

Recurring flash flood nightmare

ACTION NEEDED: Villagers say a stream which flows through the village should be deepened to prevent floods

SELAYANG

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RESIDENTS of Kampung Melayu Batu 16, Rawang, are living in fear of flash floods.

They said the floods which had been occurring for two years were caused by poor drainage.

The residents claimed that Panzana Enterprise Sdn Bhd, one of the developers of the Rawang Bypass elevated highway project, should be held responsible for the problem.

Aziz Abdul Bazid, 60, claimed that sand and other debris from the highway project had flowed into the stream that ran through their village and clogged parts of it.

"Before the project started the stream was clear and there was no obstruction to the flow of water. Now, parts of the stream are filled with sand and stones. Because of this, every time it rains the village gets flooded," he said.

Aziz said the residents' pleas for the stream to be cleared had fallen on deaf ears.

"We have had several meetings with the developer, Selayang Municipal Council (MPS), the Drainage and Irrigation Department and the

village head but nothing has been done," he said.

Aziz said the problem would be solved if the authorities deepened the stream.

"The stream overflows during downpours. There is too much silt in the stream. Only deepening it will solve the problem," he said.

"At a meeting with the authorities last year, the developer said they would periodically maintain the stream. They did come and clear the stream once and that was it."

Aziz said MPS had told the villagers in a meeting last year that they had received an allocation of RM200,000 to carry out remedial work at the village. However, he said, they had not done so yet.

"We were told the funds were approved but we have not heard anything from MPS about when they are going to start work," he said.

Another villager, Sharkhan Abdullah, said the 15 families who were affected by the floods should have been compensated for their losses.

"The authorities shouldn't keep quiet over this matter. All these issues were supposed to have been resolved last year. However, no one wants to take responsibility," he said.



Flash floods have been a recurring problem for two years. Pix by Muhd Zaaba Zakeria

Sharkhan said the families had received compensation last year, but the amount was inadequate.

"The developer gave the families compensation ranging from RM400 to RM1,000 for their losses, but that's not enough.

"The families lost more than the amounts given. Some incurred losses of up to RM10,000," he said.

Ahmad Saufiz Abdul Aziz, 33, said he was worried about the safety of his family and the children of the village.

"We hope the developer and the authorities will rectify the problem before any untoward incident occurs," he said.

Page 1 pic: Villagers say the developer should be held responsible for causing the floods.



The stream which flows through the village is clogged with silt.