

**DPM Wants State Governments To Do More For River Refuse Management**  
**Bernama**  
**Oct 15, 2015**

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today called for greater commitment by the state governments to prevent rivers from becoming rubbish dumps.

He said they should cooperate with the private sector to develop the banks and corridors of rivers.

Such cooperation could reduce the illegal dumping of thrash on the banks of and into rivers and help raise the real estate value along these waterways, he said in a statement after chairing the 10th meeting of the National Water Resources Council here.

Ahmad Zahid said RM80.95 million was required annually for river refuse management, which worked out to an average of RM3,000 to remove one tonne of rubbish from rivers.

"The Drainage and Irrigation Department removes about 2,268.6 tonnes of rubbish every month in its maintenance of rivers nationwide," he said.

The meeting was attended by Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, other federal ministers as well as menteri besar and chief ministers.

Ahmad Zahid said greater commitment by the state governments was most necessary because illegal dumping of rubbish on the banks of and into rivers was of growing concern and led to deterioration of river water quality and serious cases of flooding.

He said that besides the dumping of rubbish into rivers, the meeting also discussed the management of river sand mining and strategies to address water-related issues brought on by climate change.

On river sand mining, Ahmad Zahid said the meeting agreed that the River Sand Mining Guideline (Amendment 2012) be refined to clearly explain the scope of sand mining entrepreneurs and emphasis be given to the element of the responsibility in river sand mining.

He said the violation of conditions in the permit of sand mining entrepreneurs could undermine the health and safety of the people due to the deteriorating quality of river water.

"Besides, it will also have an impact on economic activities such as fishing and eco-tourism and incur a rise in the cost of flood mitigation and river maintenance projects, he said.

On the impact of climate change on water, Ahmad Zahid said the meeting agreed with the

proposed 'Strategic Plan for Addressing the Impact of Climate Change on Water-related Issues in Malaysia' drafted by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation based on integrated water resources management and supported by research and development activities so that effective mitigation measures could be undertaken.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1179945>