

KERATAN AKHBAR



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Constructed drains not up to mark, say residents

SHODDY drain construction works along Jalan Selampit 29 and 26 in Taman Klang Jaya have left residents feeling disappointed and worried that it could result in flash floods during downpours.

The drains finally got an upgrade after over 40 years since the neighbourhood was built but residents said more thought should have been put into the work.

"The work is sloppy and I'm not even sure if the cement will be able to hold and how long it would last."

"Our 40-year-old drain did not have any cracks and the new ones which were just built are already cracking," said resident PS Maniam.

The 70-year-old, who watched the neighbourhood grow over the years, said the drains were not built up to par.

"Some of the older trees in the way of the drain construction were just left there and the drain was built over the roots or around them."

"What will happen when it rains and the soil gets wet and erodes, or if the roots get bigger? The drain will collapse," he said.

A visit to the site revealed that the drains were not built properly, with gaps between the concrete and soil.

There were also cracks in the drain and some trees were in the way of the drainage path.

Another resident, Ping Koh Chuan, who monitors the work done by contractors on a daily basis, said the drains should not have been built on the same level as the ground.

"Right beside the drain is a soil path with grass, trees and so on. Constructing the drain at the same level was a bad idea because all the soil and dirt would end up being washed into the drain."



Residents say the drains being built along Jalan Selampit 29 and Jalan Seruling 26 in Taman Klang Jaya are not up to mark. — Photos: KK SHAW/The Star

"The side walls of the drain must be built higher to prevent soil from being washed in when it rains," he said.

Residents urged Klang Municipal Council (MPK) to supervise the contractor's work and get it rectified if it did not meet standards.

The residents say they have spoken to the contractor and the officer-in-charge of the project and they agreed to break and redo the drain in August but nothing has been done to-date.

Instead of breaking and redoing it, residents said the workers completed their job

and merely plastered over the cracks.

Residents want good quality drains which can be built to last according to the proper specifications so that rain water can flow freely and prevent flash floods from happening in the neighbourhood.

When contacted, a spokesperson from MPK's engineering department said the work was only 95% completed and the only thing left was to touch up works.

"Upon completion, our engineering officers will go down to the site to check. "If the work is satisfactory, we will pay the contractor, if not we will take action,"



Residents Ping Koh (left) and Maniam showing one of the tree stumps in the way of the newly constructed drain. They worry the roots from the tree could damage the drains.

he said.

He added that the contractor had not been paid and payment would only be made once work was done based on the standards set by MPK.