Too much water to handle

Flood prevention system to be re-evaluated, says Muhyyiddin

PETALING JAYA: The flood prevention system for the Klang Valley will be re-evaluated following wide-spread flooding that caused huge losses in many places.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyyiddin Yassin said a re-evaluation was needed as the current continuous heavy rain might be too much for the culverts and water channels both in the city and outskirts to handle.

"The heavy downpour resulted in many flash floods despite the SMART tunnel," he said.

"We have to find a way to resolve the problem as the capacity of our channels may not be able to sustain the current huge amounts of water," he said yesterday when asked about Wednesday's massive flash floods.

He said discussions would be held with the Selangor state government to find the best flood mitigation system for the Klang Valley.

Meanwhile, Selangor Mentri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim wants Panpac Niagara Sdn Bhd and Syabas Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) to explain why they drain water from dam to avoid floods.

Khalid told reporters after visiting victims of the Hulu Langat flash floods that the state government would also study how to reduce water pressure to enable floodwater to be quickly drained from flood prone areas.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil also visited the flood victims at the same time.

Heavy rains on Wednesday night caused the Semenyih river to overflow and flood settlements along its banks.

A total of 1,350 people from eight residential areas in Hulu Langat were evacuated to seven centres on Wednesday night.

The heavy and incessant rain in the Klang Valley had also caused river water to overflow into two water treatment plants in Ampang and Sungai Langat, resulting in thousands of people having to go without water for the next three days.

According to Syabas chief executive officer Datuk Ruslan Hasan, the three areas that would be affected by water shortage and low water pressure were the Gombak district, Kuala Lumpur and Hulu Langat.

Some 35,000 people are expected to face problems including those in Kampung Ampang Campuran, Lembah Jaya Ulu, Kampung Tasek Permai, Kampung Tasek Tarahan Jalan Ampang, Messa Ria Apartment, Taman Daging Jaya, Taman Ampang Sanjana, Lembah Jaya Selatan, Kampung Ampang Indah, Mula Jaya and Kampung Bukit Sungai Putih.

Ruslan said they have deployed 15 water tanks to supply water to the affected residents.

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Crazy Kajang-Cheras traffic going into KL. I'm turning back home.

- QWANSAFUL

Subang Jaya assemblyman Hannah Yeoh tweeted photos of soil erosion due to flash floods in the area.

"More than 200 cars damaged by the flood, Klang River overflowed into anok Sungai Penaga," she tweeted.

Other users made use of the #khattraffic and #khiu hashtags to warn other drivers of closing traffic, standstill and water level which had not receded.

A traffic jam leading into the city centre was also reported on the North-South Expressway at the Sungai Buloh toll plaza at 6.30am following the closure of the SMART tunnel at 3pm on Wednesday due to heavy rain and to activate the flood tunnel.

The heavy rain began on Wednesday evening, temporarily flooding areas such as Lebu Ampang, Jalan Pinang, Kampung Barnu, Ampang, Taman Kosas, Jalan Bangsar and Jalan Sultan Ismail.

One of the worst-hit areas was Hulu Langat.

Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) officials were on high alert at Jalan Robson, which was reopened yesterday following its closure for close to six hours for reasons after mudslides on Wednesday night.

A DBKL official in charge of post-flood cleaning up said if heavy rains recur, they would have to close the road again because the earth there was still soft.

Mudslides happened between 8.30pm and 9pm at three locations on a 50km stretch of the road.

Jalan Robson resident Datuk Amir Singh said the road had experienced repeated mudslides.

He complained that his house was located near the river and flooded when it poured as the shallow drains along the road became clogged with soil and would overflow.

Election Commission declares victory for PCEC

The Star (07/03/21) | 17:35 | Updated 17:33

> Reports by PRIYA MENNON, FLORENCE A. SAMY, NG CHEONG YEE, STEVEN DANIEL, SHAUN HO, JOSEPH KAOS JR, YVONNE LIM, TASHNY SUKUMARAN, ONG KAY JEN, LEE XIAN and LIM JIAN YANG

Victims recall brush with wrath of nature

PETALING JAYA: Forty-five-year-oldAbdul Samad Ali had the fright of his life when he was caught in the rising of rushing water and looked out of his window to see the entire backyard being flooded.

"I panicked and shouted to my wife to help me close our backdoor to prevent the water from entering our house," he said.

Within minutes, the water level had risen to the knees and the current was so strong that it felt like there was a river in our backyard," said the food stall owner from Laman Klang Air Lama, Ampang Jaya yesterday.

Another resident, businessman Stanley Lim, said he saw part of the wall at the sewage treatment pond opposite his house collapse.

Rain water mixed with water and waste from the pond was rushing into his front porch.

"The water came with such force that it caused one of my compound walls to collapse," he said.

He said the flood had cost him about RM200,000 in damages to his house and car.

SPCA Selangor office manager M. Cherian said the official merchandise worth RM3,000 stored at the shelter were ruined by the floodwater.

"However, we managed to carry all the animals to safety," she said.

Meanwhile, some 1,000 families living along the 15km flood-hit stretch of Jalan Hulu Langat were driven out of their homes before they could save their belongings.

Residents said they were caught off-guard when the water rose up to a metre within 20 minutes.

Puan Miri Saad, 44, from Taman Sri Nanding, said she had no time to save her personal documents or move her cars before leaving for higher ground across the road with her two daughters.

"At about 11pm, I looked out the window and saw water already at my porch. The water usually does not come into the house during heavy rain, but this time around it was flowing in from the front and back doors, within minutes," she said.

Retiree Ahmad Zawawi Kamah, 65, said he and his wife spent the night in the rain, perched atop a car while watching floodwaters sweep through their home of 20 years.

"We got hit the worst because the houses here are two hundred metres from the riverbank," he said.

"This is the worst flood in 20 years. There was one a few years ago but it was not as bad as this."