

A mother's worst nightmare

N.S.7 11/2/08 M/S 12

'I will never forget their screams and pleas.'



'Lack of trees to hold the soil'

KUALA LUMPUR: The landslide that destroyed Roslan Mohd Jali's house and claimed the lives of two of his daughters is believed to have been caused by a downpour in the area recently.

Hulu Selangor district officer Nur Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said it had been raining heavily in the area recently, with the last downpour happening on Friday.

"That may have caused the soil to loosen and set off yesterday's landslide. However, Public Works Department personnel are still carrying out tests."

He did not rule out the possibility that logging activity in

The house that was destroyed in a landslide in Ulu Yam Perdana, Gombak, early yesterday.

■ **By Lee Shi-lan**
shiianlee@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Two young sisters were killed when a landslide flattened their bungalow in Ulu Yam Perdana, Gombak, at dawn yesterday.

Their mother, clad only in her nightgown and barefooted, walked 3km to the Woods Resort to get help after the landslide devastated the family home in Jalan Belida 1.

The bodies of Noratikah, 16, and Norintan Sharina, 9, were recovered hours later.

The landslide was believed to have occurred at 5.30am when a portion of the hillside broke off and crashed into the side of housewife Azizah Md Don's house.

There were seven people in the house when the incident occurred — Azizah, her husband Roslan Mohd Jali and three children were in the master bedroom while Noratikah and Norintan were in another room.

The couple's eldest daughter, Noraina Ayu, 21, is studying at Universiti Teknologi Mara in Malacca.

According to Roslan, 49, he woke up about 6am and discovered that the entrance of the room was blocked with debris and soil. Alarmed, he woke his wife and three children, Norlisa Azira, 8, Anis Afinah, 6, and Norman Afiq, 5.

Roslan, a pilot for community airline Firefly, managed to break a hole in the ceiling

through which he and his wife with their children managed to crawl out.

"I will never forget their screams and pleas. I think that they were trapped under the wardrobes in their room," said Azizah.

"They were crying for help but neither my husband nor me could go to their aid."

Although the survivors managed to get out from the house, they could not go far as the road was covered with mud.

Worried about another landslide, Azizah left her husband to care for their three children while she went to look for help.

Azizah went to the Woods Resort first but the staff there did not know what emergency numbers to call and she was forced to turn to the Rock Resort for assistance. Furthermore, she had to flag down a passing vehicle for a lift.

At the Rock Resort, a staff, Nurafifah Hanin Abdul Kadir, contacted her father who called for help.

Police, Rela, the Public Works Department, the Fire and Rescue Department and Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team personnel were among those who conducted search and rescue operations.

Noraina Ayu rushed home after hearing about the incident.

The two bodies were found at 12.30pm and 3.35pm, respectively.



Azizah Md Don (centre) being comforted by relatives and friends after seeing the bodies of her daughters.



Roslan Mohd Jali taking a last look at the body of one of his daughters who were killed in the landslide. — Bernama picture



The surviving children — (from left) Norman Afiq Roslan, 4; Anis Afinah Roslan, 6; and Norlisa Azira Roslan, 8 — resting in the care of relatives.

only that logging activity in the area might have also contributed to the landslide, although it could not be confirmed without geological testing.

"If you look at the area where the landslide occurred, there are no trees, which means there is nothing to hold the soil together securely."

Nur Hisham said prior to yesterday's incident, there had been no prior reports of landslides in the Ulu Yam area, unlike other places such as Kuala Kubu Baru, Serendah and Frasers Hill.

"The Public Works Department is investigating the cause of the landslide and they should have some results within the next 48 hours.

"We will also be applying for funds to build a water catchment unit in the area to prevent further accidents."

It is learnt that the land in the Ulu Yam Perdana area was previously owned by a private company, which then parceled it and sold the lots to residents such as Roslan.

Roslan disclosed that it had cost him RM500,000 seven years ago to buy the land and build the house.

He estimated his property losses to be close to RM1 million.

Apart from Roslan, there is another house nearby that is believed to be owned by a lecturer. However, that family only used the bungalow on weekends, although they did not come down this weekend.

Roslan and his family are currently staying at a hotel as they try to come to terms with their losses.