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PERAK

# Uneven drains causing flash floods in Jelapang villages to be fixed

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PLANS are afoot to resolve a long-standing flash flood issue at planned village housing scheme (RPT) and Kampung Baru Jelapang, Ipoh.

Jelapang assemblyman Cheah Pou Hian said the flash flood, though not severe, had been occurring for about 30 years. Cheah said the affected area included near the wet market and

SJKC Jelapang.

"I am unable to give the exact number of people affected but I have received 10 complaints so far. "I have been meeting with Ipoh City Council to conduct studies on the drainage here," he said at a press conference at his service centre.

Cheah added that it was found that the drains between houses were not level and aligned, causing water not to flow properly. "We plan to identify all the drains

that need to be fixed first.

"We will then dig them up and redo them.

"This will take years but will likely start next year. We will do it bit by bit," he said.

Cheah added that there would be a plan B if the problem was not resolved.

"The Public Works Department suggested building a water catchment area nearby and realigning the irrigation system," he added. On a similar matter, Cheah hoped

that a RM108,000 drainage upgrading work would resolve the flooding issue at Jalan Jelapang, which had been prevalent for more than 30 years.

He said the two-month upgrading work, which was completed in June, saw a 40m stretch of drains realigned to allow better water flow into the nearby Sungai Tapah.

"After months of studies and discussion with the relevant agencies, we found that the issue was the drain outlet.

"We will now wait for the monsoon season to see whether the issue is resolved.

"There have been downpours in the past few weeks and so far so good," he added.

Batu Gajah MP V. Sivakumar, who was also present, said the issue mainly affected motorists in front of a petrol station on the road.

"Floodwater can go up to about one-metre high," he said. "We are confident that the flood here can be resolved," he added.