

Drainage in Jalan Duta to be upgraded

NEW MEASURES: The RM10 million expansion project in Jalan Semantan-Jalan Duta is expected to be completed by the end of next year

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CITY Hall will soon upgrade the capacity of the drainage system along Jalan Duta to improve water flow and prevent future flash floods.

The council has appointed a consultant to prepare the documentation and design for the drainage capacity expansion project which will be open for tender in September.

City Hall's Civil Engineering and Drainage Department director Tan Keng Chok told *Streets* exclusively at a briefing that the project is estimated to cost RM10 million.

"The current drainage system, with a 50-year lifespan, is now about 30 years old, and it can channel 16 cu mecs (cubic metre per second).

"The capacity is sufficient to cater to the rainfall but due to the MRT

construction and rise in the development projects, a lot of rainwater will flow into the drains as surface runoff.

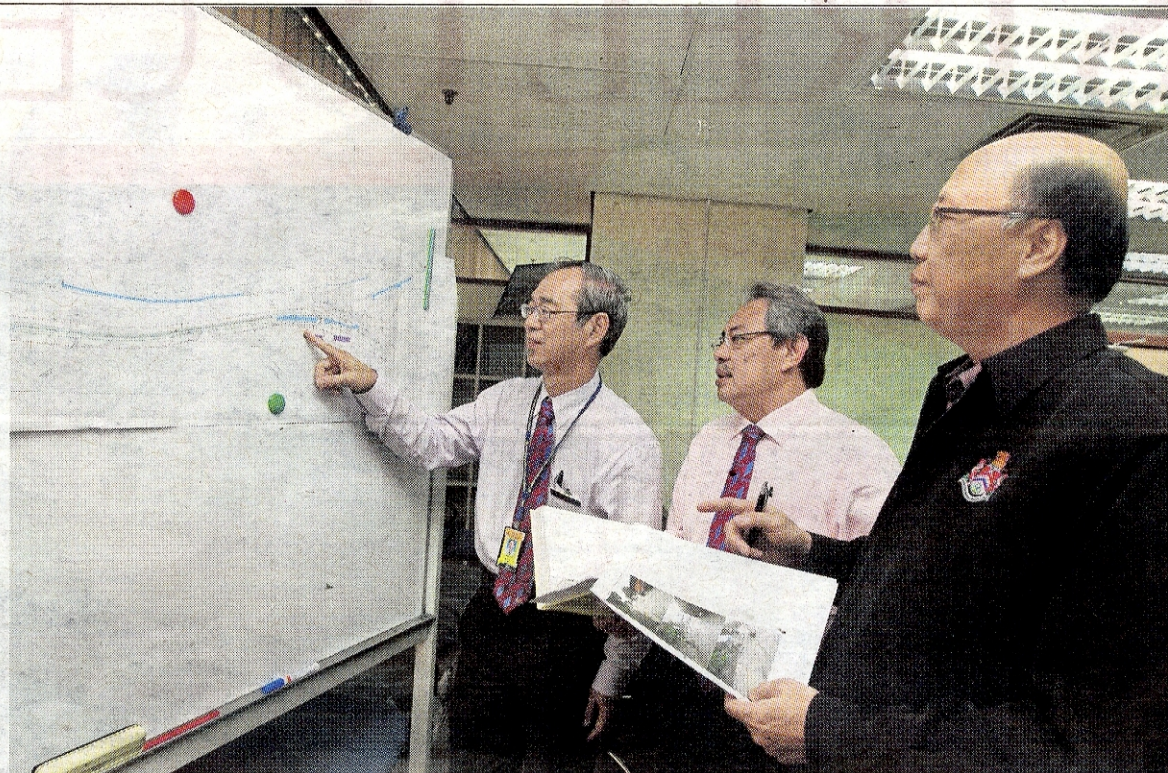
"We will expand the capacity of the new drainage system, with a lifespan of 100 years, to 32 cu mecs.

"The project will begin in November and is expected to be completed by end of next year.

"For now, we will focus on upgrading the drainage system in Jalan Semantan, Jalan Duta and Jalan Mahameru as these are the protocol roads," he said.

Tan said the water is channelled to Sungai Bras Bras, which starts from Jalan Duta, through Perdana Botanic Garden, and eventually flow into Sungai Klang.

He also blamed the MRT project for the flash floods on Monday. He said the scupper drain near Jalan Duta heading to Jalan Semantan was clogged with silt from the MRT



(From left) **Tan Keng Chok**, Sabudin Mohd Salleh and Hew See Seng studying the drainage system along Jalan Semantan, Jalan Duta and Jalan Mahameru. **Pix by Surianie Mohd Hanif**

construction works.

"The MRT contractors also built a temporary culvert at the main drain in Jalan Semantan which had blocked the water flow. As a result, the drain was filled with silt and mud.

"We appreciate MRT's effort for mobilising their emergency response team to control the traffic and clean the road.

"However, we urge MRT to manage their construction materials properly and maintain the sediment traps.

"We have instructed MMC Gamuda, the project delivery partner for MRT, to remove the culvert in the monsoon drain and keep all drainage passages free of obstruction. We have also asked them to expedite the construction of drain diversion, which is expected to be completed by July," he said.

City Hall's Infrastructure Planning Department deputy director

Sabudin Mohd Salleh denied that the drainage system was poorly maintained.

"Our contractors inspect the drains every four months for maintenance and cleaning works. If the rainfall is measured at 60mm, they will check the drainage the following day," he said.

Also present at the briefing was City Hall's Civil Engineering and Drainage Department senior deputy

director Hew See Seng.

On Monday afternoon, some of the main roads in the federal capital were hit by flash floods. Among the affected areas were Jalan Duta, Jalan Sultan Ismail (towards Bukit Bintang), Bulatan Belia and Bulatan Tun Razak.

Page 1 pic: A two-hour downpour flooded Jalan Duta and caused a massive jam.

'Drainage system couldn't cater for heavy rainfall'

KUALA LUMPUR: MRT Corp is refuting City Hall's allegations that the MRT construction works along Jalan Duta was the cause of the flash floods in the area on Monday.

MRT Corp strategic communication and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak, said the heavy rainfall on Monday caused water from higher ground in Jalan Semantan to flow into the MRT project worksite and then downhill towards Jalan Duta.

"The drainage system along Jalan Duta was expected to channel the water from the road to the monsoon drain near the Jalan Duta-Jalan Mahameru interchange. However, the drainage system here could not cater for the heavy flow, which resulted in the flooding of part of Jalan

Duta," he said.

The MRT project worksite at Jalan Duta, he said, was also flooded.

"The Emergency Response Team was deployed immediately to the site to help manage traffic. They also cleaned the road when the flood water subsided."

Amir said that MRT Corp had already highlighted the issue of the drainage capacity at the Jalan Duta-Jalan Mahameru interchange to City Hall after last year's flooding.

"In view of the recent floods, we will again bring up the issue to City Hall. MRT Corp will also instruct its contractors to ensure that the drains in the work site are cleaned and unclogged to ensure that the flow of rainwater is not obstructed," he said.

By Noel Achariam



A temporary culvert (circled) at the main drain in Jalan Semantan is believed to have blocked the flow of rainwater.