

Sewage solution?

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Irresponsible owners are set to be slapped with hefty fines

Increased fines and a new lagoon will aim to reduce the sewage problem causing chaos in Dubai, a top official told 7DAYS.

Al Quoz has been badly affected with overflowing sewage from septic tanks while part of Jumeirah Beach has also been contaminated after tanker drivers illegally dumped sewage into the storm water network.

Dubai Municipality has already fined more than 100 tanker drivers for dumping sewage illegally.

In the latest crackdown, **Dubai Municipality** also wants to fine owners of labour camps who failed to clear septic tanks and allow the putrid waters to flow on to the streets and roads, endangering the health of the inhabitants.

Salem Mesmar, assistant director general of health, safety and environment, said that it's the responsibility of the owners to take care of their labour camps and stop the overflow of the sewage.

"People who neglect the surroundings will be heavily fined. We are proposing to increase the fines to dhs10,000 from dhs1,000. We will soon submit a proposal to the legal department in this regard," said Mesmar.

He added: "A new lagoon to dump the sewage will also be built at the Lehabab area on the outskirts of the city. This will reduce the pressure on the present treatment plant in Al Awir and help the tankers to discharge the sewage more quickly without waiting in long queues."

According to Mesmar, at least 500 tankers could discharge the sewage in the new facility. "The lagoon would be ready by the end of this month and a contractor has been entrusted with the responsibility to build the plant," he added.

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