UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

AMENDMENTS ON THE EXISTING LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO CONSTRUCTION POLLUTION IN THE MALAYSIAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

Pollution in constructions has recently become a severe menace globally with air, water, noise and waste pollution. The increase of pollution cases from construction projects in Malaysia is alarming and becoming one of the environmental problems. Despite extensive actions have been taken to curb these issues, there is no indication of reduction of cases. On that notes, there is a need to revisit the existing laws pertaining to pollution from construction projects. The existing legislations in Malaysia seem fragmented. The administration of environment in the country started from the coming into force of the Environmental Quality Act 1974. Other than that, there is environment-related legislation which is still in effect. It explains the strengths and weaknesses of environmental management. This research is to identify gap in the existing legislations pertaining to construction pollution. Therefore, three objectives have been formulated underpinned by stated aim which is to explore the existing legislations pertaining to construction pollution and to establish amendments to the existing legislations pertaining to construction pollution. The research was carried out qualitative approach. The research methodology was achieved by applying a thorough and well planned which is Doctrinal Research review and decipher the existing legislations and legal cases pertaining to construction pollution. Thus, Semi Structured Interviews were conducted to governing authorities relevant to construction pollution. The data was analysed to evaluate and determine the gap in the existing legislations in Malaysia. Lastly, amendments on the Environmental Quality Act 1974 and proposed government initiatives has been suggested in the research. Implementing good environmental practices and raising the awareness of constructions participants can minimise the pollution issues. The results of the study also suggested the recommendation to further amendment of the existing legislations pertaining construction pollution.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The first chapter of this thesis explains with the background of the study and further explanation about the construction pollution and the weaknesses in the existing legislations in Malaysia. This followed by the problem statement, research aim and objectives, research questions, research methodology, research scope and limitation, and significance of research. The chapter concludes with the organisation of the thesis and research matrix.

1.2 Research Background

Rising population and rapid urbanisation are characteristics of a developing country like Malaysia. The increase in population increase demand on construction industry. Construction industry is divided to three categories, which are industrial, building and infrastructure. Construction activities that add to air pollution include land clearing, operation of diesel motors, devastation, blazing, and working with harmful materials. All development locales create enormous amount of dust. It has been explored that the biggest source of contamination incorporates coal ignition, engine vehicle outflow, and industrial dust (Wu, Zhang, & Wu, 2016).

Water pollution is caused by sources of building sites such as paint, solvents, construction debris and dirt, harmful chemical and diesel or oil. Air pollution is the result of construction activities such as demolition, toxic materials, burning, operation of diesel engines, and land clearing. Noise pollution is mainly produced at the construction sites due to from heavy equipment, machinery, and vehicles (Nguyen & Gray, 2016). According to Dominick, Juahir, Latif, Zain & Aris (2012), water pollution is a major issue and has turned to be more severe in Malaysia and affects contrarily on the supportability of water resources. The existing laws are ineffective in addressing water pollution issues (Ariffin & Sulaiman, 2015).