Council taken to task over flash floods

KLANG: Klang MCA chief Datuk Teh Kim Poo has criticised the Klang Municipal Council (MPC) and state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) for falling to take action to prevent flash floods last week.

"During my time as state assemblyman here, I have always brought up this issue while attending MPC meetings, asking the council to compel developers to build water retention ponds for every housing project since 2001, but it fell on deaf ears."

"Even after Pakatan Rakyat had taken over, the state government, developers still failed to heed this rule. The local council failed to enforce it but chose to blame the Federal Government instead," Teh said, referring to the Urban Stormwater Management Manual for Malaysia, a 20-volume manual published by the DID as a nationwide policy to prevent flash floods.

Teh, who is also former assemblyman for Pandamaran, said if the state government had implemented the policy sooner, the flash floods could have been avoided.

"It is not right to blame the previous state government for every problem that crops up. Current leaders, especially Ronnie Liu, should be taking charge of the situation and trying to solve the problem instead," he said.

He said many developers found ways to bypass the DID manual.

"Developers refused to follow these guidelines as it would incur extra costs because they have to set aside land for a retention pond, which they could use to build more houses or shops," he said at the Klang MCA office here yesterday.

Teh suggested that the MPC should emulate Kuala Lumpur City Hall's standards in flood mitigation.

"Kuala Lumpur City Hall's Rainwater Harvesting guidebook states that developers are required to build water tanks to ensure 1,500 litres of rainwater are collected in terrace houses, while it's 3,000 litres for bungalows and semi-detached houses in the city.

"It is a simple, yet effective countermeasure to prevent floods. Imagine how much water can be saved in each house instead of flowing down the drain which may be clogged, and that DBKL is strictly enforcing it." "

Teh said local Barisan Nasional leaders had written to the state authorities for funds to help the owners of 4,338 houses that were affected by the flash floods.

A worker clearing the garbage that is clogging a river in Klang, which is believed to have caused the flash floods last week. Pic by Adib Rawi

the Prime Minister's Departmet Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop and the time.

He added that he was frequent instructed by his employer, Tan KIng Chooi, to cash the cheques and pass the money to a man named Japaruddin Ibrahim and, once or twice, to another man known only as Hatta.

Quah testified that Tan first introduced him to Japaruddin and Hasbie at a karaoke pub in Kuala Lumpur where he was told to entertain them.

He said Japaruddin had told him that Hasbie was his boss during the first meeting.

Quah further admitted that his employer had funded the purchase of a RM3.85 million house in Gita Bayu, Seri Kembangan, Selangor and that the company was under the need to stand for Japaruddin Ibrahim, who happened to be one of its directors.

He said Gallant Route paid an RM80,000 deposit on the house under the name of JBI Sdn Bhd and the house was supposed to have been rented to Hasbie.

Hasbie, 39, faces a fine of up to RM5 million or five years in prison or both, upon conviction under Section 40(1) of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Financing of Terrorism Act 2001.

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission DPP Ansem Charles Fernandis led the prosecution and Messrs Shafee & Co represented Hasbie.

The trial resumes on Aug 8 before Judge Ikmal Hishan Mohd Tajuddin, Bernama