

Excessive rain to blame

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“The rainfall on Tuesday was unusually heavy and it had saturated the soil.

“We have assigned the City Hall’s Landscape and Recreation Department staff and contractors to check on the stability of the slope in Bukit Nanas area before the cleaning work can be carried out. We have also sent our officers and contractors to other affected areas,” he said.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur Forestry Department director Rusli Tahir said that the landslide was caused by excessive amount of rain that caused the instability of the slope.

“The loose soil uprooted the trees. We will now have to monitor the stability of the slope before taking the next step,” he said.

Rusli said excessive development in the area had shrunk the Bukit Nanas forest reserve and the slope’s stability was compromised.

However, he said the downpour was the main cause of the landslide as the department closely monitored the slope every month and took necessary action if it detected any soil instability.

“This incident was unexpected because our staff have been monitoring the slope on a regular basis,” he said.

Rusli added that the department would carry out a thorough inves-

tigation of the landslide and take measures to ensure such incident did not recur.

On whether the car owners will be compensated by the Forestry Department, Rusli said that the parking lot was situated on a separate piece of land which did not belong to the department.

“Vehicle owners should contact the parking lot’s management to seek advice on the matter,” he said.

Meanwhile, the landslide in Jalan Mahameru had caused two large trees to fall on the road, along with mud and other debris.

Motorists who were heading towards the city centre were caught in a bad crawl from the exit of Jalan Travers heading towards the Mahameru highway yesterday morning.

The landslide, which occurred at 3am had forced police personnel to close Jalan Kuching and divert the traffic to Jalan Parlimen.

Several other roads were also closed to facilitate clean-up work including the stretch from Jalan Mahameru to Jalan Tun Razak, and Jalan Sultan Salehuddin behind Bank Negara.

A Streets check in Jalan Mahameru saw City Hall and Alam Flora contractors busy clearing the debris.

Four excavators were brought in to clear the 60m long and 20m high landslide, which affected a big part



Bulldozers are deployed to **clear the debris** after the landslide near Mahameru road towards the Jalan Pahang roundabout.

of the three-lane road.

Police personnel from the K-9 unit were also on standby with tracker dogs to look for casualties.

However, no one was trapped under the rubble.

Jalan Mahameru was cleared after

3pm. However, the road remains closed as City Hall offers are conducting safety checks there.

City Hall workers were also carrying out clearing work in areas where minor landslides were also reported including in Jalan Kasah at

Bukit Damansara and Jalan Klang Lama in Taman Shanghai.

At press time, only the Jalan Ampang stretch was still closed to motorists as City Hall officers were still monitoring the slope at the Bukit Nanas forest reserve.