

DID, agencies to discuss flood woes

KAJANG: The Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) and related agencies are expected to meet today to discuss a solution to the flood problem in Kajang town.

A DID spokesman said heavy rainfall was the cause of the flash flood that hit the Kajang market area on Sept 29.

"The rainfall reached a staggering 6.3cm within one to two hours. The overflow from north Kajang town entered the lower land area thus causing the flood," she said.

"The river flow of Sungai Jelok was also disrupted by cables, tree trunks and garbage."

Stall owner Yee Kim Long, 41, said operators at Gerai Medan Selera near Kajang Market had been suffering from floods for about 15 years, since the development of Plaza Metro Kajang.

"After the development of Plaza Metro which is located 60m away from here, in 1999, we have suffered from floods every time it rains heavily," said Yee, adding that there were 80 stalls.

"We think that the location of Plaza Metro is not suitable as it obstructs the flow of the river."



The stalls are flooded whenever there is a downpour. Pic by Azhar Ramli

Asked about the plan to relocate the stalls for a flood mitigation project, most traders said the temporary location must be near Kajang town.

A stall operator, who wanted to remain anonymous, said his stall next to the river was flooded whenever there was a downpour.

"Once the water level rose to about 0.6m. That was before the bridge over Sungai Jelok was upgraded. After the bridge was upgraded last year, we experienced fewer flash floods.

"When there is a flood, our goods will be damaged or swept away. We

also need to clean up afterwards," said the man who has been operating there for almost 20 years.

He said he believed that the new development mushrooming along Sungai Jelok and poor drainage had contributed to flash floods.

Jalan Bukit Kajang Hawkers Association chairman Hoo Saw Chim said the association had submitted a proposal to Kajang assemblyman Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail in March.

"We are still waiting for a dialogue session. The proposal includes an urban regeneration plan for the hawker stalls where we agree on temporary relocation," said Hoo.

He said the stall operators wanted the authorities to build a hawker centre while widening the river.

"We need a modern hawker centre to keep up with the rapid developments in Kajang town," said Hoo, adding that improper garbage disposal in the river had caused blockages and flooding.

"They need to go to the root of the problem to solve it. For example, there are no catchment areas to reduce the water levels when it rains heavily." **By Farhana Syed Nokman**

Contra-flow in Jln Sungai Buloh

KUALA LUMPUR: Medium-term night contraflow traffic will be implemented along a 2km stretch of Jalan Sungai Buloh (Kuala Selangor-bound) from the junction of Persiaran Jati to the junction of Jalan Welfare from tomorrow to Nov 14, between 11pm and 5am.

This to facilitate the launch of gantry activities crossing Jalan Sungai Buloh in front of the abandoned Caltex petrol station.

Motorists from Subang heading to Kuala Selangor will be diverted to the opposite lane. One traffic lane will be made available for each direction (Subang and Kuala Selangor-bound). Motorists may still access Jalan Baru Sungai Buloh, but will be directed by flagmen to enter and exit at traffic lights in Jalan Welfare.