



Recurring nightmare

Sungai Jelok overflowed its banks and flooded Kajang town on May 2. — filepic

Plagued by floods

A wet spell coupled with clogged drains and badly-maintained retention ponds resulted in several flashfloods in Kajang, Sepang and Dengkil. >2&3

A challenge to stay dry

Folks in the Kajang and Sepang municipalities will most remember 2012 for being a wet, wet, wet year. Last month's flood in Dengkil is the worst residents have seen in many years while Kajang suffered yet another major flash flood in September after one in May. StarMetro looks back at the tough year that the residents have had.

By **OH ING YEEN**

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KAJANG is notorious for its flash floods such as the ones that occurred on Sept 4 and May 2 this year.

In a study by the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Kajang and Seri Kembangan were identified as hotspots for flash floods, among others.

In Kajang itself, 36 flood-prone areas had been identified including Taman Indah Jaya in Batu 14, Kampung Batu 14 in Hulu Langat, Kampung Batu 20 Sungai Lui and Kampung Batu 16 Dusun Tua.

Flash floods in Kajang were attributed to heavy rain, obstructed drainage and the high number of rivers in the district.

Among the areas, Taman Sungai Segamat was flooded in September, affecting 41 houses.

MPKj engineering department head Md Noor Mahmud, who oversees the flood mitigation task force secretariat, said there were 20 to 30 rivers and streams in Kajang, such as Sungai Jelok, Sungai Ramal, Sungai Segamat and Sungai Semenyih.



"Half of the area is catchment location for the Semenyih and Langat rivers.

"Due to rapid development, we will need to upgrade the existing retention ponds for flood mitigation," he said.

The Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) had set up a special task force during the monsoon period and promised to clear the drains as quickly as possible to ensure flash-floods do not recur.

During the state assembly, Local Government Committee chairman Ronnie Liu pointed out that the development at near Sungai Ramal 2 and Sungai Ramal Dalam caused the rivers to overflow and flood the surrounding areas.

"The developer has been issued with notices and fines for not complying to the council rules and regulations," he said.



Aftermath: A resident checking on his belongings after moving them to a higher area when a flashflood hit the outskirts of Kajang town, affecting more than 200 houses and businesses. - filepic

Wading through: The muddy floodwaters inside Asmah Yaakub's house was still knee-high hours after the rain had stopped.



Dengkil saw its worst flood in November

By THO XIN YI
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IN NOVEMBER, hundreds of people from Dengkil experienced one of the worst floods they have seen in years.

Water level began to rise early in the morning when most of the residents were fast asleep.

They were quickly evacuated to relief centres, including Dengkil multi-purpose hall and Gemilang

Hall in Kampung Semarang.

The affected areas included Taman Baiduri, Taman Amentis, Kampung Cemperai, Taman Kristal, Kampung Kerinsing, Taman Delima, Taman Sri Tanjung and Kampung Revolusi Hijau.

Fortunately, no casualties were reported.

Selangor Selatan Fire and Rescue Department chief Sharikan Bustaman said the heavy storm caused water from Sungai Langat to



Salvage: Housewife Asiah Ab Rahman moving her belongings with the help of her children when flood hit her village at Kampung Semarang in Dengkil.

overflow and flood the low-lying areas.

He added that 146 personnel from the Cyberjaya, KLIA, Sepang and Banting fire stations were deployed to be on duty at the relief centres.

On Nov 6, the number of flood victims seeking shelter at the Dengkil multi-purpose hall was recorded at 620.

According to the National Safety Council's flood portal (portalbanjir.mkn.gov.my), the relief centre was

officially closed on Nov 16 when the remaining 17 victims from four families were allowed to return home.

When presenting financial aid to the 588 affected families later, Selangor Barisan Nasional coordinator Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Mohamed urged the Selangor government to take immediate action to alleviate flooding in the state.