



Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin (left) visiting the pump house in Kampung Pasir Baru. Pic by Afiq Razali

Village inundated with overflow

PRECAUTION: Kampung Pasir Baru residents may be given spare keys so that they can operate the floodgate at the pump house

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AS City Hall workers were cleaning the pump house and water retention pond after the Kampung Pasir Baru area in Pantai was hit by flash floods last Wednesday night, Raja Noriah Raja Badar looked much less stressed as she chatted with neighbours.

The 45-year-old factory worker was one of the many residents whose lives were disrupted by the flash floods which hit parts of the city.

"We couldn't sleep that night. We tried to save our belongings by moving them to higher parts of the house. We were prepared to leave the house as the water was knee-high about 11.30pm. Thankfully, the water subsided.

"This area was flood-prone before the pump house was built in Jalan Pasir Rendah in the late 1990s. Since then, we have not had floods until Wednesday night," she said, adding that some 25 houses were affected in the flood.

She and the residents consider themselves lucky as they escaped unscathed and managed to save some of their belongings, including their refrigerators and washing machines.

Federal Territories and Urban Well-being Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin and Federal Territory Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Abu Bakar Mohd Yusof visited the residents.

Raja Nong Chik said one of the flood gates had failed and this had caused the water to overflow onto the road, when it was supposed to flow into the river.

"DID will look into repairing the sys-

tem which could cost about RM400,000. We hope to have it repaired within a week as we don't want a recurrence.

"The downpour was the worst in recent years. The SMART tunnel recorded a maximum of 473 cubic metres of water per second, as opposed to the normal capacity of 280 cubic metres that it can hold.

"According to City Hall, the rainfall recorded was the highest. It was 237 mm compared to the 150 mm previously,"

He said, for the time being, Kampung Pasir Baru residents might be given spare keys to the pump house's gate.

"This is so that they can operate the floodgates while waiting for help. Previously there were staff assigned to handle the floodgates, but since the pump house was built in 1998, there was no such need as it was capable of channelling excess water into Sungai Klang."