

NST  
27/11/16  
MLS F

# Landslide area declared 'Red Zone'

**340 TOLD TO EVACUATE:** Resident says it's the first such incident in Taman Idaman

**FAISAL ASYRAF  
AND FARHANA SYED NOKMAN**  
RAWANG  
news@nst.com.my

**S**OME 340 residents of Taman Idaman in Serendah were instructed to evacuate following a major landslide in the wee hours yesterday.

Hulu Selangor police chief Superintendent R. Supramaniam said the area surrounding the landslide had been declared a "Red Zone" and residents were given until 1.45pm yesterday to vacate the housing area.

The Red Zone spans a 600m radius around the landslide area, including four blocks of terrace houses.

Supramaniam said the affected residents would be temporarily placed at SRA Serendah, less than 1km from the scene.

He said preliminary investigations showed that the landslide, which produced a 7m-deep sinkhole, was triggered by water movement from a nearby hill.

"Heavy rain in the past few days contributed to the irregular water volume. There were no pipe leakages



*The sinkhole in Taman Idaman, Serendah, which was triggered by a landslide. Pic by Mohd Yusni Ariffin*

as claimed by certain quarters.

"There is water movement. The Public Works Department (PWD) is assessing the affected area and will produce a report in four days. PWD's technical team said it needed between seven and 10 days to fix the road."

Supramaniam said the Welfare Department would transfer the residents to a more comfortable area while waiting for the green light to go home.

A resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said he lived in Taman Idaman since it was opened in the 1990s, and this was the first time such an incident had occurred.

"This area is surrounded by old tin mines. When the developer developed it, they covered the mines but there was no proper drainage system, and the water movement in the soil finally took its toll on the land," he said.

He added that he would move out

of the neighbourhood as he felt it was not safe anymore.

As of 9.30pm, PWD contractors had begun strengthening cliffs at the landslide area.

Hulu Selangor member of parliament P. Kamalanathan said the process would take two days.

"There is still water movement underground (from the nearby hill) but the contractors will strengthen the soil to avoid things from getting worse," he said during his second

visit to the area yesterday.

A tractor and piling machine were also at the scene at 9pm.

Kamalanathan thanked the authorities for their work on the affected area and commended their professionalism and effectiveness in handling the incident.

**Page 1 pic: Fire and Rescue Department personnel at the scene of the landslide in Taman Idaman, Serendah.**

NEWS



Fire and Rescue Department personnel examining the sinkhole in Taman Idaman in Serendah, Hulu Selangor, yesterday Pic courtesy of Fire and Rescue Department

# 'We could hear the ground move'

**'HORRIFIC':** Part of Taman Idaman neighbourhood disappears into sinkhole

**FARHANA SYED NOKMAN**

HULU SELANGOR

farhanasyed@nst.com.my

**A** LOUD noise, described as similar to a "huge explosion", jolted the residents of Taman Idaman in Serendah here

from their beds early yesterday morning.

In total darkness as there was no power, the residents slowly braved the night to discover that part of their neighbourhood — the size of a football field — had disappeared into a sinkhole.

A resident, Mohd Fakhru Razi Yusof, 29, recalled getting a frantic call from his wife moments after the incident.

"Our house is located next to the landslide and I was at work when it happened.

"My wife's voice was trembling as she told me that a tree has fallen near our house and that there was a loud noise outside of the house.

"Worried about my family's safety, I drove home and found a huge hole just right next to my house and the residents were in a state of panic. Luckily, my wife and children are safe," he said.

"I will move my family to a relative's house in Sungai Choh," he told the *New Sunday Times*, adding that he planned to search for a new house to rent.

Stall owner Normah Ninggal, 48, whose stall had been swallowed up by the landslide, described the moment as horrifying.

"I was cleaning my stall at the moment of incident, and I heard a loud noise. When I turned to where the sound was coming from, I saw the cars parked beside my stall sink

into the ground and the earth had given way.

"Right after that, my children and I ran towards our house and we were shocked to see the trees shaking and the ground caving in, making a huge sinkhole.

"Even though I have lost my stall, I am grateful that my family is safe," she said.

Another resident, Amirul Hakim, 18, said he panicked when he saw the stalls and cars falling into the sinkhole one after another.

"It was horrible... we could hear the ground movement.

This is the first-ever landslide incident in Serendah," he said.

Taman Idaman Residents Committee head Mohd Mohd Noor said during the incident, there was unusual sounds of trees cracking outside his house.

"When I came out of the house,

the stalls at the corner of the road was no longer there, together with the car park.

"I hope the authorities will come up with a solution as soon as possible to ensure the safety of the residents and their belongings," he said.

Meanwhile, Abdul Malek Mohd, 70, said he was woken up by his neighbour during the incident.

"When I stepped out of my house, I saw people flocking to the end of the road... they kept saying that there was a landslide and people were panicking.

"I quickly called my wife and ran to the scene. That's when I saw the huge hole. I could not believe my eyes. After that, I saw my black Proton Iswara dangling from the edge of the slope," he said, adding that he suffered a loss of about RM5,000.

*I hope the authorities will come up with a solution as soon as possible to ensure the safety of the residents and their belongings.*

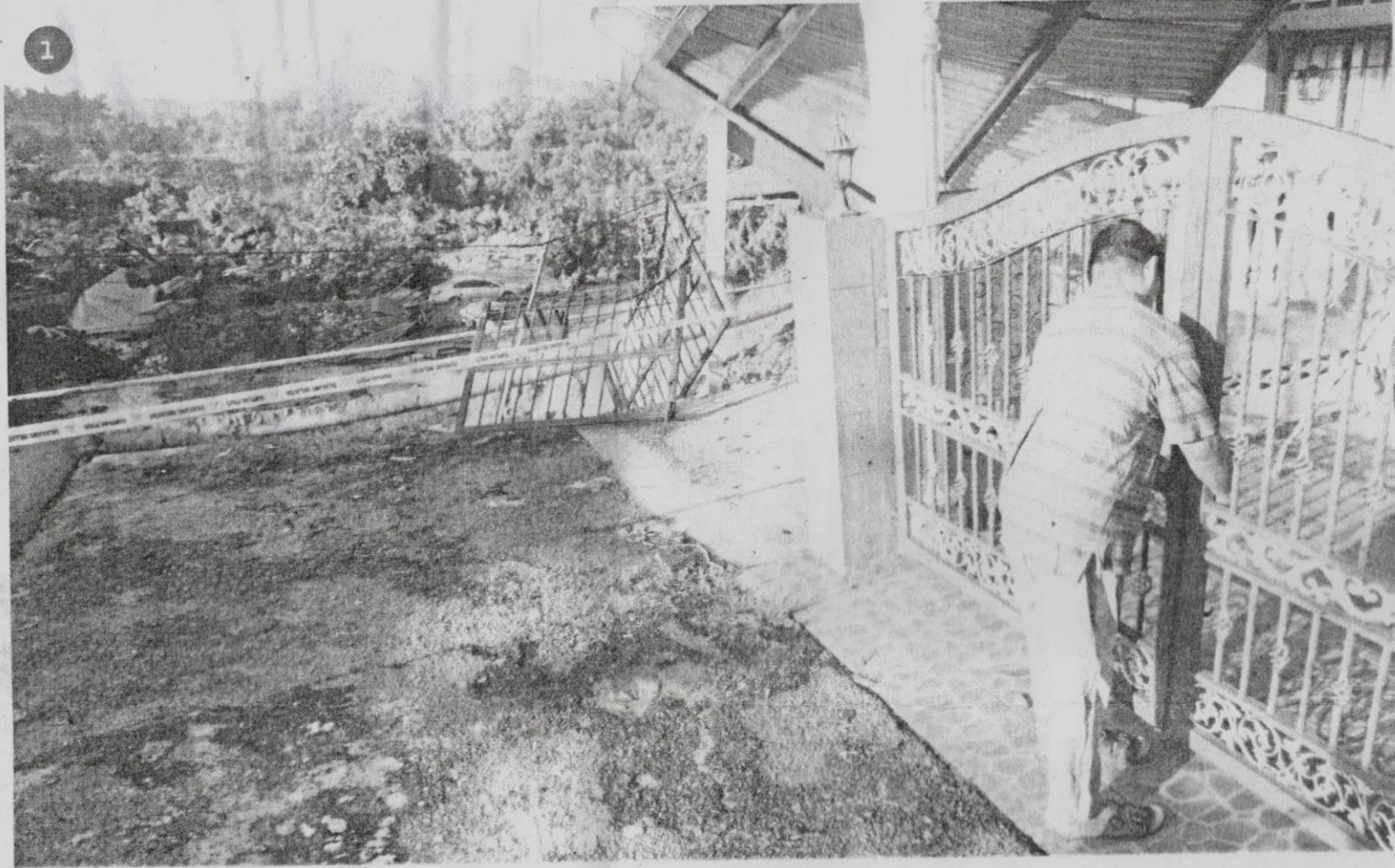
**Mohd Mohd Noor**  
Taman Idaman Residents  
Committee head

NST  
27/11/16  
m/s 8

## SERENDAH LANDSLIDE

NST  
27/11/16  
MIS 8-9

1

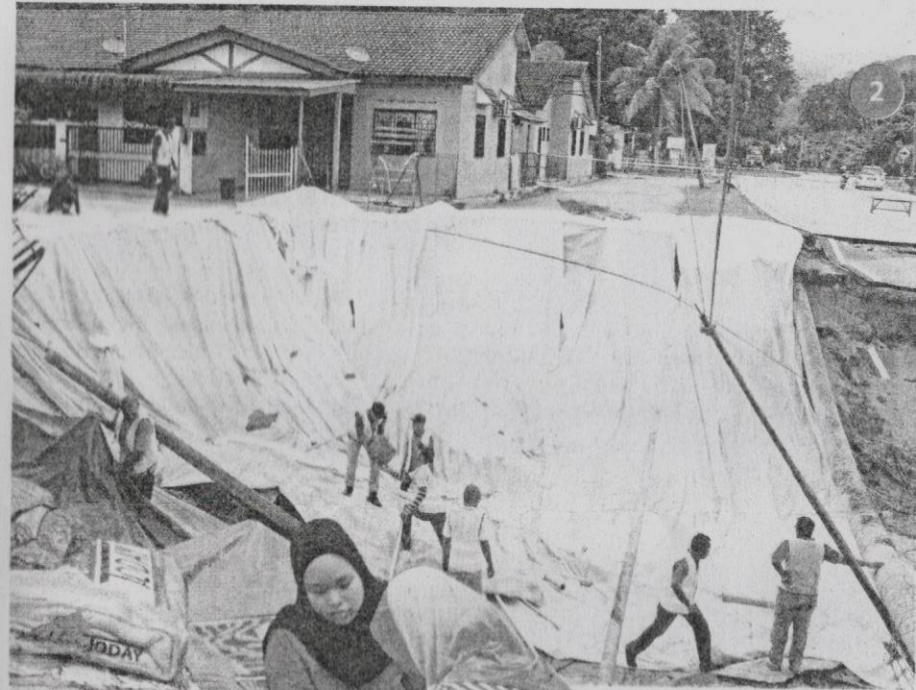


**1** Salihuddin Md Shariff **inspecting the condition of his house** located close to the edge of the landslide which struck Taman Idaman, Serendah, early yesterday morning. Pix by Yusni Ariffin and Saddam Yusoff

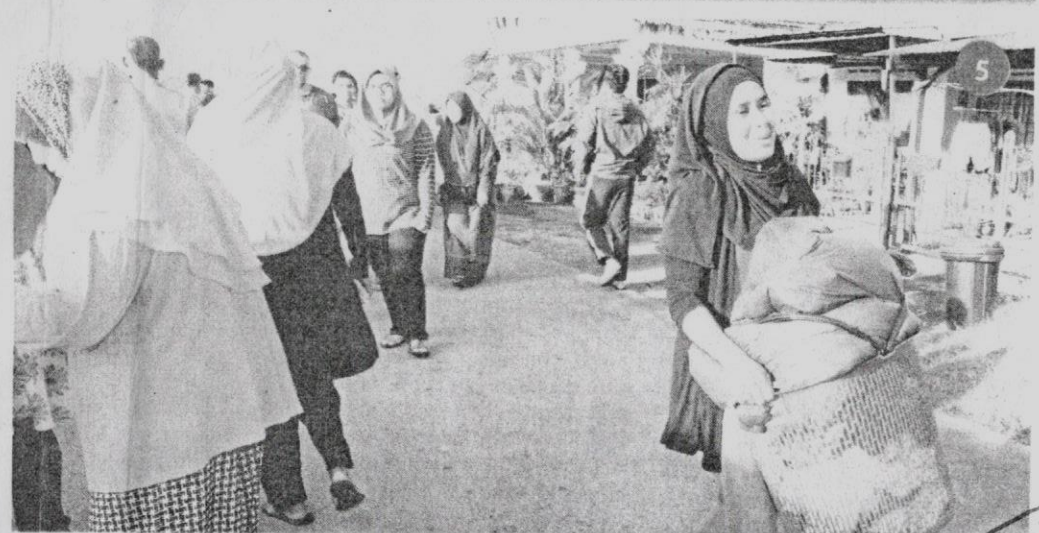
**2** Workers **carrying out repair work** at the landslide area.

**3** Fire and Rescue Department personnel inspecting the site of the landslide, which **injured a motorcycle rider and buried seven cars and two motorcycles** owned by residents of Taman Idaman.

# Residents told to evacuate



**4** Taman Idaman residents at a temporary relief centre in Sekolah Rendah Agama Serendah.



**5** A Taman Idaman resident carrying her belongings after police declared the landslide area a **Red Zone**. They were given until 1.45pm yesterday to evacuate.