

Fish surprise in flooded road

Downpour causes ponds to overflow

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GEORGE TOWN: A flash flood at Jalan Sungai Dua brought an unexpected bounty for residents here yesterday.

Some of them managed to catch *tilapia* and *jelawat* fish which escaped after three retention ponds near Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) overflowed during a two-hour downpour that began at about 11am.

Residents rushed to grab nets and other utensils to catch the fishes struggling on the road in shallow water.

"We are not allowed to fish in the pond. But today, I managed to catch two fishes from the flooded

road," said a delighted resident who declined to be named.

At the nearby Sri Saujana Condominium, at least two cars were submerged under about 1.5m of flood waters.

The condominium's management committee chairman Robert Oon said the car park would be flooded each time there was heavy rain.

He blamed the floods, which occurred at least twice a year, on water overflowing from the retention ponds.

"We have written to USM several times but it did not bother to reply," he said.

Oon said whenever it rained for more than an hour, the guards would ask unit owners to remove their vehicles from the

car park.

"This was also done today but some car owners were not home," he said.

State Agriculture, Rural Development and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Law Choo Kiang said the Drainage and Irrigation Department would investigate the cause of the flooding.

Batu Uban assemblyman S. Raventharan, who visited the scene at about 6pm, said there was a need to build another retention pond in USM.

The downpour also caused traffic snarls along Jalan Masjid Negeri and Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah.

A check showed that some houses in Changkat Minden in Gelugor were also flooded.



Submerged: The flooded Sri Saujana Condominium car park. At least two cars were submerged under 1.5m of flood waters.