



**LAPORAN LIPUTAN MEDIA HARIAN  
KHAMIS 11 FEBRUARI 2021**

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UKKMAFI

UNIT KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT  
KEMENTERIAN PERTANIAN DAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN  
(UNTUK EDARAN DALAMAN MAFI, JABATAN DAN AGENSI SAHAJA)

# Jamin siasat syarikat bawa bekalan daging tak sah

### Komentarian komited jejaki pihak terbabit salah guna permit import

Oleh Suzalina Halid [suzalina@bh.com.my](mailto:suzalina@bh.com.my)

**Kuala Lumpur:** Kementerian Pertanian dan Industri Makanan memberi jaminan akan menyiasat syarikat disyaki membawa sumber daging bercampur dari rumah penyembelihan tidak diluluskan kerajaan sebelum keluasan mereka diserbu pihak berkuasa, Jumaat lalu.

Tumbalan Menteriinya, Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi, berkata pihaknya komited untuk menjejaki syarikat didapati terbabit dalam penyalahgunaan permit import (AP) termasuk membawa bekalan daging tidak sah ke negara ini.

"Sudah semestinya kita sedang lakukan (siasatan pembabit syarikat dalam serbuan di Puchong).

"Menteri juga sudah umum akan membatalkan AP mana-mana syarikat menyalahgunakan



Che Abdullah Mat Nawi

gungjawab dan wajar serta jangan sesekali menumbulkan keresahan masyarakat. Berniaga dengan amanah," katanya.

Sementara itu, maklumat diperoleh BH mendapati, syarikat terbabit sudah lama menjalankan aktiviti menjual organ dalaman lembu sejak 15 tahun lalu yang tidak mempunyai sijil halal dan dibawa secara tidak sah.

Difahamkan, syarikat yang dipercayai 'kartel' menggunakan operasi syarikat 'wayang' yang mempunyai AP dengan kebanyakannya produk dibawa masuk adalah organ seperti tulang, paru, ekor dan perut.

Produk yang dibawa masuk itu dipercayai dijual di sekitar Pasar Lembah Klang seperti Pasar Chow Kit, Pasar Selayang, Pasar Cheras, Pasar Sentul dan Pasar Kajang.

## MAQIS rampas 3 kontena daging



Probas sekurang-kurangnya 100 kilogram daging babi ditemui dalam serbuan rumah penyembelihan tidak dibenarkan.

Keratan akhbar BH 9 Februari lalu.

permit itu. Malah Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) juga memberi komitmen untuk menyiasat," katanya ketika dihubungi BH, semalam.

Beliau mengulas serbuan dibuat pihak berkuasa secara bersepadu di sebuah gudang sejuk beku, di Taman Perindustrian Puchong, dekat sini.

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Kualiti dan Pemeriksaan Malaysia (MAQIS) kemudiannya menemu- mui tiga kontena daging diper-

cayai diseludup dengan maklumat awal mendapati sumber daging ditemui bercampur dari rumah penyembelihan tidak diluluskan kerajaan.

Pada masa sama, Che Abdullah berkata, setiap syarikat yang diberi kepercayaan memperoleh AP dinasihat supaya menggunakan kanyanya dengan sebaik mungkin bagi kesinambungan operasi dan menghormati sensitiviti umat Islam di negara ini.

"Jadilah pihak yang bertanggung-

MIXING OF FROZEN BEEF FROM UNCERTIFIED ABATTOIRS

# Ministry to probe into Puchong warehouse

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Agriculture and Food Industries Ministry has given an assurance that an investigation will be carried out into the mixing of frozen beef from uncertified abattoirs at a Puchong cold storage warehouse recently.

Its deputy minister, Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi, said the ministry was committed to investigating any company that misused import permits to bring in supplies from uncertified sources.



The Puchong cold storage warehouse which was raided by the authorities last Friday. PIC COURTESY OF POLICE

"Of course, we will investigate the Puchong company. Previously, the (agriculture and food industries) minister had given an assurance to cancel permits if they misused them and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Com-

mission (MACC) is committed to investigating the matter," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He was responding to queries on the raid and seizure of three containers of frozen beef by the authorities in Puchong last Friday.

The Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department (Maqis) said the frozen beef was from an uncertified abattoir. It said the frozen beef was a mixture of meat from certified and uncertified abattoirs.

Che Abdullah urged companies with valid import permits to make full use of them while respecting the sensitivities of Muslims in the country.

"Be responsible and sensible. Do not do anything that will cause public concern."

Meanwhile, the NST has received information that the company in Puchong had been in the carcass meat business for about 15 years with some of the supplies coming from uncertified sources without halal certification.

The company is believed to be using fake proxy companies, which have valid import permits, to bring in parts such as bones, lungs, tail and stomach.

The company is also believed to be supplying the products to local markets in the Klang Valley.

By **Mohamed Basyir**



Datuk Che Abdullah Mat Nawi

## PRAYER TIMES

	SUBUH	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAP	MAGRIB	ISYAK
Malaka	6:15	7:25	1:28	4:47	7:28	8:39
Penang	6:25	7:33	1:35	4:55	7:32	8:43
K. Lumpur	6:19	7:16	1:30	4:50	7:29	8:40
Johor Baru	6:08	7:18	1:22	4:41	7:22	8:33
Kuantan	6:12	7:22	1:25	4:44	7:24	8:31
Ipoh	6:22	7:29	1:33	4:53	7:31	8:42



Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab

## JAS siasat ribuan ikan mati terapung selepas air pasang

Praf. Jabatan Alam Sekitar (JAS) Pulau Pinang memulakan siasatan mengenai ribuan ikan mati terapung selepas air pasang di Sungai Perai, di sini, kelmarin.

Pengarahnya, Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab, berkata pihaknya mengambil sampel air dan ikan mati untuk diuji.

Bellau bagaimanapun menyatakan akan segera menyelesaikan siasatan penemuan terbabit kerana JAS dan Jabatan Perikanan Negeri Pulau Pinang baru memulakan siasatan selepas menerima maklumat mengenai perkara itu, kelmarin.

"Kami belum tahu sama ada air terbabit tercemar atau tidak. Masih terlalu awal untuk membuat kesimpulan. Ia berketutungan disebabkan fenomena semula jadi.

"Kami memerlukan maklumat daripada Jabatan Penyelidikan Negeri mengenai perkara ini," katanya kepada *New Straits Times (NST)*.

Pemeriksaan NST di Sungai Perai petang kelmarin mendapati beberapa pegawai JAS mengambil sampel berhampiran tempat ikan terbabit mati.

Sampel diambil di empat lokasi, dengan dua sampel diambil dari setiap lokasi.

Ini adalah kali kedua sampel diambil selepas kelmarin.

NST kelmarin melaporkan bahawa ribuan ikan mati dilihat terapung di Sungai Perai di sini selepas air pasang.

Penduduk berdekatan, Taman Kinser melihat kejadian itu kira-kira jam 2.30 petang, sebelum melaporkannya kepada Ahli Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai (MBSP), David Marsbel.

David yang pergi ke lokasi kejadian petang kelmarin bersama Timbalan Ketua Menteri II, Profesor Dr P Ramasamy, menyatakan bahawa bau dari ikan mati terbabit sangat busuk.

Bellau menasihati nelayan dan pemancing berdekatan agar tidak mengumpulkan ikan mati terbabit untuk dimasak atau dijual.

Bellau juga mengatakan bahawa adalah lebih baik jika mereka berhenti memancing di Sungai Perai buat masa ini.

11/2/2021

SINAR  
HARIANNEGERI  
PERAK/  
P. PINANG/  
KEDAH

24

## Ribuan ikan mati terdampar di Sungai Perai



David (dua dari kanan) dan Ramasamy (kiri) ketika meninjau keadaan di Sungai Perai pada Selasa.



Penemuan ikan mati di Sungai Perai sejak petang Selasa.

**BUTTERWORTH** - Ribuan ikan mati di Sungai Perai di sini disyaki berpunca daripada pelepasan air tidak terawat daripada sebuah kilang berhampiran pada Selasa.

Ahli Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai (MBSP), David Marshal berkata, pihaknya menerima laporan daripada penduduk di Taman Kumsar di sini selepas melihat ribuan ikan timbul.

Menurutnya, sebaik menerima laporan itu, beliau bersama Timbalan Ketua Menteri II, P Ramasamy serta beberapa ahli majlis lain ke lokasi terbabit bagi melihat sendiri apa yang berlaku.

"Saya hubungi Jabatan Krisis MBSP supaya mengambil sampel air dan bangkai ikan untuk dihantar kepada Jabatan Alam Sekitar.

"Perkara ini turut dipanjangkan kepada Exco Alam Sekitar Pulau Pinang, Phee Boon Poh untuk tindakan lanjut kerana ia mengancam kehidupan sungai dan berbahaya kepada orang ramai," katanya pada Rabu.

David berkata, setakat ini pihaknya menerima maklumat awal berkenaan insiden pelepasan air tanpa dirawat ke dalam Sungai Perai oleh sebuah kilang di tepi sungai terbabit.

Katanya, satu laporan polis juga sudah dibuat terhadap kilang tersebut untuk siasatan lanjut dan tindakan sewajarnya.

"Kejadian seperti ini perlu dihentikan demi alam sekitar dan orang ramai. Saya harap Jabatan Alam Sekitar mengambil tindakan tegas terhadap pihak yang bertanggungjawab dengan perbuatan ini," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, David meminta pemancing atau nelayan tidak menangkap ikan di sungai terbabit kerana dikuatiri akan menyebabkan masalah lain sekiranya makan ikan yang telah tercemar.

TARIKH	MEDIA	RUANGAN	MUKA SURAT
11/2/2021	UTUSAN MALAYSIA	GAYA KAMPUS	26

## UiTM Melaka lancar projek WaDI

**U**NIVERSITI Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Melaka melangkah ke hadapan dengan melancarkan projek berimpak tinggi di Kampus Alor Gajah iaitu projek Wakaf Dusun Ilmu (WaDI).

Menurut Rektor UiTM Cawangan Melaka, Prof. Dr. Abd. Halim Mohd. Nour, projek Wakaf Dusun Ilmu itu dilihat sebagai satu idea untuk merealisasikan persekitaran yang bertemakan pembangunan teknologi-hijau.

Katanya, projek itu adalah integrasi dusun buah-buahan dengan elemen rekreasi seperti trek jogging, trek berbasikal, kolam, trek aktiviti lasak (Palape), gazebo dan sebagainya yang akan dinaik taraf oleh Unit Ko-kurikulum UiTM Melaka.

"Antara pokok yang bakal ditanam di kawasan seluas lebih dua ekar ini ialah durian, Musang King, pokok manggis, pokok rambutan, cempedak, kelapa pandan dan lain-lain."

"Keluasan tapak projek yang menelan belanja hampir RM150,000 ini merupakan sebahagian dari peruntukan 20 ekar tanah yang telah dibersihkan untuk tujuan penanaman nanas MD2."



DR. ABD. HALIM MOHD. NOOR (kanan) dan Dr. S. Salahudin Suyurno menanam anak pokok kelapa Mataq di Wakaf Dusun Ilmu di UiTM Kampus Alor Gajah, Melaka.

katanya.

Pengenalan projek itu antara lain bagi menyahut saranan Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi agar universiti awam berusaha menjana pendapatan sendiri dan mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada dana kerajaan.

Selain itu, projek ini juga sebagai usaha menjadikan UiTM kampus Alor Gajah sebuah institusi pendidikan

yang indah, ceria dan kondusif.

Sementara itu, Koordinator Unit Zakat, Wakaf dan Sedekah (EL-WAZIF) UiTM Cawangan Melaka, Muaz Mohd. Nour berkata, proses penanaman 140 lebih anak pokok ini bermula awal Februari lalu.

Katanya, dijangka ia mengambil masa tiga ke lima tahun sebelum hasil tanaman ini dapat dituai.

Dianggarkan pokok-pokok ini akan mengeluarkan hasil pada tahun kelima dengan nilai anggaran RM227,800 semusim.

"Hasil jualan buah-buahan ini akan dimanfaatkan sepenuhnya oleh universiti dan masyarakat setempat. Ini termasuk menubuhkan kumpulan keusahawanan pelajar, bantuan kepada pelajar kategori asnaf miskin dan lain-lain."

"Hasil tanaman ini juga akan dibekalkan kepada warga kampus dan masyarakat setempat," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, UiTM Melaka menerima sumbangan wakaf anak pokok pertama bagi projek wakaf iaitu kira-kira 40 anak pokok kelapa jenis Mataq. Ia hasil sumbangan para pensyarah Akademi Pengajian Islam Kontemporari (ACIS), UiTM Melaka.

Sumbangan disampaikan oleh Ketua Pusat ACIS, Prof. Madya Dr. S. Salahudin Suyurno kepada Dr. Abd Halim.

Dalam majlis ringkas itu, Dr. Abd. Halim mengetuai aktiviti menanam anak pokok pertama di tapak projek WaDI.

Ia sebagai simbolik bermulanya fasa penanaman pokok buah-buahan pelbagai jenis di tapak projek itu.

Mereka yang ingin berwakaf boleh menyumbang ke akaun Wakaf Dusun Ilmu UiTM Melaka, melalui aplikasi QR Code, potongan gaji, menyertai skim Saham Wakaf atau pembelian lot-lot kecil WaDI.

Sumbangan juga boleh disalurkan ke akaun Bank Islam nombor 0402-4010-0176-52 (rujukan 'Wakaf Dusun Ilmu').



MUHAMMAD Rusydan (kanan) mengumpul timun yang baharu dipetik bersama pekerjaanya.



MUHAMMAD Rusydan memeriksa dan mengutip timun yang sudah matang di kebunnya.

Bernama

### Kuantan

**B**ekerja di dalam studio berhawa dingin menjadi kenangan buat Muhammad Rusydan Fikri Mohd Roslan yang kini perlu menahan terik matahari dalam rutin harian menguruskan kebun timun yang mula disabakan selepas terkesan dengan pandemik Covid-19.

Anak jati Kuantan itu mula mengusahakan kebun yang terletak di Pandan di sini, sekitar Ogos tahun lalu setelah studio grafik dan pengidangan yang menjadi punca rezekinya kurang mendapat sambutan sejak pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) pertama pada Mac 2020.

Kedua itu menyebabkan Muhammad Rusydan, 27, hanya sempat berada dalam bidang grafik lebih kurang dua tahun selepas memperoleh Ijazah Sarjana Muda Komunikasi Visual, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) pada 2018.

"Saya perlu mencari alternatif lain kerana bertanggungjawab menjaga ibu sebagai anak lelaki sulung kerana sudah kematian ayah. Bapa saudara mencadangkan supaya saya menanam timun kerana menurutnya tanaman itu antara yang senang dijaga dan mudah mendapat

# REZEKI KERJA TAK POPULAR

Graduan grafik kini bergelar usahawan timun

plungan modal.

"Rasa takut pada awalnya memang ada kerana saya tiada pengalaman selain meminjam wang daripada ahli keluarga untuk mendapatkan modal permulaan RM8,000...ini lebih kepada mencuba kerana saya hanya sempat belajar selama beberapa jam daripada lawatan ke kebun timun di Temerloh," katanya semasa ditemui di kebunnya di sini.

Muhammad Rusydan berkata, beliau menyewa tanah seluas satu ekar (kira-kira 0.4 hektar) bagi tujuan itu dan buat masa ini, dibantu oleh bapa dan ibu saudaranya serta seorang rakan untuk mengerjakan kebun meliputi tugas menyiram, membaja dan meracun mulai awal pagi hingga jam 6 petang.

Semua penat lelah itu berbaloi apabila mereka menuai hasil pertama pada Oktober tahun lalu yang mencecah sehingga ratusan kilogram sehari sebelum timun itu

diasingkan mengikat gred dan dibungkus untuk 'ditolak' kepada penjual pasar borong pada harga 70 sen sekilogram.

"Kali pertama memungut basil teringat kepada kata-kata rakan kerana mempersoalkan niat saya...makhumlah kerja ini tidak popular untuk orang muda. Tapi saya seronok bekerja sendiri dan badan juga lebih sihat kerana banyak tenaga digunakan," katanya dan menambah berat badannya susut tujuh kilogram sejak mula berkebun.

Menyadari ramai individu lain turut terkesan dengan pelaksanaan PKP, Muhammad Rusydan turut memberikan timun percuma kepada mereka yang memerlukan khususnya kepada peniaga makanan kecil-kecilan, sebagai usaha membantu mengurangkan beban kewangan mereka.

Anak kedua daripada tiga beradik itu berkongsi cerita

bahawa pada tuaian pertama, beliau membungkus timun dan 'berlegar-legar' di sekitar bandar Kuantan pada bertemu peniaga gerai makanan bagi bertanya jika mereka menggunakan sayuran itu dalam masakan.

"Bagaimanapun, untuk kali ini saya tidak sempat berbuat demikian kerana tidak cukup orang (di kebun). Tapi saya berkongsi dalam media sosial bahawa mereka yang memerlukan timun boleh datang ke kebun dengan syarat membawa plastik sendiri dan memakai pelitop muka.

"Jika mereka berkeras mahu membayar saya munta mereka memberi seikhlas hati. Untuk yang kurang berkemampuan, jangan segan kerana saya memang berniat untuk memberi secara percuma. Timun yang diberikan adalah yang dipetik setiap hari kerana saya percaya sedekah perlu barangan yang baik," katanya.



Kali pertama memungut hasil teringat kepada kata-kata rakan yang mempersoalkan niat saya...makhumlah kerja ini tidak popular untuk orang muda. Tapi saya seronok bekerja sendiri dan badan juga lebih sihat kerana banyak tenaga digunakan

Muhammad Rusydan

# Act now to avert water crisis

Environmental groups want stricter measures in place to ensure future of waterways, rehabilitation of dead rivers

Stories by ZAZALI MUSA  
metro@thestar.com.my

JOHOR is one of the most developed states in Malaysia, but its waterways bear the brunt of development as the highest number of polluted rivers in the peninsula are found here.

Figures from the Department of Environment (DOE) reveal that 16 out of the 25 dirtiest rivers are located in the state.

Safe Johor River founder Poh Pai Yik said the figures were alarming as rivers were the main source of raw water supply in the state.

"The state government needs to act fast to address the matter or else we will face a severe water crisis in the near future," he said.

Poh said Johor should learn from the situation in Selangor, where polluted and contaminated rivers had resulted in unscheduled water disruptions which caused inconvenience to the Klang Valley population.

He attributed river pollution in Johor to economic activities along riverbanks, such as illegal sand mining and commodity crop cultivation.

Other activities include illegal vegetable and poultry farms and unlicensed factories, particularly the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), he said.

He added that residents living along the riverbanks, including squatters, also treated the rivers as a huge dumpster.

Poh pointed out that there were some eight squatter settlements along the 46km Sungai Skudai and 13 at the 48km Sungai Tebrau in Johor Baru, with foreigners living in the colonies.

"Deforestation is another major factor which causes river pollution in Johor," he said.

Most of the 16 rivers, he noted, were categorised as dead rivers



Fishermen who depend on Sungai Tebrau for their livelihood find it challenging to earn an income.  
— THOMAS YONG/The Star

where the water was unfit for swimming and in which aquatic creatures could not survive.

Polluted rivers have also caused hardship to inland fishermen, including the Orang Asli, who have seen their catch dwindle over the years.

Poh said the mangroves growing along the polluted rivers were no longer the breeding ground for freshwater fish species, *udang galah* (freshwater prawns), edible snails and *ketam bangkang* (mud crabs).

Among the dead rivers are Sungai Tukang Batu and Sungai Pasir Gudang in Pasir Gudang, and

Sungai Merah in Pontian.

Meanwhile, Sungai Jemaluang in Mersing and Sungai Kahang in Kluang are contaminated by sand mining activities.

"We are lucky as rivers in the Endau-Rompin National Park and Bekok National Park are in pristine conditions," said Poh.

He urged the authorities to take stern action against those found encroaching into the 50m buffer zones on riverbanks, saying those areas should be free from human activities.

He highlighted that failure to observe regulations, insufficient

laws to protect water resources and lack of enforcement were the main reasons people encroached into buffer zones.

"Buffer zones along rivers are important in improving water quality and reducing water pollution," he emphasised, reiterating that these zones should be left intact with vegetation, such as grass or secondary forest, to help trap silt from flowing into the waterways.

Green Earth Society Johor secretary Ahlam Mirza Ahmad said all agencies and departments involved in monitoring environmental issues in Johor, including river pol-

## Fishermen selling plastic bottles dumped on Sg Tebrau riverbanks to make ends meet



Jamal says the rubbish near Bayu Puteri comes from upstream.

IN THE 1970s until 1990s, Sungai Tebrau was bountiful with fish and crustaceans.

Sadly today, the 46km waterway has turned into one of the dirtiest and most polluted rivers in Johor.

Fisherman Hamid Yusof, 63, recalled the good old days when fishermen could easily catch fishes like *patin*, *tilapia*, *belanak* and *siakap* here.

The mangroves along the riverbanks were also breeding grounds for *ketam bangkang* (mud crabs), *ketam renjong* (flower crabs) and *udang galah* (freshwater prawns).

"But now, the river is full of rubbish, especially along the riverbanks during low tide," he said.

Since 2005, Hamid said the situation had turned from bad to worse due to vast development and its adverse effects on the river.

He said that 10 years ago, there were some 60 fishermen who depended on Sungai Tebrau for their livelihood, but that number was down to only five now.

"Life as a fisherman is hard, and it has become much harder for us

now as the river is polluted," he lamented.

Fellow fisherman Rosli Osman, 58, said that instead of going out to fish, fishermen were collecting plastic bottles on the riverbanks of Sungai Tebrau.

He said it was not worth going out to fish as most of the time they would return empty-handed after spending hours in the river.

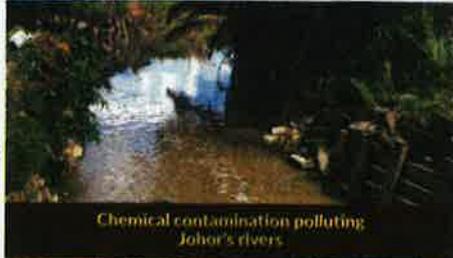
"We sell plastic bottles to *karung guni* (gunny sack) men at 50sen per kilogramme," he said.

Apart from rubbish polluting the river, the Sungai Tebrau fishermen face another problem — engines from their boats anchored along the riverbanks get stolen.

"Despite us locking the engines, the thieves still managed to steal them," said Rosli, noting that nine engines had gone missing so far.

He said it was not cheap to replace the stolen engines, elaborating that a 30-horsepower (hp) engine would cost RM8,000 today, compared to RM5,600 a few years ago, while a 40hp engine had gone up from RM8,000 to RM11,000.

3 SARAWAK 11 FEBRUARY 2021



**Chemical contamination polluting Johor's rivers**

**October 2010 - Sungai Sedili Kecil**

Water and sediment from five sampling stations in Sungai Sedili Kecil were tested in Oct. 2010 and analysed for 11 metals including cadmium, copper, manganese, iron, lead, aluminium, zinc, nickel, cobalt, arsenic and argementum. Results showed the presence of metal concentrations in the water.

**October 2017 - Sungai Johor**  
Ammonia pollution at the river caused by droppings from a chicken processing factory. Johor DOE does not have the authority to close the factory but has referred the matter to the Johor Land Office and Veterinary Department.

**March 2019 - Sungai Kim Kim**  
Toxic pollution caused by 2.43 tonnes of illegal chemical waste dumped in Pasir Gudang. The illegal dumping released toxic fumes, affecting over 6,000

people, hospitalising 2,775 and forcing schools in the area to close. Nine people have been arrested over the incident.

**April 2019 - Sungai Sayong**  
The river was polluted due to ammonia-contamination from a reservoir at a bio-composite centre in Sedenak.

**August 2019 - Sungai Kopok**  
Contaminated by chemical waste dumped into the river, which caused the water to turn black with an obvious stench.

**August 2019 - Sungai Daing**  
Its water turned black with foamy and oily substances floating on its surface.

**January 2020 - Sungai Muar**  
Water supply to 35,000 people in the Muar district disrupted after high level of ammonia was found in the river.

**Rivers in Johor contaminated by sand mining activities**

- > Sungai Tukang Batu, Pasir Gudang
- > Sungai Pasir Gudang, Pasir Gudang
- > Sungai Merih, Pontian

- > Sungai Jemau, Mersing
- > Sungai Kahang, Kluang

The Star graphics

lution, should work together to address the matter.

"The tell-tale signs are already here. Contamination of our rivers affect our source of raw water supply," he said.

He cautioned that the people of Johor might end up paying a heavy price in the future if the state government failed to take action now.

Johor was affected by several cases of river pollution in 2019, the worst being the toxic dumping at Sungai Kim Kim, Pasir Gudang in

March, which affected thousands of people in the area.

There were also the cases of ammonia pollution in Sungai Sayong, Kota Tinggi, which disrupted water supply in Kulai district in April 2019 following the shutdown of two water treatment plants.

Ahlami said the main cause of pollution in Johor's longest river — the 123km Sungai Johor — was the high content of ammonia in the water due to effluents discharged by poultry farms and plantation



Ahlami says the tell-tale signs of river contamination are obvious.



Poh says Johor should learn from the cases of river pollution in Selangor.

mills upstream. This led to the temporary shutdown of water treatment plants in Sungai Johor, Sungai Sayong, Sungai Semanggur and Tai Hong. Ahlami said the mills found discharging effluents into Sungai Johor must be held responsible, with stern legal action taken against them and revocation of licence.

According to him, secondary rivers such as Sungai Lingai, Sungai Tengkil, Sungai Lepah, Sungai Sayong, Sungai Layang and Sungai Telor are also facing a similar fate like Sungai Johor.

"Sand mining activities, including illegal ones along Sungai Johor, have also polluted the river, causing a drastic decline in fish and freshwater prawns," he pointed out.

Sand mining activities, he said, had caused the upstream of Sungai Johor to become shallow, thereby disrupting water flow into the secondary rivers.

He called for better coordination between the state DOE and the state Water Regulatory Body (Bakaf), including data-sharing to address river pollution.

Addressing river pollution in Johor, he acknowledged, was not the sole responsibility of the Johor DOE but also that of other authorities including the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID). "It is disturbing to see the condition of Johor's rivers, where many are polluted largely due to uncontrolled economic activities or are drying up," he said.

Ahlami urged the state government to take swift action to restore dead or dying rivers to help ensure

sustainable water resources for Johor.

He said a comprehensive study was needed to identify these rivers and steps taken to rejuvenate and rehabilitate them.

Among the rivers that need immediate attention are those in Kluang, namely Sungai Kahang, Sungai Mengkilob, Sungai Sembong Kiri and Sungai Sembong Kecil, as well as Sungai Johor in Kota Tinggi.

A river is considered dead once it is incapable of sustaining life such as fish and aquatic plants, and this is usually caused by pollution depleting the oxygen in the water.

Johor health and environment committee chairman R. Vidyannathan said the state DOE received 140 complaints on river pollution from January to October 2020.

He said all complaints were investigated and action taken against those who violated the Environmental Quality Act 1974. He added that Johor DOE regularly monitored water quality at most of the rivers, which were the source of raw water for treatment plants.

Vidyannathan said that although there were about 399 rivers in Johor, not all were monitored and supervised in detail by the DOE.

"The department only monitors water quality in 23 river basins, comprising 126 rivers."

He said compounds, warning notices and stop-work orders had been served to offenders, in addition to legal action against premises that failed to comply with the stipulated regulations.



Rosli says engines have been stolen from fishermen's boats anchored along the Sungai Tebrau riverbanks, adding to their hardship.

"The thieves can easily sell the engines for anything between RM2,500 and RM5,000 to unsuspecting buyers," he added.

Fishmonger Raay Richard, 55, said *gotong royong* activities were held in 2019 to clear rubbish from Sungai Tebrau's riverbanks, near the Bayu Puteri area.

He said the three clean-up programmes involving 100 people were organised by NGOs.

"We collected about 30 tonnes of rubbish from the river," said Raay, who sells fish near Bayu Puteri.

He said more river clean-up activities were supposed to have



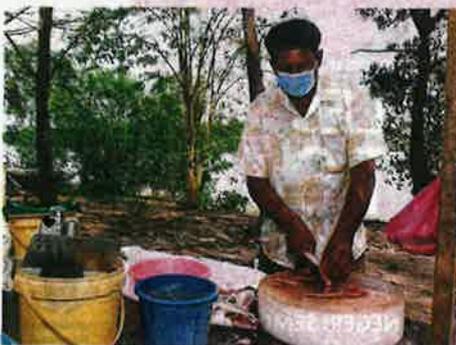
Hamid: Sungai Tebrau was bountiful with fish and crustaceans during the 1970s up to the 1990s.

been organised last year but were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and movement control order.

Mixed-rice seller Jamal Jusoh, 55, said the rubbish near the Bayu Puteri area came from upstream, including the Pandan wholesale market.

"This has been going on for about 20 years but there is no concrete solution by relevant authorities to address the problem," he said.

Safe Johor River founder Poh Yip said the amount of rubbish collected from Sungai Tebrau was estimated to be 380 tonnes annually.



Raay: Volunteers collected about 30 tonnes of rubbish from Sungai Tebrau during a clean-up in 2019.

"Sungai Tebrau is also contaminated with wastewater coming from upstream sewerage treatment plants with malfunctioning pumps," he revealed.

He urged Johor assemblymen to be vocal and pressure the state government to immediately address dirty and polluted rivers.

"We need political will and concerted efforts by all stakeholders to rehabilitate and rejuvenate dirty

rivers in Johor," he added.

Under Johor's Budget 2021, RM3.5m has been allocated for the Johor rivers sustainability programme, of which RM2m is for the 1 District 1 River (D1S) programme while RM1.5m will go towards the Sungai Skudai and Sungai Tebrau sustainability programme.

The balance RM500,000 is for the Sungai Kim Kim rehabilitation programme.



**TRAFFIC MATTERS**

> 1km road closure on Jalan Choh Sow Lin, between Jalan Satu and the Jalan Cheras/Jalan Pudu/Jalan Tin Razak ramp for both directions until today, from 10pm to 5am. The closures will be implemented between midnight and 5am until April 30. The closures are to facilitate pedestrian overhead bridge construction work. For details, visit [www.mymrt.com.my](http://www.mymrt.com.my)

> Lane closure and traffic diversion on Persiaran Dato' Menteri (next to Decathlon, Persiaran Damai-bound) to facilitate LRT 3 works from tomorrow to March 4, takes place from 7am to 7pm daily.

> Road closure and traffic diversion on Jalan Salam, Bandar Botanik, Klang (from opposite Comuda Land until the junction of Jalan Kasuarina 13, Banting/Kesae-bound) to facilitate LRT 3 works is until today, from 10pm to 5am.

> Slip road closure and traffic diversions from Bulatan Simpang Lima heading towards Persiaran Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang (from the roundabout to Jalan Bukit Kubur, Banting-bound) to facilitate LRT 3 works, is from 10pm to 5am and 10am to 4pm until Nov 30.

> Closures and traffic diversions on Persiaran Kerjaya, Shah Alam takes place until Dec 31. Subang and KL-bound motorists will be diverted onto Jalan Kontraktor U1/14, Jalan Penajis U1/15 and Jalan Hekim U1/24. Those bound for Shah Alam will be diverted onto Jalan Hekim U1/24, Jalan Pemaju U1/15 and Jalan Kontraktor U1/14. For details, call 1-800 18 2885.

**RESERVE BOOKS ONLINE**

Petaling Jaya Community Library members wanting to borrow books, can reserve up to 10 books for pick up via Google Forms, available at the link <https://forms.gle/Hjo1RkPozpMHDz9>. Members can browse for a selection of books at <http://www.majlislibrary.gov.my/ms/webopac>. Library staff will take up to three days to process the reservation and will be in touch with members. Those who fail to collect the books within three days, will be blacklisted for 30 days. Books can be borrowed for up to three weeks.

**RAIL OPERATIONAL HOURS**

The operational hours for Kelana Jaya LRT line, Ampang/ Sri Petaling LRT line, Kajang MRT line and KL Monorail line, has been adjusted to end an hour earlier beginning today, or between 6am and 11pm. Frequency of the services at non-peak hours has been changed to every 15 minutes.

**ASSESSMENT TAX**

Shah Alam City Council payment counters will be on the first day of Chinese New Year. All counters will be open every weekend of this month, from 9am to 3pm, for assessment collection. For details, call 09-5522 2881/2882.

**TEMPORARY LICENCES**

> Malaysians above 18 looking to start a small business can apply for a temporary licence online from Kuala Lumpur City Hall at <https://elesen.chkl.gov.my>. Include a photo, copy of MyKad and plan of location and permission letter from building owner (if applicable). Applications close March 31.

> Ipoh City Council is offering temporary licences to petty traders. Application is open to all Malaysians aged 18 and above. Applicants must submit a photo, copy of MyKad, hyphod vaccination certificate and photos of location and proof of approval for roadside stalls and static traders. For details, visit [www.mbc.gov.my](http://www.mbc.gov.my)