Shifting sands

In May, the Gombak Land Office put a stop to illegal sand-mining activity in Rawang but a recent check reveals the culprits are at it again. →3
Damage continues

Sand thieves resume illegal sand-mining in Rawang

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IT continues: A water pump pumping out sand from a pond in Bandar Country Homes, Rawang.

METH the sand thieves in Rawang are at it again.

In May, the Gombak Land Office put a stop to an illegal sand-mining operation in Bandar Country Homes. Just within a few months, however, the sand thieves have resumed their illegal activity.

This time it is at another spot, near a pond located about 30m away from the area where the sand thieves operated in May.

The new site is located on state land where farmers plant vegetables but the illegal activity was not reported by the farmers.

During the operation in May, the Gombak Land Office team placed a tent at the site to monitor and stop the sand thieves from operating.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) was also called in to investigate the matter.

Selayang Municipal (MPS) councillor Gunaraj R. George said he had sent a text message to the Gombak District officer, Selayang MP William Leong and Rawang assemblyman Gan Pei Ni,

complaining about the illegal sand-mining activities in Bandar Country Homes.

"I have not received any feedback on this or the form of action to be taken as yet," he said.

Gunaraj said he had even alerted MPS and asked its officers to stop the lorries leaving the site.

Meanwhile, Gan has denied any involvement with the illegal sand-mining activity.

Gan, when contacted, said she had explained the matter to the Gombak district officer.

She added that she even told the Gombak district officer that the farmers were not involved.

"They have been here for more than a decade and I believe they are not involved and should not be blamed.

"The Gombak Land Office should catch the real culprits and not put the blame on the farmers.

"The state is against illegal sand-mining and I have received two complaints on this. I will bring this up at the Selangor Economic Action Council (MECS) meeting.

"I have also complained to the Gombak Land Office and a team of enforcement officers are on standby there," she said.

Last Friday, enforcement officers saw two excavators and four lorries parked 20m from the Gombak Land office base camp.

Gombak Land Office enforcement officer H. Khairul Anuar said when the enforcement team came, the vehicles were found parked near the sand-mining area.

The StarMetro team also found two piles of washed sand, about 30m high, at the site along with equipment.

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