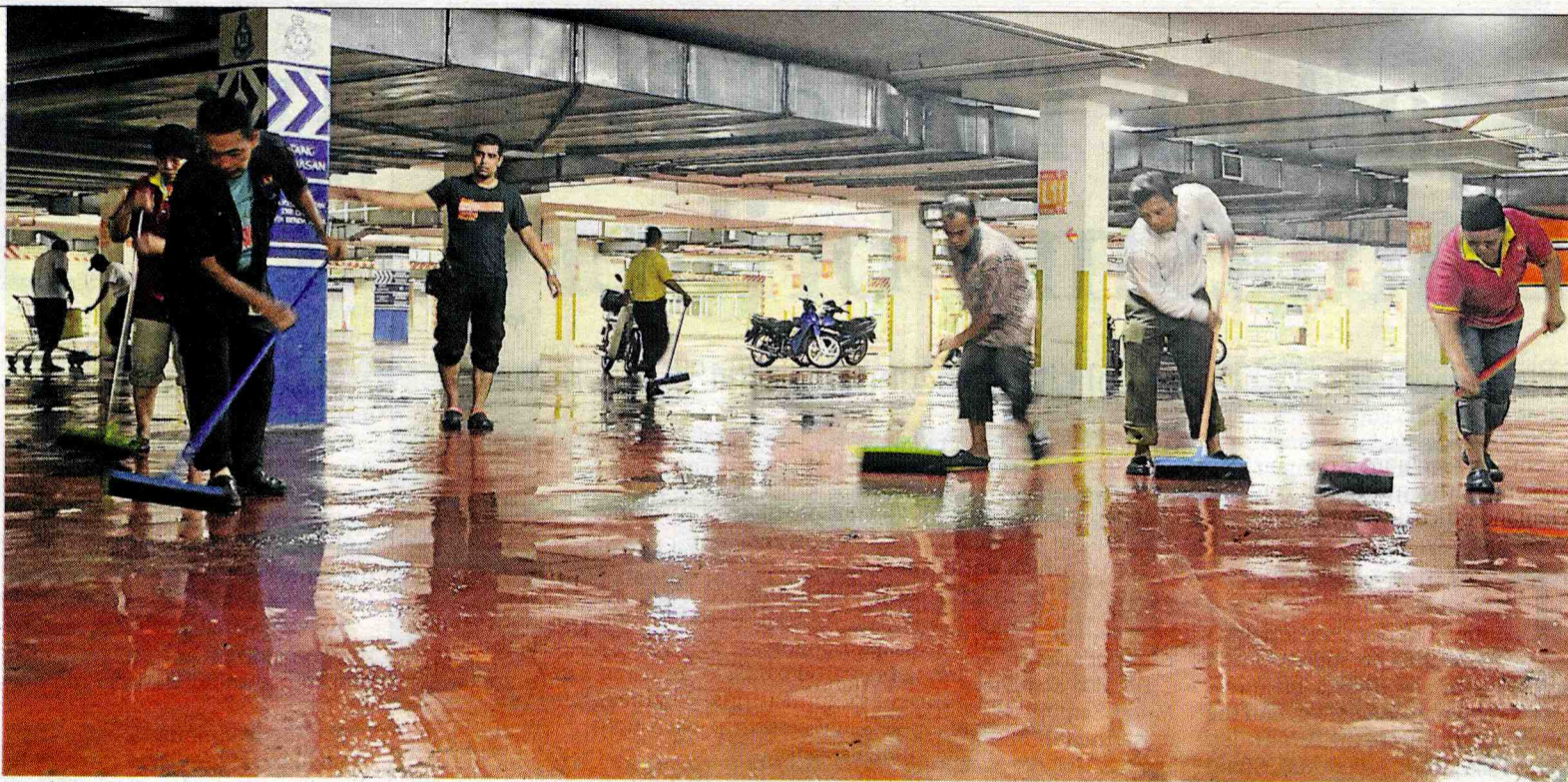




Workers cleaning up the **IOI Mall car park**, which was flooded on Monday. Pic by Hamidi Samsudin

Clogged drains to blame

PUCHONG FLOODS: Culvert under highway not functioning, says council

MUSLIZA MUSTAFA

AND HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN

SUBANG JAYA

news@nst.com.my

PRELIMINARY investigations revealed that the flash floods that occurred in Puchong on Monday were because of the clogged drainage system.

Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) president Datuk Asmawi Kasbi said investigations concluded that the sudden rise of floodwaters in several areas in Puchong was because of the overflow of drains in the area.

MPSJ conducted a closed-door meeting here yesterday with Lingkaran Trans Kota (Litrak), the concessionaire of Lebuhraya Damansara-Puchong (LDP), Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd

(MRCB), state Drainage and Irrigation Department and Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd to find out the cause of the flood.

"We have yet to determine the actual cause.

"However, some factors suggest that a clogged drainage ditch might have caused the floods in Puchong on Monday.

"There is a high probability that one of the culverts under the highway is not functioning."

He said the highway concessionaire and MRCB would lead a technical team to check on the culverts today.

Asmawi added that the heavy rain of 68mm on Monday had strained the drainage system.

MPSJ would provide detailed information on the cause of the flood in two weeks.

When asked on the estimated losses, he said: "The total loss is yet to be determined but there were 140 cars affected out of which 15 had to be towed away because of flooding at the IOI Mall car park."

The IOI Mall was open for business as usual yesterday while traders on the ground floor were seen busy cleaning up the mess left by the flooding, Bernama reports.

A boutique owner, identified as Ah Ling, 38, said her shop was flooded and stock kept at the back portion was damaged.

"My losses amounted to more than RM4,000."

Shoe retailer Koo Chuu Hoong, 42, estimated her losses at more than RM5,000 as the soiled shoes could no longer be sold.

An employee of Alphamax Industry, Khalizza Nur, 22, said the

floodwaters were knee-deep and she rushed to move the goods to higher shelves.

IOI Mall general manager Ronnie Francis said 140 vehicles parked in front of the mall were damaged.

"Fifteen cars stuck in mud had to be moved using a crane."

A downpour last night in Ampang caused flash floods at the Middle Ring Road 2 near the Tesco hypermarket in Ampang heading towards Pandan Indah.

Two vehicles were stuck in the floods which occurred at 8pm.

The water receded about 1½ hours later, according to an Integrated Transport System official.

He said the three-lane road had to be closed temporarily, which led to massive traffic jam along the highway.