



# **PEJABAT SETIAUSAHA KERAJAAN NEGERI SELANGOR**

**KERATAN AKHBAR  
28 OGOS 2020 (JUMAAT)**



DISEDIAKAN OLEH :  
**SEKSYEN KOMUNIKASI KORPORAT**

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>AKHBAR</b>       | <b>THE STAR</b>                     |
| <b>TAJUK BERITA</b> | Young influencers on waste disposal |
| <b>MUKA SURAT</b>   | 1 - starmetro                       |

# Young influencers on waste disposal

Pilot project aims to give children in Petaling Jaya an early start on good practices



Ainul now actively completes the arts and crafts projects she has been putting off.



Parimala Nesamany (left) and nephews Eshwar (right) and Sydhart sorting out recycling items they have gathered over the week. — LOW LAY PHON/The Star *m/s-1*

**By SHEILA SRI PRIYA**  
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A LOT of emphasis has been placed on making behaviour changes in terms of waste management in recent years.

The “no plastic bag” and “no plastic straw” policies in some states have been among measures taken to encourage the public to be more aware of their waste generation and disposal behaviour.

In Petaling Jaya, a group of 17 children aged between seven and 17 are taking part in a “No Plastic Project,” which began last month and ends early next month.

The participants comprise child councillors for Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) and hand-picked children from various communities in the city.

The pilot project is a 10-week online series on waste management conducted by experts from environmental social enterprise Ecocentric Transitions and other environmentalists.

Initiated as a collaboration

between MBPJ, Ecocentric Transitions and Toy Libraries Malaysia, the project aims to elevate children as influencers in good waste management practices.

They would champion matters related to waste, said MBPJ Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Department director Lee Lih Shyan.

“These children are from different localities and they will become waste management ambassadors in their neighbourhood.

“This will not only have a greater impact on children but also their families and communities,” he said.

**Learning as a family**

Among the project participants are brothers Eshwar Evan Dmitry Klokol, 12, and Sydhart Sean Dmitry Klokol, 10, who have roped in their family in their attempt to “green” their home.

“We were taught to clean our own surroundings and the importance of waste management through waste separation.

“We had lessons on how the use of plastics could harm the environment, especially animals.

“Items such as non-biodegradable plastics and straws are harmful to nature,” said Eshwar.

The older brother then talked about learning that compost was when biodegradable things such as food decomposed and could be used as fertilisers.

He said plastic utensils must be banned from eateries.

“Before taking part in the online project, we used to throw plastics into the rubbish bin.

“Now, we wash them and try to recycle the plastic items.

“Limited resources such as treated water must not be misused too,” said Eshwar.

Sydhart, meanwhile, said littering must stop.

“We must protect nature. Animals and plants give us the good things we need such as oxygen and food.



|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| AKHBAR       | THE STAR   |
| TAJUK BERITA | 'Well-taught kids do not become polluters as adults' |
| MUKA SURAT   | 2 - starmetro  |



Children taking an inventory of the types of waste (right) they produce in a week as part of the No Plastic Project.



Aiman is more aware of the importance of decluttering the house after taking part in the No Plastic Project.

## 'Well-taught kids do not become polluters as adults'

FROM PAGE 1

"None of the animals and plants take anything away from us so in return, we must protect their environment by not littering at least," he reasoned.

The brothers are prepared to make changes when they go on holiday.

For instance, they want to pick up rubbish and dispose of them properly when they go to the beach. Their mother Bawani Nesamany Kokkol said she had seen some changes in her children since they took part in the project.

Through the project's activities, the children realised that one man's trash could be another person's treasure, she noted.

She said her sons now looked at waste differently since they joined the project.

"They learned about their household waste trail, right up to the point it is sent for disposal at the main rubbish room in our condo.

"Some of the separated waste by residents such as clothes and shoes were taken home by the cleaners.

"The children have the opportunity to expand their emotional intelligence, especially when nature is linked to the harm posed by humans, through these activities," she added.

Despite living in a condominium apartment, the two boys have been caring for plants such as roses indoors since the project began.

Child councillors and twins Aiman Wafiyah Abdul Wahab and Aiman Wazif Abdul Wahab, 11, were now more helpful in tidying up the house, said their mother Naavizah Naina Mohd.

She is thrilled that the duo have taken to decluttering the home.

They have also embarked on completing their unfinished arts and crafts projects.

"I found the Marie Kondo video in organising the home inspiring," said Aiman.

"We have donated a lot of the unwanted clothes after watching how Kondo did it.

"We learned to complete our outstanding tasks too."

Their mother is happy that the "No Plastic Project" has brought the family together.

"Before this, I had to ask them to clean up the house but now they do it before I ask.

"They want to separate the waste and I have learned along with them about reusing items such as egg and milk cartons," said Naavizah.

Meanwhile, Jadid Akhbar, 12, is

excited to have learned about the different types of plastic through the online series.

He also learned about "plogging" and was eager to try it at the open areas at his flats.

"I feel basic information such as plastic codes should be taught in schools.

"Not all plastics are recycled in our country.

"Some are unpopular and when it is not cleaned and separated at source, it is rarely picked up for recycling.

"I now have the habit of turning over bottles to look for the plastic code. I want to know if I can recycle it after use," he said.

His mother Roslinda Saalan said she too was not aware of the various types of plastics and how to treat them.

"I am enjoying his lessons as well because they are insightful.

"We did not have the opportunity to learn these things growing up, but I am glad my children are now more aware of how they can be environmentally conscious," she said.

### Local waste champions

Eccentric Transitions coordinator Nurfatim Hamzah, 24, said the project was called "No Plastic Project" as it was based on waste management in general.

The ultimate objective is to see behavioural change among participants.

"Banning plastic alone will not solve all environment-related problems.

"And that is why we cover topics such as waste separation at source and plogging.

"The outdoor projects consist of visits to the main waste dumping location in their flats or condominiums.

"Children learn that some have the privilege of discarding waste daily if they live in a condominium while a waste collection schedule applies for those in landed properties and they must discard waste properly as it remains outside their house until it gets picked up," she said.

The children also had assignments that involved their families to ensure they would have a long-term support system.

Nurfatim said that through the project, Eshwa and Sydhart also learnt that their aunt actively carried out recycling in her neighbourhood.

She said that at the end of the

series, the children would be tasked with making posters or coming up with a way to convey their knowledge to their peers.

Toy Libraries Malaysia chief play advocate Datin PH Wong said these children would become mini waste champions in their neighbourhood.

"There is little knowledge about waste even among the adults.

"When children are knowledgeable, they will pass on their knowledge to their family members.

"More importantly, we want them to become trainers to train other children on the aspect of waste management," she said.

Environment and waste management expert Dr Theng Lee Chong said including children in hands-on projects on waste management was a commendable effort.

He said that during his talks at school, he focused on four points.

"I call it the four seeds as I want them to be planted in the children's minds. It consists of know-how to separate waste, not littering, not allowing any waste of natural resources and consuming less meat," said Dr Theng.

He believes that a well-taught child would not grow up to become a polluter.

"If they become the manager or founder of a factory, they will never practise illegal dumping of waste.

"We have a pollution problem today because those in charge of these businesses do not have strong values.

"You won't have problems like the Sungai Kim Kim pollution if the culprits had strong feelings of responsibility towards the environment," he opined.

Jadid feels basic information such as plastic codes should be taught in schools as not all plastics are recycled in Malaysia.





# KERATAN AKHBAR 28 OGOS 2020 (JUMAAT)



|              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| AKHBAR       | THE STAR                       |
| TAJUK BERITA | RM16mil in public monies saved |
| MUKA SURAT   | 4 - starmetro                  |

## RM16mil in public monies saved

Federal Court rules in favour of MBPJ over lawsuit brought by company *m/s-4*

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA  
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PETALING Jaya City Council (MBPJ) successfully appealed against a judgement ordering it to pay almost RM16mil to a recycling company's supplier.

The city council won the case at the Federal Court on Aug 18, and lawyer as well as MBPJ councillor Derek Fernandez played a key role.

"MBPJ terminated a recycling collaboration project with a private company for failure to follow job specifications.

"The council had paid a small amount in compensation to the project owner.

"However a third party, the supplier for the project, took MBPJ to court.

"As a result, the Shah Alam High Court ordered the city council to pay almost RM16mil in compensation to the supplier in 2016.

"The city council appealed and finally won the case last week.

"We managed to save RM16mil of public funds," said Fernandez.

"It was baffling because none of the councillors were aware of the lawsuit and several of us lodged reports with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and police over the matter in 2016," he said.

He added that all government agencies and local authorities must put in place safeguards to prevent similar incidents.

Councillor Suriase Gengiah thanked all those who were involved in the case, especial-

## MBPJ's premises almost sealed

Mayor brings councillors up to speed on RM16mil court ruling at full board meeting

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA  
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IT IS NOT common to see court bailiffs waiting at the doorway of a local council to seal the premises.

This is exactly what transpired at the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) last Friday.

Court bailiffs were at the MBPJ headquarters in Jalan Shook Lin to seal the premises as the Shah Alam High Court orders to pay close to RM16mil in compensation to the aggrieved party.

However, the premises was not sealed as MBPJ said that an appeal at the Court of Appeal.

Petaling Jaya Mayor Mohd Azizi Mohd Zain explained that the matter was related to a court case over a 20 recycling bins project in collaboration with a contractor.

When the project was terminated, the contractor sought compensation from the council's treasurer, Mr Tunku.

"Due to its urgency, the council agreed to pay almost RM16mil in compensation to the contractor last week," he said.

Mohd Azizi added that the appeal set for Tuesday did not go on as the contractor had agreed to a settlement of RM16mil.

"However, MBPJ is not in that situation, but we need to appeal because of the contractor's appeal," he said.



Councillors at the fullboard meeting expressing their disappointment that they were not informed of the issue beforehand.

**We have not paid the compensation because the case is now at the Court of Appeal.**



Mayor Mohd Azizi Mohd Zain.

transpired from our lawyers in court," he said.

City councillors questioned why they were not informed over the severity of the issue beforehand.

They said the issue must be audited and there should be better standard operating procedures to ensure it did not recur.

Councillor Derek Pugh, who said MBPJ should have been informed of the court ruling earlier, said:

StarMetro's report on Dec 1, 2016.

ly Fernandez, during MBPJ's full board meeting.

Petaling Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Sayuthi Bakar noted that some non-governmental organisations would approach the city council claiming good intentions.

"When we sign an agreement, we have to be sure it will not cause the council any loss.

"The clauses must be thoroughly checked," he said.

On Dec 1, 2016, *StarMetro* frontpaged a report that court bailiffs were at the MBPJ headquarters in Jalan Yong Shook Lin on Nov

25 to seal the premises as the city council had violated a Shah Alam High Court order to pay almost RM16mil in compensation to the supplier.

However, the premises was not sealed as MBPJ had filed an appeal with the Court of Appeal.

Then mayor Mohd Azizi Mohd Zain had said at the time that he was not made aware of the case and had ordered that future legal matters be presented at the city council's legal technical committee meeting to keep all those concerned in the loop.





# KERATAN AKHBAR 28 OGOS 2020 (JUMAAT)



|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>AKHBAR</b>       | <b>THE STAR</b>                                    |
| <b>TAJUK BERITA</b> | New ruling on rubbish bins for businesses in Klang |
| <b>MUKA SURAT</b>   | 4 - <b>starmetro</b>                               |

## New ruling on rubbish bins for businesses in Klang

By CY LEE  
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BUSINESSES located in nine areas in Klang must have 240-litre rubbish bins in place from Oct 1 under a pilot programme by Klang Municipal Council (MPK).

Existing as well as new business licence holders are required to comply with the ruling at two locations in Meru, and one each in Port Klang, Pandamaran, Taman Sentosa, Bukit Tinggi, Bukit Raja, Aman Perdana and Kapar.

After the council's full board meeting,

MPK president Dr Ahmad Fadzli Ahmad Tajuddin said the requirement would be imposed on all commercial areas starting Jan 1, 2021.

"This is part of the council's efforts to improve waste management," he said. He added that changes had been made to the rubbish collection schedule as well under the programme. Fadzli also announced that MPK was offering a flat rate of RM15 on outstanding parking compounds from Sept 15 to 30 in conjunction with Malaysia Day.

He urged the public to take advantage of an additional RM5 discount on each compound when payment was made online via Jompay, Smart Parking MPKlang, iKiosk machines at MPK and iPay (FPX).

Alternatively, payment can be made at MPK headquarters and its branches as well as drive-through counters.

The discount does not apply to offences such as misuse of reserved and disabled parking spots, as well as obstructing parking bays.

On another matter, MPK deputy president



m/s-4

The programme is one of Klang Municipal Council's initiatives to improve waste management.

Dr Ahmad Fadzli Ahmad Tajuddin



Elya Marini Darmin said the council had received 41 tip-offs from the public via its website on foreign workers doing business illegally.

"They have provided us with detailed information which will help us during the enforcement process."

She said joint operations would be carried out in due course based on the information received.



## KERATAN AKHBAR 28 OGOS 2020 (JUMAAT)



|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| AKHBAR       | THE STAR                             |
| TAJUK BERITA | National Day convoy makes its rounds |
| MUKA SURAT   | 6 - starmetro                        |

# National Day convoy makes its rounds

m/s- 6

SOME 30 4WD vehicles comprising those from Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) and the public took to the streets to spread the spirit of patriotism as part of the National Day festivities.

Though celebrations for the 63rd National Day are restrained due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the local council is using this year's theme of "Malaysia Prihatin" (Malaysia Cares) to remind the public to stay vigilant.

MPKj councillor Hanafi Jalalludin and MPKj Corporate and Community Development Department head Kamaruzaman Salimin flagged off the convoy from Kajang Stadium.

Almost a hundred participants were part of the convoy, with some bringing their families along for the ride which was organised by MPKj.

"In drumming up the patriotic spirit and the love for our country, we are encouraging residents to fly



Hanafi (second from left) and Kamaruzaman Salimin (fifth from left) flagging off the convoy in conjunction with National Day celebrations.

the Jalur Gemilang.

"The participants will distribute 1,000 flags as well as Covid-19 education posters and stickers to members of the public at numerous locations to remind them to be safe," Hanafi said at the launch.

The convoy of 4WD vehicles was guided by the police and stopped at six locations including Kajang, Bangi, Beranang, Semenyih, and Pekan Batu 18 in Hulu Langat, covering a total distance of about 80km.

— By CY LEE