

Bayan Baru MP takes state govt to task over floods

GEORGE TOWN: A PKR lawmaker has hit out at the DAP-led state government for failure in resolving flood-related issues on the island.

Bayan Baru member of parliament Sim Tze Tzin described efforts to address the flooding problem affecting the southwest district as "piecemeal" plans.

"The Southwest District Flood Mitigation Masterplan has been completed since 2012.

"Although the state government started one or two projects, it is piecemeal compared with the massive developments within the area," he said yesterday.

Sim blamed the floods on new developments which failed to prevent sand and mud from choking the drainage system.

"The drainage system in the southwest district is too old. It was built in the 1970s and cannot handle the development within the district," he said.

Sim urged the state government to fast track the mitigation works as residents were up in arms over the floods.

"Developers from the southwest district have been contributing to

flood mitigation funds. Residents also pay quit rent diligently.

"It is only fair to start using these funds to upgrade the drainage infrastructure in the district.

"I am sure the state government saw the suffering of the residents last night."

State Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said the worst affected area in Teluk Kumbar and Batu Maung would see their flood woes solved by the second half of next year.

He said a RM7.5 million project to upgrade a water pump at Sungai Teluk Kumbar had been approved and was in the design stage.

Chow said Kampung Teluk Kumbar was severely affected as it was in a low lying area, with roads higher than the kampung.

He ordered the state Drainage and Irrigation Department to clear rubbish from all waterways and drains.

In response to a protest by residents affected by flash floods in Batu Maung, Chow said the developer involved in a widening of a road had been told to clear earth from clogged drains nearby.