

ONGOING WORK: The DID project is to deepen the river and strengthen its banks to enable it to flow in another direction.



DUMPING GROUND: Indiscriminate dumping of debris along Sungai Kerayong is the primary cause of the flash flood

Flood mitigation job backfires

KUALA LUMPUR: Flash floods have for a long time been the nightmare of residents of 400 houses at the 6.4km stretch of Jalan Klang Lama.

However, the situation and their plight have worsened over the past three years.

Rubbish and debris from an ongoing flood-mitigation project have been dumped into the nearby Sungai Kerayong, causing the river to overflow.

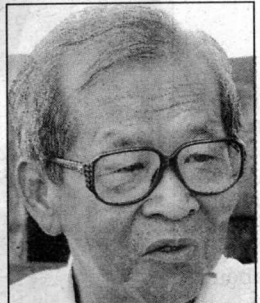
A grocery shop owner was in tears as she recalled the destruction of her home and shop when flash floods struck on April 6.

Wong Fong Khoan's belongings were damaged.

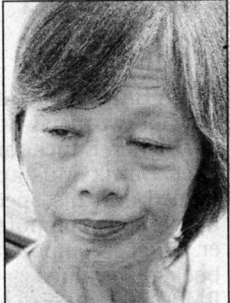
Till today, she is still cleaning up the mess.

"The flash floods cost me RM8,000," said the 60-year-old

By **ELYCIA LEE**



TAN: Almost drowned



WONG: Lost RM8,000

who broke down in an interview with *The Malay Mail* yesterday.

"Now, my husband and I have nothing. We have to start all over again."

Kampung Yee Seng Neigh-

bourhood Watch chairman, Tan Kim Pah, 76, has his own scary experiences to relate.

Tan almost drowned trying to rescue his 14-year-old granddaughter.

Tan, who has 10 grandchildren, said: "First, I had to guide my wife and a daughter to safer ground as they had difficulty walking through the flood waters.

"When I returned to the house to get my 14-year-old granddaughter, I almost drowned.

"How long do we have to face flash floods?" he asked.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok who has been approached by the res-

idents for help, said the worsening flash floods were caused by an ongoing flood-mitigation project by the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

"Rubbish and debris from the site are dumped into the nearby Sungai Kerayong, causing its waters to rise.

"In the event of a downpour, the river overflows and floods the homes and road," said Kok who visited the site yesterday.

Also present was Drainage and Irrigation Department senior assistant director Tajudin Sulaiman.

He said the DID project was to deepen the river and strengthen its banks to enable it to flow in another direction. The project, which began on Dec 20, 2004, is scheduled for completion this June.