

A lovely lake gone to waste

STARMETRO 5/07/07 M/S 4

It's now a rubbish dump and smelly

By THO XIN YI

thoxinyi@thestar.com.my

Photos by CHUA KOK HWA

WHEN Gerard Lim bought the house in Mutiara Puchong two years ago, he imagined living with his family in a tranquil housing area located beside a beautiful lake.

However, he later realised that his dream was not going to be fulfilled, at least not when the contractors were constantly using the lake as a dumpsite to get rid of their construction waste.

Surrounded by three residential areas - Mutiara Puchong, Lake Edge and Lakeside Residence, the edge of the lake is covered with wooden sticks, polystyrene, tiles, plastic bags



Caught in the act: A lorry dumping rubbish by the lake.

which once contained lime chalk or cement. Some rubbish can also be seen floating on the lake.

An avid angler, Lim feels heartsick with the situation.

"In years to come, there will be no fishes in this lake anymore if the dumping continues," he said, pointing at the ripples caused by the fishes in the water.

Lim said he had tried to talk to the three developers managing the housing areas but none of them claimed responsibility for dumping debris into the lake.

"They use the lake as part of their promotion to attract buyers but now they are not taking on the responsibility to look into the matter," said an upset Lim.

"This lake is supposed to be a water retention pond. Who is responsible for its maintenance?" he questioned.

He added that on a hot day, there would be a foul smell coming from the lake.

"The lake water is also polluted by the chemicals from construction waste," he said.

A restaurant owner near the area, Indran Shanmugam, said the lake water used to be clear with big fishes of various species in it.

Everyday without fail, he said, he would go to the lake to fish or just relax.

"We used to catch fishes weighing around

**»In years to come,
there will be no fishes
in this lake anymore
if the dumping
continues«**

GERARD LIM

20kg there. Now, the fishes are small, they cannot grow due to the pollution," said the 41-year-old who was born and raised in Puchong.

During StarMetro's recent visit to the area, a lorry was seen unloading rubbish into the lake.

A man who was stationed there claimed that he had the licence to allow the lorries to drive into the area to dump their construction waste.

When contacted, Subang Jaya Municipal Council public relations officer Azfarizal Abdul Rashid said the council would investigate the matter.