



Vehicles **caught in floodwaters** after heavy rain in Bayan Baru, **Penang**.

CM now blames DID for floods

UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAIN: Dept failed to carry out flood-mitigation projects, says Guan Eng

**PHUAH KEN LIN
AND BALVIN KAUR**
GEORGE TOWN
news@nst.com.my

AFTER blaming the Federal Government and unusually heavy rain as the cause of floods in the state, Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng yesterday blamed the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for the problem.

He said the department's failure to quickly carry out flood-mitigation projects was the primary cause of severe flash floods which occurred on Deepavali some 10 days ago.

He said DID had weaknesses as some projects had not been implemented even after four years.

"Flash floods due to unusually heavy rainfall are a new challenge for us. To solve this issue, there is a need to press the Federal Government to complete the third and final phase of the Sungai Pinang flood-mitigation project, which costs RM350 million," he said at the state DAP annual convention here yesterday.

Lim said the allocation would enable deepening of the river basin to overcome flash floods, which had struck 300 houses on Oct 29.

He said flash floods, like the one during

Deepavali, would not recur if the RM350 million flood-mitigation project was completed, adding that the issue would be addressed during the 2017 Penang Budget at the state legislative assembly sitting on Nov 15.

It was reported that several areas in the state, including Sungai Pinang, Batu Maung and Bayan Lepas, experienced flash floods after a downpour. Scores of houses had been inundated with water rising up to chest level. Flash floods occurred three times in a week after Deepavali.

Lim said climate change had also caused long droughts in the country, which led to water rationing.

"Despite threats of long droughts, we guarantee uninterrupted water supply until 2025."

Meanwhile, a viral posting on social media, claiming that vehicle owners would be compensated for their losses due to flash floods is false.

A Penang Island City Council (MBPP) spokesman said the state government and MBPP had never issued any statement to compensate people whose vehicles were damaged by floodwaters.

The message, which was circulated in the form of information graphics, claimed the owners would be given up to RM500 per vehicle.



A housing area affected by flash floods in **Kampung Batu Maung**.

2 held for spreading false news

KUCHING: Two individuals believed to be involved in posting false news online on the murder of two men whose organs were allegedly harvested, surrendered themselves at the Bau district police headquarters at 2.15pm and 2.50pm yesterday.

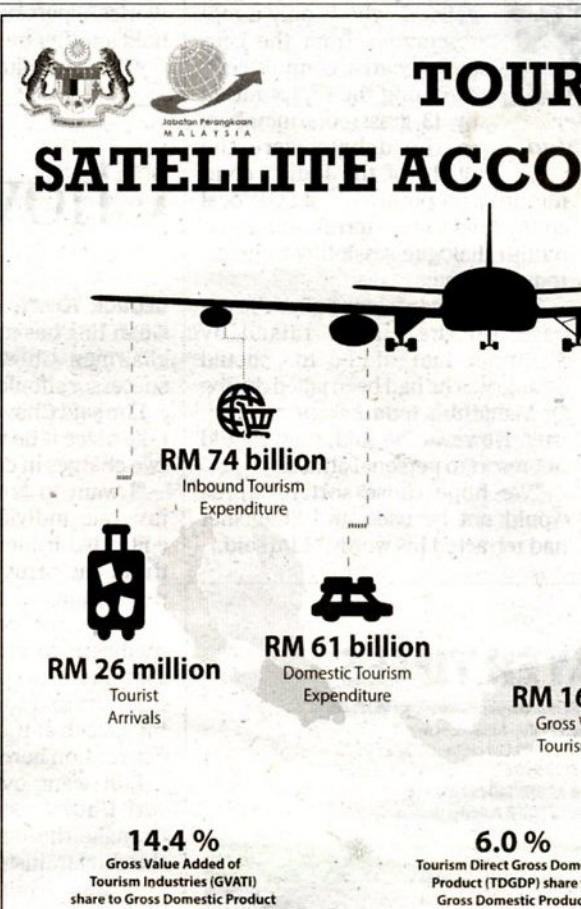
According to Sarawak Criminal Investigation Department chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Datuk S. Dev Kumar, both were females, aged 18 and 27, respectively, from here.

"They have been detained to assist in the

investigation. Their mobile phones have been seized," he said.

Dev Kumar said Sarawak Police Commissioner Datuk Mazlan Mansor was very concerned over the allegations when he issued the warning on the consequences of making false reports and spreading them.

"He did not mince his words when issuing the warning. Those responsible will face the full brunt of the law. By their action, they have created unnecessary fear and anxiety in the community," he said. **Bernama**



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