

MASSIVE CONGESTION

DOWNPOUR CAUSES HIGHWAY FLOOD

Two-hour shower brings traffic to a crawl on Federal Highway

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A TWO-HOUR downpour in the federal capital caused a flash flood at a section of the Federal Highway near Bangsar South here yesterday.

The floods reduced the Petaling Jaya-bound side of the highway to just one lane, causing massive congestion.

The traffic snarl stretched for several kilometres.

City Fire and Rescue Department director Khirudin Drah-

man said City Hall's flood management officers were on the ground to monitor the situation.

In an immediate reaction, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said the flash floods were caused by clogging of the drainage system due to debris and mud, from a construction site nearby.

Wan Junaidi said because of poor planning by the developer, the clogged drainage system could not channel out the large volume of water into a designated culvert.

"This caused the rainwater to flow into roads.

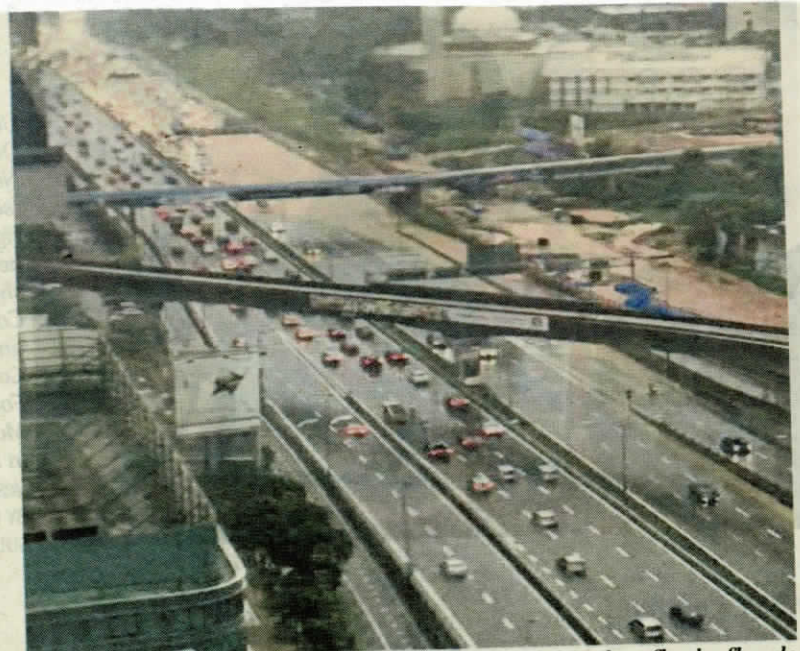
"The incident was caused by the carelessness of the developer as there were no means for the rainwater to be channelled into a culvert. The mud and debris made matters worse.

"Our rivers are capable of channelling water from heavy rainfalls even if they last for two hours like today's (yesterday)."

He said rivers near the Lebuhraya Petaling and Sungai Klang bridges could accommodate heavy rainfall.

Wan Junaidi said the ministry would meet with state authorities and the Irrigation and Drainage Department to inspect construction sites.

In **Terengganu**, 13 people from eight families in Kuala Nerus were hit following 48 hours of



A section of the Federal Highway was hit by flash floods yesterday.

non-stop rain yesterday.

Floodwaters began rising on Sunday night and by 1.30am yesterday, the flood victims evacuated their homes in Kampung Mengabang Telung.

Two families were evacuated to the Mengabang Telung multi-purpose hall; five families took shelter at their relatives' homes and another moved to a home-stay.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Razif Abdul Rahman said relevant parties and volunteers were being mobilised to help those affected by floods.

Page 1 pic: The Federal Highway near Bangsar South in Kuala Lumpur was hit by a flash flood in a downpour yesterday, reducing its Petaling Jaya-bound side to just one lane.