

UK INSURER NEEDS TO REIMBURSE FISHERMEN

It will engage with Pengerang Fishermen's Association, Fisheries Dept, says Azalina

JASSMINE SHADIQE
KOTA TINGGI
news@nst.com.my

THE government will request that United Kingdom-based insurer British Marine compensate fishermen affected by oil slicks off Singapore, which have drifted into Malaysian waters. In an Instagram post, Minister in the Prime Minister's Depart-

ment (Law and Institutional Reform) Datuk Seri Azalina Othman said British Marine is expected to engage with the Pengerang Fishermen's Association and the Fisheries Department on compensation.

British Marine is the insurer for *Marine Honour*, the vessel that leaked 400 tonnes of low-sulphur fuel into the sea at Singapore's Pasir Panjang Terminal.

The incident happened when a

dredger, *Vox Maxima*, hit the *Marine Honour*, rupturing one of its oil cargo tanks.

Azalina, who is also the Pengerang member of Parliament, said the compensation was crucial for the fishermen as their only source of income was affected by the oil spill.

Earlier, it was reported that some 200 fishermen operating in Sungai Rengit have been unable to fish for over five days and have incurred losses.

This came after strong winds and choppy waves led to the oil spill drifting into Malaysian waters, polluting beaches along



Clean-up of the beaches and surrounding waters began on Friday. PIC

BY NUR AISYAH MAZALAN

Sungai Rengit and Teluk Ramunia.

The pollution along the beaches stretched around one kilometre. Clean-up work on the beaches and surrounding waters began on Friday.

Johor Health and Environment Committee chairman Ling Tian Soon had said British Marine

would compensate Malaysian authorities for the ongoing clean-up.

Azalina also said Malaysian authorities were in close contact with their Singaporean counterparts.

"(We want) to ensure a collaborative effort in mitigating further impact and preventing similar incidents in future."