

TARIKH	JUMAAT, 1 JULAI 2022
AKHBAR	THE STAR
TAJUK ARTIKEL	GREEN COVER FOR TOXIC MENACE
M/S	1
BIDANG	WASTE
KATA KUNCI	WASTE MANAGEMENT, EWASTE

Green cover for **toxic menace**

Three illegal ewaste processing facilities are ordered to close after a raid in Telok Panglima Garang, Selangor. Their presence on agricultural land may have already polluted Sungai Langat and affected the food chain, say environmentalists.

By FARID WAHAB
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

VISITORS to Telok Panglima Garang in Selangor's Kuala Langat district are usually enthralled by the vast expanse of greenery that makes up the landscape.

However, this may soon change as illegal facilities processing electronic waste or ewaste have set up operations there.

Their activities threaten to pollute the environment and impact agricultural activities in the area.

An environmental organisation Persatuan Tindakan Alam Sekitar Kuala Langat (PTASKL) said there were at least three such facilities operating in the Telok Mengkuang area, with possibly several more yet to be discovered.

Its secretary Pua Lay Peng raised concerns that these operations could release harmful chemicals into the food chain due to their proximity to farms.

"The by-products of electronic waste processing are hazardous and could interfere with our hormones and cause cancer.

"There is also a high chance of contamination as all three sites are located near a Sungai Langat tributary," she said.

Chicken, winter melon and mushroom farming were among agricultural activities being carried out next to oil palm plantations, she noted.

Ewaste is defined as any discarded product with a battery or plug, which contains toxic substances.

A check by *StarMetro* at the facilities found no signboards but the factories were equipped with closed-circuit television cameras.

An aerial survey showed broken items such as refrigerators, air-conditioning units and other home appliances collected at these sites.

At one of the sites, electronic components such as circuit boards and disused wires were found dumped outside the facility.

Several huge lorries could be seen entering and exiting the sites, presumably carrying ewaste, with tight security at the gates.

All three facilities were located within a 3km radius of each other.

Agricultural land misused

A local activist, who declined to be named due to safety concerns, questioned the locations of the waste-processing facilities.

"This area has been gazetted for agricultural use, so how could such activities be allowed to operate here?"

> TURN TO PAGE 3

Location of the illegal ewaste facilities



TheStar graphics

Covert activities: An ewaste facility surrounded by an oil palm plantation was discovered operating illegally in Telok Panglima Garang, Kuala Langat, Selangor.

DISEDIAKAN OLEH	1-NOR SURIANI BINTI MOHD ZIN (S44), BPM 2-CARLOS LINTON (S19), BPM UNIT PERPUSTAKAAN, BPM
------------------------	---