

# Special container for storing used cooking oil

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Realising the importance of proper disposal of used cooking oil, a group of researchers has developed a more effective storage container for the public to collect the used oil at home for recycling purposes.

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) lecturer Zaifilla Farrina Zainuddin, the project leader, said the product prototype made of high-density polyethylene plastic and stainless steel has a fine filter element that can sieve and store the oil waste in ideal conditions before being processed into bio-diesel.

“The filter on this innovative container reduces the work involved in recycling used oil as it can even strain out fine food particles such as *sambal* mixed in with the oil, better than the containers and filters that are already available in the market.”

She said the five-litre container, which has two parts, was also designed to maintain the cleanliness of the kitchen.

“Normally, used cooking oil is stored in numerous small bottles that must be stored somewhere and it is difficult to pour the used oil from the cooking pots and there is the chance of spills and making the kitchen messy and greasy,” she said,

adding that temperature and the manner in which the oil was stored would affect the quality of the recycled product.

Zaifilla Farrina said the idea for the container came up in January last year when the local authority mentioned dealing with clogged sink drains at the People’s Housing Programme flats.

“The habit of pouring used cooking oil down the sink will cause it to accumulate in the drains, which would clog up the drainage system over time and become a breeding ground for rats and cockroaches.

“This not only pollutes the environment but will also affect the health of the community.”

Zaifilla Farrina said the container was made by UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute lecturers supervised by the UniKL Foundation.

It is currently at the patent stage and the university is still deciding on the best materials to use for the actual product.

She said her team aims to commercialise the product by the end of this year and hopes to secure the cooperation of a manufacturer that can realise the final design.

- Bernama