

Was crack an early sign of landslip?



CLOSE CALL

The slope which caved in at the first floor. Plastic sheets have been used to cover the debris. INSET: Rozlina

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Nothing done despite complaints, say residents

By HALIM SAID and KALBANA PERIMBANAYAGAM

A CRACK was showing last week before the landslide hit on Monday, claimed low-cost flats residents in Section 10, Wangsa Maju.

They said the authorities didn't act on their complaints regarding the crack which stretched from Block B5 to the edge of the nearby hillslope where the landslide occurred.

Resident Low Kim Hong, 51, said she complained to the building management about the crack.

"My neighbours had complained to City Hall but it fell on deaf ears."

A. Mary, 48, a general worker, said they didn't know how it happened.

"Maybe it's due to the highway work down the hill."

Rozlina Naemat, 35, a trader, said: "For the past 19 years I have been staying here, it never crossed my mind that a landslip would happen."

Syed Hasnan Syed Sagap, 32, an accounts officer, said he did not see anything unusual before the incident.

"It just collapsed before our eyes. Luckily, my mother and sister from Block B5

were not hurt." Yesterday, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique, Women, Children and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar Ruslin Hassan visited the site.

Zulhasnan said the Training and Infrastructure Development Institute (Ikram) has been directed to check the soil on the hill.

"We will know within a month if the four affected blocks are safe for occupation or not."

He said the affected residents will be moved to a temporary City Hall settlement in Sri Semarak by the week's end.

Ruslin said they had issued a stop-work order on the Duta-Ulu Kelang Highway (Duke) project on the night of the incident and ordered the developers to do rectification work on the hillslopes.

On whether the landslide was caused by a leak or crack, he said they have to wait for Ikram to complete its report.

Shahrizat said the Welfare Department had distributed blankets, mattresses, clothing and food while the National Welfare Foundation had allocated RM45,000 for the victims.

Development on 15 degree slopes must be monitored

THE Government will look into monitoring hilltop development which is above 300 metres with a gradient of 15 degrees.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid (picture) said all hilltop development will have to undergo checks by Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and geotechnic surveys to determine whether the land is safe for development.

"The Cabinet has agreed to the implementation of the law to monitor the hilltop development. We will table it in Parliament early next year," he said.

Azmi said the Cabinet has asked the Public Works Department to carry out an in-depth study of slopes in Bukit Ampang and Bukit Antarabangsa in Hulu Kelang.

"We gave the directive two months ago to identify whether the two areas are safe for housing development," he said.

On the landslip at Section 10 in Wangsa Maju, he said the structure of the slopes was strong.

However, he said he will have to wait for the report from the Training and Infrastructure Development Institute (Ikram) on the affected slopes. The report is expected by the end of this year.



MOVING C

Each family comprises

complaint

