

Cleanliness is everybody's duty

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CALL FOR COOPERATION: Residents urged to help local councils maintain hygiene in Clean Zone areas

RESIDENTS' cooperation is needed to ensure that Clean Zone areas are kept clean.

Selangor Local Authorities Clean Zone evaluation panel head Prof Dr Mohd Fuad Mohd Salleh said after an area had been announced as a Clean Zone, residents have to work with their local council to maintain cleanliness.

"It is not just the local council's job to keep an area clean.

"The residents who live in the area should also be responsible.

"Activities like *gotong-royong* and recycling should be a part of a continuous effort to keep tabs on cleanliness levels," he said after visiting Taman Seri Serdang, a Clean Zone area for the 2011/2012 session under the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ).

He was accompanied by the Selangor Local Authorities Clean Zone panel members. They visited several places in Taman Seri Serdang to check on the cleanliness, public facilities and landscape maintenance.

Measures taken by MPSJ to keep

the area clean included holding *gotong-royong*, removing illegal advertisements and planting trees.

The council also organised green activities with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and residents which included vermicomposting — turning organic waste into nutrient-rich compost with the help of red worms and anaerobic digestion and turning kitchen waste into bio-gas.

Vermicomposting and anaerobic digestion activities were held at the public market. Since its launch in March, 34kg of organic waste and 145kg of market and food waste were collected.

MPSJ president Datuk Asmawi Kasbi said traders and Taman Seri Serdang residents had been supportive of the green initiative.

"We also collected used cooking oil from UPM's cafeteria and food courts in Tasik Seri Serdang and Pekan Seri Serdang for recycling oil. This eliminates pollution in drains. They are paid RM1 for every kilogramme of oil they send in," he said.

Asmawi said the council would strive to win more awards in this year's Clean Zone competition.

"MPSJ has achieved an enviable record by winning the Clean Zone

Selangor local authorities' award for two consecutive years. Therefore we are confident that we can win it again this year," he said.

The council has won Best Clean-

liness Monitoring Criteria award, Best Cleanliness Zone award and Best Community Involvement award, beating 11 local councils in the state.



Prof Dr Mohd Fuad Mohd Salleh
(second from right)
and panel members
at the public market.
in Taman Seri Serdang. Pic by Nurul Shafina Jemenon