

Sungai Masai in need of flood mitigation measures

Council working on long-term solution to stop river overflow on rainy days

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PASIR Gudang City Council (MBPG) will work with the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to deepen the Sungai Masai river bed.

Mayor Datuk Asman Shah Abd Rahman said the project was important to ensure the river could hold water at a higher capacity and reduce the risk of overflowing into the nearby drain along Pasir Gudang Highway.

"There were reports of flash floods around Pasir Gudang on July 12 due to recent rains.

"One of the affected areas was the Pasir Gudang Highway," he said when contacted.

"MBPG previously worked with the Johor Baru City Council (MBJB) to build two weirs at Sungai Rinting located near the highway to ensure water would flow directly into the river.

"However, due to continuous downpours, the weir failed to contain the high volume of water, causing it to overflow," Asman Shah added.

He said the high tide phenomenon also caused water from Sungai Masai to flow onto Pasir Gudang Highway, and the high volume of water also led to flash floods at Taman Mawar on the same day.

"The existing drainage was not able to channel the water, causing overflow.

"However, the council has taken short-term measures by cleaning up the drainage.

"The long-term solution will only be taken once the council has completed its investigations on the system," Asman Shah added.

MBPG councillor Noor Azleen Ambros said the flash floods in Sungai Masai affected the surrounding villages such as Kampung Kuala Masai and Kampung Sungai Rinting, apart from housing areas in Taman Mawar and Taman Rinting.

"Sungai Masai is in dire need of a flood mitigation system as it has not only affected houses but also traffic flow on Pasir Gudang Highway.

"This is because the river is located at the lowest topography in Pasir Gudang," he said, adding that this was not the first time flash floods have occurred.

"This is common every time it rains, and I believe it is high time mitigation works are conducted at the river so that it is able to hold higher volume of water.

"There is also a need to conduct a river straightening project at a few bends along the river system to ensure smooth water flow when it rains," added Noor Azleen.



Kampung Masjid in Masai was hit by flash floods due to continuous heavy rain on July 12.