

Villagers set for floods



Going through the drill: Johor Baru Fire and Rescue Department personnel testing the department's jet ski during an exercise in Teluk Sengat in Kota Tinggi yesterday.

Kota Tinggi folk won't be caught unprepared this time

KOTA TINGGI: Retiree Atan Liman is determined not to be caught unprepared by rising floodwaters.

Atan, 69, has installed wooden shelves just below the ceiling of his house in Taman Mawai here to keep his valuables dry.

"It took me about half a month to nail the wooden planks close to the ceiling.

"The major flood in 2006 served as a huge lesson for me as the water level reached about 3.6m high and all my electrical appliances and furniture were destroyed," he said at his wooden house.

Housewife Tan Heng Leong, 48, said she had started digging up rubbish and clearing the drains in front of her house.

"The drains are full of uncut grass and the council has not been doing its job, so we have to do it ourselves," she said, adding that her home was also in a flood-prone area.

Tan Siew Guan, 62, who has been staying at Taman Mawai Jaya for more than 40 years, said he had stored all his valuables and important documents in a bag before stashing it inside a cabinet in his house.

Meanwhile, about 40 personnel from the Johor Baru Fire and Rescue Department were engaged in a five-hour boat and jet ski rescue exercise yesterday.

Operations head and Pasir Gudang station chief Mohd Salleh Mohamed said six boats and two jet skis were involved in the exercise from Pasir Gudang Iskandar Jetty to Teluk Sengat, Kota Tinggi.

In **GEORGE TOWN**, the Penang government has instructed that all drains and gutters be checked regularly to ensure they are not clogged, said State Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Law Choo Kiang.

He said the instructions were given to the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Public Works Department and the Seberang Prai and Penang Municipal Councils in an exco meeting on Tuesday.

He also said the second phase dredging works to deepen Sungai Gelugor here started on Tuesday.

"The first phase of the dredging works was conducted in June," said Law during a site visit yesterday.



Not taking chances: Atan and his wife Aminah Mat Ali, 58, storing some of their valuables inside the newly-installed wooden shelves at his house in Taman Mawai.