

Stop all river activities in Niah district

NIAH: State authorities in Sarawak have issued a health warning and called for a halt to all river-related activities in Niah district because of oil-sludge contamination in rivers there.

The Sarawak Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) and the Health Department have warned the public of possible dangers to health should the contaminated water be consumed directly or indirectly.

It is learnt that the state Ministry of Public Health and Environment has directed that a thorough investigation be conducted, and has sent a team from Kuching to the site.

NREB chief enforcement officer Dania Goyog said the authorities wanted all human-related activities, especially fishing activities and intake of water for bathing and cooking, to stop until further notice.

“Do not consume fish from the rivers, and do not use water from the rivers for now,” he said.

Initial reports, he added, indicated that this was a serious case.