



Stalls operating by the side of the monsoon drain running through the back portion of Kajang Town centre will be affected when the drain realignment project takes off.

# Drain upgrade to curb floods

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**A** DRAIN-widening and deepening project in the heart of Kajang town will take off in a fortnight.

The project is targeted at the 2km stretch from the road junction in Sungai Jelok to a portion of Sungai Langat to prevent recurring floods in the area. The recent flooding took place around two weeks ago, following a two-hour thunderstorm.

An 8m-wide monsoon drain runs through the affected area but tapers down to three metres in several sections as it curves towards the back portion of Metro Plaza. The embankment of the drain also dips in some por-

tions, causing water from upstream to overflow.

Hulu Langat MCA Youth Chief Loh Chew June who briefed the media on the project on Tuesday said the Kajang Municipal Council and the Drainage and Irrigation Department have allocated RM5mil for the project.

"Both parties are waiting for a consultant to submit re-alignment plans to the council for approval. Once approval is obtained, MPKj will issue letters to 26 hawkers who will be affected owing to the realignment," said Loh who met with DID officers for a progress report on Monday.

The hawkers who ply their trade on one side of the monsoon drain were relocated some years to make way for the construction of Metro Plaza. They signed a 20-year lease with MPKj, then

known as the Hulu Langat District Council, for lots priced at RM17,500 each.

Most of them who heard about the proposed realignment are worried that their stalls would be demolished to make way for a wider and deeper drain.

Loh who also met with the hawkers on Tuesday assured them they would not be relocated a second time but that the size of their shop lots would be affected due to the realignment.

The proposed project will also affect a Hindu temple located in Sungai Jelok.

According to hawkers' representative Chin Yok Chin, the hawkers were happy that something is being done to prevent future floods in the area. He added that the worse flooding incident in the area took place in 1999.