



Aftermath: Veloo spreading out clothes and household items to dry.

Residents feel the brunt

Batu Tiga folk suffer damage to their houses after Sunday's floods

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Photos by RAJA FAISAL HISHAN

DAILY routines were in an upheaval for dozens of families in Batu Tiga, Shah Alam as they spent hours cleaning up their homes following the latest flashflood to hit the area.

One of the victims, Phulasimala Ramasamy took nearly a day to wash away the mud that stained her floors. Four of her sons had to miss school as they were helping to clean up the house as well as salvaging their belongings in the aftermath.

One family saw the water rise as high as four feet, immersing their car completely and destroying electronic items such as computers.

Amsam Veloo said the flooding in her area became worse after the construction of a parking lot.

"The drains were filled with dirt that had not been removed," she said.

After suffering through numerous flooding in the 10 years of living in Taman Mesra, Koo Yat Sen has made various changes to the design of her house to cope with the situation.

She has built a foot-high retaining wall to keep water out and moved her refrigerator onto a raised platform to avoid damage.

Nevertheless her house was still affected as water came in from the bathroom.

"Every time it rains, I am afraid of what might happen. It is such a hassle."

Water levels reached at least one to two feet high for Taman Mesra residents at around 4.30pm on Sunday, only receding at around 11pm.

Megat M. D. Hatta also observed



Cleaning up:
(From left)
Michael
Jonathan Netto,
Isaac Gabriel
Netto, Yenick
Oliver Netto
and Noel
Edbert Netto
cleaning their
house after the
floods in Taman
Mesra.

that the tunnels along the Federal Highway were flooded.

"My neighbours on lower ground were worst-affected as the water rose to two feet within an hour."

Although the situation in Taman Mesra has improved after the installation of a pump five years ago, flooding still occurs whenever it rains heavily.

Learning from an experience that cost Hatta RM600 the year before to repair two of his cars after being damaged by floodwater, he and most of his neighbours would drive their car out of the area and onto higher ground whenever it rained.

"We cannot leave much on the floor but it is difficult. My furniture and kitchen cabinets were damaged during the last flood, which happened in March," said Phulasimala.



No reprieve: A one-foot retaining wall was not enough to prevent water from entering the house of Ryan Fong Rui Chuan (above).