

Mud flows again

For the fifth time in a year, businesses at the Seri Kembangan Commercial Centre were hit by a mud flood caused by heavy rains >M2



Muddy waters

The mud flow blocking the entrance of a restaurant, causing chaos as customers could not leave until it had subsided.

Plagued by mud floods

Commercial area hit for the fifth time

By LIM CHIA YING
chiaying@thestar.com.my

IT HAS happened again. The infamous mud flood that has been plaguing the Seri Kembangan Commercial Centre for the past one year has struck again, the latest incident happening on Sunday evening at around 7pm.

»We are not against development, so long as it does not disrupt nearby businesses«



SERDANG MP
YAP PIAN HON

This is the fifth time within a span of one year that business lots in the area have had to suffer the mud flood as a result of a heavy down-pour.

According to business operators, the mud is washed down from a nearby development site, where a middle-class housing project called Bukit Ikhlas is said to be under construction.

Restaurant owner Chan from Starlight Steak Café of Road 7 said muddy waters started gushing into the area at about 7pm, when people were having dinner.

"The water level rose to about 30cm. My customers were all stuck inside the restaurant as they could not walk out to their cars.

"It was only after 8pm that the water began to recede. We had to



Raging torrent: Muddy water seen gushing into the commercial area.

call the firemen to help us clean up the mud so that people could start walking out.

"Ever since I shifted my business here a year and a half ago, I've endured five rounds of mud floods.

"It's becoming unbearable because we have to take more than an hour each time to wash the mud away and this is affecting our business," said Chan.

One of the restaurant's customers, Raymond Chin, said the entire commercial centre becomes especially dusty once the mud flood is over.

Serdang MP Yap Pian Hon said the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) is supposed to look into the matter to help end the flood woes

but no solution or plan has come out so far despite the numerous complaints by business operators and letters that he had written to the council.

"This is not just a normal flood, but a mud flood.

"I empathise with the business operators, as they have to do massive clean-ups each time it happens.

"Yet, they don't receive any compensation for this.

"I was made to understand that the bund of the development site's retention pond had broken so it could no longer work as a catchment area whenever there's heavy rain.

"We are not against development or construction, so long as it does not

disrupt the nearby businesses.

"When it does, it is the responsibility of the local authority to take action," said Yap, adding that several letters he had written in the past had not received much response from MPSJ.

He added that he needed to know the council's long-term plans for the issue.

"It has been dragging on for too long now. I'll be writing a letter to the new MPSJ president.

"The council has to do something, sit down with the developer for a solid solution, and not just assure people with empty promises.

"Otherwise, it would not be fair to the business operators," said Yap.



Broken bund: The retention pond does not work as it is supposed to, thanks to a broken bund.

MPSJ slaps fourth compound on developer

By GEETHA KRISHNAN
geetha@thestar.com.my

THE Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) has slapped developer Active Heights Sdn Bhd with its fourth compound notice for causing another mud flood in Seri Kembangan.

The latest incident on Sunday night caused a torrent of mud to flow into the Seri Kembangan Commercial Centre at Section 2, Taman Bukit Serdang.

Council president Adnan Mohd Ikhsan was at the scene after being informed of the incident.

The absence of a retaining wall and a collapsed earth bund built by the developer for the hilltop project behind the Seri Pinang Apartments has been blamed for the mud flood that also damaged cars and motorcycles parked there.

Active Heights was issued three RM25,000 compounds for last year's mud floods that riled residents, commercial lot owners and business operators alike. The developer faces a heftier fine if certain conditions are not met soon.

Seri Kembangan assemblyman Datuk Liew Yuen Keong said the developer was required to build a

0.5ha retention pond and a 3m drain to prevent future incidents. Closed turf was also supposed to be used to cover exposed earth slopes.

"MPSJ held a meeting on Monday afternoon with various council departments, the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Housing Board, the Seri Pinang Residents Association, the Public Works Institute of Malaysia (Ikram) and the developer to propose short and long-term measures to prevent future mud floods.

"This includes a study on the soil erosion and soil tests. The developer was also instructed to clear the mud from the affected areas and to compensate residents whose vehicles were damaged," said Liew who is also a MPSJ councillor.

"If the developer fails to meet the necessary requirements within a certain time frame, the company will be issued a stop-work order or face action under the Street, Building and Drainage Act which carries a compound of RM250,000."

Other hillside development projects under the municipality will also be kept under close watch.



Clean-up crew: Construction workers helping to clear the mud and dirt left behind after the incident.

SMS GREETINGS

Know of anyone celebrating a birthday, wedding, anniversary, birth of a child or graduation? Send your wishes of these happy occasions to StarMetro via SMS.

HOW TO SEND

Type "STAR METC" followed by the message and send to 39993.

abc	123
STAR METC XX	Enter number: 39993
Options	Send

SEND PHOTOS

Share your joyous moments by sending pictures to:

metro@thestar.com.my
Please include full description of photo