

Shophouses knee-deep in floodwater woes



Dr Shanmugam ... 'we pay assessment fees and do not deserve this'

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OCCUPANTS of a row of shophouses in Jalan Batu Unjur 7 in Taman Bayu Perdana dread the rain. Whenever it pours, water and litter from drains inundate their premises.

Besides causing inconvenience to the occupants, the mess has to be cleaned up by them – at their own costs.

Dr M. Shanmugam said his clinic was flooded six times this year alone.

"The flooding isn't a recent occurrence," he said. "It began three years ago, but of late the flooding has become worse."

Dr Shanmugam said the water and garbage left a foul smell in the premises days after the clean up had been done.

"Several owners had no choice but to fork out their own money to elevate the five-foot path in front of their shops to keep the water out," he said.



Because of this (left), occupants of shophouses in Jalan Batu Unjur 7, Taman Bayu Perdana, have to fork out their own money to elevate the five-foot path in front of their premises (right). – Photos courtesy of Dr Shanmugam

Dr Shanmugam said the Klang Municipal Council (MPK) had not carried out any remedial works in the area.

"Whenever we complain, the council sends workers to merely clean the drains," he said, adding that a long-term plan to solve the flooding was never done.

He said works to deepen the drains and the nearby Sungai Aur, filled with sediments, could be a good start.

"MPK could create bigger conduits for water to be channelled out of the area," he said, adding that the problem

was "getting out of hand."

It was affecting businesses in the area.

"Why should we even face such problems despite paying assessment fees?" he asked. "Why can't MPK do its job?"

Taman Bayu Perdana residents' association president Tan Auw Hock said the situation was serious.

"First, it was the shophouses," he said. "Now, even the housing area is affected by the floodwaters."

Tan said he had collected signatures from the affected property owners and

he would be submitting them to MPK soon.

But, MPK claims it has done what it can to counter the flooding.

Its engineering director Md Noor Mahmud said the council had taken the necessary and appropriate steps to ease the problem.

"We have given the approval to construct a culvert that would prevent backflow of water into the area whenever it rains," he said.

Md Noor added that the water would be diverted to a nearby catchment area.