200 villagers evacuated

BIG CLEAN-UP: Kg Setia Jaya homes covered in mud

MORE than 60 families in Kampung Setia Jaya, Setapak, were evacuated after flash floods hit their homes yesterday evening.

More than 200 villagers, including women and children, sought shelter in a community hall when the floodwaters rose to more than 1m.

At 8.30pm, when the floods subsided, the villagers returned to their homes, but most of them went back to the hall as their houses were inundated with mud.

Spokesman Zalifah Jafar, 54, said 69 homes were affected.

"Most of them went back to clean their homes but we are expecting a large number to spend the night at the community hall," Zalifah, who had been staying at the village for more than 20 years, said the flood problem started only last year after a piece of land nearby was cleared for a housing project.

"Since then, we have been hit by floods on four occasions in the past one year. This is the worst." "The downpour caused a nearby river to overflow, bringing soil from the project site to the village," Norhayati Shahlan, 49, said her family was counting their losses as most of their electrical appliances and other valuables were damaged.

"Who is going to compensate us? The developer?" "I have been staying here for 20 years.

A drain overflowing with floodwaters in Kajang yesterday.

Previously, it could rain for days and there would not be any floods. Now, a two-hour downpour can cause so much damage," said the mother of five, who is physically handicapped.

It was learnt that the villagers had lodged police reports against the developer but claimed nothing had happened.

Late last night, the villagers organised a gotong-royong to clean the affected homes.

Officers from the Health Ministry and the Red Crescent Society visited the village, bringing food and basic necessities.

Arinlnn Mat Rusman cleaning the floor of his house in Kampung Setia Jaya, Setapak, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Pic by Syrafiq Abi Semad