

Muddy nightmare for families

Repeat flooding dampens their Deepavali mood

By JAROD LIM
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THE festive cheer of Deepavali was ruined for two families after their backyards were flooded recently.

Sovereign Bandar Putra Permai resident L. Kalidass, 34, claimed that the flood was caused by landscaping and earth works at a housing development on the higher ground area just behind his house.

"The work has caused mud and stones to clog the drain in the back area. As a result, the drain cannot efficiently channel the rainwater away and our houses get flooded.

"In the most recent incident, my family and I had to endure more than four hours of painstaking effort to clear the water and clean up the premises," he said, adding that they swept the water into a manhole nearby.

Kalidass said his house was flooded for three



Shocking: A CCTV image of Thiagarajah's kitchen flooded after the last downpour. — Photo courtesy of resident.

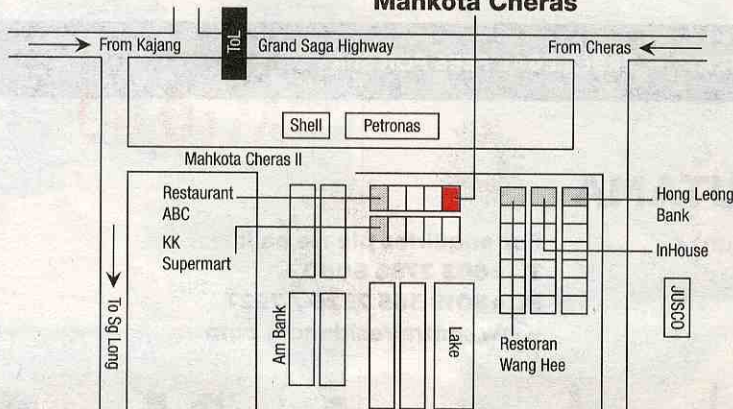


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consecutive days from Oct 25.

"We cannot even leave the house to shop for Deepavali as we are afraid that it will flood again. It is a nightmare for us."

Kalidass' brother L. Thiagarajah, 31, who lives next door, was also badly affected.

"The water gushed into the kitchen and damaged our cabinet," said Thiagarajah.

"My wife and I had to stay up to clean up the mess," he recalled.

Kalidass also voiced his dissatisfaction at the respective authorities as his complaints had not been attended to.

"I complained to the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) on Oct 30 but so far no action has been taken.

"It is the responsibility of the developer to ensure the safety of nearby residents. The council should also monitor the development," he added.

Sovereign Houseowners Association problem chairman Lee Yoke Meng said he had also alerted the developer about the problem.

A representative of the housing development said they were in the midst of upgrading the drainage system in the area.

"We are tackling this issue and it is getting better now.

"The affected houses are situated at a lower ground level and we have been notified that the water flowed into their backyard," he said.

"We will build a brick wall to temporarily prevent the situation from occurring again. However, the drain upgrades can only commence after the monsoon season," said the developer's representative.

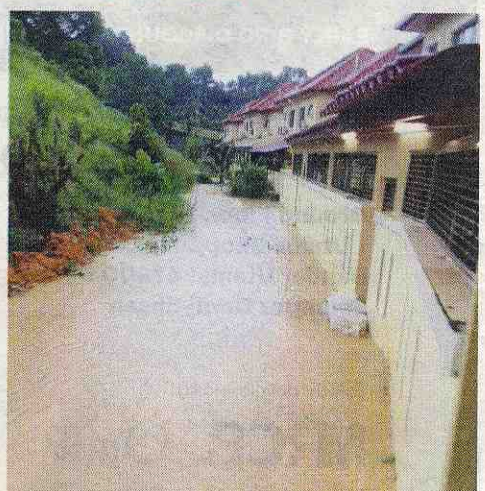
Upon checking with MPSJ, the council said that its Engineering Department had investigated the matter and further action would be taken, but refused to specify.



Waterlogged: Thiagarajah pointing out the water damage on his cabinets. — Starpic by Jarod Lim



No flow: The drains behind the house are clogged by mud and stone run-off from a nearby housing development.



River lane: The result of a heavy downpour in October. — Photo courtesy of residents