

Council taken to task over flash floods

KLANG: Klang MCA chief Datuk Teh Kim Poo has criticised the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) and state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for failing to take action to prevent flash floods last week.

“During my time as state assemblyman here, I have always brought up this issue while attending MPK meetings, asking the council to compel developers to build water retention ponds for every housing project since 2001, but it fell on deaf ears.

“Even after Pakatan Rakyat had taken over the state government, developers still failed to heed this rule. The local council failed to enforce it but chose to blame the Federal Government instead,” Teh said, referring to the *Urban Stormwater Management Manual for Malaysia*, a 20-volume manual published by the DID as a nationwide policy to prevent flash floods.

Teh, who is also former assemblyman for Pandamaran, said if the state government had implemented the policy sooner, the flash floods could have been avoided.

“It is not right to blame the previous state government for every problem that crops up. Current leaders, especially Ronnie Liu, should be taking charge of the situation and trying to solve the problem instead.”

He said many developers found ways to bypass the DID manual.



A worker **clearing the garbage that is clogging a river in Klang**, which is believed to have caused the flash floods last week. Pic by Adib Rawi

“Developers refused to follow these guidelines as it would incur extra costs because they have to set aside land for a retention pond, which they could use to build more houses or shops,” he said at the Klang MCA office here yesterday.

Teh suggested that the MPK should emulate Kuala Lumpur City

Hall’s standards in flood mitigation.

“Kuala Lumpur City Hall’s *Rainwater Harvesting* guidebook states that developers are required to build water tanks to ensure 1,500 litres of rainwater are collected in terrace houses, while it’s 3,000 litres for bungalows and semi-detached houses in the city.

“It is a simple, yet effective coun-

termeasure to prevent floods. Imagine how much water can be saved in each house instead of flowing down the drain which may be clogged, and that DBKL is strictly enforcing it.”

Teh said local Barisan Nasional leaders had written to the state authorities for funds to help the owners of 4,358 houses that were affected by the flash floods.