

NEWS CLIPPING

Headline: **Pollution-mapping for rivers ready by year-end**
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Pollution mapping for rivers ready by year-end

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PUTRAJAYA (Sep 6, 2012): A pollution mapping of rivers to detect pollution sources, is expected to be completed by the year-end.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas said that the Department of Environment has been instructed to carry out the pollution mapping, mainly in urban areas, to help the ministry's enforcement agencies carry out their duties.

"Our enforcement agencies are currently spread throughout and not focused on a particular area, so once the mapping is complete, we will be able to identify and focus on the most polluted rivers.

"In Malaysia, the polluted areas are mainly where big settlements, big cities, towns and industrial areas are located. There are also a lot of illegal manufacturing areas that are contributing factors to the sewage and solid waste problems," said Douglas after the opening ceremony of the National River Forum here today.

He said that at the moment, the mapping is focused on rivers in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Sungai Muar, Johor.

Douglas that the ministry is embarking on identifying on the source of the pollution and will focus its attention on industries found polluting the rivers.

Douglas said rapid development and the high population concentration of more than four million people in the Klang Valley have contributed to the pollution of the Klang River, with an estimated 77,000 tonnes of waste being dumped in it yearly.

He said pollution affecting the surroundings of residents of particular areas, categorised as Class III by the Department of Environment has posed a major challenge for the government to overcome.

"Water quality monitoring of 464 rivers nationwide undertaken by the Department of Environment last year shows that 59.3% of our rivers are categorised as clean, 32.3% as slightly polluted and 8.4% as polluted.

"There has been an improvement compared to 2010 when 51.4% of the rivers were categorised as clean, 35.6% as slightly polluted and 13% as polluted.

"The government will continue to view river pollution as a serious matter, due to the fact that about 97% of raw water supply is derived from surface water sources," he said.

Douglas warned that stern action would be taken against those who pollute the rivers as provided for by amendments under the Environmental Quality (Amendment) Act 2012, which was recently approved in Parliament.

He said the ministry also looks forward to collaboration with the private sector, apart from the better legal framework and more empowered enforcement agencies.