

Heavy rain and poor drainage caused floods

THE serious flash floods that inundated Klang recently were not due to the Klang River bursting its banks but to excessive rain and poor drainage.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Hamim Samuri attributed the floods to massive water displacement and water run-off due to poorly maintained or blocked drainage.

Noting that the May 15 flooding was not due to overflowing river but the excessive rain, he revealed that, for example, up to 52mm of rainfall was recorded in Telok Gedong in 90 minutes.

In replying to Charles Santiago (DAP-Klang) at Dewan Rakyat's special chambers, Hamim also said clogged drains had prevented excess water from being channelled into the rivers.

"The Drainage and Irrigation

Department is willing to assist the Selangor government in its internal audit to determine the actual cause of the flash floods," he added.

He reminded local authorities that they were responsible for ensuring development projects did not result in flash or mud floods due to poor drainage.

Earlier, Santiago highlighted the flash floods that took place in a large part of Klang, including Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Hospital, earlier this month.

On a separate issue, Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said 369 aquaculture operators lost RM7.29mil due to the effects of El Nino.

"El Nino affected 298 fish cages, 48 fish ponds and three hatcheries," he said in a written reply to Ahmad Nazlan Idris (BN-Jerantut).