



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
03 NOVEMBER 2017 (JUMAAT)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

Sinar Harian

- MPAJ terap kesedaran jaga alam sekitar

41

The Star

- Sticky situation with grease trap by-laws

2&3



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SH 3/11/2017 mis 41

MPAJ terap kesedaran jaga alam sekitar

PANDAN INDAH – Kerajaan Negeri Selangor telah menyalurkan peruntukan sebanyak RM20,000 untuk melaksanakan Program Hari Alam Sekitar dengan sekolah-sekolah di kawasan pentadbiran Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ).

Yang Dipertua MPAJ, Abd Hamid Hussain berkata, kerajaan negeri turut menyediakan peruntukan sebanyak RM10,000 untuk sambutan Hari Kitar Semula MPAJ 2017.

“Pelbagai pengisian program telah dilaksanakan oleh MPAJ melalui Jabatan Kesihatan Alam Sekitar dan Penjaja serta Jabatan Pengurusan Sisa Pepejal dan Pembersihan Awam,” katanya.

Menurutnya, MPAJ juga giat melaksanakan pameran berkaitan minyak masak terpakai, pengkomposan sisa makanan, dan pelbagai lagi.

“Kita turut lancar Hari Kitar Semula. Kita mahu capai objektif iaitu beri pendedahan kepada orang ramai berkenaan kepentingan menjaga alam sekitar dan kitar semula barangan terpakai.

“Kita mahu sasarkan penurunan karbon sebanyak 30 peratus menjelang 2030,” katanya dalam ucapan perasmian Program Sambutan Hari Alam Sekitar dengan Sekolah-Sekolah di Kawasan Pentadbiran MPAJ, di sini, semalam.



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Muka Surat	2&3

2 News

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JAKIM	03-8886 4000
JPA	03-8000 8000
JPN (KL)	03-6201 1106
JPN (PJ)	03-7956 2634
JPI (KL)	03-4145 0800
JPI (SELANGOR)	03-5566 9595
JKR (PETALING)	03-78992400
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
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EPF

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CALL CENTRE	03-8922 6000
CHERAS	03-9200 3304
GOMBAK	03-6185 0780
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KEPONG	03-6258 9521
KLANG	03-3325 1626
PETALING JAYA	03-8922 6000
PUDU	03-2078 6788
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This trader in Section 7, Shah Alam, says she gives away used cooking oil for recycling instead of reusing them or dumping them into the drain.

Stories by PRIYA MENON
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ENVIRONMENTAL and industry experts believe that the laws surrounding the use of grease traps at eateries in Selangor are inadequate and needs to be tightened.

Global Environment Centre (GEC) river care programme coordinator Dr K. Kalithasan said the existing law only required food operators to install a grease trap as a condition to obtain or renew their licence.

This by-law under the Food Establishment Act 2007 was introduced by local councils in Selangor, with many of them organising campaigns to collect used oil from the grease traps.

However, the by-law did not specify details on the grease trap's size, maintenance and oil collection, making it easy for the eatery operators to flout it.

"The operators install cheap grease traps just to fulfil the requirements, instead of looking at the capacity and the amount of oil, fat and grease (FOG) they produce," Dr Kalithasan noted.

He said operating hours were another important factor when specifying the capacity, as round-the-clock restaurants would require grease traps with higher capacities compared to smaller operators.

FOG released into the drains clog them and block water flow, resulting in flash floods besides attracting rodents and other disease-carrying pests.

Dr Kalithasan pointed out that training restaurant workers in how to handle and maintain grease traps was also necessary.

"Most of the restaurant operators and workers have no knowledge on grease traps or FOG maintenance," he said.

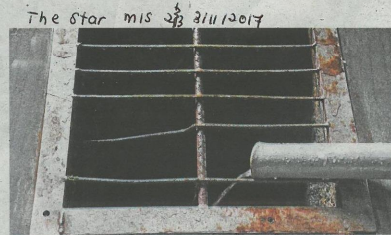
He is currently heading GEC's efforts in helping to rejuvenate Sungai Kelang and Sungai Gombak under the River of Life project.

Another issue he highlighted that needed to be looked into, was what happened to the FOG that was filtered out by the grease traps, saying there was a lack of monitoring and enforcement by the authorities in this area.

"Where is the oil going?"
 "If the council is collecting the oil via vendors and contractors, is tax-

Sticky situation with grease trap by-laws

Experts call for stricter rules in Selangor



Grease traps ensure water released into drains are free of fat, oil and grease.

payers' money being used or are the vendors themselves buying the oil?" he questioned.

He said these issues had to be clarified before the local authority set up the grease trap and used-oil projects.

A former Selangor local council health director, on the other hand, firmly believes that the system is to be blamed for the failure of the grease trap project.

The ex-director, who declined to be named, said the overlap of responsibilities between departments was one of the main causes of the project's poor results.

"There are too many departments handling this issue. Grease traps should fall under the purview of the Health Department, which already monitors food operators," he reasoned.

The current system also resulted in poor management of complaints as well as monitoring duties.

"Every one tends to point fingers at other departments for issues to be resolved while departments such as Planning, Enforcement, Engineering and Building do not

have the expertise to handle the problem.

"Issuing summonses to restaurants and food stalls that do not comply with the ruling is just one action.

"There has to be follow-ups, which these departments do not have the time to do.

"It is best to send out Health officers who are already conducting checks on a daily basis," he elaborated.

However, when asked if there were enough employees in the said department to conduct these checks, the expert said an enforcement team must be set up specifically for the Health Department.

At present, he said, local councils have a larger number of personnel in their enforcement team compared to health officers.

He said a team should be placed in the Health Department to be trained.

"Every departments can train the enforcement officers on things to look out for, including the requirements of the by-laws, so they can go around conducting



Dr Kalithasan says there is room for improvement where guidelines are concerned.

checks," he added.
 As a word of advice to local council heads, the former director said the opinions of senior officers and experienced staff should be taken into account.

Meanwhile, council staff admitted that there were challenges faced in the project's execution.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) Urban Planning officer Ruzana Abdul Rahman said the council initiated the grease trap and used cooking oil project in 2010 after discovering that oil and food particles were polluting Sungai Kelang, resulting in floods in several neighbourhoods there.

Despite the increasing amount of used oil collected from year to year, she said the council acknowledged that there was still room for improvement.

StarMetro recently reported that only 80 out of 1,500 food operators

STARMETRO, FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2017



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The grease traps placed under the sinks ensure food waste, grease and oil do not flow into the river.

There is still hope, say local authorities

DESPITE the challenges faced in ensuring food operators install grease traps, several local authorities in Selangor are seeing encouraging results.

The increasing amount of used oil collected also means less grease ends up in the drains, as well as better awareness among the public.

One of the more successful campaigns was Sepang Municipal Council's (MPSepang) project that had successfully turned used oil into Aedes Biobased Fuel (ABBF) for a mosquito fogging formula.

Collecting some 1,700kg a month, the oil collected under their "Kutipan Minyak Masak Terpakai" project is sent to the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) to be processed.

The project was introduced at high-rise residences through Joint Management Bodies and at landed properties through their residents associations.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK) successfully involved its staff as well as residents in its project while continuously encouraging food operators.

MPK Urban Planning officer Ruzaana Abdul Rahman said the council started the project in 2010 after realising that grease and food waste were polluting Sungai Kelang.

The council first reached out and educated their own staff, followed by food operators as they were the main contributors to river pollution in urban areas.

MPK also engaged residents through its River Rangers project. "We realised that the food and grease had formed layers in the drains, causing flood in three main areas surrounding Sungai Pinang, Sungai Udang and Sungai Delek.

"So, we created the River Rangers project for the three villages, where the residents received training and these 'rangers' then help us collect used oil in their neighbourhood," said Ruzaana.

MPK also worked with Universiti Tenaga Nasional and companies, who drew up a collection schedule for the last Friday of every month.

As the number of participants increased, a system called EcoGen was created to help track success rate. The system also awarded reward points to registered users.

"Those interested in exchanging their oil for reward points can do so by registering in this online system. "We offer various council

In the River Rangers project, residents receive training and these 'rangers' then help us collect used oil in their neighbourhood.

Ruzaana Abdul Rahman

services for the points collected," said Ruzaana.

MPK was also mulling over the plan to offer rebates for taxes, licensing fee and parking coupons as part of the reward system.

The reduced number of flash floods and clogged drains in these areas was one of the success markers the council noted.

While MPSepang and MPK are confident about the success of their project, other local councils such as Kajang Municipal Council (MPKJ), Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ), Petaling Jaya City Council and Subang Jaya Municipal Council are still assessing the effectiveness of their efforts.

MPAJ, for example, is putting together a grease trap campaign that was introduced via the River of Life (RoL) project to rehabilitate 110km of Sungai Kelang and Sungai Gombak from its current Class III-Class IV water quality (not suitable for body contact) to Class IIB (suitable for body and recreational usage) by 2020.

The council has received a grant worth over RM3mil for the entire RoL project and is in the midst of upgrading grease traps in all its markets and hawkers centres.

MPAJ managed to adhere to the state Drainage and Irrigation Department's recommendation of less than 50mg/l of fat grease and oil in the water discharged into the river.

MPKJ is on track with some 7,221kg of used cooking oil collected up to September this year through companies.

Its main focus is to expand the project to various sectors, including residential areas, in the near future especially since the council has been receiving enquiries from the public.



in Klang had functioning grease traps.

"Food operators are reluctant to give up their used cooking oil.

"They reuse the oil we collect can no longer be turned into biodiesel," she said.

There were also operators who refused to repair their malfunctioning grease traps as they considered it a waste of money.

Ruzaana said only four restaurants within MPK's jurisdiction were cooperating with the council

in this matter.

However, the council hoped to rectify the problem by reviewing its by-laws.

"We are mulling the idea of immediately revoking the licence of those found flouting the law," Ruzaana said, adding that the existing law stated that the fine for this offence was RM1,000.

In Shah Alam, the maximum fine for failing to install a grease trap or for a malfunctioning contraption is RM500.

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA)

began imposing installation of grease traps as part of the business licence requirements in 1993.

MBSA Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department director Mohd Azmi Amer Khan said despite its best efforts, the council was still unable to garner optimum cooperation from certain quarters.

"There are those who continue to dump oil into the drains.

"This is why we still get complaints from residents. We really hope this mindset will change for the benefit of all," he added.



Ruzaana says MPK started the project in 2010 after discovering oil and food particles were polluting Sungai Kelang.