

GETTING EXTRA ASSETS

# CITY HALL RISES TO CHALLENGE OF POST-FLOOD CLEAN-UP

KL had turned into massive, dirty lake but agency tackled the daunting task head on

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At the beginning of the mid-December floods, photos of a submerged Kuala Lumpur made their rounds on social media, causing heartbreak to many seeing how the capital, including Dataran Merdeka, was covered in muddy floodwaters.

However, not long after, the attention shifted to outside of Kuala Lumpur, where the severity of the floods had resulted in the loss of lives and damage to properties. This left many wondering what had happened to KL?

It rained heavily here on Dec 17 and 18, and little by little, Kuala Lumpur City Hall Socio-Economic Development executive director Anwar Mohd Zain said the city had turned into a massive, dirty lake.

Anwar, who was in charge of coordinating City Hall's flood-related work, said five of 11 par-

liamentary constituencies in the city were badly affected: Lembah Pantai, Batu, Seputeh, Bukit Bintang and Segambut.

"People didn't notice what had happened in KL because attention was on Selangor and other states. KL was not spared because of several areas near rivers," he told the *New Straits Times*.



Anwar Mohd Zain

Among the areas were Kampung Pasir in Pantai Dalam, Kampung Kasipilly and Jalan Kolam Air near Jalan Ipoh, and Jalan Tiong Nam in Chow Kit.

"It looked like Kuala Lumpur (confluence of mud) lived up to its name as the flood did not only involve water but also mud."

Starting on Dec 19, Anwar said City Hall, SWCorp Malaysia and Alam Flora workers began the clean-up and were joined by volunteers.

He said it was a daunting task due to the thick mud covering roads, houses and premises.

"When the rain stopped, residents and business owners began throwing rubbish outside, and that's when our second



Floodwaters covering Dataran Merdeka in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building in Kuala Lumpur on Dec 19. FILE PIC

clean-up began.

"They didn't have any choice. All their belongings or products were destroyed by the floods.

"There was rubbish everywhere and we collected it all and helped with the cleaning, including the dishes or anything that could be salvaged."

He said under normal circumstances, Alam Flora would collect the rubbish and send it to City Hall's transfer station in Beringin, where it is compressed before being transferred to City Hall's landfill in Bukit Tagar, Selangor.

However, given the extraordinary circumstances and the huge amount of rubbish collected in a few days, he said City Hall had to send it straight to the landfill.

"For this, we had to rent eight lorries. At the same time, we realised we needed a bigger task force.

"We formed one and coordinated everyone and all assets according to the areas mentioned earlier.

"After that, we realised we needed more assets, such as lorries, backhoes, water tanks and others.

"Again, this was an extraordinary situation.

"We had to rent more assets, because, believe it or not, each house produced an average of five tonnes of rubbish."

By Dec 30, he said his team could heave a sigh of relief as the city returned to normal.

He said the cleaning continued, but since the flood had subsided, the workload was not as heavy.

"We were hoping to get everything done earlier but it wasn't possible because the rubbish kept piling up.

"The reason for this was some homeowners were out of town during the floods.

"So when they came back and cleaned their houses, City Hall had to make another trip to these places also.

"Even this morning, there is rubbish in some places.

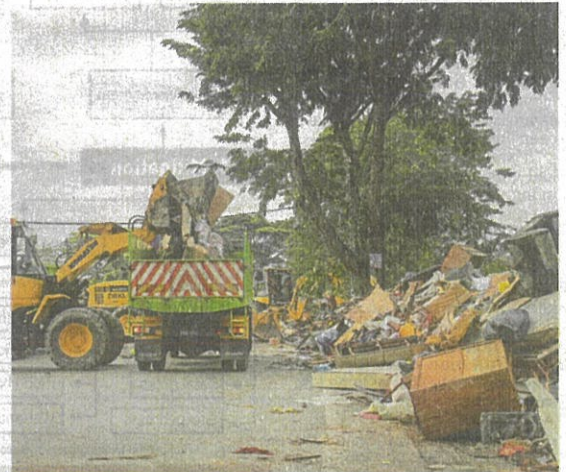
"Perhaps the homeowners thought they could salvage some things, like cabinets, but decided to throw them out after a few days."

His team, which on average consisted of at least 150 people, also helped clean other areas after they were done in the city, such as Taman Seri Muda in Shah Alam, Bukit Changgang in Dengkil, Karak in Pahang and Taman Sri Nanding in Hulu Langat.

"You would not believe how thick the mud was in Karak.

"But after our experience dealing with the muddy floods in our city, cleaning up Karak was not too bad.

"Although KL is our priority, we could not ignore the call for help from Malaysians."



Kuala Lumpur City Hall lorries removing rubbish piled on a road in Shah Alam. FILE PIC

	SUBUH (am)	SYURUK	ZUHUR	ASAR (pm)	MAGHRIB	ISYAK
Melaka	6:03	7:17	1:18	4:42	7:17	8:31
Penang	6:16	7:27	1:26	4:48	7:19	8:34
K. Lumpur	6:08	7:19	1:21	4:43	7:18	8:33
Johor Baru	5:56	7:09	1:12	4:36	7:12	8:27
Kuantan	6:01	7:15	1:15	4:38	7:13	8:27
Ipoh	6:12	7:23	1:24	4:46	7:19	8:33

# Kolam banjir: Rakyat berhak tahu

MINDA  
PEGUAM



Oleh  
Salleh Buang

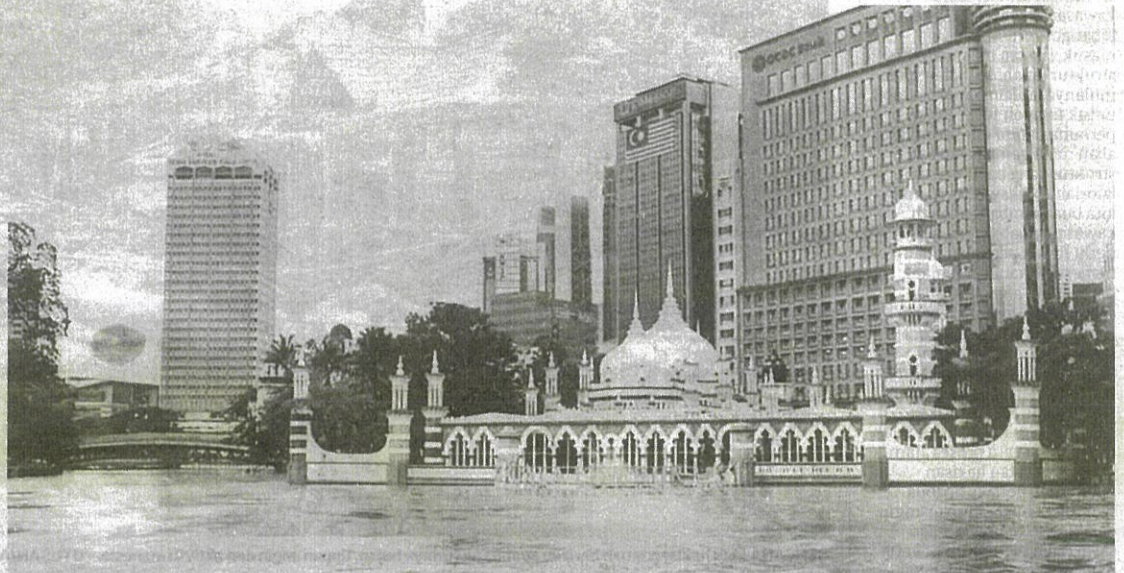
**P**ADA 28 Disember lalu, media melaporkan, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) akan menjalankan siasatan mengenai dakwaan terdapat enam kolam takungan banjir di sekitar Kuala Lumpur telah diluluskan untuk tujuan pembangunan. Laporan itu mengejutkan banyak pihak terutama warga Lembah Klang kerana tindakan membenarkan kolam takungan banjir dibangunkan pastinya mendedahkan penduduk di kawasan berkenaan kepada risiko bencana banjir lebih besar pada masa depan.

Tidaklah tindakan itu seumpama sengaja mengundang malapetaka? Kita dimaklumkan, Datuk Bandar Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah akan segera meneliti dakwaan itu (yang dibangkitkan oleh Ahli Parlimen Segambut, Hannah Yeoh) bagi memastikan kesahihannya. Menurut Hannah, dakwaannya itu diasaskan kepada Laporan Ketua Audit Negara Tahun 2019 Siri 2 yang menyatakan sepanjang tempoh 2015 hingga 2020, DBKL meluluskan 943 kebenaran perancangan walaupun bertentangan dengan Pelan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (PBKL) 2020.

Perlu dinyatakan di sini, PBKL 2020 mula digubal pada 1998 dan siap 2012. Malangnya, ia tidak diwartakan sehinggalah 30 Oktober 2018. Keengganan menteri berkenaan mewartakan PBKL 2020 diselara banyak pihak tetapi tidak dipedulikan.

Kata Hannah lagi, laporan Ketua Audit Negara itu turut menyebut perubahan zon guna tanah dan intensiti pembangunan, sekali gus memberi kesan kepada alam sekitar termasuk pertambahan kepadatan yang membawa kepada pengurangan tanah lapang awam, kejadian banjir kilat dan kesesakan lalu lintas. Yang paling mengejutkan dalam laporan itu, tambah Hannah adalah kenyataan bahawa enam kolam takungan banjir telah diluluskan untuk tujuan pembangunan.

Perkara ini bukan hanya



ENAM kolam takungan banjir yang didakwa diluluskan untuk pembangunan dikhuatiri mendedahkan bandar raya Kuala Lumpur kepada risiko banjir lebih kerap.

**“Tindakan membenarkan kolam takungan banjir dibangunkan pastinya mendedahkan penduduk di kawasan berkenaan kepada risiko bencana banjir lebih besar.”**

menjejaskan kapasiti kolam takungan banjir, malah merencatkan keseluruhan sistem operasi pelan mitigasi banjir dan mendedahkan bandar raya Kuala Lumpur kepada risiko berlaku bencana banjir lebih kerap. Kata ahli Parlimen itu lagi, perkara ini telah dibangkitkan olehnya dalam persidangan Parlimen mengenai ‘kurangnya maklum balas’ daripada Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) berhubung laporan dan pendedahan ini.

“Malapetaka banjir besar baru-baru ini (yang mengorbankan banyak nyawa dan menyebabkan

kemusnahan harta benda) sepatutnya menyedarkan SPRM dan DBKL untuk mengambil tindakan segera,” katanya lagi.

Seruannya sama dibuat oleh Ahli Parlimen Lembah Pantai, Fahmi Fadzil. Beliau berpendapat, laporan Ketua Audit Negara tersebut sudah cukup lengkap untuk dijadikan asas satu siasatan rapi dijalankan oleh SPRM.

Turut mengulas isu sama, sebuah akhbar harian yang mempersoalkan bagaimana kelulusan boleh diberi sepanjang 2015 hingga 2020 walaupun dalam tempoh itu, ibu negara mengalami banjir kilat sebanyak 48 kali?

Enam kolam terlibat ialah kolam Batu, kolam Nanyang, kolam Delima, kolam Taman Wahyu, kolam Batu 4½ dan kolam Taman Desa.

## REAKSI MENTERI

Mengikut sumber rasmi yang boleh dipercayai (Jabatan Parit dan Saliran Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur), kelulusan terawal pemberian milik kolam bagi maksud pembangunan diberi pada Oktober 2015 (kolam-kolam Nanyang, Delima dan Taman Wahyu), diikuti Jun 2018 (melibatkan kolam Taman Desa). Kemudian pada Ogos 2020 (kolam Batu 4½) dan akhirnya September 2020

(kolam Batu).

Dalam reaksi awalnya terhadap kenyataan Hannah, Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim menggesa ahli Parlimen pembangkang itu ‘memeriksa fakta’ terlebih dahulu sebelum membuat tuduhan berhubung pemberi milikan beberapa bidang tanah di Kuala Lumpur yang didakwa sepatutnya dijadikan kolam takungan banjir.

“Kebanyakan tanah di Wilayah Persekutuan dimiliki oleh Jabatan Ketua Pengarah Tanah dan Galian Persekutuan. Pemaju perlu memohon kepada Kerajaan Persekutuan jika mahu membina bangunan. Kalau kita menuduh menteri dan sebagainya (luluskan), saya kata kita semak fakta dahulu,” katanya.

Menjawab gesaan agar satu siasatan dijalankan, Shahidan meminta pemimpin pembangkang berkenaan membuat laporan rasmi. “Mereka nak buat laporan dan juga buat beberapa tuduhan di luar Parlimen, bererti mereka akan hadapi sendiri (kesannya) sebab mereka buat di luar Parlimen,” tambanya lagi.

Pada 31 Disember lalu, Majlis Presiden Pakatan Harapan menuntun Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob memberi penjelasan penuh dalam sidang khas Parlimen

khusus berhubung banjir besar yang berlaku baru-baru ini. Majlis itu juga meminta kerajaan menasihatkan Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Riayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah untuk menubuhkan satu Suruhanjaya Siasatan Diraja selaras dengan titah Seri Paduka mengenai pascabanjir besar termasuk yang berlaku di Sabah dan Sarawak.

Majlis tersebut berharap penubuhan suruhanjaya siasatan itu akan dapat mengenal pasti segala kelemahan perancangan dan kelewatan pelaksanaan, termasuk kepincangan yang disebutkan dalam laporan Ketua Audit Negara.

Perlu diingat, antara elemen penting tadbir urus baik (*good governance*) adalah ketelusan (*transparency*) dan penyertaan awam (*public engagement*). Rakyat berhak diberitahu, apakah sebenarnya yang berlaku? Kerajaan perlu berpegang kepada janjinya, gagasan Keluarga Malaysia bukan retorik.

DATUK Salleh Buang pernah bertugas sebagai Peguam Persekutuan di Jabatan Peguam Negara dan Profesor Tamu di Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Beliau kini konsultan bebas sepenuh masa, pengarang dan kolumnis akhbar.