

PJ residents identify three causes for floods

By VINCENT TAN

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FLASH floods which occurred along Jalan 19/20 as well as nearby Section 17 roads last weekend are caused by three main factors.

Section 19 Residents Association chairman Tan Yew Leong, who led a group of affected residents and team from the Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) Engineering Department to inspect the drainage system, said one of the main reasons was backflow from the nearby Sungai Penchala.

"Right now, there is an ongoing project to strengthen the riverbed and riverbanks, but that means the depth there is shallow at the moment.

"So the river cannot take the extra rainwater, and it backflows on to Jalan Harapan and the nearby roads," said Tan.

City councillor Tang Fui Koh joined the site visit along with Damansara Utama assemblyman Yeo Bee Yin, who explained that the current river-strengthening project was affecting the water flow from nearby drainage systems too.

Similarly, the construction of Jalan Harapan's "missing link" to the nearby Sprint Highway, which has been extended twice, has also contributed sediment and debris,



The construction of Jalan Harapan's 'missing link' to the Sprint Highway contributed to the flash floods as heavy rains have washed the construction debris into local drain systems, clogging them up.

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Tan suggested widening and deepening the monsoon drain that channelled water into Sungai Penchala.

The monsoon drain, which runs behind Jalan 19/20, overflowed last week and flooded the houses, along the same road, from the back while rainwater flowed in from the road as well.

"If it can be widened by another two to three metres at the backlane,

and deepened by a metre, then it will provide some breathing space while the riverbank project is being carried out," said Tan.

Jalan 19/20 residents Jareen Lim and Susie Koh both said that up to 30cm of water had flowed into the house after last Saturday's storm.

"We have had intermittent floods a few years ago, but never this bad," said Lim.

About 30 houses in Jalan 19/20, Jalan 17/21H and Jalan 17/21I were

affected by Saturday's flash floods.

Tang confirmed that the budget to widen the current monsoon drain behind Jalan 19/20 had been approved.

"Once the bill of quantity is set, the process to call for tenders for the project will begin by the end of this month or January 2016," he said.

Additionally, the council will commence cleaning up all the drainage channels in the area.