



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Rock demolition in river to ease flooding woes

Mitigation works in 50-year-old Kampung Cempaka to continue

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LARGE rocks that were blocking the water flow of Sungai Kayu Ara have been demolished to reduce the risk of flooding in Kampung Cempaka, Petaling Jaya.

The project was the first phase undertaken by the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and was completed recently. In recent times, the 50-year-old village has suffered from bad flash floods.

On Oct 9, water rose up to 1.52m, resulting in villagers incurring material losses.

StarMetro had highlighted the plight of the villagers who comprised those from the B40 group (30%).

Bandar Utama assemblyman Jamaliah Jamaluddin thanked the department for carrying out the rock-breaking work.

“But the river cleaning is still ongoing,” she said, adding that the work was expected to end next month.

Jamaliah said the soil composition at the river was sand based, so the river could not be dug deeper for fear of causing the collapse of retention walls.

“There were incidents in the past where the walls between the river and the housing area gave way when the river was dug about one metre deep.

“This time, the department is only clearing about 30cm of soil



Jamaliah (centre) reading reports related to the rock demolition project at Sungai Kayu Ara in Kampung Cempaka, Petaling Jaya.

mitigation work could be carried out, she said.

“The job scope of the flood mitigation has not been decided or whether it should take place upstream or downstream.

“We understand the urgency of any flood mitigation project here because residents are worried and the problem has resulted in losses to the already poor community.”

“I have spoken to Selangor Menteri Besar Annuarudin Shari about this matter.

“We have to meet with DID at least once in three months to review the river cleaning and flood mitigation plans,” she said.

Area councillor John Leong urged those affected by flash floods to lodge a police report in future.

Village chairman Theresa Lim said the residents were in constant fear whenever it rained and they wanted the broken river retention walls to be repaired.

“Doing so will help prevent flash floods,” she said.

StarMetro also reported that one of the villagers lost a pet when it was crushed by a refrigerator during a flash flood.