

# Mitigating Hulu Langat floods

CONTINUOUS pre-dawn rain on March 8 resulted in floods in low-lying areas across the Klang Valley.

Kuala Lumpur was in chaos, employees could not commute to their office due to traffic jams as a result of floods, and KTM commuter trains could not function as some railway tracks were under water.

In Hulu Langat, flood waters rose nearly to the roof in some areas and families had to climb up to the roof to await rescue.

The floods caused losses estimated at millions of ringgit to homes, including damage to household goods and vehicles.

Some patrolling policemen were quoted as saying that excessive release of water from the Langat dam contributed to the flood havoc.

We residents of Hulu Langat hope the authorities will take action to mitigate flash floods through proper irrigation and dam management.

The dam management should release water in anticipation of predicted heavy rain and increase retention in times of low rainfall.

The recent floods could have been eased if the water had been



released gradually through proper monitoring of the weather forecast.

Floods have occurred many times in low-lying Hulu Langat, thus the Langat dam authorities should already be experts in managing the water volume in the dam.

As a long-term measure, the authorities could build an adjacent

reservoir or a water exit route to mitigate floods in the future.

We really hope that this will be the last flood in the Hulu Langat area and the authorities will take quick action to solve this problem once and for all.

Floods hinder development.

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