

Council awaiting details on flood mitigation project

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THE Kajang Municipal Council (MPKj) is waiting for the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to finalise details on the expansion of Sungai Jelok (behind Metro Plaza), as this will prevent future incidences of flooding in Kajang town.

MPKj president Zainal Abidin Arshad said at the council's full board meeting recently that the Oct 26 floods, during which waters rose up to a height of 0.6m, had caused mud and sludge to settle at various parts of town, especially near the river.

"This made the clean-up effort a

tedious affair," he said.

Zainal said DID, in a meeting with MPKj on Oct 31, had confirmed that the river would be expanded from 2.4m to 3.6m wide and deepened by 3m.

"DID has identified a contractor, but we are waiting for them to present details on the project to the board of councillors," he said. "We hope to hear the presentation by this month so that the project can take off in January."

Zainal said about 26 hawker stalls and a temple along the river stretch would have to be demolished to facilitate the expansion project.

"We will look into the possibility of

relocating the hawkers, if there is place to relocate them," he said.

Zainal said the project would be undertaken by the state DID and the cost of the project had yet to be determined.

The river expansion project, he said, was a mitigation effort that would keep floods at bay for the next 10 to 20 years.

Zainal Abidin said monies allocated by the state government was insufficient to clean up all monsoon drains as MPKj had applied for RM1mil, but only received RM400,000.

"We have to work within our budget and prioritise areas."