KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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White stains on boat engines, mangroves

PASIR GUDANG: Residents are worried about white stains on the roots of mangroves along Sungai Masai and on the equipment used by fishermen here.

The fishermen from Kampung Pasir Gudang Baru were unable to go out to sea for five days as their boat engines and nets had been repeatedly stained by an unknown substance, which is believed to be due to pollution in the river.

Residents noticed the strange phenomenon on Friday, and the discoloration of plants and equipment in the water has become more apparent since then.

Pasir Gudang Municipal Council Rinting 2 zone member Mohd Aziz Mohmad feared that if left unchecked, the pollutants could further affect the ecosystem and the fishermen's livelihoods.

Southern Johor Fishermen Association chairman Azli Mohd Aziz urged the Department of Environment (DoE) to expedite its analysis of samples taken from the river.

He said if the problem was not resolved, the situation could recur.

Meanwhile, Johor DoE director Dr Mohd Famey Yusoff told the New Straits Times Press that the department had taken samples from the river for analysis, and the test results would soon be known.