

End the suffering

Segambut folk want KL mayor to resolve flash floods problem

Obstructing waterflow: The construction of the Phase A flyover project, which links Jalan Kuching to Segambut is said to be another cause of the flash floods.



Stories by **S.PUSPADEVI**

puspa@thestar.com.my

UPSET residents of Kampung Segambut Bahagia took Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Ahmad Phesal Talib to task over the recent flash floods in their area on the third day of Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"We do not want any more compensation from Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), we just want the flooding problems resolved," the residents said at a meeting between them and DBKL held at Madrasah Islamiah in Kampung Segambut Bahagia, Segambut, Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"Over the last 30 years, this is the worst flooding incident and we just cannot bear it any more," said Segambut Bahagia Umno division head Hassan Kassim, adding that priority should be given to resolving the problems faced by residents of Kampung Segambut Bahagia and the surrounding areas.

"We were never against the upgrading of infrastructure or development plans for the area. However,

why should we put up with flooding problems for so long.

"We live in fear every time it rains and the authorities have not done anything despite our pleas for a solution," said a frustrated resident.

The resident also demanded an explanation on why the contractor assigned to operate the automatic pumps (built to control the flooding problems in the area) did not answer calls from residents when the incident took place.

The residents claimed that they had to break into the control panel room to handle the situation themselves but could not operate the pumps.

Ahmad Phesal, who was present at the meeting, was sympathetic over the plight of the residents in the area.

"The downpour, which started at 2.30pm lasted for three hours and in Taman Sri Sinar alone, we recorded 129mm of rain water.

"We have four automatic pumps (two in Jalan Kelapa and another two more in Lengkok Kelapa), which

have been operational since October 31, 2011, to control the situation if the water level rises. However, it is possible the pump malfunctioned during the latest incident," he said.

He also said that he would authorise access to some residents to enter the control panel room to operate the pumps and avert flash floods when and if necessary.

He said another reason for the flooding problems was the construction of the Phase A flyover project, which links Jalan Kuching to Segambut. Euro Saga was awarded the RM43mil project by DBKL in February last year.

"The project is expected to be completed in January 2013 but the contractor found that due to the existing underground utility cables problem, the project will only be completed in November 2013," Ahmad Phesal explained, adding that the utility cables that include Tenaga Nasional Berhad cables, pylon, water and gas pipes as well as other Telco cables were

obstructing waterflow.

He said cleaning up works at rivers nearby the area would be carried out by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (JPS) with immediate effect to ensure smooth water flow, while upgrading of the drainage system will be carried out by DBKL's Civil Engineering and Drainage Department.

In the meantime, a special task force would be set up to assist the residents to clean up their houses and the *surau*.

Kampung Segambut Bahagia Residents' Association chairman Mohd Isyak Sidin, who also voiced out similar grievances, said it was unfair to make the residents suffer and urged Ahmad Phesal to resolve the problem fast.

Segambut MP Lim Lip Eng, Segambut Barisan Nasional chairman Jayanthi Devi Balaguru and DBKL Civil Engineering and Drainage Department director Tan Keng Chok and deputy director Wan Seng were also present at the meeting.