

## KERATAN AKHBAR



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RESIDENTS of Lorong Kolam Ayer Lama and Jalan Chong Khoon Lin in Ampang thought their days of facing flash floods were over after the near completion of a drainage upgrading project by Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ).

But the recent heavy rain is filling up the monsoon drain to almost full capacity, and this is worrying them.

Lorong Kolam Ayer Lama A resident K. Komagan said the project to widen and deepen the monsoon drain was almost done, but they noticed the drain filled up to near its top with water during a downpour.

"We are worried that the drain will not be effective in the long run and our homes will continue to be flooded," he said, adding that work on the project started in July.

Datuk Yassin Yusuff's office in Jalan Lee Hin Neo, which was inundated with flood water last year, said more needed to be done to address the problem.

"There have also been burst water pipes and fallen trees around the neighbourhood.

"We do not know if these indicate that there is movement underground or signs of a larger issue," she said.

Resident Dr R. Sharnilla said they shuddered at the thought of another flash flood.

"Last November, mud floods inundated a large part of the Ukay Heights housing estate leading up to Lorong Kolam Ayer Lama.

"This caused a retention wall in one of the houses to collapse.

"A construction site uphill of the housing estate was identified as the source of the problem and we are still waiting for our compensation claims from the developer," she said, adding that flash floods occurred four times in the last year.

Dr Sharnilla said although the area was prone to flash floods, it was worse as the water was filled with silt and sediment.

Residents suspected the silt washed down into the drains from a monsoon drain upgrading project along Jalan Teberau about 1km away.

In November last year, *StarMetro* reported that MPAJ had issued a stop-work order after

# Monsoon drain brimful of water worries residents

## They question effectiveness of upgraded infrastructure



Komagan worries that the drain upgrading project will not be effective in the long run.

nearly residents made a complaint.

They were shocked to discover that the land-clearing and earth-filling activities were carried out at the site despite a notice board at the entrance stating that the project was only for monsoon drain repairs and slope stabilisation works.

The 14-day notice included several conditions that had to be met, including building a silt trap and traffic flow management.

However, before the end of the notice, flash floods occurred on Nov 11 and residents suspected it was caused by the open work site.

MPAJ Engineering Department director Zafriul Fahry Mohd Fauzi said the drain in Jalan Chong Khoon Lin was upgraded.

"We have widened and deepened the drain to its maximum capacity and it can contain the water volume.

"The water from the drain is channelled into Sungai Kongsi Lapan, which runs adjacent to Lorong Kolam Ayer Lama and Jalan Chong Khoon Lin," he said.

Zafriul said the RM385,000 project was a special allocation from the Housing and Local



The monsoon drain upgrading project at Lorong Kolam Ayer Lama and Jalan Chong Khoon Lin is meant to resolve flooding issues in the area.

Government Ministry.

However, he said the increased volume in water could be due to land-clearing activities nearby.

"A long stretch of land in a forest is being cleared for installation and pipe laying works for a water treatment plant project.

"Because of this, the water runoff is flowing straight into Sungai Kongsi Lapan and could account for the increased amount of water," he explained.

He said the increased water level in the monsoon drain prevented

water flow in the perimeter drains in front of the houses.

"This caused the flooding, and it was not due to the spillage of water from the monsoon drain," he said.

He added that as a long-term solution, the river would have to be deepened and widened by Drainage and Irrigation Department.

Zafriul said the stop-work order for the monsoon drain upgrading project along Jalan Teberau had not been lifted, pending rectification works.

“We have widened and deepened the drain to its maximum capacity and it can contain the water volume.”

Zafriul Fahry Mohd Fauzi