

RM5.5mil to reinforce eroded river banks

Story and photos
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ARIVER upgrading project involving Sungai Merbau in Kajang is under way to safeguard residents of Taman Selamat.

Work on the RM5.5mil project undertaken by a contractor appointed by the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) began this month.

Upgrading works involve deepening the river and installing U-shaped drains along a 1km-length.

Serdang MP Datuk Yap Pian Hon, who visited the site on Friday, said the project was under the supervision of the Hulu Langat DID.

"Progressive erosion along Sungai Merbau has weakened its banks and the earth bunds installed previously no longer help.

"The river is just a few metres away from Taman Selamat and the RTM Broadcast Station in Kajang," he said.

"One side of the eroded bank is dangerously close to the high tension wire holding up the broadcast tower, which is why the project has to be finished quickly. Extreme caution has to be exercised because there is increased water flow in the river owing to the monsoon season," Yap added.

Taman Selamat resident Ng Siew Yoon said there had so far been no floods in the small housing area con-



Yap (far left) and Taman Selamat residents looking at the progress of bank strengthening works along Sungai Merbau.

sisting of 40 houses but the erosion was getting worse.

"A quarter of the lane between Sungai Merbau and Taman Selamat gave way this year so we contacted the authorities. We are grateful that the upgrading project is underway and will be completed soon," he said.

Resident Ramlee Abdul Rahman who operates a restaurant next to the lane applauded the speedy action by

authorities to strengthen the lane by packing it with stones and bricks, to prevent further erosion.

On a previous visit, residents also highlighted the matter of being unable to access Kajang town from Taman Selamat owing to the double line on Jalan Batu 14, Cheras-Kajang. Motorists from Kuala Lumpur were also unable to turn into the housing area and were forced to make a U-turn

1km away as well.

Yap said the Hulu Langat Public Works Department that was alerted of the matter has agreed to his suggestion to convert the double line into a dotted line instead for the time being.

A letter from the department also stated that the situation would be closely monitored to ensure the change does not endanger the lives of road users.