

Stop-work order if flooding occurs

DBKL to monitor construction sites which do not have adequate flood mitigation systems in place

story by
JAROD LIM

jarodlim@thestar.com.my

DEVELOPERS whose construction sites are found to have contributed to flash floods in Kuala Lumpur risk being slapped with a stop-work order.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) Socio-Economic Development executive director Datuk Normah Malik said DBKL would be issuing stop-work orders to errant developers if the flooding around their projects were bad.

"Major flash floods in the city are caused by sediments clogging the drain resulting in water to overflow and flood the surrounding areas.

"Developers should also have a good flood-mitigation system and monitor their construction sites when there is a downpour," Normah said during a press conference after a meeting to discuss flood relief preparations at DBKL's Enforcement Department in Jalan Tun Razak.

Under the Street Drainage Building Act 1974 and Earthwork By Law (Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur) 1988, DBKL can issue compounds up to RM50,000 to parties who contribute to flash flood.

Asked how DBKL can identify the root of the problems, Normah said DBKL would monitor the construction sites round the clock during the monsoon season.

"If we find a particular area experiencing flash flood after a new construction site was approved, we will investigate the source of the problem.

"Most flash floods occur on the road but not at residential areas.

"This is mainly due to water overflowing from clogged drains," Normah said urging residents not to throw rubbish into the drains.

Normah chaired the meeting which was also attended by the National Security Council, Malaysian Meteorological Department, Public Services Department, FT Education Department, Drainage and Irrigation Department, the police, Fire and Rescue Services Department, Solid Waste Management and Public Cleanliness Corporation.

Normah said over the last two years, DBKL had identified 56 flood-prone locations.

Among them were Jalan Dutamas, Segambut; Jalan Genting Klang, Wangsa Maju; Jalan Tun Razak, Bukit Bintang, Jalan Yaacob



Normah (left) inspecting the motorcycles used during DBKL rescue operations.

Major flash floods in the city are caused by sediments clogging the drain resulting in water to overflow and flood the surrounding areas.

Datuk Normah Malik

Latif, Bandar Tun Razak; as well as Jalan Loke Yew, Cheras.

Last year, on Oct 1, a 90-minute downpour resulted in cars at a parking lot in Jalan Pinang in the city centre to be submerged in flood waters.

Normah said the lack of proper irrigation systems, rapid development including the ongoing construction works and poor disposal habits continue to cause flash floods in the city.

On June 10, *StarMetro* reported that a three-hour downpour led to many parts of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in Gombak to be in waist-deep water due to a clearing of 12.14ha of agricultural land for a residential development.

On May 14, flood water rose above 2m during a downpour along Jalan Chan Sow Lin-Jalan Miharja in Sungai Besi while flood waters covered all six lanes of Jalan Duta along the Jalan Duta-Jalan Semantan stretch.

Normah said 45 DBKL officers and staff would be on duty daily with equipment such as boats, jet ski, tow cranes, motorcycles and a water tankers ready to be used for evacuation and rescue operations during flash floods.

DBKL had also identified 50 evacuation centre in Kuala Lumpur including 14 multipurpose halls, four sports complexes, 11 community halls and 21 schools.

The public can also alert DBKL on floods through the hotline 03-4024 4424 or 03-4022 0055 or through WhatsApp and SMS at 019-212 0031.



Traffic police pushing a stranded car along Jalan Bangsar during a flash flood that submerged 100m of the road under about a meter of water. — filepic

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Setting their sights on gold
The Malaysian 5-A-Side blind football (B1) team is aiming for gold at the Asean Paragames 2015 which will be held in Singapore from Dec 3 to Dec 9. After losing to Thailand in last year's tournament, Malaysian Blind Sports Association president Dr S.Radha Krishnan is confident that the team has a real shot of winning this year, and they have already started training as much as four times a week to prepare for the stiff competition they would face.

