



The affected blocks.



Some of the stranded residents.



Fire and Rescue Department

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Finger points at leaky pipes, new highway

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KUALA LUMPUR: Leaky underground pipes and the building of the Duta Ulu Klang Expressway may have contributed to the Wangsa Maju landslide.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid said initial investigations showed that the soil became loose and unstable, due to excessive exposure to water.

"There was no heavy rain and thus water could be seeping underground near the blocks of flats," he said after visiting the Section 10 flats in Wangsa Maju where 700 residents were evacuated on Monday after a section of the hillside collapsed.

Some of the residents also claimed that they had seen water seeping out from the ground last week.

Mechanic Ho Chan Ho, 22 said he and his mother, Low Kim Hong, 52, complained to the building management but were told that they were wait-

ing for more complaints before forwarding them to the authorities.

"It seems it's too late for authorities to act on our complaints now," said Ho who lives in Block B5.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique said the building developer had agreed to build a retaining wall for the slope today.

"We have also instructed Ikram Berhad and other relevant agencies to assess the soil structure. The assessment results will only be known after 10 days."

Relocation by this weekend

KUALA LUMPUR: The families displaced by the Wangsa Maju landslide will be relocated by this weekend.

So far, 138 families have registered with the Welfare Services Department. They will be moved to the PPRT Seri Semarak flats. The department is expecting more families, who took shelter with friends and relatives, to register, so 160 three-room flats have been reserved for displaced families.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique said the relocation is necessary because the soil in the area is not

stable.

"They will remain there until we have a full assessment of the soil condition," said Zulhasnan after visiting the scene yesterday.

A source from the Mineral and Geoscience Department said two minor soil movements were detected at midnight and at 2.16am at Block 4, which is nearest to the slope.

Yesterday, authorities covered the soil with plastic sheets to prevent further erosion.

The 138 families make up a total of 571 people registered with the Welfare Department.

At the moment, 264 people

are staying at the Section 10 multi-purpose hall while the nearby Madrasah Nurul Huda has taken in 100. The rest are putting up with relatives.

Zulhasnan said City Hall will provide transportation to ferry their belongings to the new housing area.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abd Jalil presented RM300 to each family at Madrasah Nurul Huda on behalf of the Welfare Services Department.

She assured the victims that they would be taken care of until they are relocated.



Residents moving out their belongings.