



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**YB DATUK SERI DR. HAJI WAN JUNAIDI BIN TUANKU JAAFAR  
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **SEMANGGAR WATER TREATMENT PLANT SHUTS DOWN DUE TO AMMONIA POLLUTION**

**30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment read with great disappointment the article in Harian Metro Online dated 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017 about the closure of three water treatment plants in Kulai and Kota Tinggi in Johor due to ammonia pollution. This has affected 600,000 people who are currently without safe drinking water!

The Ministry is greatly concerned about the welfare of the people and takes a very serious view when illegal factories and farms pollute our waterways and environment for their own gain. The illegal chicken farm producing fertilizer from chicken droppings is polluting Sungai Kalong by allowing the ammonia from the fertilizer to seep into the river. This blatant disregard for the lives of the people who live around it is appalling to say the very least.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) through the Department of Environment (DOE) had directed the illegal chicken farm to relocate its operation away from the river in July last year because it was polluting the water but the operators totally ignored the directive. Under Johor State Law, chicken farm operators are required to obtain a permit from the Department of Veterinary Science beforehand. However, the owners of this farm did not bother with this requirement and now we have this problem. It is also sad to note that fertilizer farms are not regulated as of yet. We are given to understand that the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is currently drafting such laws to regulate fertilizer farms.

In light of the closure of the water treatment plant operated by SAJ Ranhill Sdn. Bhd. at Semanggar, Kota Tinggi on 27 October 2017 due to high concentration of ammonia in Sungai Sayong which flows to Sungai Johor, this Ministry would like to call for the following:

1. The chicken farm operator be forced to close permanently
2. Authorities such as Kulai Municipal Council, Kulai Land and District Office and the Veterinary Services Department to look into this matter seriously and expeditiously in order to prosecute the chicken farm owners for jeopardizing the lives and livelihood of 600,000 people in the vicinity to the **full extent of existing laws and enforce based on their jurisdiction**
3. **Blacklist the operators** in order to prevent them from forming other companies which will potentially cause harm to people and the environment.
4. Enact laws requiring chicken farms and fertilizer manufacturers to apply for permits and be subject to a set of regulations and penalties in the event of failure to comply.

5. Chicken farming activities and fertilizer factories in Malaysia should be vigilant and improve their waste and waste water management practices, build waterproof storage facilities and not be located by riverbanks to safeguard rivers from detrimental pollution.
6. Water treatment plant operator (SAJ Ranhill Sdn. Bhd.) to be more proactive by reviewing its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to include Guided Self-Regulation (GSR), early warning system, performance monitoring practices and formulate a SOP to resume operation expeditiously;
7. Upgrade the conventional water treatment plant to treat ammonia pollution and other pollutants in river water;
8. Review the existing raw water intake guidelines stipulated by Ministry of Health (MOH) based on capacity and capability of the treatment plant;
9. Provide an alternative to the river water storage to be used as drinking water source which will act as a redundancy system namely Off-Site River Storage (ORS) and balancing reservoir;
10. To review the existing water intake based on the current needs, change of land use and future development to prevent risk of water pollution.

The Ministry would once again like to reiterate its commitment to providing a safe and pollution free environment for Malaysians to live in and fully believes in holding the offenders accountable for the crimes they have committed against the people of Malaysia. We sincerely hope that this situation will be resolved as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

For more information, please contact: -

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