

# Residents lash out at Penang government's inaction

**GEORGE TOWN:** Hundreds of residents affected by Saturday's flash floods, which hit 14 villages here, have lashed out at the DAP-led Penang government for turning a blind eye to the frequent flash floods in the state.

They also took to task Pakatan Harapan elected representatives for their "no show" during the floods.

Mechanic Lim Chin Kok, 47, from Jalan P. Ramlee, expressed disappointment that the state government had failed to map out a proper flood-mitigation plan.

Lim, who moved to Jalan P. Ramlee seven months ago, said Saturday's flash floods were the worst he had seen as six cars and motorcycles at his shop were submerged in chest-deep water.

"I am furious because none of the DAP or PKR elected representatives have visited us.

"I estimate my losses at about RM8,000," he said at his workshop yesterday.

A massive clean-up operation was in full swing for residents in Jalan P. Ramlee in the aftermath of the flash floods that inundated the area on Deepavali.

They had a sleepless night waiting for the first light to start scraping off layers of mud that accumulated on the floor and exterior of their houses.

For Hindus, the flooding had dampened their mood to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

R. Indirani, 61, a single homemaker,

said she could only imagine the amount of work it would take to clean up her house if not for her niece, who was around to help.

"This Deepavali is one to forget as we could not visit our relatives and friends, and they couldn't stop by because of the floodwater."

For Hamid Karim, 63, his small shed-like house next to Sungai

Pinang was inundated in waist-deep water. Part of it was swept away.

Hamid said nothing had been done by the state government to tackle the issue.

"The state government has been saying they had deepened the riverbed, but I do not see any results," he told the *New Straits Times* yesterday.



**Residents cleaning up their house after the flash floods in George Town yesterday.**  
Pic by Muhammad Mikail Ong

The state government has blamed the Federal Government for not approving a RM350 million allocation to mitigate Penang's chronic flash floods.

State Local Government and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said the Federal Government had delayed the completion of the flood-mitigation

project by not approving the fund.

"Phase two of the project, undertaken by the state government, has been stalled because of this.

"We have been bringing up the matter since 2008, but no allocation has been given by the Federal authority," he said yesterday.

Chow urged the Federal Government to approve the allocation.