3

Berita Dalam dan Luar Negara
Local and International News

Sungai Bernam, Tanjung Malim, Perak

Ketika satu pertiga dunia berdepan sekatan pergerakan sebagai usaha mengekang penularan wabak COVID-19, aktiviti dan operasi perindustrian, perkilangan, pengangkutan dan pembangunan turut berkurangan secara drastik, sekali gus menjadi hikmah kepada proses pemuliharaan alam sekitar. Malaysia tidak terkecuali dan sepanjang PKP Fasa 1 dan 2 (18 Mac hingga 14 April 2020), hampir semua premis kerajaan dan swasta diarah menghentikan operasi kecuali perkhidmatan penting seperti pasar dan pasar raya.

Sepanjang tempoh tersebut, pelbagai berita berkaitan impak PKP terhadap pelestarian alam sekitar dilaporkan pelbagai media, baik di dalam mahupun luar negara. Ia menjadi antara subjek utama yang mendapat perhatian serta liputan luas di seluruh dunia, serta dibicarakan menerusi pelbagai platform, termasuk media cetak, media elektronik dan media sosial. Di Malaysia sahaja, liputan serta paparan berita berkaitan direkodkan paling tinggi ketika PKP Fasa 3, bermula 15 April hingga 28 April 2020.

Berdasarkan perkongsian pelbagai foto dan video sepanjang PKP, masyarakat seluruh dunia melihat fenomena sama berlaku hampir di semua lokasi, iaitu peningkatan kualiti alam sekitar sebagai impak sekatan pergerakan yang mengurangkan aktiviti sosioekonomi lapan bilion manusia penghuni bumi. Ini terbukti apabila kualiti udara di beberapa bandar utama, antaranya Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, New Delhi dan Jakarta mencatatkan perubahan positif, kesan pengurangan drastik pelbagai aktiviti penduduknya, terutama berkaitan industri.

Hal sama turut dialami hampir semua negara yang melaporkan keadaan sungai dan perairannya yang semakin bersih, malah di sesetengah tempat, airnya bertukar jernih sehingga membolehkan hidupan marinnya dilihat. Pelbagai perkongsian di media sosial turut memperlihatkan beberapa fenomena luar biasa, antaranya itik, angsa dan ikan lumba-lumba yang dirakam berenang bebas di terusan serta pelabuhan Venice, selepas bertahun-tahun ia tidak dilihat.

As one-third of the world faces movement restrictions in the effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic; industrial, manufacturing, transportation as well as development activities and operations are also drastically reduced, thus becoming a blessing to environmental conservation. Malaysia is of no exception as almost all government and private premises were ordered to stop operation except for essential services such as wet markets and supermarkets, during Phase 1 and 2 of the MCO (March 18 to April 14, 2020).

Throughout the period, various pieces of news related to the impact of MCO implementation towards the environmental sustainability were reported through both local and international media. It has become among the main subjects that drew the attention and wide coverage worldwide as well as discussed via various platforms, including the printed media, electronic media and social media. In Malaysia alone, the news coverage and reports related to this issue were recorded to be the highest during MCO Phase 3, starting April 15 - 28, 2020).

Based on the numerous photos and videos shared during the MCO, the people all over the world have witnessed a similar phenomenon in almost all locations, which is the increased environmental quality as an impact from the movement restriction that had reduced the socioeconomic activities of eight billion human population on earth. This is evident when the air quality in several main cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, New Delhi and Jakarta recorded positive changes, as a result of the drastically reduced activities of their residents, especially those related to industries.

The same things happened in almost all countries where it was reported that their rivers and waters are cleaner, and even in some places, the water turned clearer and the marine life became visible to the naked eye. Social media users shared numerous photos of unusual phenomena, including ducks, geese and dolphins recorded swimming freely in canals as well as the port of Venice, after many years of not being visible.



Keratan akhbar New Sunday Times, 19 April 2020.
New Sunday Times newspaper clipping, April 19, 2020.

• APRIL 19, 2020 . NewSunday Times



An aerial view of Taman Tasik Titiwangsa in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

ACTUAL LAND SURFACE TEMPERATURE (LST) IN DEGREE CELSIUS

Constituency/Area	March 23, 2019	March 24, 2020	Drop in LST
Bukit Bintang (CBD)	36.13	25.55	10.58
*Pocket area in Bukit Bintang (peak LST for 2020)	41.1	31.4	9.7
Pudu	38.55	27.33	11.22
Jalan Chan Sow Lin	36.85	25.67	11.18
Lembah Pantai	32.13	24.17	7.96
Seputeh	35.94	25.31	10.63
Titiwangsa	33.36	25.03	8.33
Cheras	35.51	25.14	10.37
Wangsa Maju	30.39	23.63	6.76
Batu	38.54	28.35	10.19
Kepong	38.09	26.57	11.52
Segambut	35.70	26.50	9.2
Setiawangsa	33.70	26.90	6.8
*Bandar Tun Razak (minimum LST for both years)	26.95	18.48	8.47

*Highlighted areas to show peak and minimum temperatures

Source: Data sourced by Universiti Putra Malaysia's Dr Mohd Johari Mohd Yusof from United States Geological Survey's satellite images

INFOGRAPHIC NST

Improved air, water quality recorded in phases 1 and 2 of MCO

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia recorded an improvement in air and water quality within the first four weeks of the Movement Control Order from March 18 to April 14.

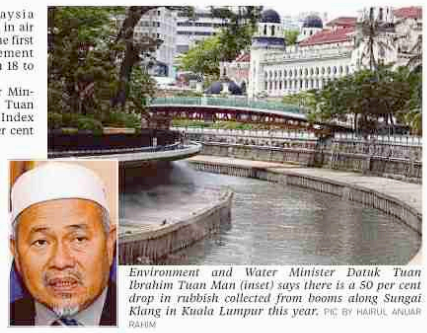
Environment and Water Minister Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said Air Pollutant Index (API) levels dropped 14 per cent to record a "clean index", while 28 per cent of 29 automatic water monitoring stations' readings showed a real-time improvement in water quality.

He said analyses done on particles in the Klang Valley found that leading pollution contributors were on a downtrend during the period, compared with readings taken from March 1 to 17.

Levels of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and particles under 2.5 micron ($PM_{2.5}$) dipped by 27 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively, while carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) levels dipped by 49 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively.

"Other major cities and towns showed similar drops in pollutants as overall findings show a 26 per cent decrease in levels of particles under $PM_{2.5}$, followed by a 31 per cent drop for CO, a 40 per cent drop for SO_2 and a 61 per cent for NO_2 levels."

The readings were taken from 65 air quality monitoring stations nationwide.



Environment and Water Minister Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man (inset) says there is a 50 per cent drop in rubbish collected from booms along Sungai Klang in Kuala Lumpur this year. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

Tuan Ibrahim said the Department of Environment (DoE) found the air quality status at all 25 stations in Pasir Gudang, Johor, known to be one of the areas with traces of toxic gases, to be "stable".

The stations recorded normal or below alert levels of total volatile organic compound readings at one part per million.

"The reduction in API, especially in major cities, is due to the drastic decrease in activities that lead to the emission of air pollutants, such as the use of vehicles, industrial stacks and open burning."

Tuan Ibrahim said eight out of 29 water monitoring stations recorded improved water quality compared with readings taken on March 17 and 18.

Another eight stations, he said, did not show any changes, while 13 stations marked a slight decline in water quality.

He said the stations that recorded improved water quality were Sungai Linggi, Sungai Muar, Sungai Johor, Sungai Pahang, Sungai Kuantan, Sungai Besut, Sungai Kelantan and Sungai Batang Sadong.

He said there was a 50 per cent drop in rubbish collected from booms along Sungai Klang compared with the amount collected in 2017 and 2018. In February and March 2018, a total of 21m3 of rubbish was collected from the booms while 18m3 of rubbish was collected in 2017.

Tuan Ibrahim said the water quality of the Mada canal, Sungai Perak, Sungai Langat, Sungai Klang, Sungai Muar (another stretch), Sungai Kesang, Sungai Paka and Sungai Tuaran remained unchanged.

He added that another stretch of the Mada canal, Sungai Muda, Sungai Kulim, Sungai Bogak, Sungai Semenyih, Sungai Labu, Sungai Langat (another stretch), Sungai Muar (a different stretch from the above two), Sungai Melaka, Sungai Segamat, Sungai Skudai, Sungai Sarawak and Sungai Moyog recorded a slight decline in water quality.

Based on the readings, it was learnt that there was a high concentration of dissolved oxygen to support aquatic life in the rivers.

"During the MCO period, there was an average of five and six per cent in chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biological oxygen demand (BOD), respectively. There was also a one per cent decrease in total suspended solids. This contributed to the boost in water quality," said Tuan Ibrahim.

However, due to the decline in river quality at 13 stations, there was an average decline of six per cent in dissolved oxygen.

He said the temporary suspension of non-essential services, including work for development projects, had a positive impact on water quality.

"But water quality is still influenced by pollution loading from water and industrial effluent treatment plants, as well as septic tanks. Greywater or non-faecal water, which flows from homes, markets and food preparation outlets that do not connect to the main sewerage systems, as well as erosion and rubbish flowing into riverways, also play a part."

He said water quality parameters were heavily influenced by weather, pollutant sources and the need to build better sewerage systems.

"Weather-wise, one of the main issues is the intermonsoonal shift, which brings more rain and more total suspended solids due to the flowing of rubbish and waste that are not properly disposed of into drains and river channels.

"This has contributed to the decrease in water quality in some areas even though BOD and COD readings decrease when it rains."

He urged the public to be vigilant and report activities that could lead to pollution and contamination to the DoE via its toll-free number at 1-800-88-2727 or email aduan_k@doe.gov.my.

Page 1 pic: A view of the Kuala Lumpur skyline from Jalan Tunku Putra yesterday.

Keratan akhbar New Sunday Times, 19 April 2020.
New Sunday Times newspaper clipping, April 19, 2020.

Penularan COVID-19

Sungai Kim Kim makin pulih, jernih ketika PKP

Penduduk gembira tiada lagi bau busuk, banyak ikan mula kelihatan



***Penduduk menunjukkan Sungai Kim Kim** kini semakin jernih dan bersih.* (Foto Farid No

Pasir Gudang: Sungai Kim Kim yang sebelum ini 'popular' kerana isu pencemaran sisa toksik dan dipenuhi tompokan minyak sehingga tiada hidupan di dalamnya kini semakin jernih dan pulih.

Tinjauan di kawasan tengah sungai berkenaan yang terletak di Kampung Bukit Pulai, dekat sini, mendapati air sungai yang dahulunya berwarna kehitaman kini semakin jernih dan bersih.

Malah, tiada lagi bau busuk keterlaluan disebabkan pencemaran sisa kimia bertoksik ketika pencemaran di kawasan itu menggemparkan negara tahun lalu.

Penduduk Kampung Bukit Pulai yang juga nelayan, Nur Satria Rabu, 34, berkata Sungai Kim Kim kini semakin jernih, malah ketika surut, ikan kecil berenang dapat dilihat jelas berbanding 10 tahun lalu.

"Alhamdulillah, Sungai Kim Kim semakin jernih dan pulih selepas ia dibersihkan, apatah lagi ketika Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dengan kebanyakan kilang dan industri berhenti beroperasi.

"Jika dahulu air sungai ini sentiasa berwarna kehitaman dan busuk sehingga tiada seekor ikan pun mampu hidup, kini semuanya semakin baik.

"Kini, banyak ikan termasuk keli, haruan dan tilapia yang besar sudah kembali ke kawasan ini menandakan keadaan air sungai yang semakin pulih, sekali gus mendatangkan rezeki kepada penduduk kampung dan nelayan sekitar," katanya ketika ditemui di Sungai Kim Kim, semalam.

Pencemaran kimia berba
di Sungai Kim Kim yang ber
7 Mac tahun lalu menggen
kan negara selepas bebe
murid dan pelajar pengsa
ba-tiba di samping menga
gejala pening, loya dan
tah-muntah.

Keratan akhbar Berita Harian, 27 April 2020.
Berita Harian newspaper clipping, April 27, 2020.



Asean+
'Marketplace', set up to help jobless Thais affected by Covid-19, is now seen as a dating site. >18

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Watch out tomorrow!
Amid reports of panic-stricken shoppers hoarding toilet paper to fishermen unable to get their catch to market, how has the movement control order (MCO) affected prices of essential items? Has it also changed our grocery shopping habits?
The Star has the details

RM

Nature heals itself
A pitch-black river in the heart of George Town turns jade green while people stay at home. As pollution levels drop sharply due to the movement control order, rivers nationwide are reviving without human interference and experts are hoping that Malaysia learns from this. > See page 4 for report by LO TERN CHERN

BEFORE MCO
LO TERN CHERN/The Star

AFTER MCO
CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

Keratan akhbar The Star, 27 April 2020.
The Star newspaper clippings, April 27, 2020.

STARMETRO, MONDAY 27 APRIL 2020 Feature 5



StarMetro article on April 30, 2019.



StarMetro cover story on Aug 27, 2015.



StarMetro article on April 7.

Clean break for Klang Valley rivers

Despite restoration efforts over the years, pollution persisted until MCO took effect

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
shalinir@thestar.com.my

AMID the unprecedented global lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been numerous bright spots even as Malaysians come to grips with the crisis.

From stories of ordinary people going out of their way to help others during the crisis to poignant moments shown by frontliners, we are a resilient lot.

One silver lining since the movement control order (MCO) came into effect has been the improved condition of rivers and waterways in the Klang Valley – particularly Sungai Gombak and Sungai Klang.

StarMetro reported on April 7 that Klang Valley rivers were looking healthier as there was less human interference during the MCO imposed from March 18 to curb the Covid-19 pandemic.

Global Environmental Centre river care programme manager Dr K. Kalithasan noted the current conditions of some of the rivers in Klang Valley were much better now since MCO was initiated.

Photographs of Sungai Gombak, Sungai Way and Sungai Kemunsing clearly showed the rivers' improved conditions.

For more than 20 years, *StarMetro* has reported on numerous cases of rubbish dumping, legal and illegal land clearing as well as sand washing activities that have continued to pollute the rivers.

So too, have we reported on the small- and large-scale efforts to clean up these rivers, largely to little effect, in stemming pollution of rivers.

One of the biggest river cleaning and beautification projects extensively reported was the government's multibillion ringgit River of Life project (RoL).

The RoL project is aimed at breathing new life into polluted Klang and Gombak rivers as well as transforming Kuala Lumpur city centre into a vibrant hub for its citizens. The entire project is expected to be completed this year.

However, that target was set before the MCO came into force.

There are three major components in the RM4.4bil project – river cleaning, river master planning and beautification and river development.

Of the amount, RM3.4bil is for cleaning up the rivers and RM1bil for landscaping.

But since it was initiated in 2012, the project has been plagued by inefficiency and multi-agency bureaucracy.

This lack of coordination and enforcement also meant that any headway has become a "one step forward, two steps back" situation.

For example, in April last year, *StarMetro* reported that land clearing upstream of Sungai Gombak has sent hundreds of tonnes of silt and sedimentation downstream, turning the river and its tributaries into brown sludge.

Although land clearing carried out on private land was the main culprit, road projects around the area as well as sand washing activities had also been blamed.

The sediment run-off travelled downstream right up to the Masjid Jamek area, which caused the water there to turn even murkier than usual.

Ironically, Masjid Jamek's waterfront was named one of the world's 10 best waterfront districts by British online newspaper *The Independent* a few months prior to the incident.

Apart from land clearing, major activities that have severely impacted the quality of these rivers are illegal sand washing and sand mining taking place along riverbanks.

Since 2015, *StarMetro* has highlighted several cases of sand washing activities causing pollution along Sungai Klang and its tributaries.

The exposes resulted in the government closing down several of those sites, where the perpetrators were also penalised and their equipment confiscated.

However, in many cases, the illegal activities would restart after just several months.

In October of last year, it was reported that operations at two illegal sand washing sites in Kuala Lumpur resumed just six months after it was shut down by authorities.

One is at 4th Mile, off Jalan Kelang Lama and facing Sungai Klang, while the other is near Kampung Bohol Flood Retention Pond in Bukit Jalil near Sungai Kuyoh.

Despite the constant highlights in the media on river pollution, it was only since the MCO was enforced that there has been any noticeable change in the quality of the rivers.

It was reported that there had been a 43% reduction in the total amount of rubbish extracted from Sungai Klang since March 18.

Landasan Lumayan Sdn Bhd managing director Syaiful Azmen Nordin was quoted saying that between March 15 and April 15, 580 metric tonnes (MT) of rubbish was collected under the Selangor Maritime Gateway project compared to an average of 900 to 1,200MT per month over the last six months.

He added that during this time, Sungai Klang recorded Class III Water Quality Index (WQI) readings almost 90% of the time, compared to last year until March, whereby although the overall WQI stood at Class III as well, it was only for about 46% of the time.

Still, there have been some slip ups, such as the odour pollution at the raw water source in Sungai Selangor on April 16.

Fish breeding ponds were found to have caused the odour pollution which forced four water treatment plants to temporarily shut down and caused water supply disruption for thousands of households.

While minimising the movement of people and business operations can help rivers heal, it is not a feasible solution in the long term.

In the meantime, we can take heart that nature is getting a much-needed breather during this pandemic.



StarMetro report on April 9, 2019.



StarMetro story on Sept 25, 2018.

Keratan akhbar The Star, 27 April 2020.
The Star newspaper clippings,April 27, 2020.

Once pitch-black, now jade green

One of Malaysia's dirtiest rivers begins recovering from water pollution

By LO TERN CHERN
andylo@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: One of the dirtiest rivers in the country is not dirty any more. Thanks to the movement control order (MCO).

Photographs captured from a drone of Sungai Pinang in the heart of the city, taken seven weeks apart, revealed that after the MCO started, the 3.5km river is healing.

From a pitch-black flow polluting the Straits of Malacca, the river is now jade green with algae.

Photographs of the river, taken by *The Star* on March 8 and yesterday, were all shot at low tide to make a fair comparison without seawater pushing into the river on a rising tide.

Gone is its foul blackness.

Prof Dr Chan Ngai Weng, who researches environmental management and hydrology in Universiti



Sains Malaysia, said the pre-MCO pollution was from human activity.

"It is all kinds of oil from workshops and factories that emulsified and mixed with organic matter from the wastewater of markets, hawkers and so on.

"With the MCO, the dumping has stopped. You can see now how a river cleans itself if the pollution load is low. It is we humans who overload the rivers.

"We must either relocate polluting sources elsewhere or ensure they treat their waste before discharging them into the environment," said Prof Chan.

Sungai Pinang river basin is about 50sq km, covering much of George Town and all of Ayer Itam plus Paya Terubong.

It is fed by six tributaries, all of which run through densely populated urban centres on the island.

Sungai Pinang's water quality was categorised at Class Four, just one step below the dead river category of Class Five. There were plans to make it Class Two for over 10 years ago.

Prof Chan, who was ecstatic when shown the drone pictures, said each time he asked the authorities about cleaning up the river, "they say no because they think Sungai Pinang is dead and cannot be revived".

"These photos are the game-changer. It proves that Sungai Pinang can be beautiful and have a nice waterfront."

Equally happy was marine biologist Prof Datuk Dr Aileen Tan, who said the heartening improvement of the river showed that "concrete results are achievable if the authorities set up better sewage management systems or get tough on enforcement in the new norm after MCO".

"I am sure rivers all over the country are becoming cleaner by themselves now. We should treasure this phenomenon and take it as a chance for us to change for the better after the MCO," Prof Tan said.

Another river that also made headlines recently was Sungai Melaka, located in the historical city in its namesake state.

It is now so clear that people can see schools of fish swimming around.

Environment and Water Minister Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man announced in a statement that Department of Environment (DOE) took 158 enforcement actions nationwide against premises and individuals for polluting the environment, especially rivers.

He said 13% of the 1,337 manufacturing plants allowed to operate during the MCO were found to be located upriver of water intake points and DOE was paying special attention to such locations.

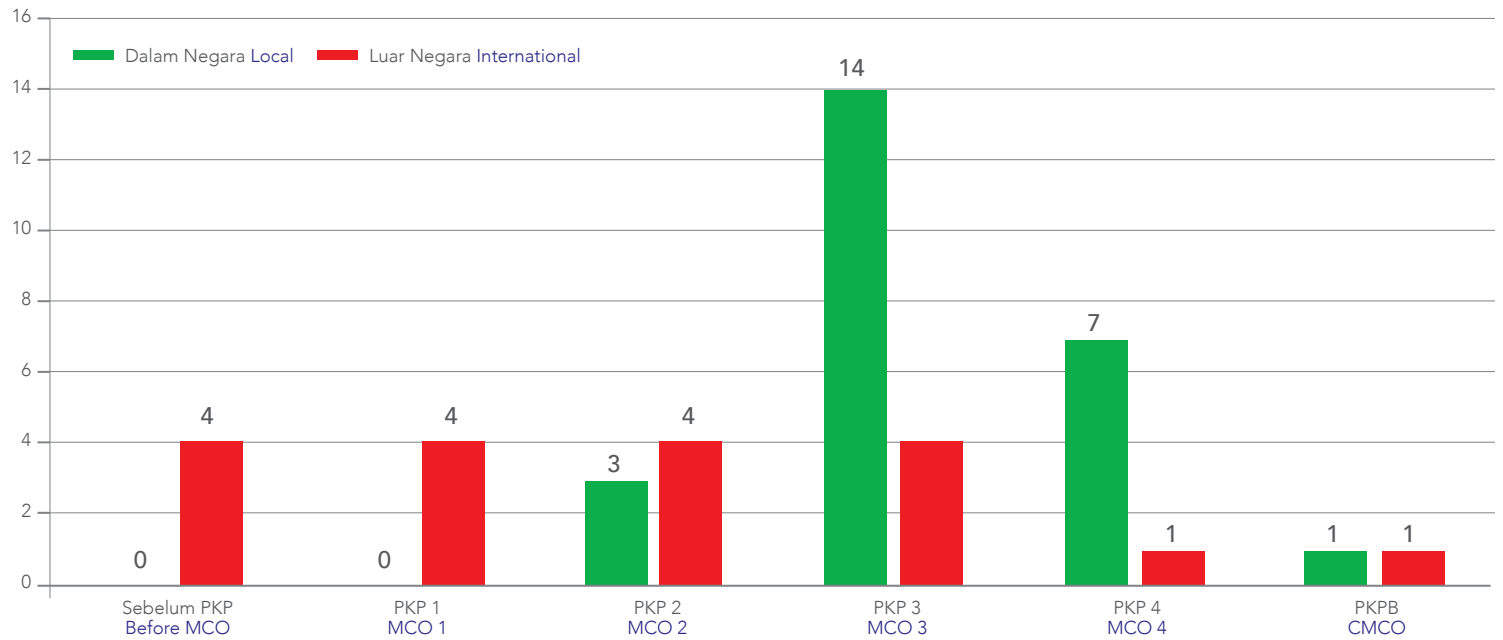
"The enforcement actions included arrests and suspension of the licences of five premises.

"Since the MCO began, DOE enforcers have conducted regular patrols and surprise checks. One of the places we focus on is areas upriver of water intake points. We use drones to look for pollution indications," he said.

Tuan Ibrahim urged the public to call DOE at 03-8889 1972 or its 24/7 toll-free hotline (1-800-88-2727). For emails, send them to aduan_k@doe.gov.my.

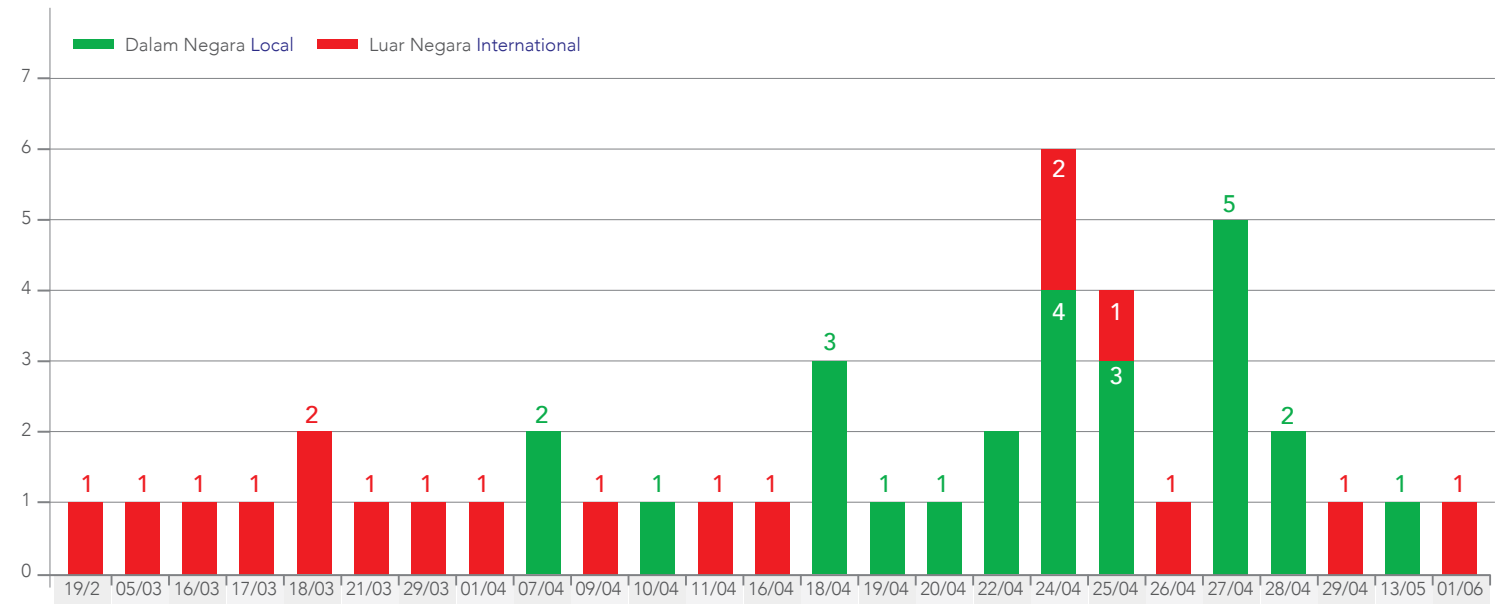
Keratan akhbar The Star, 27 April 2020.
The Star newspaper clipping, April 27, 2020.

Statistik Berita Berdasarkan Fasa
News Statistics By Phase

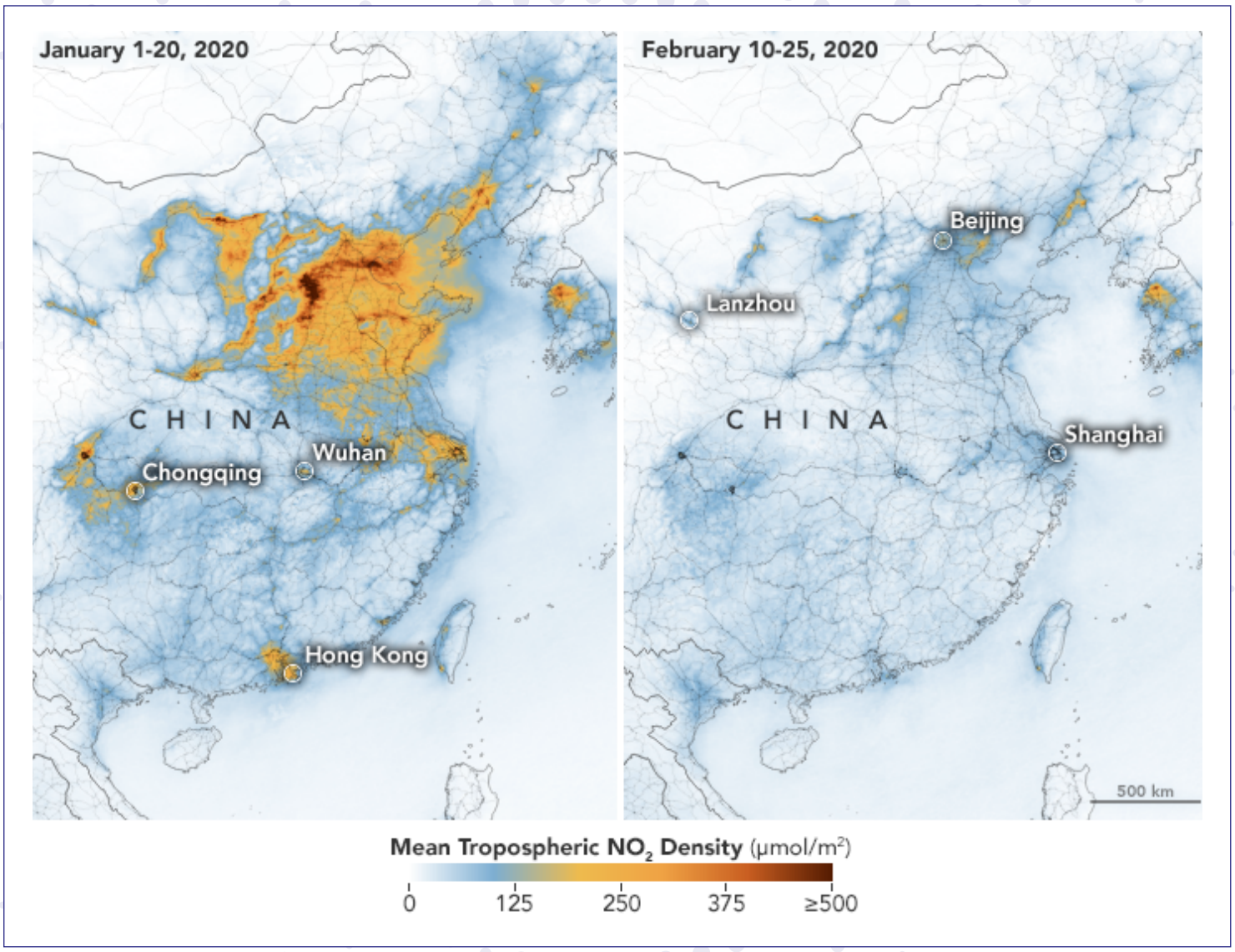


Rajah 3.1 Perbandingan berita berkaitan pelestarian sungai/alam sekitar di dalam dan luar negara sebelum PKP Fasa 1 sehingga pelaksanaan PKPB.
Figure 3.1 Comparison of news related to river/environmental sustainability locally and internationally before Phase 1 MCO until the implementation of CMCO.

Statistik Berita Berdasarkan Tarikh (19 Februari hingga 1 Jun 2020)
News Statistics By Date (February 19 to June 1, 2020)



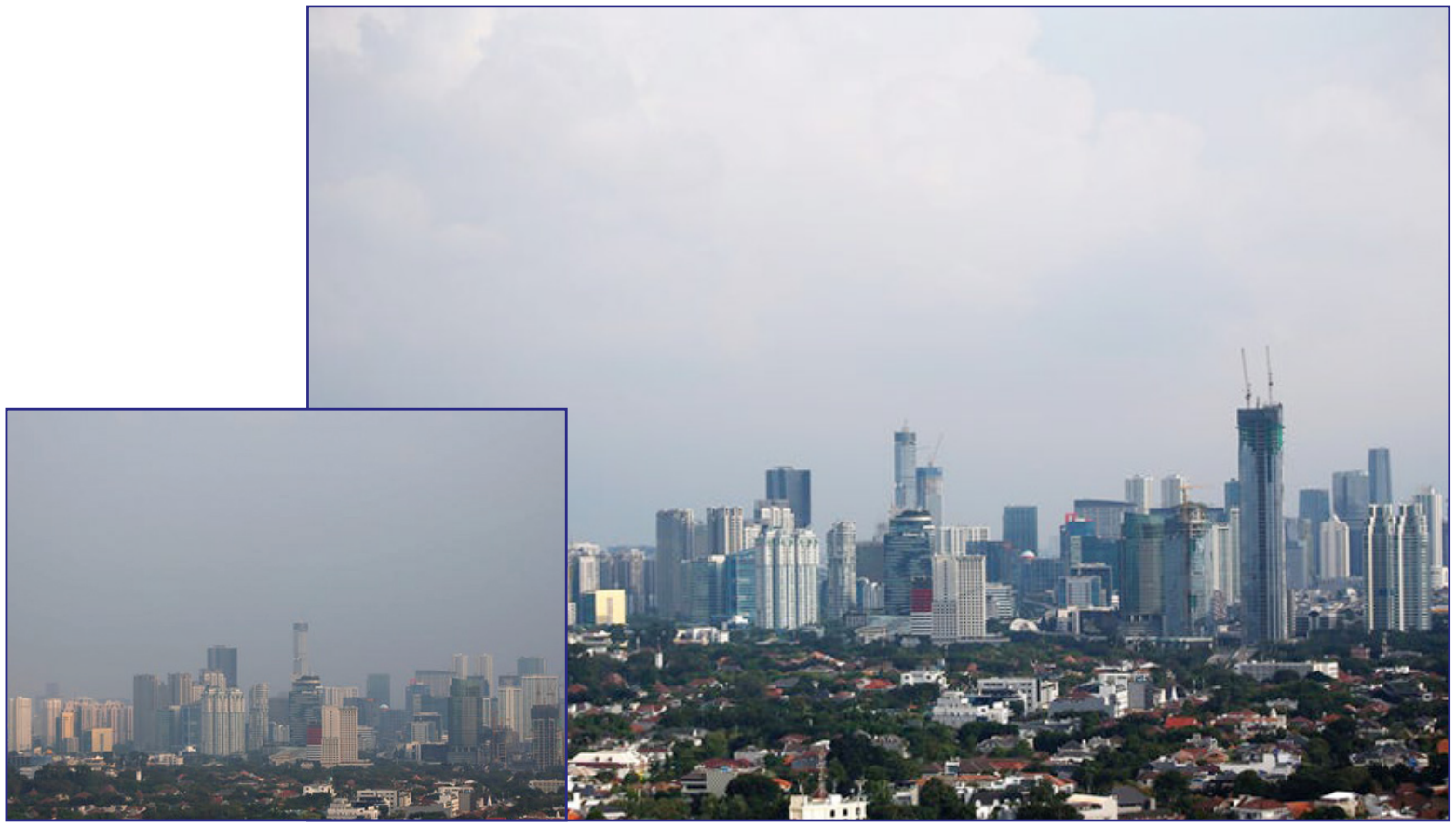
Rajah 3.2 Statistik berita berkaitan pelestarian sungai/alam sekitar di dalam dan luar negara berdasarkan tarikh (19 Februari hingga 1 Jun 2020).
Figure 3.2 News Statistics related to river/environmental sustainability locally and internationally by date (February 19 to June 1, 2020)



Satelit pemantauan pencemaran NASA dan *European Space Agency* (ESA) telah mengesan penurunan ketara nitrogen dioksida (NO_2) di China sepanjang tempoh sebelum dan semasa PKP. (SUMBER: NASA)
NASA pollution monitoring satellites and European Space Agency (ESA) detected a significant decrease of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) in China before and during MCO (SOURCE: NASA)



Pemandangan India Gate War Memorial di New Delhi, India ketika dirakam pada 17 Oktober 2019 (kiri) dan 8 April 2020 (kanan). (SUMBER: *Insider*)
The view of India Gate War Memorial in New Delhi, India captured on October 17, 2019 (left) and April 8, 2020 (right). (SOURCE: Insider)



Pemandangan di Jakarta, Indonesia pada 4 Julai 2019 (kiri) dan 16 April 2020 (kanan). (SUMBER: *Insider*)
The view of Jakarta, Indonesia on July 4, 2019 (left) and April 16, 2020 (right) (SOURCE: Insider)

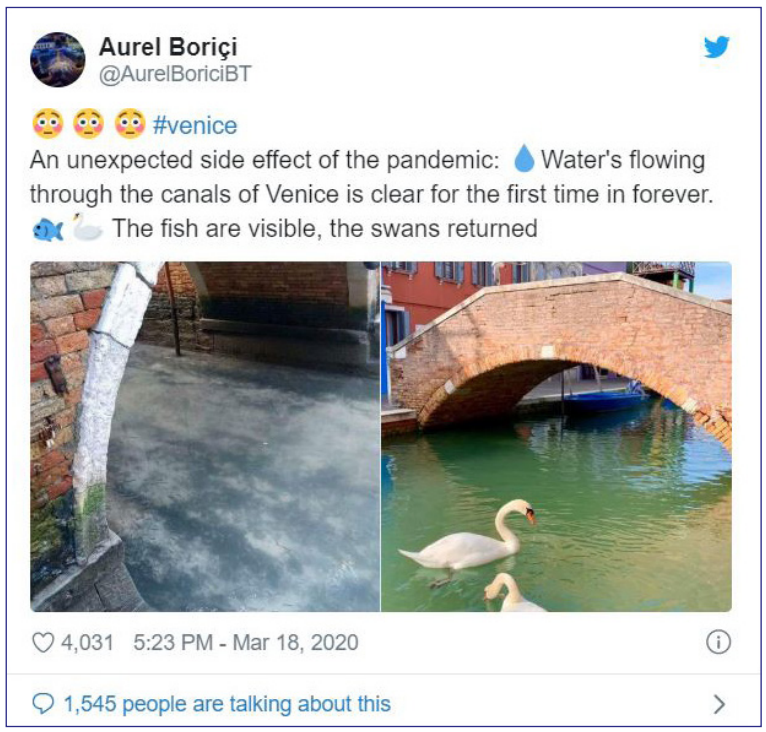


Pemandangan New Delhi dari Sungai Yamuna pada 21 Mac 2018 (kiri) dan 8 April 2020 (kanan) selepas seluruh negara dikenakan perintah kawalan pergerakan selama 21 hari. (SUMBER: *Insider*).
The view of New Delhi from Yamuna River on March 21, 2018 (left) and April 8, 2020 (right) after the movement control order was implemented nationwide for 21 days (SOURCE: Insider).



Terusan Venice yang bersih tanpa trafik bot (kiri) dan pemandangan deretan gondola di permukaan airnya yang jernih seperti dirakam pada awal Mac 2020. (SUMBER: *Insider* dan *NBC News*)
A clean Venetian canal without boat traffic (left) and a view of a row of gondolas on the canal's clear water surface as captured in early March 2020. (SOURCES: *Insider* and *NBC News*)







Perkongsian foto di media sosial yang memperlihatkan kehadiran angsa dan ikan lumba-lumba di terusan serta pelabuhan Venice, Itali.
(SUMBER: *New York Post* dan *HITZ*)
Photos of geese and dolphins swimming in canals and port in Venice, Italy, as shared on the social media.
(SOURCE: New York Post and HITZ)

Sementara itu di Malaysia, perkongsian penduduk menerusi pelbagai media menunjukkan keadaan air di beberapa sungai utama, antaranya Sungai Klang, Sungai Gombak, Sungai Way dan Sungai Kemunsing berubah lebih bersih dan jernih, berbanding keadaan sebelumnya yang sering kotor berikutan menjadi tumpuan aliran sampah sarap dari kawasan kediaman, komersial dan industri. Di Sungai Klang khususnya, ia terbukti apabila statistik perbandingan purata kutipan sampahnya pada 2020 direkodkan menurun lebih 50% berbanding tahun 2017, 2018 dan 2019.

Di lokasi tertentu seperti Sungai Kemunsing, penduduk sekitarnya melaporkan peningkatan jumlah burung dan ikan, kesan air sungai yang berubah jernih ketika PKP, sekali gus membuktikan bagaimana pengurangan aktiviti manusia membantu memulihara dan memelihara alam sekitar.

Hasil pemantauan, fenomena sama turut dikesan berlaku pada kebanyakan sungai lain seluruh negara, antaranya Sungai Linggi, Sungai Muar, Sungai Johor, Sungai Pahang, Sungai Kuantan, Sungai Besut, Sungai Kelantan, Sungai Batang Sadong, dan Sungai Anak Tasik. Demikian juga warna air laut di pantai pelancongan Batu Ferringhi, Pulau Pinang yang dilihat semakin jernih.

Walau bagaimanapun, tidak semua sungai mengalami kesan serupa. Ini berikutan hasil pemantauan mendapati tiada perubahan dialami Terusan Mada, selain Sungai Perak, Sungai Langat, Sungai Kesang, Sungai Paka dan Sungai Tuaran. Ini antara lain disebabkan faktor tertentu, antaranya cuaca, efluen loji rawatan air industri dan tangki septik, air basuhan serta hakisan, dan aliran sampah ke sungai.

Meanwhile in Malaysia, countless Shares of its residents via various media platforms showed the water condition of several main rivers, including Sungai Klang, Sungai Gombak, Sungai Way and Sungai Kemunsing that have turned cleaner and clearer compared to the condition before, that were often dirty due to the rivers being the centers of garbage flow from residential, commercial and industrial areas. In Sungai Klang specifically, this has been proven statistically as the average garbage collection in 2020 recorded more than 50% reduction compared to 2017, 2018 and 2019.

In other locations such as Sungai Kemunsing, residents in the area reported the increased number of birds and fishes, due to the cleaner river during the MCO, simultaneously proving the fact that reduced human activities help preserve and conserve the environment.

Upon observations, the same phenomenon was also discovered for many other rivers nationwide, including Sungai Linggi, Sungai Muar, Sungai Johor, Sungai Pahang, Sungai Kuantan, Sungai Besut, Sungai Kelantan, Sungai Batang Sadong and Sungai Anak Tasik. Similarly, the colour of the seawater at the tourist beach of Batu Ferringhi, Penang was also observed to be clearer.

However, not all rivers received the same impact. This is following the monitoring outcome which found no change for Terusan Mada, as well as Sungai Perak, Sungai Langat, Sungai Kesang, Sungai Paka and Sungai Tuaran. This is due to certain factors including weather, effluents from the industrial water treatment plants and septic tanks, washing waters and erosion, and garbage flowing into rivers.



Air di Pantai Batu Ferringhi kelihatan lebih bersih dan jernih kesan efluen terawat sepenuhnya dari loji rawatan kumbahan IWK. SUMBER: Sinar Harian)
The water of Batu Ferringhi Beach looks cleaner and clearer as the result of fully treated effluent from IWK sewage treatment plant (SOURCE: Sinar Harian)



Sungai Melaka yang kelihatan lebih bersih dibandingkan keadaannya sebelum penguatkuasaan PKP. (SUMBER: *The Star Online*)
Sungai Melaka looks cleaner compared to its condition before MCO implementation (SOURCE: The Star Online)



Foto yang dirakam pada 4 April 2020 menunjukkan Sungai Way yang kebiasaannya kotor telah berubah bersih. (SUMBER: *The Star Online*)
Photo captured on April 4, 2020 showing that Sungai Way which was typically filthy now becoming much cleaner (SOURCE: The Star Online)



Air Sungai Gombak yang kelihatan lebih bersih seperti dirakam pada 2 April 2020 berbanding keadaannya sebelum penguatkuasaan PKP. (SUMBER: *The Star Online*)
Sungai Gombak water looks cleaner as captured on April 2, 2020 compared to its previous condition before the implementation of MCO (SOURCE: The Star Online)



Log boom Sungai Gombak yang dipenuhi sampah pada waktu biasa. (SUMBER: *The Star Online*)
A typical sight of garbage-congested Sungai Gombak's log boom (SOURCE: The Star Online)

Hakikatnya, sekatan pergerakan yang mengehadkan aktiviti ekonomi sepanjang PKP telah memperlihatkan kepada umum bagaimana alam sekitar boleh kembali pulih. Biarpun ramai berpandangan bahawa ia tidak mungkin bertahan, namun fenomena itu sekurang-kurangnya berkesan sebagai peringatan bahawa kita perlu bertanggungjawab terhadap semua kerosakan alam sekitar yang berlaku akibat perbuatan manusia, dan pengajarannya ialah ia boleh dipulihkan menerusi sikap dan amalan positif seperti dipraktikkan sepanjang PKP. Hanya dengan kesedaran itu maka ekosistem boleh terpelihara, sekali gus menjamin kelestarian alam sekitar untuk kesinambungan generasi akan datang.

In fact, the movement restrictions that have limited the economic activities during the MCO have shown to the public how the environment can be revived. Although some take the view that this may be short-lived, at least this phenomenon is effective as a reminder that we need to be responsible towards the environmental damages caused by humans, and the lesson we learn is that it can be restored through positive attitude and practices adopted during the MCO. It is only with this awareness that the ecosystem can be preserved, thereby guaranteeing the environmental sustainability for the continuity of future generations.

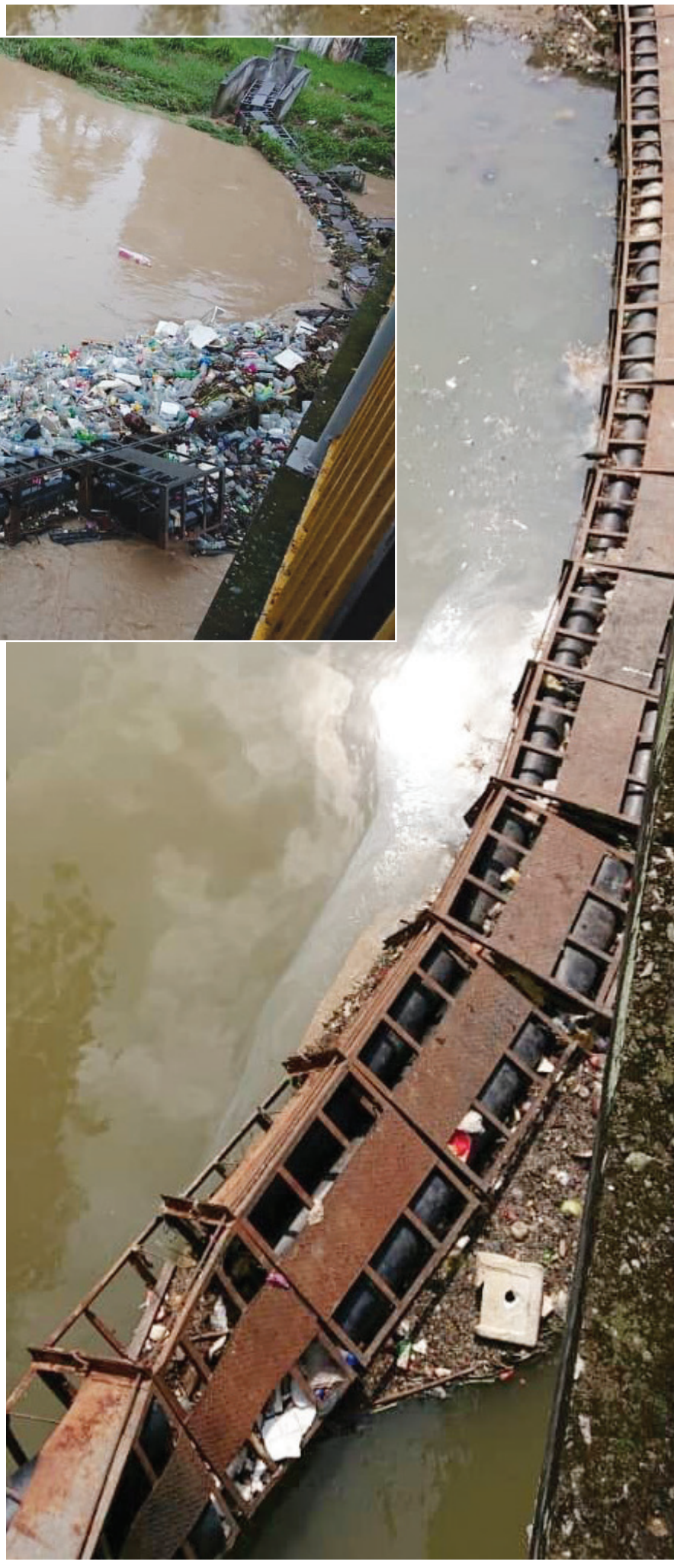


Foto dirakam pada 4 April 2020 menunjukkan *log boom* Sungai Gombak yang bebas sampah. (SUMBER: *The Star Online*)
A photo captured on April 4, 2020 showing Sungai Gombak's log boom that is now free from garbage (SOURCE: The Star Online)



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Gambar fail. Menteri Alam Sekitar Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man. - Foto BERNAMA

Mampukah rakyat amal normal baharu demi alam sekitar

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KUALA LUMPUR: Peluang menghirup udara segar mungkin berakhir sekiranya Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) yang disambung hingga 12 Mei depan ditamatkan.

Justeru, nikmati dan hargailah anugerah alam ini sementara masih ada kesempatan.

Menteri Alam Sekitar dan Air, Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man baru-baru ini dipetik berkata, pelaksanaan PKP di seluruh negara bagi mengekang penularan wabak COVID-19 juga memberi kesan baik kepada alam sekitar.

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Berita Harian Online newspaper clipping on April 27, 2020.

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