

Puchong flash flood woes

NEVER-ENDING NIGHTMARE: Villagers claim there have been some 30 flash floods in their area this year

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RESIDENTS of Seri Serdang, Kampung Batu 13, Kampung Sri Aman, Puchong Indah, Puchong Perdana and Kampung Bunga Melor are sick and tired of being hit repeatedly by flash floods.

They claim that they have experienced about 30 flash floods this year.

The floods have left a trail of destruction. Cars, electrical appliances, furniture and homes have been damaged.

Ramli Dahlan of Kampung Tengah, said villagers, especially the elderly, were living in fear.

"We are helpless. We can just watch as our homes are filled with water," he said.

Ruslan Mat, headman of Kampung Batu 13 which is made up of Kampung Tengah, Kampung Kenangan and Kampung Sungai Baru, said the villagers were at their wits' end.

"Every time it rains they look at the drains and the river nearby. The drainage system, built by MPSJ, can only hold a limited amount of water.

"The drains cannot channel the water into the main drain fast enough so backflow occurs.

"Two hours of rain results in a 0.3

to 0.5 metre high flood. It takes between two and five hours for the floodwaters to subside.

He believes that the severity of the floods were due to effluents from factories upstream in USJ 20, Subang Jaya.

Puchong member of parliament Gobind Singh Deo urged the federal and state governments to quickly put an end to the floods.

He said he would write to the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry to ask for detailed answers, which he was not given during a recent parliament sitting.

The ministry had, in a written reply, stated that floods were occurring because the drains were clogged with rubbish and could not cope with the large volumes of water.

The ministry stated that it had installed a pump to drain the flood water and increased the capacity of the drains.

However, the Irrigation and Drainage Department does not have an allocation for repair and upgrading works under Rolling Plans 1 and 2 of the 10th Malaysia Plan.

The ministry said it would apply for an allocation to clean up and deepen Sungai Air Hitam and the drains in the villages in Puchong under Rolling Plan 3. The ministry also stated that it would repair a broken river bund.

Gobind said he would write to the ministry again as its response was



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"unacceptable" to him.

He said the flood problem should be given priority as it jeopardised the safety of the people and damaged their belongings.

Gobind added that upgrading works on the drainage system at Kampung Bunga Melor, 14th mile Puchong, would be completed in two weeks.

Sentral City (M) Sdn Bhd, the developer of a nearby condominium project, is building an underground culvert in Jalan Puchong to deal with the area's flood woes.