

FLOODED WITH FEAR OF ANNUAL CRISIS

RESIDENTS of Gugusan Manjoi, Ipoh, are losing sleep over the recurrence of flash floods, which they say have become an annual affair.

Last month, flash floods hit almost all villages in the area due to high amounts of rain.

At least 60 houses in Kampung Manjoi Lama, Kampung Tengku Hussein Lama, Lim Garden, Kampung Tengku Hussein Hujung, and Kampung Dato Ahmad Said Tambahan 2 were flooded after two hours of heavy rain.

Kampung Dato Ahmad Said Tambahan 2 resident Muhammad Farizan Ahmad, 47, said the water levels had risen a lot in the Sungai Pari Tinggi, Sungai Tapah and Sungai Kati areas.

"Flash floods always occur during the monsoon season in November and December. Although we do not suffer much damage to our properties, it is tiresome to clean up the mess after the water has receded. It has also affected our routines," he said.

A Kampung Tengku Hussein

Lama resident, who wanted to be known only as Muhammad, 58, said it had become the norm for villagers to face flash floods every year.

"I always pray that the worst flash flood, which happened in 2012, would not recur. It was the worst flash flood in the 20 years that I have been staying here. The authorities should do something," he said.

Ipoh Mayor Datuk Zamri Man said the city council had been clearing clogged drains during for the past five months.

He said the causes of flash floods were clogged drains and drains that did not have the capacity to accommodate the large amounts of rainwater during that time of year.

Zamri said the council's engineers would deal with the problem of increasing the sizes of drains.

He said the construction of new drains in Taman Arkid had also contributed to last month's flash floods.

"Water flow was obstructed due to waste from the construction site. The project in Taman Arkid, expected to be completed in April, is part



Villages in Gugusan Manjoi were flooded last month. FILE PIC

of the flood-mitigation project here. We hope residents can bear with us while the project is being completed," he said.

ACTIONLINE:

State Disaster Management Committee secretary Mohd Noor Hassan Ashari Sulaiman said a short-term solution had been

proposed to the Kinta and Batang Padang Drainage and Irrigation Department. He said the proposal involved carrying out maintenance of the internal drainage in the 3.2ha affected areas.

"For a long-term solution, we have proposed building a retention pond and installing an automatic pump system this year," he said.