

Flooded homes spoil festive spirit in Klang

KLANG: The recent floods in Taman Sentosa, here, has dampened the Deepavali mood in the neighbourhood.

Residents in Jalan Dato Abdul Hamid 3 and 5, who are mostly Hindus, lamented that their preparations for the festival had been severely disrupted following the flash floods.

The residents, staying in terrace houses in the Indian-majority area, are now carrying out renovations to instal concrete barricades to prevent floodwaters from entering their homes.

Resident M. Selva, 43, said following a major flood in the area last week, his family had been forced to move in temporarily with a family friend while he carried out renovations to barricade the front and back of his house.

"I have lost nearly RM5,000 worth of furniture and appliances following the floods and our plans for a joyous festival have been disrupted."

Selva, a production worker at a nearby factory, said in addition to his losses, he had to fork out an extra RM4,000 for the renovation.

He claimed that floods had been occurring frequently in the past five years following development of the Bandar Puteri township across the road.

"The water outlets from both areas lead to one common drain and this is where the problem is. The drain gets clogged, which causes flooding.

"The authorities should deepen and widen the drain as it is too small to support both residential areas," said Selva, a resident of Taman Sentosa for the past four years.

Selva added that despite frequent appeals by more than 200 residents in the area, the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) and the state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) have been shifting the responsibility from one another instead of finding a solution.

Checks at the monsoon drain showed rubbish, mud and silt that have yet to be cleared despite the flooding last week.

Selva said his family's Deepavali preparations will only begin over the weekend once the renovation work is completed.

Another resident, A. Anjellamah, 72, said last week's flood was the fourth incident this year.

Anjellamah, who has been living with her daughter at her home for the past 17 years, said that recent floods had cost her family RM10,000, which included RM5,000 for renovation and

RM5,000 in damaged furniture and appliances.

"The water was nearly a metre deep. I was scared and began to shiver as it was so cold. Fortunately, my elder daughter who lives at a nearby apartment rescued me as I was alone at home at that time."

Anjellamah was seen cleaning her house with her daughter and grandchildren after renovation works were completed.

She added that they had yet to prepare any cookies for the festival as the house cleaning had taken up all their time.

"I wonder if my family and I will be able to go Deepavali shopping given all the expenditure we have had to incur as a result of the floods."

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