerima maklumat berkaitan pencemaran itu Jumaat lalu, sebelum pegawai penyiasat JAS Cawangan Kulim digerakkan bagi mengesan punca kejadian.

Katanya, pemeriksaan lapangan yang dilakukan pegawai penyiasat meliputi kawasan hulu sungai berjaya mengesan aliran air hitam dari Sungai Air Merah mengalir masuk ke Sungai Kulim.

Bagaimanapun, dalam lawatan yang diadakan Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar (JPV) Pulau Pinang bersama JAS dan Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai (MBSP), Isnin lalu mendapati pencemaran yang berlaku dua sungai di Kedah sebenarnya bukan berpunca dari ladang babi terbabit, sebaliknya adalah disebabkan ternakan itik yang terletak bersebelahan.

10.	TAJUK	CUACA PANA BERLARUTAN HINGGA RAMADAN DEPAN
	SUMBER	BH (23 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	16 (NASIONAL)

16

Nasional

Jumaat, 23 Februari 2024 BH

Cuaca panas berlarutan hingga Ramadan depan

Suhu tertinggi harian dijangka cecah 37 celsius

Oleh Zuliaty Zulkiffli
bhnews@bh.com.my

Alor Setar: Fenomena El Nino atau cuaca panas yang melanda ketika ini dijangka berlanjutan sehingga Ramadan ini.

Pengarah Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MetMalaysia) Kedah, Muhammad Khalil Abd Aziz, berkata walaupun ada sesetengah kawasan mengalami hujan baru-baru ini, beliau meramalkan cuaca kering dan panas berterusan sehingga awal April, dengan suhu

tertinggi harian mencecah 37 celsius.

"Corak cuaca adalah disebabkan oleh fasa lewat monsun timur laut, biasanya dicirikan oleh penurunan hujan dan suhu tinggi.

"Monsun timur laut dijangka berakhir pada akhir Mac atau awal April, menandakan fasa peralihan monsun," katanya dihubungi semalam.

Beliau berkata, sehingga 27 Februari ini, ribut petir disertai hujan lebat dan angin kencang boleh berlaku walaupun cuaca panas.

"Ini terutamanya di kawasan pedalaman dan Pantai Barat Semenanjung pada waktu petang dan lewat petang, yang berpotensi berlanjutan ke awal pagi.

Dalam pada itu, musim kering El Nino yang berterusan di negeri

ini berpotensi menjadi episod paling teruk dalam sejarah negara, seperti yang diunjurkan oleh pakar bencana iklim.

Situasi membimbangkan

Pengarah Institut Pengurusan Bencana Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Dr Chong Khai, berkata berdasarkan analisis cuaca purata suhu harian tahun ini adalah tiga celsius melebihi normal.

Beliau berkata, walaupun masih terlalu awal untuk menentukan sama ada impak El Nino meningkat berbanding sebelum ini tanpa menunggu kesimpulannya, yang biasanya menjangkau enam hingga 18 bulan, purata suhu semasa menunjukkan situasi yang membimbangkan.

Membandingkannya dengan



Kedadaan sawah padi yang merekah akibat cuaca panas susulan fenomena El Nino di Alor Setar.

(Foto Ahmad Mukhsein Mukhtar/BH)

episod El Nino 2016, beliau mengimbas situasi sama di mana Langkawi mengalami 27 hari tanpa hujan, menandakan sebagai satu episod El Nino terburuk dalam sejarah Malaysia.

"Tahun ini, Perlis berlangsung selama 29 hari tanpa hujan dan kenaikan suhu global 0.6 darjah Celsius mungkin membawa kepada senario yang lebih buruk untuk El Nino 2024," katanya.

Oleh itu, beliau menekankan kepentingan kesiapsiagaan masyarakat terhadap El Nino,

seperti sentiasa berwaspada terhadap amaran MetMalaysia dan menjimatkan air.

"El Nino boleh mengakibatkan suhu lebih tinggi, hujan berkurangan dan jerebu rentas sempadan jika kebakaran hutan tidak dikawal.

"Terdapat risiko kekurangan air, memberi kesan kepada pertanian dan masyarakat. Memandangkan sekarang ini musim penanaman padi, petani memerlukan bekalan air yang mencukupi untuk pembenihan," katanya.

11.	TAJUK	A WAY OF LIFE MELTING AWAY
	SUMBER	THE STAR (23 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	24 (STARDOTS)

24 StarDots

THE STAR, FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024

A way of life melting away

FOR centuries, Swiss farmers have sent their cattle, goats and sheep up the mountains to graze in warmer months before bringing them back down at the start of autumn.

Devised in the Middle Ages to save precious grass in the valleys for winter stock, the tradition of “summering” has so transformed the countryside into a patchwork of forests and pastures that maintaining its appearance was written into the Swiss Constitution as an essential role of agriculture.

It has also knitted together essential threads of the country’s modern identity: alpine cheeses, hiking trails that crisscross summer pastures, cowbells echoing off the mountainsides.

In December, the United Nations heritage agency Unesco added the Swiss tradition to its exalted “intangible cultural heritage” list.

But climate change threatens to scramble those traditions. Warming temperatures, glacier loss, less snow and an earlier snow melt are forcing farmers across Switzerland to adapt.

Not all are feeling the changes in the same way in a country where the Alps create many microclimates. Some are enjoying bigger yields on summer pastures, allowing them to extend their alpine seasons. Others are being forced by more frequent and intense droughts to descend with their herds earlier.

The more evident effect on the Swiss, the more potential trouble it spells for all of Europe.

Switzerland has long been considered Europe’s water tower, the place where deep winter snows would accumulate and gently melt through the warmer months, augmenting the trickling runoff from thick glaciers that helped sustain many of Europe’s rivers and its ways of life for centuries.

Today, the Alps are warming about twice as fast as the global average, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In the past two years alone, Swiss glaciers have lost 10% of their water volume – as much as melted in the three decades from 1960 to 1990.

The government is trying to address the changes and preserve Swiss alpine traditions, including with large infrastructure projects to take water to the top of mountains for animals grazing in the summer months.

For now, the traditions, while strained in places, continue. After three days of scrambling over rocky mountainsides and zigzagging stone steps, the first sheep in a giant herd of nearly 700 burst into view at the end of their “summering” last fall.

As a crowd of spectators cheered, some of the sheep pranced. Others stopped dead in their tracks and had to be coaxed along by herders in matching plaid shirts and leather cowboy hats, adorned with wildflowers and feathers.

The sheep had been living wild for more than three months – wandering around a high, vast wilderness penned in by glaciers. Their only contact with humanity had been the visits of a single shepherd, Fabrice Gex, who says he loses more than 13kg a season walking the territory to check on them.

“With climate change, our vegetation period is longer,” Gex, 49, said, standing in the ancient stone pen where the sheep are corralled at the end of their trek. “So the sheep can stay longer.”

The tradition of alpine pasturing, or “transhumance,” spreads all across the Alps, including Austria, Italy and Germany.

Nearly half of Switzerland’s livestock farms send their goats, sheep and cows up to summer pastures, according to the last thorough study done by government scientists, in 2014.

More than 80% of alpine farm income

A team from ETH Zurich, a research university, use orange dye for an annual measuring of surface melt at the Rhone Glacier, which has retreated since 2007 by about a third of a mile. (Below) Sheep cross a mountain plateau in the vicinity of the glacier in Switzerland. — ©2024 The New York Times Company



“When the climate is changing, you need flexibility.”

Manuel Schneider

comes from government subsidies – many for keeping the pastureland clear of encroaching trees, which are nudging uphill with warmer temperatures.

That makes Switzerland a rare country that does not embrace tree cover as a solution to climate change.

“It would be all bushes and forest if we weren’t here,” said Andrea Herger, herding cows past an inn for hikers and into her family’s milking barn halfway up a mountain near Isenthal.

“It wouldn’t be that open, beautiful landscapes for hiking.”

Her husband, Josef Herger, is the third generation in his family to run their alpine summer farm, which is reached by a private cable car. They bring up seven cows from their own farm and 33 cows from neighbours, who pay them in cows’

milk that the couple uses to make cheese.

Farther west, near L’Eivaz, the Mottier family pushes 45 cows along what they call a “mountain train”, following the newly sprouting grass to a summit of 2,030m and then back down to nibble on the second growth of grasses. Starting in May, they make five trips, stopping at three levels.

Near the peak, Benoit Mottier, 24, climbed onto a limestone outcrop, decorated with the initials of idling shepherds and the years they carved them. The oldest he can find was left in the 1700s by someone with his initials – BM.

He is the fifth generation in his family to take cows there.

The Mottiers are one of 70 families in the area who make a traditional Swiss cheese called L’Eivaz.

They follow strict rules – slowly heating fresh milk in a giant copper cauldron over a fire of spruce wood. After the cheese is pressed, they take it down to a local cooperative, where it is aged and sold.

L’Eivaz can be made only on the local mountainsides for six months of the year. The tradition is so important, children from local farming families can leave school on summer vacation weeks early to help out.

“At the beginning of the season, we are

happy to begin,” said Isabelle Mottier, Benoit’s mother. “At the end of the season, we are happy it’s ending.”

“For us, it’s a life of cycles,” she said.

The Mottier summer farm gets water from a spring. Droughts in recent years have forced the family to adapt.

“A cow drinks 80 to 100 litres of water a day,” Isabelle Mottier explained. “We have more than 40 cows. We need an enormous quantity of water.”

In 2015, during a heat wave, the spring ran dry. Three years later, another heat wave and drought hit. And then again in 2022.

During the droughts, the Swiss army delivered water to alpine pastures using helicopters. The Mottiers, however, had no tanks to store it.

So they have installed a solar-powered pump to draw water from a lower spring, and have purchased a large water bladder to store snowmelt early in the season.

The situation is expected to get worse as the glaciers retreat. The country’s biggest glaciers, including the Aletsch and Rhône, are projected to shrink by at least 68% by the end of the century.

In anticipation, the Swiss government has quadrupled funding for alpine water projects. In 2022, it approved 40.

Near the village of Jaun, a construction crew was laying pipes to deliver electricity and water from a new cistern to six local farms. In 2022, some families brought their herds of cows down the mountain a month early because of the drought and heat.

In other regions, warmer temperatures are making fields more productive, said Manuel Schneider, a scientist with Agroscope, the Swiss government’s national research institute, who is leading a five-year study on biodiversity and alpine pasture yields.

That variability, however, can occur even on a single mountain, he said.

Farmers with mobile milking stations can take advantage of this “small-scale heterogeneity” by taking their cows – and their milking machines – to less dry areas.

“When the climate is changing, you need flexibility,” Schneider said. — ©2024 The New York Times Company

12.	TAJUK	AIMING FOR CLEAN CITY GOAL
	SUMBER	THE STAR (23 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	2 & 3 (NEWS)



Cleanliness in Taman Melawis, Klang has improved as MBDK, through its Clean City Campaign, has been engaging with residents on the need to bag their waste and use rubbish bins. — Photos by AINA AMIRAH, KK SHAM, AZLINA ABDULLAH and MUHAMAD SHAHRIL ROSLI/The Star

Aiming for clean city goal

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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EVERY year, the local authority in Klang sets aside a large budget to carry out various initiatives to keep the city clean.

For 2024, Klang Royal City Council (MBDK) allocated close to RM80mil for rubbish collection and cleanliness.

Klang deputy mayor Mohd Zary Affendi Mohd Arif said the city council had invested time and money hiring workers to clean up illegally dumped garden refuse and bulk waste in housing estates.

"MBDK's enforcement team carries out surveillance to watch out for indiscriminate dumping of waste. The city council also follows up on public complaints by clearing up rubbish."

"We also review previous MBDK efforts initiated in focus areas to find a better solution in achieving our goal for a cleaner city."

"As a result, the Environmental Services Department came up with the Clean City Campaign (CCC) which tackles littering, illegal dumping of bulk waste and addresses residents' concerns about rubbish," said Mohd Zary.

He said the campaign was based on four pillars – information gathered and examined which was crucial for customer-focused initiatives; understanding the effectiveness of services; awareness and engagement programmes for behavioural change and enforcement measures.

Environmental Services Department director Zaireezal Ahmad Zainuddin said the data collected had helped MBDK develop customer-focused initiatives.

"With the data and onsite improvements, we are able to help our team understand better and plan resources at areas in need of help," he said.

Taman Sentosa, Port Klang town as well as certain areas in Bukit Tinggi, Kapar and Bandar Baru Klang which were once consid-

MBDK leans on data and customer-focused efforts to educate people on need for proper waste disposal

"We also review previous MBDK efforts initiated in focus areas to find a better solution in achieving our goal for a cleaner city."

Mohd Zary Affendi Mohd Arif



Mohd Zary: MBDK is investing time and money to hire workers to clean up illegally dumped garden refuse and bulk waste.



Zaireezal: Being able to use data collected helps MBDK develop customer-focused initiatives.

ered problematic areas, were visibly cleaner now due to these efforts, he said.

"The department engages with residents to help them understand their responsibilities besides keeping them informed about initiatives taken to maintain cleanliness. We also encourage residents to report on issues of concern," he said.

Zaireezal added that strict enforcement was crucial in addressing problems related to illegal dumping of garden and bulk waste.

"By compounding wrongdoers, MBDK increases its visibility hence the CCC has been effective in bringing about behavioural change," he said.

He said through engagement with residents, the city council learned that residents wanted cleaner public spaces.

"Creating and maintaining a clean city cannot be achieved by any one team in MBDK but it needs active participation of everyone including residents and business owners," he said.

Zaireezal said the increase of migrant workers residing in shop-houses was another area of concern.

"Such areas tend to have more domestic waste and litter."

"MBDK is educating migrant workers on the need to keep the areas where they live and work clean," he said adding that it was important to negate behaviours that do not value public cleanliness.

Besides this, Zaireezal said raising the standards of public cleanliness, concept of shared responsibility as well as encouraging people to be proud of the area they live in has to be promoted.

MBDK councillor Jacky Ng Chee Eng said the campaign was designed with the aim of improving cleanliness in Klang.

"The city council, through the campaign, wants to educate the public about not littering or leaving bulk items along road bends," he said.

"We want to encourage residents and visitors to feel safe and

love where they live and work."

Ng said the Environmental Services Department had been aggressive in trying to keep the city clean.

"Through engagement with residents, we have noticed behavioural change. Residents are now bagging their garden waste and calling for bulk waste pick-up," he added.

Bandar Botanik Residents Association president Fong Tang Chong said there had been lots of improvement in most Klang neighbourhoods because residents were beginning to see the benefits of keeping their surroundings clean.

"MBDK has been engaging with the people on the value of living in a clean neighbourhood as it goes beyond aesthetic appeal. Cleanliness contributes to improved mental health," he said.

Selangor Safe Community and Environment Association ad hoc committee head Dr Elangovan Krishnan said commercial areas, too, were a lot cleaner these days.



KDEB Waste Management workers carrying bags of rubbish along Jalan Teluk Pulai in Klang.



MBDK plans to engage with people living in shophouses along Jalan Mempelam in Taman Gembira, Klang to get them to stop dumping rubbish along the road.



Elangovan: A clean and well-maintained city will help residents and tourists have a positive perception of the city.



Fong: There is a lot of improvement in Klang neighbourhoods as residents are realising the importance of keeping clean.



Ng: The Clean City Campaign will help discourage anti-social behaviour like littering and leaving bulk items along road bends.

"Being able to achieve a clean and well-maintained city will help build a positive perception of Klang. Improved perception among residents and visitors will help reposition Klang as a safe and attractive place to live in. This, in turn will attract new residents, visitors and businesses," he said.

Klang MP V. Ganabathirau said MBDK councillors and area supervisors must team up to proactively identify and address issues in residential areas to reduce the number of complaints received.

Area supervisors are in charge of overseeing street cleaning and rubbish collection.

He said area supervisors, while going about their job, could help report to the respective MBDK departments on potholes, road defects, clogged drains and indiscriminate waste dumping.

"Councillors need to demonstrate good leadership and understand people's views and be a bridge between MBDK and the people," he said.



A children's playground at Bandar Bukit Tinggi 2 is visibly clean since the Klang Clean City campaign was implemented.

Klang Royal City Council's free bulk waste initiative

The Clean City Campaign offers free weekly bulk waste collection as well as a service to pick up reusable items for recycling.



Amount spent to clear bulk waste



Permitted bulk items

- Mattress in any size and condition, bed, table, chair, sofa, cupboard, bookshelf, desk, drawer, cabinet, wooden bed frame and baby cots
- Computer, laptop, monitor, printer, DVD player and video recorder
- Old rug (cut into 1m pieces)
- Household appliances
- including vacuum cleaner, toaster, mixer, blender, kettle, heater, iron, coffee machine, ironing board and fan
- Crockery, pots and pans
- Garden waste, branches (cut into 1m length and tied), plants, clippings and leaves (bundled and securely tied)

Monday and Wednesday 9am to noon

Friday: Collection only for reusable items

For details, call 012-924 9060 Environmental assistant office Nurul Hidayu Aziz

MBDK: Free bulk waste collection initiated to deter illegal dumping

THE irresponsible habit of dumping bulk waste by the road has to stop.

Klang Royal City Council (MBDK) Environmental Services Department director Zaireezal Ahmad Zainuddin said the then Klang Municipal Council (MPK) forked out RM2,108,275 to clear 55.5 tonnes of bulk waste from January to December 2023.

"The amount includes tipping fees, paying workers and for hiring tractors and lorries.

"In January this year, MBDK spent RM193,710 to remove 4,504 tonnes of bulk waste," he told *StarMetro*.

Zaireezal said people had the habit of dumping bulk waste along road stretches and vacant land.

Some people, he said, drive out of their neighbourhood to dump waste.

He said there was no reason to dump bulk waste because MBDK offers bulk waste collection service twice a week, free of charge.

On top of that, recyclable items would be collected on Fridays, he said.

He said the collection service was combined with MBDK's Clean City Campaign (CCC) which was being held in neighbourhoods.

"MBDK does not want to see bulk waste by the

roadside. The service also extends to high-rises but the joint management body must organise the collection and inform MBDK," he said.

Zaireezal, however, said that businesses were not eligible for the free bulk waste collection.

"Business owners must hire large bins from MBDK to dispose of bulk items or industrial waste," he said.

The CCC is focusing on five problematic areas where illegal bulk waste dumping is rampant – Jalan Kebun Nenas (bordering Taman Sentosa and Bandar Puteri), Lebuhraya Sultanah Alaudin (Bandar Sultan Sulaiman), Jalan Sungai Chandong (Armada Putra in Pulau Indah), Jalan Kuari (Kampung Bukit Kapar) and Kampung India (Perepat).

"The focus areas will change once MBDK notices improvements," he said.

"In 2022, the amount of bulk waste was 56,992 tonnes and RM2,051,728 was spent to clear it.

"In 2021, MPK carted away 54,453 tonnes of bulk waste and it cost RM1,924,966," he said.

The CCC would save the city council a lot of time and money in collecting bulk waste, Zaireezal added.

— By EDWARD RAJENDRA

13.	TAJUK	RIVER POLLUTION TRACED TO POND IN DUCK FARM
	SUMBER	THE STAR (23 FEBRUARI 2024)
	BIDANG PERKARA/SUBJEK	ALAM SEKITAR
	MUKA SURAT/RUANGAN	11 (EVENTS)

STARMETRO, FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2024

Events 11

By IMRAN HILMY
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A PIG farm in Seberang Prai was unfairly blamed for polluting two rivers when checks showed that the discharge came from a pond in a nearby duck farm, says a Penang exco member.

Agrotechnology committee chairman Fahmi Zainol said investigation by agencies found that the discharge flowed from the duck farm into Sungai Alor Merah and subsequently to Sungai Kulim.

"The news which went viral recently saying the pollution was caused by the pig farm was not accurate," he said after an inspection of the two farms at Sungai Lembu in Bukit Mertajam.

He said the pig farm, which was operating without a licence, had complied with regulations, discharging waste only into its designated treatment pond.

Fahmi assured Penangites that the pollution did not affect the Bukit Toh Allang water treatment plant in Sungai Kulim. The plant supplies water to Penang and is 7km from where Sungai Alor Merah and Sungai Kulim merge.

He said the duck farm had been operating for 15 years and was unlicensed as the licensing process for poultry farms in Penang under the Poultry Farming Enactment began only on Jan 1 this year.

On action to be taken against the duck farm operator, state Veterinary Services Department (DVS) director Dr Saira Banu Mohamed Rejab said for now, the operator could only be fined by Seberang Prai City Council (MBSP).

"However, once licences are issued to poultry farms in the state, we can take stern action if they do not comply with stipulated regulations," she said.

She added the department would visit the farm from time to time to advise them.

As for the pig farm, the operator has until the end of March to comply with the requirements for a licence to operate.

PENANG

River pollution traced to pond in duck farm

Probe into source of discharge in Sungai Lembu proves viral claims wrong



Fahmi (left) and officials from various agencies and MBSP checking a drain in Jalan Sungai Lembu, Bukit Mertajam in Penang, during the investigation into the cause of river pollution. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

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