

High-intensity rain caused Shah Alam floods

SHAH ALAM: High-intensity rain has been identified as the main cause of the flash floods here and its surrounding areas.

Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Hashim Osman said the department's rainfall stations in Selangor recorded unusually high rainfall due to the "high-intensity rain" on Monday.

"The Batu 3 station recorded rainfall of 104mm in two hours while the station in TTDI Jaya recorded a rainfall of 104mm in three hours," he said yesterday.

Hashim said DID was prepared for flash floods during the monsoon transition and had ensured that rainfall stations, flood-warning systems and flood-monitoring cameras were in working order.

"We have identified and upgraded

74 retention ponds in Selangor, ensured pump stations and watergates are working and maintained the drainage system."

On claims by Bandar Puncak Alam residents that the flash flood, which hit the area on Sunday for two days, was caused by poor maintenance of the outlet system for the retention pond there, he said the department had identified the problem when flash floods hit the city in August.

"DID has identified a 8.09ha retention pond, which has to be upgraded to mitigate floods.

"Work began last month and the RM2.8 million project is expected to be completed in June."

The PKR-led state government denied that the flash floods were caused by poor maintenance and

outdated drainage system.

Selangor state exco for infrastructure, public amenities, agro-based industries, Zaidy Abdul Talib, said the flash floods were caused by extraordinarily heavy rain, which the drainage system could not cope.

"There was unusually heavy rain this week and because of that, the drainage system could not cope, causing flash flood," he said.

On allegations that the flash floods were caused by poor monitoring of construction sites and lack of mitigation projects, Zaidy said the issue did not arise as the local councils had guidelines to follow before approving a project.

"In the 2016 Budget, we have been allocated RM80 million for flood mitigation.

"This is a 70.2 per cent increase

compared with last year's budget," he said.

Yesterday, a Fire and Rescue Department spokesman said about 400 flood victims were evacuated to seven storm shelters.

On Monday, flash flood in Batu 3 temporarily disrupted commuter service at the Batu 3 rail station.

Several lanes at the Shah Alam toll plaza near TTDI Jaya had to be closed.

Many roads in Shah Alam, including Section 9, Section 13, Section 20, Section U8 and Batu 3, were affected.

Some 150 residents from Phase 2B3 Taman Sinar Alam in Bandar Puncak Alam spent Sunday night at Surau Taufiqiyah, a temporary relocation centre, before returning home the next day.