

'Poor drainage system to blame'

ACCUMULATED SURFACE RUN-OFF: Klang's flash floods caused by clogged drains

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THE flash floods that inundated several parts of Klang recently were caused by a poorly managed drainage and irrigation system.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Hamim Samuri (BN-Ledang) said the floods were caused by clogged drains.

He said the floods were the result of accumulated surface run-off from the downpour.

"The drainage system could not accommodate the high levels of water.

"The system is under the management of the local council and other related local authorities."

Hamim said this in reply to a question by Charles Santiago (DAP-Klang).

Santiago had asked what action the government would take to mit-

igate Klang's flood problems.

He said it was not the first time that a flash flood had occurred, resulting in the people suffering from loss of belongings and damage to their vehicles and property.

The query was answered by Hamim during a special chambers session called by Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia.

Hamim said water gates controlled by the Drainage and Irrigation Department in Teluk

Gadung had been opened during the incident, and that the water level of the Klang river was low.

This, he said, proved that the flash floods were caused by clogged drains that could not channel rainwater out into the river fast enough.

During the incident, the Jalan Kebun and Teluk Gadung rain stations recorded a reading of 61mm and 51mm, respec-

tively. Agreeing with opposition mem-

bers of Parliament that an internal audit should be conducted on the incident, Hamim said officers from the department would assist the local council.

He added that this audit had to be carried out to identify the key problems that had caused the flash floods so that proper mitigation measures could be put in place.

As a long-term solution, Hamim said developers should adhere to guidelines in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan when it came to the disposal of construction waste.

"It is vital that developers construct proper drainage system for their projects."

**AT THE
DEWAN
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