

# 'Clogged drains, heavy rains cause of floods'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The massive floods on Thursday night were caused by clogged drains and unusually heavy rainfall.

City Hall Civil Engineering and Urban Transportation head Abdul Aziz Yusoff said the smaller roadside drains, which were clogged with rubbish, could not cope with the rainfall measuring 110ml per hour. He said the rain was twice the intensity of what usually hit the city.

"The river did not overflow this time because water did not reach it. The drains were mostly clogged, causing a backflow and spillover on to the roads.

"Drains clogged with rubbish caused the water to overflow. Trails of garbage was also stuck in drain covers, which disrupted the flow of water," said Aziz, referring to the floods which affected 15 roads in the city yesterday.

He said clogged drains caused most of the floods in the past, adding that four out of five of incidents involved littering or indiscriminate dumping.

"We usually find household and commercial waste from food traders, as well as garden waste, such as leaves and twigs, during the

clean-up of drains."

He said inadequate cleaning by Alam Flora could have compounded the problem.

Aziz, however, assured the *New Straits Times* that the authorities would be conducting an investigation into the cause of the floods. The report would be submitted to the Federal Territories Ministry.

He said drains and infrastructure would be upgraded.

Asked if the drains in the city could not accommodate the rapid development, Aziz said development was a factor, but design and infrastructure flaws, as well as the dumping of construction waste, contributed to one-fifth of the flooding issue.

When asked if City Hall would blacklist developers who dumped construction waste, such as sand and concrete, into drains, he said the authority was well within their rights to do so, but rarely flexed their muscles that way.

City Hall could also issue compounds up to RM50,000 to those who contributed to flash floods under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 and Earthworks ByLaw (Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur) 1988.