

# Rawang village in watery predicament

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**P**OOR drainage has caused some 50 houses in Kampung Sungai Bakau in Rawang to look as though they are set amid a wetland.

The problem faced by the residents is not just flash floods but also dengue fever as pools of stagnant water left by the flash floods have made the area a mosquito breeding ground.

Five dengue cases have been reported in the village since January.

Resident, Harikrishnan Sellan said his house would be knee-deep in flood water whenever it rained heavily.

"This has been happening for the past four months. Water will start coming into my house about 10 minutes from the start of a downpour," he said, adding that he had lost RM5,000 worth of speakers, cupboard, chairs and other furniture to the flash floods.

"My family and I are afraid. We don't know when the water will rise even higher. How long are we supposed to live with this problem?" asked Harikrishnan.

He was speaking to reporters during a visit to the village by Selayang municipal councillor P. Kamalanathan, Alam Flora operations executive Mat Zaid Pilus and Sungai Bakau Umno branch chairman Ismail Harun.

The visitors were also at the home of Vejayeen Jothy who believed that red spots that had emerged on the hands and legs of his 10-year-old son V. Logasharvindran were due to the water problem.

"I took my son for a check-up at Kuala Lumpur Hospital (KLH) and was told that the red spots were caused by dirty water.

"I am sure the stagnant drain water in my compound is the cause of his skin problem," he said, adding that his son did not go to school for a week as a result of the ailment.

Kamalanathan said Rawang assemblyman Datuk Tang See Hang was aware of the problem faced by the villagers and was doing his best to solve it.

Tang, who was supposed to be among the visitors that day, was unable to attend.

Kamalanathan said more than a clean-up effort by Alam Flora was needed to solve the problem.

He said the engineering department of the Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) needed to draw up a plan to channel run off water from the village to a monsoon drain about 100m from where a new drain was now being built.

"This issue was brought up in a meeting with Tang on June 11 while the Zone 16 JKKK meeting was informed of it last week. It will again be pointed out to the MPS president during the MPS full board meeting next month," said Kamalanathan.



Harikrishnan standing in knee-deep flood water in the compound of his house during a downpour recently.



Kamalanathan (second from right) and Ismail Harun (right) talking to some Kg Sungai Bakau residents whose home has been surrounded by stagnant water for some time now.