



MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
23 JANUARI 2017 (ISNIN)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

- Forgotten scourge

Metro Central- 03



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Tajuk Berita	Forgotten scourge
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STAR METRO INFO BASE

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

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BANK NEGARA	03-2698 8044
CUSTOMS	03-7806 7200
FIRE & RESCUE	03-8892 7600
IMMIGRATION	03-8880 1000
INCOME TAX	1-800-88-5436
JABATAN ALAM SEKITAR	03-8889 1972
JAKIM	03-8886 4000
JPA	03-8000 8000
JPN (KL)	03-6201 1105
JPN (PJ)	03-7956 2634
JP (KL)	03-4145 0800
JP (SELANGOR)	03-5566 9595
JKR (PETALING)	03-78392400
JKR (FT)	03-92875436
KLSE - BURSA M'SIA	03-2026 5099
MANPOWER DEPT - JTR	03-8886 5555
METEOROLOGY	03-7967 8000
MIDA	03-2267 3633
MIMOS	03-8995 5000
POS MALAYSIA	1-300-300-300
REG OF BUSINESS	03-4043 0811
REG OF COMPANIES	03-2299 4400
ROYAL CUSTOMS	03-8776 6575
SIRIM	03-5544 6000
SOCSCO	03-4264 5000

EPF

HEAD OFFICE	03-2694 6566
CALL CENTRE	03-8922 6000
CHERAS	03-9200 3304
GOMBAK	03-6185 0780
KAJANG	03-8737 5223
KEPONG	03-6258 9521
KLANG	03-3325 1626
PETALING JAYA	03-8922 6000
PUDU	03-2078 6788
WANGSA MAJU	03-4149 9499
SHAH ALAM	03-5519 2155

HOSPITALS

TUN HUSSEIN ONN NATIONAL EYE HOSPITAL	03-7718 1488
UM MEDICAL CENTRE	03-7949 4422
SERDANG HOSPITAL	03-8947 5555
PUTRAJAYA HOSPITAL	03-8312 4200
TENGGU AMPUJAN RAHIMAH HOSPITAL	03-3375 7000
INSTITUT JANTUNG SHAH ALAM HOSPITAL	03-2617 8200
GHL	03-5526 3000
INSTITUT JANTUNG NEGARA	03-2615 6391
SELYANG HOSPITAL	03-2617 8200
	03-6126 3333

RADIO/TAXI SERVICE

PUBLIC CAB	03-6259 2020
COMFORT	03-8024 0507
KLTEXSI	017-2733372
RADIO TAXI	03-9221 7600
SAUJANA	03-2162 8888
SUPERCAB	1-300-888-294
SUNLIGHT	03-9057 5757
CITYLINE	03-9222 2828
TELETAXI	03-9131 8080
WIRA CAB	03 2144 3630

POLICE STATIONS

PETALING JAYA HQ	03-7966 2222
BUKIT AMAN HQ	03-2266 2222
DAMANSARA UTAMA	03-7722 2222
SEA PARK	03-7874 2222
SELANGOR POLICE HQ	03-5514 5222
SHAH ALAM	03-5520 2222
SG BULOH	03-6156 1222
KOTA DAMANSARA	03-6142 2222
TAMAN TUN DR ISMAIL	03-7728 6222
SG WAY	03-7875 2222
AMPANG	03-4289 7419
BRICKFIELDS	03-9051 6222
CHERAS	03-9284 2222
DANG WANGI	03-2070 2222



A full trash trap in Sungai Klang taken in May last year. — Photo courtesy of the Global Environment Centre

The other plastic hazard

Plastic bottles and their caps are just as bad as bags, say experts

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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SELANGOR and the Federal Territories' ban on free plastic bags and polystyrene packs on Jan 1 is a step in the right direction in addressing the problem of plastic waste.

However, there is another "elephant" which has been polluting the environment and has gone unnoticed by the authorities, plastic bottles.

Once trapped in the ocean or a landfill, plastic bottles could take up to 400 years to decompose.

The US-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration listed plastic bottles and bottle caps as among the most found plastic waste in the ocean.

Plastic bottles were among the 20 most found trash items in the ocean which has an impact on turtles, birds and mammals based on a study done by the Ocean Conservancy and Commonwealth

Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Based on their report, some eight million metric tonnes of plastic waste leaks into the world's ocean every year and the amount continues to grow.

National Drainage and Irrigation Department corporate director Datuk Mohd Azmi Ismail said plastic bottles were among the three most commonly found trash in the rivers besides polystyrene and plastic bags.

"The Government has placed numerous trash traps in our rivers to ensure the rubbish does not flow far.

"However the cleaning up process at the trash traps are costly. It would be so much cheaper if people could just separate their waste at the source," said Mohd Azmi.

Based on a study by the National Solid Waste Management Department in 2012, plastic waste made up 14% of the total daily household waste composition in the country.

Deposit refund system a potential solution

GLOBAL Environment Centre Water and Waste Management specialist Dr K. Kalithasan said the dumping of plastic bottles was obvious in some rivers.

"Plastic bottles are bulky and they can be seen floating in most of our urban rivers.

"When the public see clean rivers they want to protect them but if it is dirty they are not bothered," he said, citing the need for rivers and the ocean to be free of all types of trash.

Dr Kalithasan said there should be a plan by the manufacturers from the start to the end-life-cycle of a product.

"In Japan, the manufacturers have a plan for their products even when it turns into trash.

"In Malaysia, there is less regulation on the end life of the product," he said.

Dr Kalithasan said replacing plastic bottles with glass would be challenging.

"The issue of recycling glass is still not addressed in the country.

"Not many companies want to embark on recycling glass bottles because it is less profitable," he said.

Centre For Environment Technology and Development Malaysia executive director

Anthony Tan said littering of plastic bottles was the main reason why they end up in the rivers.

"The scavengers remove the plastic bottles from the trash and they get recycled.

"However, the bottles that are indiscriminately thrown and poorly discarded end up in the rivers.

"Sometimes flood and heavy rain could sweep the bottles away into the rivers," he said.

University of New Hampshire Department of Natural Resources and the Environment professor emeritus Barry Rock said considerable research on the "Pacific Gyre" or better known as the Pacific Garbage Patch has resulted in significant concern in the US.

The garbage patches consists of staggering amount of waste swirling in the ocean.

However, there has been an extensive effort to separate and recycle plastic bottles in US.

He said ground up plastic made from recycled bottles has largely replaced down feathers as insulation material.



Rock says there has been an extensive effort in the US to recycle plastic bottles.

"Reusing recycled plastic bottles is a big industry in the US.

"There are industries which collect and process plastic bottles into 'fleece' which is a type of material used to make winter wear such as vests and jackets as well as insulation in ski parkas.

"The processed plastic material

is also used for insulation in building and home construction," he said.

Environment and waste management expert Dr Theng Lee Chong said most plastic bottles were recyclable and it could be prevented from entering the landfill by waste separation at the source.

The "deposit refund system" would encourage bottle segregation, said Dr Theng.

"Consumers could get a refund when they return their used plastic bottles.

"They could return it at a mall to claim their refund or even receive discounts for their next purchase," he said, adding that though plastic bottles have a recyclable value here, it offers low and almost insignificant profits.

"I feel that items such as plastic bottles, plastic sheets, metal are not recycled, they end up at the landfill.

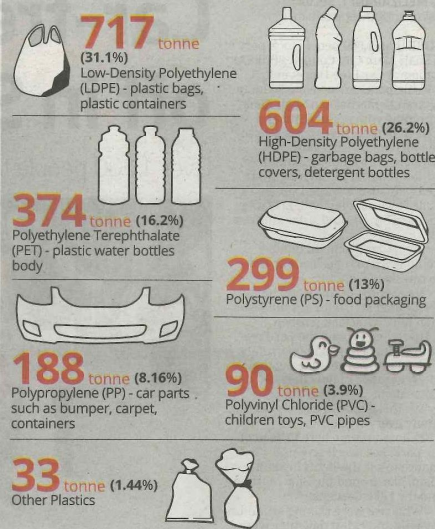
"All these items pose environmental problems if not discarded properly.

"They are mostly nondegradable items and could take hundreds of years to degrade," said Dr Theng.



A Selayang Municipal Council enforcement officer walking by a pile of plastic bottles that was illegally dumped in Taman Rimba Templer's Park in Rawang. – filepic

Malaysian household waste composition based on the types of plastics disposed daily



Source: National Solid Waste Department

©The Star Graphics

When plastic items were segmented, the bulk of plastic waste consisted of Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) which stood at 31.1% (717 tonnes). This included items such as plastic bags and plastic containers.

The High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) waste made up 26.2% of the plastic waste. This amounts to 604 tonnes of waste consisting of bottle caps, detergent bottles, plastic bag and plastic pipes.

The third most common plastic waste was the Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) which made up 16.2% of the total plastic waste and weighing 374 tonnes. The body of drinking bottles are mostly PET based.

Polystyrene (PS) consists of 13% of the total plastic waste weighing 299 tonnes.

The National Solid Waste Management Department revealed that almost 90% of plastic bottles was removed from household trash before they reached the landfill.

Its director-general Ismail Mokhtar said the number of plastic bottles which ended up at landfills was small.

"We have scavengers who collect all these bottles even before they reach the landfill," he said, adding that the department always supported any measure to reduce solid waste.

"The department is of the view that any effort to ban the use of certain materials for packaging purposes requires research in all aspects. This is to avoid any negative impact on consumers, producers and the environment," he said.

Non-profit bodies

The Sekinchan Fishermen Welfare Association chairman Chia Tian Hee said consumers' habit of irresponsibly discarding plastic bottles was the issue.

In Sekinchan, the problem was with the attitude of certain restaurant operators who dumped plastic waste and bottles into the river, said Chia who has 300 members in the association.

"The floating plastic bottles at the sea and rivers is an eyesore especially at tourist spots," said Chia.



Discarded bottles at Astaka field in Petaling Jaya.



Rubbish made up of plastic bottles and polystyrene containers trapped at a rubbish trap in Batu River, Selangor. – filepic



Discarded empty bottles on the bridge linking Phileo Damansara, Petaling Jaya with the other side of the Sprint highway.