

Camerons hit by flash floods again

NO CASUALTIES: 20 homes, shophouses and a school in Kuala Terla affected after Tuesday's rain

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ABOUT 20 homes and shophouses in Kuala Terla here were hit by a mud flood following heavy rain on Tuesday.

Also affected was SJK (T) Kuala Terla, which had its perimeter wall washed away.

However, no casualties were reported.

School security guard A.P. Subramaniam said it started raining at 10pm on Tuesday.

"Water from Sungai Pelong nearby overflowed onto the road at 1.30am," he said here yesterday.

"The force of the water then washed the school's perimeter wall away."

Subramaniam, 50, said he and another guard got into their cars to seek shelter when he saw floodwaters gushing onto the road.

"But when the water washed the wall away, I jumped out from my car onto its roof," he said, adding that fearing his car would be swept away, he held onto the window panel for support.

"The floodwaters subsided 30 minutes later."

Headmaster P. Shanmugam said the school was forced to close today (yesterday) for clean-up works.

"We estimate our losses to be about RM300,000," he said, adding that rubbish that got stuck under the bridge behind the school had caused the river to overflow.



SJK (T) Kuala Terla in Cameron Highlands had to be closed yesterday for **clean-up works**. Pic by Muhaizan Yahya

Shanmugam said the school had been hit by mud floods three times since 2002, but this time was the worst.

"This would not have happened if the authorities had heeded our appeal to raise the bridge."

He said during the clean-up exercise, a three-tonne lorry made 20 trips to remove the debris.

"We are still in the process of cleaning up."

Hardware shop owner, R. Selvaraja, 57, said he was awakened by a loud gushing sound.

"I looked out from my bedroom window on the first floor and was shocked to see floodwaters heading towards my shop," he said, adding that he panicked.

"My hands trembled when I saw the floodwaters."

"My daughter called the Fire and Rescue Department."

Selvaraja, who estimated his losses at RM100,000, said at one point, the floodwaters rose to 1.2m.

"It subsided about 30 minutes later."

Cameron Highlands Fire and Rescue Department chief Yusry Abdullah Sani said the department received a distress call at 2am.

"We sent five firemen, including myself, to monitor the situation."