



Residents clearing damaged bicycles left idle in the compound of Taman Perai Indah apartments.



Rubbish thrown inside a broken lift shaft at the apartment block.

# Stern warning for dirty dwellers

## Council orders JMB overseeing apartments in Prai to clean up the mess

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THE deplorable living conditions in Taman Perai Indah apartments in Prai has gotten the attention of Seberang Prai City Council (MBSP).

Its mayor Datuk Rozali Mohamad said investigations found that about 95% of the residents are foreigners and although a roll-on-roll-off bin is provided, they do not throw their garbage into it.

"The conditions are dirty because they do not use the bin.

"MBSP's Commissioner of Buildings (CoB) has contacted the block's Joint Management Body (JMB) and taken action to address the complaints.

"Workers from the city council have emptied the garbage bin. The JMB is found to be responsible for the property.

"We will be stern and will ensure that the JMB conducts cleaning works at the property.

"The management is urged to conduct surveillance to identify units or individuals responsible for the dumping or causing disturbance.

"If found guilty, MBSP will take strict action on the offender using powers given by Local Government Act 1976," he said in a statement yesterday.

Section 74 of the Act provides



MBSP councillors P. David Marshal (left) and K. Jason Raj showing furniture discarded at the Taman Perai Indah apartments in Lorong Perusahaan Baru, Penang. — Photos: CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

that any occupier of any building who causes the premises to become filthy or overgrown with rank and foul vegetation can be fined up to RM1,000, jailed for up to six months, or both.

A further fine of up to RM100 can be issued for every day the offence is continued after conviction.

Yesterday, it was reported that the condition at Block C of Taman Perai Indah apartments had worsened during the movement control order (MCO) as

foreign factory workers did not go to work and stayed in the units.

An inspection of the medium-cost apartment block, which has 180 units, showed holes under the broken lift's shaft filled with rubbish.

There were empty liquor bottles scattered along hallways and stairways.

The drains around the block are filled with greasy sludge. Food waste were strewn everywhere in the compound.

The walls of the building were stained with red betel nut juice spit.

Building manager M. Kajendran said the habit of residents tossing garbage out of their apartment windows had been going on for years, but with the MCO, the cleaners just couldn't handle the overload.

"Residents here are uneducated. They just throw everything out of their units.

"No human in his right mind would do such a thing. Today we

clean. Tomorrow, it's a mess again," he said.

Kajendran said although the monthly maintenance per unit was only RM80, some unit owners have accumulated up to RM25,000 in overdue payment.

"About 60% of the owners here do not pay the maintenance fee.

"We have only two cleaners maintaining this block and sometimes we have to get help from other cleaners from Block A," he added.

# Logging at Ulu Muda Forest Reserve back in focus

LOGGING concessions in Kedah may cause more deforestation in Ulu Muda Forest Reserve, the most important water catchment area in the northern region, said Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa.

Jaseni said only 16% of 160,000 hectares of the rainforests in Ulu Muda were classified as 'water catchment forests'.

"It affects 4.2 million people in Perlis, Kedah and Penang," he said in a statement yesterday.

"All three states are heavily dependent on rainwater that is caught in Ulu Muda's 160,000ha of rainforests.

"The previous Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources on Nov 4 last year, stated in Parliament that only 10.2% (16,299ha) of Ulu Muda has been classified as 'water catchment forests' while another 6.9%

(11,118ha) has been classified as 'state forestry parks' under National Forestry Act 1984 (NFA 1984).

"The classification of the remaining 132,583ha (82.9%) of Ulu Muda is not known or not specified.

"It should be noted that Section 10(1)(a) of NFA 1984 allows for the classification of a 'permanent reserve forest' as a 'timber production forest under sustained yield'.

"As such, up to 82.9% of Ulu Muda may be harvested as 'production forests,'" he said.

Jaseni said climate change had taken a toll on the levels of northern dams compared with 2018 and 2019.

"Muda dam is at 14.8% which has gone down by 47.7%, Beris dam which is at 52.3%, has gone down by 24.1% and Pedu dam which is at 37.7%, has gone down

by 40.8% from their respective average effective capacities in 2018 and 2019.

"It is likely that abnormally low volumes of rainfall were recorded in Ulu Muda from June last year to mid-April 2020," he said.

Last week, Kedah Mentri Besar Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor said 40 Ulu Muda logging concession holders have to be paid over RM1bil in compensation or be given replacement areas to log due to the withdrawal of their concessions by the previous government.

Muhammad Sanusi stressed that the new state government had no plans to expand logging activities in the state.

He said the state was merely finding ways to avoid paying over RM1bil or giving replacement forests to licensed loggers after their concessions were withdrawn.



Filepic of Pedu Lake near Mutiara Pedu Lake Resort, Kedah.