

Litrak points out reasons for floods in Puchong

Blocked drains, narrow culvert and heavy rain caused late-evening deluge, says CEO

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ABNORMAL amounts of rainfall combined with flaws in the drainage, at a stretch of the Lebuhraya Damansara Puchong (LDP) near the IOI Mall and Bandar Puchong Jaya, contributed to the severe flash floods there on Tuesday.

The rainwater recorded at 81mm, came under the Drainage and Irrigation Department's (DID) classification of "very heavy" rain (60mm and above).

According to Lingkaran Trans Kota (Litrak) chief executive officer Sazally Saidi, this was even higher than the rainwater level recorded during the last major flash flood in the area in June last year, which was 71mm.

In terms of drainage, he identified three main problems: a 100m stretch of drain near the shoplots that was not cleared after the construction of the IOI Puchong Jaya LRT station, the current triple cell box culvert not being wide enough for improved water flow, and the monsoon drain in front of IOI Mall requiring widening.

Sazally explained that rainwater flowing from higher ground there needed to flow across the LDP at two locations, before and after IOI Mall. The water would

then flow north along both sides of LDP towards the Kesas highway, and discharge into Sungai Kelang.

Water flow in front of the shoplots opposite IOI Mall is currently obstructed as the drains there were not cleared after the construction of the LRT station, added Sazally.

This meant that during abnormally heavy rain such as the one on Tuesday, water would overflow onto the highway.

The second problem was that the monsoon drain used a triple-cell box culvert system.

Sazally said, unlike a single-cell box culvert system, the smaller divided cells were more prone to being clogged with mud and obstructing water flow.

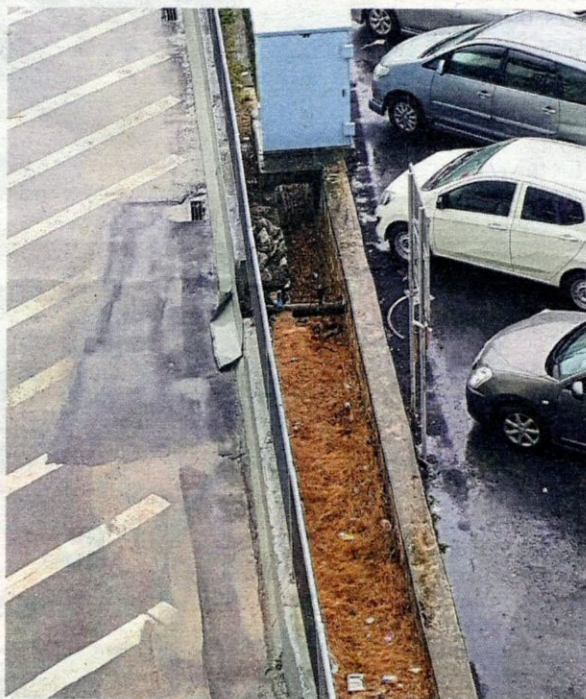
He added that the remedy to this problem was to convert the culvert into a single-cell box culvert to improve water flow in the monsoon drain.

The third problem was that the monsoon drain in front of IOI Mall was not wide enough to accommodate such downpour, and proposals have been put forward to widen the monsoon drain slightly.

Sazally suggested that the contractor for the LRT project contractors to clear and reinstate the drain near the shoplots.



Sazally says unlike a single-cell box culvert system, the triple-cell box culvert system is more prone to being clogged with mud, obstructing water flow.



The clogged drain next to the LDP.

He added that works to upgrade the culvert system and monsoon drain may have to take place after the monsoon season, as doing so during this period would worsen the situation.

One suggestion that was mooted before was to allow floodwater to flow into the former mining pond

located behind IOI Mall, shortening the distance for the water to travel to Sungai Kelang.

However, Sazally pointed out that the former mining pond was privately owned, and to do so would require the Subang Jaya Municipal Council to make a deal with the owners.