

Provide regular River Pollution Index, DOE urged

By **ZULKIFLY MOHAMAD**
north@thestar.com.my

BUTTERWORTH: The Department of Environment should provide River Pollution Index for Sungai Juru every three months to gauge the cleanliness of the river.

Taman Bukit Minyak RT chairman Tan Chai Liang said the water quality of Sungai Juru should be monitored to determine the effectiveness of its "Love Our River" campaign.

"Based on the index, we can plan to improve the water quality of the river and draw up strategies to prevent it from being further polluted.

"We can also identify the pollution source if we find the pollution index of the river deteriorates," he said at the state environmental quiz contest launched by Batu Kawan MP Huan Cheng Guan at the RT community hall here yesterday.

Tan said the authorities, especially

the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID), should also focus its efforts to clean up the upstream of Sungai Juru and not only at the downstream.

Bukit Tengah state assemblyman Ng Siew Lai, who was also present, said the pollution at Sungai Juru was a long-standing issue that had never been resolved until today.

She said there had not been any concrete plans by the authorities to revive the 7.95km polluted river

except for some cleaning up job on a small-scale basis.

Ng said the DID had also set aside RM100,000 annually to clean up the river but it was insufficient.

The department had also installed garbage traps along the river to reduce pollution.

The online quiz will end on Aug 5 and held in conjunction with the 50th National Day celebrations. To participate, log on to www.sungaijuru.com/quiz.