

Residents want DID to pay

Kepong folk want compensation for damages incurred in flood



Wet, wet day: Wong standing in front of his car which was half submerged in flood waters.

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Photo By LIM CHENG KIAT

RESIDENTS of Kepong Baru in Kuala Lumpur are seeking compensation for the damage done during a flash flood recently, citing negligence by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

Kepong community service centre head Yee Poh Ping said the downpour which flooded about 100 houses along Jalan Antoi Kiri, Jalan Antoi, Jalan Antoi Kanan 1 and Jalan Antoi Kanan 2 was due to the overflowing of Sungai Keroh.

"The houses that were closest to the river were the most affected with the water rising up to a metre, damaging vehicles and household items.

"The DID is now deepening the Sri Segambut retention pond. However, they have not removed the soil that has been dug up. This is preventing the the river water from flowing into the pond.

"That flood would not have occurred if the water flowed into the retention pond. The Sri Segambut pond is part of the KL Flood Mitigation Project Package II. DID started the upgrading project at the pond few months ago but they have left the soil there for months.

"I contacted them on the day and they visited the site on April 19. However, they refused to accept our allegations and asked for a few days to investigate the matter.

"This is human error and DID

should compensate the victims. I have asked the flood victims to compile information on their losses and I would pass it to the DID on their next visit," he said.

One of the victims Thomas Wong said the water rose very fast and left him with no time to react.

"When the water level rose, I decided to move my car to higher ground. But before I could get my car keys, the water had entered the vehicle.

"Most of the houses are single-storey and everything kept a metre from the ground was damaged. Even my fridge overturned and was floating.

"Both my cars have been damaged and the cost of repairs is estimated to hit RM8,000. I have not calculated the damage to my house yet. I have also personally called DID but they said they were not responsible as it was a natural disaster," he said.

C.F Chan said the DID should be accountable for the mistake.

"Due to their negligence, the people here are suffering. The flood came in a flash and subsided but the people have to deal with the aftermath. Many took off from work the next day just to clean up. Many are now sleeping on the floor after their mattresses were damaged.

"DID cannot just sweep it under the carpet. I have been living here since I was 10 years old and this area has not flooded in the last 30 years after the upgrading of the river. DID has to be responsible and compensate the victims," he said.