



# KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR		
TARIKH	:	30/8/2021 (ISNIN)	MUKA SURAT	: 17
JABATAN	:	JMG		



*Your opinion*

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A pseudonym may be included.

## Stopping future landslides

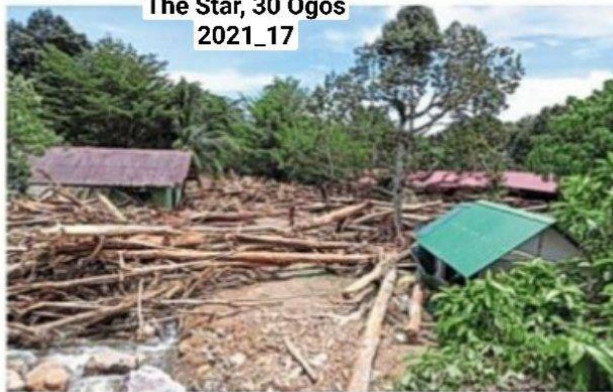
WATER surges and mudflows at the foothills of Gunung Jerai in Kedah occurred on Aug 18 between 4pm and 9pm. Mud and soil sediment flow as well as fallen forest debris, including tree trunks and branches, affected many areas.

Rainfall records from the Drainage and Irrigation Department indicated that 281mm of rain occurred within eight hours at the Gunung Jerai rainfall station, which is equivalent to the normal average rainfall for the whole month of August. This heavy rainfall incident represents a more than 70-year return period, ie it will statistically happen only once in 70 years. Heavy rainfall in the area is most likely due to the climate crisis as extreme weather events are becoming more frequent.

The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) appreciates the immediate action taken by the state government after the landslide to clear rubbish, tree trunks and other debris all the way from the peak of Gunung Jerai to downstream areas and to provide necessary assistance to flood victims to enable a speedy recovery from the trauma.

To prevent similar incidents from

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**Disaster:** Fallen trees in the Alang Kenari Chalet area in Kedah after the landslide. – IEM

recurring, the IEM suggests several actions that can be implemented by the authorities:

- > Formulate a national strategic plan to address water surge and mudflow issues for all highland resorts in the country. The IEM can support the government on this.
- > Prioritise repairing and strengthening riverbanks and other

structures affected by water surges and mudflow floods.

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- > Carry out a comprehensive study of the root cause of the floods, which would include elements of rainfall depth and distribution, surface and ground water resources, land use changes, soil types, and strength of riverbanks as well as the stability of trees surrounding the

river corridor.

- > Establish both short- and long-term recovery plans through flood modelling and mapping analysis.
- > Develop a water surge and mudflow warning system in the main recreational or waterfall areas at the Gunung Jerai foothills.

The IEM would like to suggest that the government learn from this disaster and take more proactive measures to address water surge and mudflow issues in all highland resorts in the country. This will help prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future at other highland resorts and highland settlement areas.

Forward planning and proactive measures should be prioritised as it is expected that the climate crisis will result in extreme rainfall in the future.

The IEM would like to extend our condolences to the families of the victims who perished in the incident and our sympathies to all who have been severely affected.

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**ONG CHING LOON**  
President  
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