



MBPJ contractors cleaning mud and debris along Jalan PJS 3/44 in Taman Sri Manja after a flash flood on Wednesday. — Photos: IZZRAFIQ ALIAS and LOW LAY PHON/The Star

Collective efforts in flood preparedness, response

Local authorities rope in govt departments and agencies to assist them

CLIMATIC changes over the last few months have resulted in unusual thunderstorms in many areas in Klang Valley and left many people unprepared for flash floods.

Affected residents and businesses have had to endure financial, physical and emotional distress due to loss of property, livelihood and even life.

Local authorities in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur have thus made various preparations, including increasing funding, to deal with the unpredictable weather patterns.

Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ)

Petaling Jaya City Council has allocated RM28,847,270 to carry out 74 flood mitigation projects.

Petaling Jaya mayor Mohamad Azhan Md Amir said that as of last month, RM6.6mil had been used for 15 such projects.

The city council has classified flood management into three categories namely pre-flood, during floods and post-flood.

Between 2014 and February this year, MBPJ had also identified 34

flood hotspots.

"Of the 34 hotspots, the city council has taken measures at 26 areas.

"Work on eight spots are pending because of the high development cost involved and the need for the support of the relevant project developers," said Mohamad Azhan.

Last year alone, he said, nine hotspots were identified.

They are Jalan Sri Manja in Taman Buana Perdana; Jalan PJS2/1, Jalan PJS2/3 and PJS2C/10 near SRK Taman Dato Harun; Lorong 51A/117A, Jalan PJS1/25 and Jalan PJS3/44 in Taman Sri Manja; Jalan PJU1A/46 in Ara Damansara and Jalan SS7/2.

As a temporary measure, MBPJ with several developers and KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd carried out cleaning and desilting works of the main drainage in several of the high-risk areas.

It has also been actively carrying out *gotong-royong* sessions to clean

up the nine hotspots.

Mohamad Azhan participated in most of the cleaning activities as he wanted to understand the cause of the flash floods in the affected areas.

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA)

Taman Sri Muda, Taman Mesra, Kampung Kebun Bunga, Padang Jawa, Section 13 and several other locations in Shah Alam are among the areas identified by the city council as being prone to flooding.

MBSA Corporate and Public Relations head Shahrin Ahmad said the council was monitoring reservoirs and pumps to ensure that the facilities were functioning in the event of floods.

"We also ensured that KDEB Waste Management carries out scheduled drain cleaning," he said.

He also said that MBSA's Emergency Response Team (Pantas)



Jalan PJS 3/25 was partially flooded following a downpour on Feb 21 which affected parts of Petaling Jaya.



Mohamad Azhan and MBPJ engineering director Ismail Shafie (white T-shirt) participating in drain clean-up work in Lorong 51A/227A last week.



A playground in Taman Buana Perdana, Petaling Jaya, was inundated following a downpour on Feb 21.

squad was always on standby to respond to any disaster or emergencies, including floods.

“Pantas squad members undergo training and regularly ensure that they have the right equipment to mobilise the team in any disasters,” said Shahrin.

“MBSA also works closely with other government agencies, such as the police, Fire and Rescue Department, Drainage and Irrigation Department as well as the district and land offices.

“We coordinate efforts and resources when responding to disasters, which includes landslides and sinkholes,” he added.

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ)

Subang Jaya City Council has ordered its contractor to ensure that the drainage at all 19 flood hot-spots in the city are maintained as scheduled.

MBSJ Corporate and Strategic Management deputy director Azfarizal Abdul Rashid said areas that flooded during this period last

via social media.

“We have organised educational programmes on disaster management for the residents representatives council and updated the residents representatives’ telephone numbers in our directory too,” he added.

According to statistics, MBSJ Pantas has responded to 120 emergencies, such as toppled trees, landslides or soil depressions and flash floods, between February last year and January this year.

The MBSJ command centre can be reached at 03-8024 7700, from 8am to 11pm daily.

Klang Municipal Council (MPK)

As Klang experiences wet weather with intense rains because of the north-east monsoon in the late evenings, MPK president Noraini Roslan said the local council had stepped up checks on the drainage in critical areas.

“This is to ensure that water channels are not obstructed and can move surface runoff effi-



MPAJ personnel undergoing training with rescue boats in preparation for any major floods.



Flood clean-up operations are important in helping victims ease their trauma and stress. — Filepic

“Most times, maintenance is done around the water bodies but the need for full dredging for silt removal is done based on the level of sediments.

“We need to review the pond’s capacity to retain floodwater and if there is a need to widen it to hold more water,” she added.

tions be required, MPAJ had 12 community halls that could be quickly turned into shelters apart from three rescue boats to be utilised.

“We are also monitoring hillslopes and building sites that could be jeopardised during heavy rain,” she said.

She highlighted that MPAJ was

had placed markers in flood-prone areas, including near rivers.

“Once the water level breaches a certain level deemed unsafe, DID will notify us to take further action.

“DBKL also conducts its own monitoring, which is done around the clock, on roads and traffic via CCTV cameras.

“Once a flood alert has been raised, we will blast out a warning on social media and on electronic billboards in the city,” he said.

He added that DBKL would also activate its operations room at Menara DBKL 1 in Jalan Raja Laut to coordinate response for flood victims.

As for long-term mitigation measures, the local authority has set aside RM60mil for management of related projects and another RM38mil for drainage upgrades.

The funds are to cover the clean-up of floating booms and pollutant traps in waterways, as well as desilting retention ponds and maintenance pump houses.

DBKL’s total planned expenditure for flood mitigation of

year had also been given extra attention with regard to drainage maintenance.

On MBSJ's preparations in light of the unpredictable weather, he said the city council had activated its disaster operations room at its command centre since the northeast monsoon season started in October last year.

MBSJ's Pantas squad and officers from its technical departments such as Engineering, Environmental Management and Landscape have been on standby several times since then.

Azfarizal said the command centre was also consistently monitoring the water level alert system at four locations and sharing information on its social media platforms.

"MBSJ has also empowered its flood communications plan, such as upgrading its flood detection system and disseminating information

cently during downpours," she explained.

The council will also use its CCTV cameras to conduct round-the-clock flood monitoring online, with the Pantas squad on standby during downpours to monitor the situation and provide assistance.

"We understand that flash floods occur when short and intense rains cannot be channelled away quickly enough by the drainage or go through the ground.

"MPK will have to better manage floods and to do so, we have to review the capacity of the retention ponds and dry detention ponds.

"We must see to the upkeep of these ponds," Noraini stressed.

She said that as rainfall was likely to intensify, there was a need to plan for a better drainage network.

On the retention ponds, she said maintenance was crucial.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ)

The Ampang Jaya local authority is stepping up monitoring activities and infrastructure maintenance following continuous heavy rain over the past week.

Areas prone to flooding, such as Lembah Jaya Utara and Kampung Melayu Ampang, are being closely watched, said MPAJ press relations officer Norhayati Ahmad.

"Drains have been cleared of debris and repaired to ensure there are no obstructions for rainwater to drain off.

"MPAJ will work with other agencies such as Fire and Rescue Department, the police and the Civil Defence Force in the event of any disaster," she said, adding that logistical equipment and sufficient manpower were also on standby.

Norhayati said should evacua-

tioning 349 risky slopes, of which, 182 belonged to government agencies while 167 were privately owned by individuals, developers or joint management bodies and management corporations.

"We urge residents to be alert towards updates from the authorities and ensure that they are able to contact emergency services if something were to happen.

"Residents should also ensure that important personal documents are kept safe and can be easily taken along if there is an evacuation," said Norhayati.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL)

DBKL is working closely with the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to monitor flood situations in the capital city.

A DBKL spokesperson said DID

RM98mil this year, however, is lower than last year's RM130mil.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah told *StarMetro* that DBKL was relying on weather forecasts by Meteorological Department.

"We will step up inspections of waterways if rain that is out of the ordinary is anticipated.

"Our officers will be despatched to check on scupper and monsoon drains, especially in flood-prone areas, to ensure unobstructed water flow," he added.

Last month, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim gave assurance that retention ponds in Kuala Lumpur would remain off-limits to any type of development.

"While developments can take place near these sites, they are not allowed to encroach into the ponds," he was reported as saying.



Heavy rain on Monday caused flash floods in Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur (left) and Persiaran Kewajipan, Subang Jaya.