



# Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang Consumers Association of Penang

檳城消費人協會 பிளாங்கு பயனீட்டாளர் சங்கம்

Websites:  
[www.consumer.org.my](http://www.consumer.org.my)

10 Jalan Masjid Negeri, 11600 Pulau Pinang, Malaysia  
Tel: 604-8299511 Fax: 604-8298109  
email: [consumerofpenang@gmail.com](mailto:consumerofpenang@gmail.com)

## Press Statement

19 April 2016

### **Odour Pollution: An Environmental Pollution that Must be Abated Government Should Serve People not Corporations**

The Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) calls on the authorities to seriously consider odour as an important environmental pollution issue as it affects communities' quality of life and infringes our right for a clean environment. Efforts to abate odour levels are necessary in order to maintain the quality of the environment and hence life.

CAP is disappointed in the manner the Penang State government, Municipal Council of Seberang Perai (MPSP) and other government agencies has handled the complaint of odour pollution that has had a great impact on the community in Kampung Tok Subuh, Juru near Bukit Mertajam, Seberang Perai Tengah.

Residents and commercial operators here have been suffering from ill health, restricted their outdoor activities and live in an unpleasant environment since a screw coating factory started operation here a couple of years ago. The smell of thinner used in the factory's operations is unbearable to some.

In general, reactions to odours are very subjective but still offensive, affecting the general life, health and wellbeing of an individual as a result of the intensity, character, frequency and duration of the odour. The family staying adjacent to the factory often fall sick, afflicted with skin irritation and throat infection. They often remain indoors and limit the opening of windows and doors. Their pet birds and trees in the vicinity have also died.

What was the reaction by the authorities? The Department of Environment had instructed the factory to install a device to control the odour of thinner used in the Spinning and Dipping process in the factory. After its installation in March 2016, follow-up monitoring by the authorities and test results conducted by the factory, the authorities were satisfied with the outcome.

Nevertheless the community here complained that occasionally they are still beset by the odour and thus it's still a nuisance and intolerable. MPSP then wrote to the complainant on 24 March 2016 to appoint a competent person for a second opinion and present their findings within 14 days. Failure to do so will render the case closed by MPSP and no further action will be taken. We didn't expect this kind of reaction from a "caring", "accountable" government!

Odour pollution is undoubtedly the most complex of all the air pollution problems. We need specific law to regulate odours and address issues of odour concentration measurement. Local authorities and government agencies must take into consideration environmental impacts including odour impacts to communities when planning and issuing licenses to premises. Community complaints must be resolved, and not neglected in favour of a corporation.

**S. M. Mohamed Idris**  
**President**  
**Consumers Association of Penang**