## STAR METRO INFO BASE

| GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT | |
|---|---|
| ARKIB NEGARA | 03-6209 0600 |
| 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 1106 |
| JPN (PJ) | 03-7956 2634 |
| JPJ (KL) | 03-4145 0800 |
| JPJ (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 |
| SOCSO | 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 |
| TENGKU AMPUAN RAHIMAH HOSPITAL | 03-3375 7000 |
| INSTITUT JANTUNG | 03-2617 8200 |
| SHAH ALAM HOSPITAL | 03-5526 3000 |
| GHKL | 03-2615 6391 |
| INSTITUT JANTUNG NEGARA | 03-2617 8200 |
| SELAYANG HOSPITAL | 03-6126 3333 |

| RADIO/TAXI SERVICE | |
|---|---|
| PUBLIC CAB | 03-6259 2020 |
| COMFORT | 03-8024 0507 |
| KLTEKSI | 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 |

# Polluters in their midst

## Residents say factories dotting the banks of Sungai Semenyih are the cause of the river's contamination problem

Heavy vehicles crossing a bridge over Sungai Semenyih to an industrial area located near the river. – Photos: ELAN PERUMAL, RICKY LAI and M. AZHAR ARIF/ The Star

**Stories by ELAN PERUMAL and STUART MICHAEL**
metro@thestar.com.my.

SUNGAI Semenyih which has become the subject of controversy due to frequent water contamination incidents lately has close to 50 industrial sites operating on both sides of the river.

The water of Sungai Semenyih has been contaminated far too often as it affects the water supply of thousands of households in USJ, Puchong, Semenyih, Kajang, Serdang, Seri Kembangan Putrajaya, Cyberjaya and neighbouring areas.

A check by *StarMetro* along Sungai Semenyih, especially along the Sungai Lalang stretch, found the presence of a large number of factories, yards, sawmills, chemical plants operating by the river.

There were at least 50 commercial or industrial lots located along the 15km stretch of Jalan Sungai Lalang from Semenyih town to Kampung Sungai Lalang, Kampung Pasir and ending at the Semenyih Dam.

Not far from Sungai Semenyih is an industrial area located at Jalan Villajaya 3 known as the High Tech Industrial Area.

A villager said the authorities should not have allowed the factories and plants to operate so close to the river.

"Last month, we had a case in which a recycling centre that was operating along the Jalan Sungai Lalang was caught dumping industrial waste into the river which led to the contamination of the river.

"The people of Semenyih are directly affected as when the river is contaminated, the authorities have no choice but to shut down the water treatment plant and water supply to our area will be cut indefinitely," said the villager who wanted to be known only as Atan.

Sundry shop owner Rubiah Omar, 65, from Kampung Pasir said the authorities should act swiftly against the perpetrators to prevent the repeat of the river getting contaminated.

She added that villagers had stopped bathing in the river due to its high level of pollution.

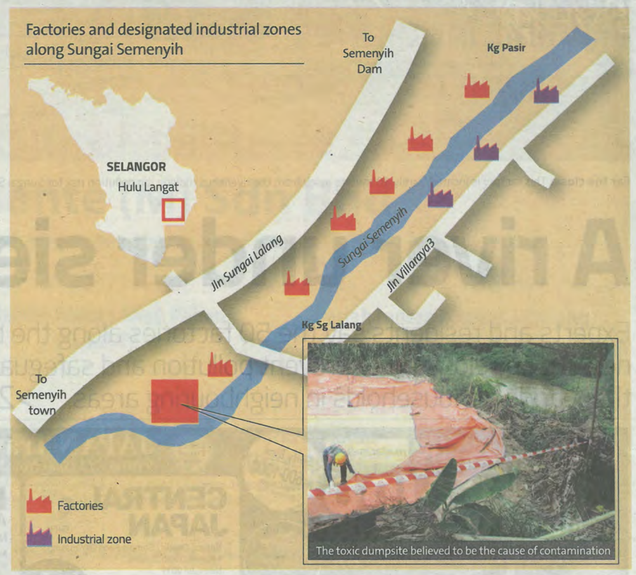
A former Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) librarian Arif Alias, 65, said the river had lost its life as there were hardly any fish in it.

He said the locals used to catch fish and prawns from the river many years ago buy this was not possible now due to the high contamination.

Arif said the Kajang District Council, Hulu Langat District Office, Drainage and Irrigation Department, Department of Environment, the state and federal governments must work together to ensure Sungai Semenyih is not subjected to further contamination.

"They have to put aside their political differences and work towards protecting the river which provides water to thousands of households.

"They have to work together for a common interest, carry out effective surveillance to prevent dumping of waste into the river and mete out tougher punishment against the culprits," he said.




The toxic dumpsite believed to be the cause of contamination

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(Top, left) Rubiah says villagers stopped bathing in the river because it was too polluted.

(Top, right) This man was spotted illegally dumping a wheelbarrow-load of rubbish into the river along Jalan Villaraya 3 in Semenyih.

(Bottom, left) A clean-up worker at the site of the third incident where industrial waste was illegally dumped into the river this year.

(Bottom, right) A factory located along the banks of Sungai Semenyih.

# Prohibit industries from operating near Sungai Semenyih, says river expert

A RIVER expert is urging the Selangor Government and relevant authorities to move the factories, yards and recycling plants operating along Sungai Semenyih.

He said the authorities were not doing enough to protect Sungai Semenyih from contamination especially from the commercial lots located adjacent to the river.

Global Environment Centre (GCE) river care coordinator Dr Kaithasan Kailasam said the factories were located too close to Sungai Semenyih thus increasing the risk of the river getting contaminated.

As long as the industries are allowed to operate close to Sungai Semenyih, he said, the river would constantly be under threat of contamination.

"I think there are too many commercial lots operating in the area and it is high time the authorities work together to protect the river from further contamination.

"It will be very difficult to control the situation unless we are able to clear the area from the potential threat of industries," he said.

Dr Kalithasan said the area adjacent to Sungai Semenyih should be gazetted as a river reserve which would then prohibit industries from operating in the area.

State environment committee chairman Elizabeth Wong said all relevant departments and agencies were already directed to do their part to get rid of factories operating along Sungai Semenyih.

The main agencies involved in the exercise, Wong said, included the Department of Environment, Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) and the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj).

"They have to make sure the factories are not operating anymore in the area if the premises are found to be illegal.

"All factories operating illegally at the site should be shut down through enforcement action.

> **"There are too many commercial lots operating in the area and it is high time the authorities work together to protect the river from further contamination."**
>
> Dr Kaithasan Kailasam

"Those who have obtained licences to operate at the area must ensure that they strictly comply to all the rules and regulations pertaining to the environment," Wong said, adding that the situation had been left unattended for too long and it was high time the matter was resolved.

Wong said all parties are working together to resolve the matter and was confident the "illegal" commercial lots and factories responsible for contaminating Sungai Semenyih would be moved out from the area soon.

Meanwhile, State Legalising of Factories committee chairman Ean Yong Hian Wah said only 14 of the factories operating along Sungai Semenyih were licensed.

He said another seven were given planning approval by the Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) while eight had been identified as illegal.

"We are in the process of getting the factories to be relocated as part of the state's plan to move industries out of the main rivers," he said.