



Nadhrain says the former dumpsite has the potential to become a park, driving range or nursery.

missioned landscape design company Cypark Group for the pilot project. Work began in August 2004 through the company's environmental arm, CyEn Resources Sdn Bhd.

Now, the greened trash pile is ready for show-and-tell.

1.8km of pipes ring the perimeter of the hillock, channeling some 200m³ of leachate per day into two containment pools. The treatment plant, which will turn the leachate into clear, river-safe water, is scheduled to be ready by August.

Warm methane gas from the landfill is controlled by a series of pipes sticking out of the ground. Eventually, turbine ventilators will be placed on them.

But the pièce de résistance, said CyEn Resources' Achmat Nadhrain Ibrahim, would be the moribund mountain of rubbish itself.

During an exclusive site visit, NST photographer Ghazali Bujang commented the place would make a good location for wedding photos.

On the rolling hillock 40m from ground level, one escaped the madness of nearby Jalan Kuching. One rose above the highway smog and basked in the spectacular 360° view of the city.

For four months, 4,200 lorry-loads of soil — some 25,200m³ of dirt, stones and sand — was spread over the trash pile.

It's something like putting icing on a cake, except the 'ic-



Kamal says his restaurant is now free of flies

ing' is soil one metre thick and the 'cake' is smelly, maggot-infested and 13 storeys high.

"Capping the landfill with soil is the most crucial and dramatic part of the whole



The once smelly landfill is no longer the hunchback of Taman Beringin.

process," said Nadhrain, the company's general manager. He explained that beneath the soil was a layer of synthetic clay and lining.

"Once you have it on, there won't be any smell, dust, flies, leachate or landslides."

The capping reduced the leachate generation to one-fifth the original, as rain now slid right off the mound into perimeter drains instead of flowing into the rubbish and oozing out contaminated water.

Nadhrain added that capping also cut off the pile's oxygen, minimising the fire risk.

The weight of the soil itself compressed the rubbish under it, making it more stable, he explained.

They then coated the soil

with grass, the finishing touch to the long and expensive makeover. In their master plan, they suggest the place be turned into a nursery.

And as the cherry on the top of their ice-cream sundae, the CyEn team put a mini-golf putting green at the peak of the hillock.

"It speaks about the potential of the place. In Hong Kong, a driving range was built on an old landfill," said Nadhrain, taking an imaginary swing at the Petronas Twin Towers.

"We thought it would drive home the point."



Methane gas from the landfill is controlled by a series of pipes sticking out of the ground.