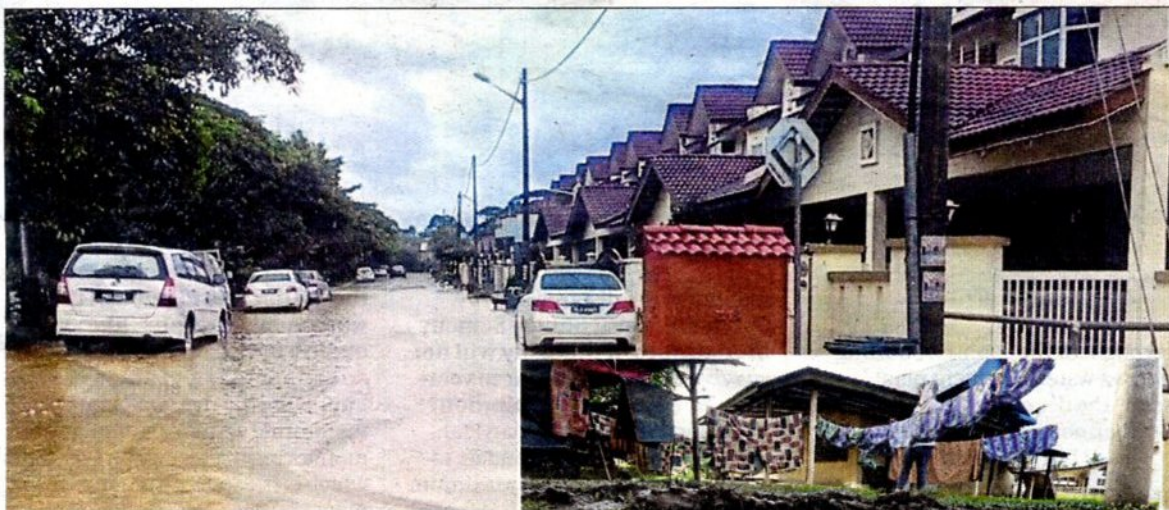




Bayan Baru inundated following a downpour on Friday. (Inset) Residents of Permatang Damar Laut in Batu Maung, Penang, had to endure sand and mud brought in by an earlier flash flood on the Deepavali weekend last week. Pic courtesy of NST reader and by Mikail Ong



Another weekend of floods clean-up

GEORGE TOWN: Penangites spent another weekend cleaning up their houses and backyards, picking up the pieces in the aftermath of flash floods last Friday.

Checks by the *New Sunday Times* in Bayan Lepas and Permatang Damar Laut yesterday found several villagers and families clearing sand and mud brought by murky floodwaters.

This was the second weekend frustrated residents have had to endure cleaning their houses, after a similar incident during the Deepavali celebrations last Saturday.

Factory worker K. Thangavalli, 38, returned to her house in Bayan Lepas yesterday after work, to find the house filled with filth.

Thangavalli said her family had been home for the Deepavali celebration last Saturday, but instead of

celebrating the festival, they had to clean the house after it was inundated with water.

"This time, because it happened on a working day, we were not able to save our electrical items from damage," said the mother of three.

Thangavalli's neighbour, M. Muthama, 58, said she was at her daughter's house near Batu Maung when her house was flooded.

"I was babysitting my grandchildren when their parents were at work when floods hit.

"My daughter's house was submerged in floodwater. When I got back home later at night, I realised my house was not spared from the flash floods either," she said.

Floodwaters inundated Bayan Baru and Batu Maung in Taman Iping due to heavy rain on Friday morning.

The water level receded about noon.

State Local Government and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said the floods in Bayan Baru and Batu Maung were due to the higher position of rivers in certain sections.

"The remedy is to deepen the basin and allow the water level to be lowered. There is also a need to set up a pump at selected locations to drain rising waters from the overflowing river, especially off Sungai Relau in Bayan Baru and Taman Iping," Chow said.

Flood-prone area Jalan P. Ramlee was not spared, with floodwaters reaching ankle-deep at a section of the road outside SMK Abdullah Munshi in an evening downpour.

No one was displaced and the water level receded by 9pm.