

'River Rangers' have their hands full with clean-up work

GEORGE TOWN: Local councils and communities here have been busy working to clear clogged drains and rivers during the wet season, which is expected to last until the end of the month.

State Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Anuar Yahya said the Penang Municipal Council (MPPP) had also met representatives of all relevant agencies to discuss the issue of clogged drains recently.

"We also have a River Ranger project involving two categories - Rukun Tetangga (RT) members and schoolchildren.

"Members are required to clear the drainage systems and clean up rivers to prevent floods," he said.

State Agriculture, Agro-based Industries, Rural Development and Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Law Choo Kiang identified Jalan P. Ramlee, Kampung Dodol, Kampung Masjid and Jalan Mahsuri as the most flood-prone areas on the island.

"The mostly likely areas to be flooded on the mainland are Alma, Kampung Titi Hitam in Jawi and Jalan Permatang Rawa.

"There are several ongoing flood mitigation projects, including in Alma, Seberang Perai and Jalan Barrack in George Town," he added.

Bayan Baru RT chairman Chai Tsing Boo said residents in the area were planning to hold a *gotong-royong* session soon to ensure smooth flow of the drainage system.

In **KUCHING**, Sarawak Disaster Relief Committee Chairman Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Numpang urged the public to stop discarding rubbish into drains to prevent clogging and flash floods.

Jabu, who is also Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister, said that besides clogged drains, the other common causes of flash floods in Kuching were silt and sediment from construction sites and road projects in urban and suburban areas.