



Opposite Jalan PJU1A/26D, sheet-piling work has been partially done, according to local resident Foo Teck Leong.

Rescue at hand for Sg Kayu Ara

MBPJ to begin repair works once contractor selected

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ARA Damansara residents may not have to wait too long for the authorities to repair collapsed riverbanks and cracked monsoon drains lining Sungai Kayu Ara, which runs in their backyard.

Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) is waiting for the state government to select the best bidder.

The tender was closed on Sept 8. MBPJ Engineering Department head Ismail Shafie said as the safety of residents' and their homes were threatened by the damaged riverbanks and drains, the council was going ahead with its own repairs.

He said cost for repairs was estimated at RM6.5mil.

"The main repair we will have to do is sheetpiling work on the bank

“We received submissions from three contractors, and we are waiting for our design consultant to finalise the bill of quantity, before asking the contractors to make their bids.”

Wong Yuet Leng

to prevent soil erosion from collapsing it,” said Ismail.

Local councillor Wong Yuet Leng said work needed to be done on the riverbanks behind Jalan PJU 1A/20, and to Jalan PJU 1A/22, Jalan PJU 1A/26 and Jalan PJU 1A/32A.

Currently, the most immediate danger, which was a collapsed riverbank several metres deep, along with the remains of a monsoon drain behind Jalan PJU 1A/26D, which *StarMetro* highlighted in early May, had been repaired.

Both Wong and Idaman Ara

Damansara Residents Association committee member Albert Lau said the repairs commenced in June and were completed by the Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID).

Wong said residents hoped to see a contractor appointed soon, as the rainy season approached and the soil stability could suffer more.

He added that the council had originally intended to select a sole contractor and start work on repairing the riverbank, although this would require the state Treasury's consent.

However, the council was directed to nominate 10 contractors to be scrutinised by the state government, before calling for the tender.

“We received submissions from three contractors, and we waited for our design consultant to finalise the bill of quantity, before asking the contractors to make their bids,” said Wong.

Lau said that while the collapsed riverbank behind Jalan PJU 1A/26D had been repaired, it was best to have the same repairs done to other similarly affected parts of the housing development abutting Kayu Ara river.

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MBPJ has put up a notice informing residents about the work being done at the riverbank.



So far, the most pressing problem of the collapsed bank and monsoon drain at Jalan PJU1A/26D has been repaired.

DID estimates repair costs to exceed RM19mil

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"One thing is that if the riverbanks are repaired and done up nicely, this will also help stop people from dumping rubbish into the river," he said.

During the July and August full board meetings, the council was told that the state DID's budget was insufficient, when the subject of the Sungai Kayu Ara repairs was brought up.

Councillor Derek Fernandez said that one solution would be to obtain a letter from DID stating the lack of budget.

"That way, we can use MBPJ funds to go ahead as an emergency first.

"This will allow MBPJ to go back to the Selangor Economic Action Council (MTES) to seek reimbursement," he had said.

When *StarMetro* spoke with Fernandez on Sept 7, he said no report or letter from the Selangor DID had been produced yet.

A resident living in Jalan PJU 1A/26D, Foo Teck Leong, said only the collapsed bank and monsoon drain that was highlighted last May during the site visit by Wong and local assemblyman Halimaton Saadiah Bohan, had been repaired.

"Just 20m down within sight, the banks are not in good shape, and even the repaired drains appear to be developing a crack," he added.

At the same time, Ara

Damansara residents worry as their homes have suffered damage, with several showing cracks.

During the May site visit, Lau said the residents were also awaiting a technical report on soil analysis of the area, especially in light of the cracks developing in residents' houses and the riverbank erosion.

"This problem has been ongoing, but it has become even more worrying in the last three to four years," he added.

Selangor DID had replied in a statement that works for Jalan PJU 1A/26D were completed on July 30.

The statement read that its Petaling District Office only received an administrative allocation of RM3.2mil for repair works

in 2016.

"The strengthening works for the river bank portions which need repair are nearly 1km.

"Moreover, the banks' structure contain a lot of sand, making it easy to erode," said the department.

It is estimated that the costs of repairing the riverbanks in Ara Damansara would hit RM19.5mil.

Selangor DID had applied for an allocation under the 11th Malaysia Plan to both state and Federal governments, but it was not approved.

For a larger picture, the state DID received RM80mil in 2016 for state development projects.

Flood mitigation projects comprised 59% of the entire allocation,

while upgrading works comprised 12%.

The remainder was for works such as developing water basins, managing water sources, shoreline development as well as infrastructure, both structural as well as mechanical and electrical.

"If the budget or repair works are approved, the work process will take place through open tender.

"Some proposals to remedy the area include using reinforcement structures such as soft rock, turfing reinforcement mattress (TRM) or sheet pile.

"The best method will only be selected after a soil investigation report has been done," DID added.