

Flooded with worries

Since 1998, residents of Taman Bayu Perdana, Klang have sleepless nights every time it rains as the drains in the neighbourhood overflow, causing water to gush into their homes. >2&3



Lakeside litterbugs

Kuala Lumpur City Hall contractors have to use a boat to collect all the rubbish that visitors throw into the lake at Titivangsa Lake Garden, Kuala Lumpur. — FAHAN GHANU/The Star



Poor maintenance of the monsoon drain in Jalan Batu Unjur 6 in Taman Bayu Perdana with a collapsed fence is trapping rubbish and impeding water flow.

Two decades of flash floods

Residents of Taman Bayu Perdana in Klang fed up with lack of action by authorities

Story and photos
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HOUSEOWNERS in Taman Bayu Perdana in south Klang suffer everytime it rains, because a half-hour continuous downpour will cause water from the residential drains to overflow into the car porch of most houses while for others, the water inundates the back portion of the houses including the kitchen.

As a result of this, the back lanes are covered with clumps of green moss.

Residents faced sleepless nights over 18 years as Klang Municipal Council (MPK) and the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) had failed to solve the problems of waterlogged residential roads and backflow from the heavily silted

Jalan Pegaga/Jalan Setaka Indah monsoon drain, making the area more vulnerable to flash floods.

Taman Bayu Perdana housing area, completed in 1998, has 1,415 double-storey terrace houses.

Taman Bayu Perdana Residents Association (TBPRA) chairman Peter Yap said residents were frustrated with the local authorities' inability to resolve the chronic flooding during downpours, noting that on Sept 7, water had entered their homes after the rain from 3.30am to 9.30am.

They said water overflowed from the monsoon drain along Persiaran Seraya that served the old part of Taman Palm Grove and Taman Chi Liung, causing a backflow that resulted in flash floods in surrounding areas.

TBPRA vice-chairman G. Mohan said flash floods had hit the neigh-

bourhood five times this year alone.

"Our worst floods that resembled Venetian canals were in 2012, where rain water gushed into homes and reached 10cm - just above the ankle - damaging furniture, carpets and electrical items," he said.

Mohan said the floods had occurred despite MPK's construction of a retention pond in 2006.

Both Yap and Mohan said over the past few weeks, the heavy rain in the wee hours of the morning kept them awake.

"Close to two decades ago, our residents were promised that the flooding problems would be solved.

"On June 21, MPK Engineering Department and DID had told the RA that by the end of September, the departments will come up

with a plan," said Mohan.

Yap said the authorities must address the situation soon, adding that Klang MP Charles Santiago and residents had lodged a report with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) over the floods that had hit at least 20 neighbourhoods on May 15.

Affected neighbourhoods in south Klang were Taman Chi Liung, Taman Petaling Indah, Taman Palm Grove and Taman Setia.

Santiago had said that the local authority had been lackadaisical over flood mitigation efforts, sitting on the problem for years even after numerous meetings with him and various residents associations.

Councillor Tony Leong said MPK did not want to rush into



“Since 2010, the area floods as the ecosystem can no longer absorb rainwater”.

Taman Petaling Indah RA
chairman P.V. John Vargas



“The monsoon drain design outside Harbour Place is flawed and must be improved.”

Taman Radzi Resident Association
president Sree Kumar Menon



Residents from Taman Bayu Perdana are frustrated that MPK's lack of maintenance has left the monsoon drain at Persiaran Seraya clogged with silt thus blocking water flow.

making a move without giving it much thought and planning.

Accountant Mei Lee said her home had been flooded many times and the ground floor could not be used.

"So, that means our upper floor is our residence but we are paying full assessment to MPK.

"I feel until MPK comes up with a concrete plan to resolve this problem, all homeowners should be given a 50% discount on the assessment," she said.

Subramaniam Varaden said: "Our houses will become ruined properties in time to come. We are tired of hearing excuses. All of us just want the flash flood problem resolved".

MPK councillor Tony Leong urged MPK, Public Works Department (JKR) and DID to initiate mitigation works to address the recurring flash floods in Taman Bayu Perdana and its surrounding neighbourhoods.

"Close to two decades, flash floods have wreaked havoc in the lives of the people living in Taman Bayu Perdana.

"MPK, JKR and DID must treat this matter seriously and begin flood mitigation works, to ensure drains do not overflow.

"Also, a 10-year plan must be drawn up with mandatory requirement for buildings to have rain harvesters to reduce the rain water run-off during downpours," he said.

Leong said each time floods hit Taman Bayu Perdana, close to 7,500 people from the residential and business areas were affected.

"Retention ponds are not the answer. We need proper drainage to move water out of the area.

"We also need more sluice gates and pumps to keep water out during high tide. I believe this mitigation works will take time but it is best to be done soon," he said.

Flash floods in Taman Bayu Perdana are usually at its worst when drainage networks are overwhelmed by sudden heavy rainfall, often worsened during high tide.

Several residents pointed out that the DID and MPK had in 2012, admitted that the design of the monsoon drain outside Harbour Place off Persiaran Raja Muda Musa was to be blamed as it caused a back flow into Taman Bayu Perdana and Taman Palm Grove because of the three concrete bends built to divert river water.

Knowing that the monsoon



Yap says moderate rain is enough to cause drains to overflow into homes and the constant dampness is causing green moss to grow on the walls in the back lanes.

Taman Bayu Perdana



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drain outside Harbour Palace was defective, Leong said it had to be rectified.

"Other than the drainage, the retention pond built on a field off Jalan Batu Unjur 6 in Taman Bayu Perdana must be fitted with automatic pumps and be made effective and efficient.

"We want the council's Engineering Department to desilt the monsoon drain off Jalan Pegaga and Jalan Setaka Indah," he said.

He added that DID and MPK must review the design of the

monsoon drain at Jalan Pegaga and Jalan Setaka Indah as it was a bottleneck that hindered water flow.

Leong said the silt and rubbish in the monsoon drain must be taken out and not left on the banks.

Annually, MPK spends about RM6mil to clean 2,560km of waterways throughout Klang district.

Shoplot owners at Jalan Batu Unjur had voiced out their anger over the constant floods as most businesses had suffered economic losses because of the flash floods.



Flash floods have become a normal occurrence in Taman Palm Grove.

Taman Palm Grove RT committee member Eugene Tan



Monsoon drains at Persiaran Seraya and Jalan Pegaga are heavily silted.

Taman Palm Grove RT secretary G. Ganesh



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