

In a fix over floods

Residents fear the worst if monsoon drain is not repaired

By VINCENT TAN

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RESIDENTS and stakeholders whose buildings are set against the main monsoon drain parallel to Jalan SS7/4 in Kelana Jaya have expressed concerns about potential flash floods with the rainy season.

This was brought to the attention of Selangor MCA Environment Bureau chairman Datuk Dr Wong Sai Hou, who conducted a press conference yesterday, with Kelana Jaya BN parliamentary coordinator Ong Chong Swen, Sri Maha Mariamman temple chairman V. Ramachandran and residents whose houses backed the monsoon drain.

The gabion walls on both sides of the monsoon drain are cracked due to the lack of maintenance

—DATUK DR WONG SAI HOU

Producing a PKNS (Selangor State Development Corporation) development blueprint, Dr Wong said the monsoon drain began from the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) lake park and continued for more than 1km in a southeasterly direction to a private retention pond in SS8, just next to the housing area.

Dr Wong said the width of the monsoon drain reserve land was marked at 12.192m first, before expanding to 15.24m after passing under Jalan SS7/9, in expectation of high rainfall and better drainwater control.

"Even so, the gabion walls on both sides of the monsoon drain are cracked due to the lack of maintenance.



Reaching out: Dr Wong getting some help as he gets a closer look at the drain. With him are (from left) former Kelana Jaya MP Loh Seng Kok, Ong and SS7 resident Mohd Aminuddin Che Mat Din.

"Just look at the amount of plant growth on the sides of the bank. They are also causing the gabion wall material to crack," Dr Wong said.

Houseowner Helen Chan said she had lodged a complaint with MBPJ requesting urgent maintenance on the monsoon drain in April 2012, but nothing had been done.

"Earlier this month when it was raining consistently for nearly the entire week, you could see the drain water levels rising to nearly our house level," Chan said.

Ramachandran, meanwhile, said

that rather than wait, temple members would often go down and clear the area on their side of the monsoon drain to prevent the plant growth from causing too much damage to the temple's walls and the drain structure.

"In Aug 2009, nine houses in Kelana Indah were hit by flash floods and the residents lodged a police report against MPPJ," said Dr Wong.

He added that in Feb 16 2006, 127 houses in Kelana Jaya had been hit by flash floods, prompting a visit by then council president Datuk

Ahmad Termizi Puteh.

"I served on the municipal council then, and Ahmad Termizi mentioned that the engineering department would come up with a long-term solution to the flash flood problem," said Wong.

Ong said it was inconceivable that six-and-a-half years could go by without the monsoon drain being maintained, and that the council needed to act fast.

"With so much development going on in the surrounding area, it is inevitable that siltage will happen," Ong said.