

'Air Itam Dam didn't cause George Town flash floods'

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Water Supply Corporation claims (PBAPP) Saturday's flash floods, which inundated 14 villages and affected 600 people, are not related to the Air Itam Dam.

Its chief executive officer, Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa, said PBAPP recorded 135mm of rainfall at the dam on Saturday.

He said there was a minimal overflow of 12mm of water at the dam at 7.10pm that day.

"Any overflow from the Air Itam Dam will go only into Sungai Air Itam.

"Please note that 12mm of overflow is insufficient to cause widespread flooding in George Town. Moreover, the flash floods occurred before 7.10pm," he said yesterday.

It was a bleak Deepavali in Penang

as a three-hour downpour caused extensive flash floods and a landslide, badly affecting roads and hundreds of houses. Scores of cars were damaged.

Affected residents were wringing their hands in despair.

The affected areas included Paya Terubong valley, Jalan P. Ramlee, Jalan Masjid Negeri and Sungai Pinang.

Jaseni said heavy rain also caused a landslide at a stretch of road after the Kek Lok Si Temple here leading to the Air Itam Dam.

"No one was injured, but debris caused the road to be impassable.

"PBAPP and the Fire and Rescue Department are clearing the debris," he said, advising visitors to the Air Itam Dam to be careful and vigilant when using the road.