

Form Six student, man feared drowned

MISSING: Raging waters hamper search

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A WALK to “safety” from the raging floodwaters proved disastrous for a Form Six student yesterday.

Kho Ying Qi, of SMK Batu Lintang, slipped and fell into a 1.5m-deep monsoon drain along with 29-year-old Herman Sihas who tried to save her. Both were feared drowned.

Rescuers scoured the drains and Sungai Maong looking for the victims.

In the 7.30am incident, Kho was walking towards a bus stop near a petrol station when she slipped and fell.

She had walked there to seek shelter after the car she was travelling in with her mother got stranded in rising floodwaters in Batu Lintang, an area that used to house the state government staff quarters. Her school is nearby.

Herman saw Kho fall and jumped

in after her.

The water was swift and they were dragged underwater into a culvert a few metres away.

A witness, Salip Awi, 42, said he grabbed Kho's hand and tried to pull her out of the water. “But the current was too strong and she slipped away from my grip.”

Fire and Rescue Department assistant director Farhan Sufyan Borhan said the strong current hampered the search.

“We may need to widen our search. We believe the bodies could have drifted further away.”

Rescuers had gone as far as Sungai Maong, about 2km

away.

Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu yesterday extended the government's condolences to the victims' families.

State Public Health Assistant Minister Jerip Susil also expressed his condolences on his Facebook posting.

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Farhan Sufyan Borhan

Fire and Rescue Department assistant director



Rescuers **searching** for the **two victims** in **Kuching** yesterday. Pic by Mohd Radzi Bujang