

## **Miri leads in compliance on scheduled waste management**

*[The Star 27 June 2013]*

MIRI: Miri City tops the country's list for high compliance rate on scheduled waste management, required under the Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations introduced in 2005 and amended in 2007.

Ruslan Mohamad, the director of Department of Environment (DOE), said the commendable achievement was in line with efforts to get all concerned in the state to abide by the regulations so waste could be disposed off in a safe and effective manner.

"The government is serious in getting industries and workshops to comply with the relevant laws so such waste does not pose a danger to the environment and humans," Ruslan told The Borneo Post after officiating at a seminar on 'Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations 2005' and other related issues in Miri yesterday.

Among those present were the department's senior assistant director Mohd Faizul Hilmi, Miri branch chief S Sivanathiran, senior assistant environmental control officer Orlando Jurid, and Miri branch chief of Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB), Joseph Uyo.

Sivanathiran said almost all the 400 mechanical workshops and 22 shipyards in Miri complied with the Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations introduced in 2005.

"We are strict with 150 compounds issued so far. Now we have no illegal contractors for scheduled waste. Currently we have four licensed contractors and one more will be issued a license soon. The scheduled waste is either sent to Kuching or Kuala Lumpur," he said.

He said the seminar was among efforts taken by DOE to create greater awareness, and get those concerned including members of the public to cooperate and abide by the regulations.

Ruslan said 51 licenses had been issued by the department for the management of scheduled waste for the whole of Sarawak.

Among the licenses were for setting up premises for scheduled waste storage and partial recovery, operating vehicles for transportation of scheduled waste and building incinerators.

He reported overwhelming response to the implementation of regulations on scheduled waste, with e-waste collection alone increasing from 40,300 metric tonnes in 2006 to 134,000 metric tonnes in 2009.

The tonnage keeps increasing greatly, especially electric and electronic items, with the fast advancement of technology rendering older models obsolete.

Ruslan stressed that the efficient management of scheduled waste was for safe disposal so as not to threaten the health of the people and the environment, and to get the best economic value from the waste.

He said a study conducted showed that the market value of e-waste in the world was projected to increase from US\$6.9 billion in 2009 to US\$21 billion in 2020.

Ruslan urged the people to cooperate as offenders could face a mandatory jail sentence of up to five years, and fined not more than RM500,000.

Some 200 representatives from the relevant industries attended the half-day seminar jointly organized by the Sports and Welfare Club of DOE Sarawak (Kessar) and DOE Miri.