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## Nine Sanitary Solid Waste Disposal Sites Being Built

KUALA LUMPUR, April 16 (Bernama) -- The National Solid Waste Management Department is building nine sanitary solid waste disposal sites in Negeri Sembilan, Melaka and Pahang following the closure of several waste dumping sites.

Its director-general, Datuk Dr Nadzri Yahaya said several waste dumping sites in sensitive areas such as near water catchments areas were being closed to protect the people from pollution.

Costing RM20 million each, the sanitary solid waste disposal sites would be equipped with leachate treatment plants to diffuse water soluble into underground water resources and a pipeline system to absorb methane gas from waste decomposition process to avoid foul smell.

"Effluent released from the sites into rivers will meet the standard set by the Department of Environment," he told reporters after opening the Malaysian Plastics Manufacturers Association MPMA-Scientex Foundation' 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) campaign in schools here on Friday.

Nadzri said 177 waste disposal sites were still in operation, of which seven were sanitary sites while the rest had outlived their usefulness.

He said the department was also taking steps to upgrade non-sanitary sites, which had yet to be closed as no suitable alternative sites were found.

It is also installing mini incinerators to address the problem of solid waste disposal on islands and highlands, he said.

He said mini incinerators for Langkawi, Tioman, Pangkor, Labuan and Cameron Highlands were expected to be completed at the end of the year.

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