

Flood trauma remains

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Motorists won't risk getting caught in floods again

By GERARD GIMINO
gerard.gimino@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Motorists are observing "no drive zone" in certain parts of the city centre not just due to the dreaded jams but also what they fear most now – floods.

The flash floods on March 7 have served as a reminder to motorists traversing in and around the city centre to be alert on weather conditions, with several choosing to pull out of the area upon signs of a heavy downpour.

Sales and marketing senior executive Choong Jun Wei, 26, whose office is based along Jalan Ampang, said the fear of being trapped in floods had him wrapping up appointments around the city centre swiftly.

"Given that my job requires me to travel constantly around the city centre, the fear of flash floods has similarly stayed at the back of my head.

"Similarly, I always try to finish my evening appointments in locations along Jalan Kuching and Jalan Pinang promptly to avoid being caught in such instances," he said, adding that the flash floods on March 7 resulted in him waiting it out in the office till late that night.

Marketing executive Tracy, whose office is located in the Kuala Lumpur Golden Triangle, said she would leave the office earlier when signs of heavy rains appeared.

"It was a traumatic experience since my car which was parked at a lot along Jalan Perak became submerged during the flash floods earlier this month," she said, adding



Never again: Motorists are observing 'no drive zone' in certain parts of the city centre due to the fear of floods. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

that she would also opt to stay back in the office in case of floods.

Finance executive Nurul, 28, said flash flood concerns resulted in her making arrangements with her superiors to permit her to leave the workplace early during gloomy weather conditions.

"Given the recent flash floods, I do not want to risk any instance of my car getting caught, especially since my office will be based in the Jalan Sultan Ismail area beginning April.

"As my current workplace is also within the city centre, I try my best

to hand in urgent deliverables by 4pm before returning home to resume any pending work," she said.

On Tuesday, Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias said five warning sirens would be installed in the city here to provide early warning on possible flash floods.

He added that preliminary works had started for the installation of the sirens at Lorong Kiri Keramat 15, Chan Sow Lin Tunnel, Taman U-Thant, Jalan Sembilan in Kg Cheras Baru and Sg Kayu Ara.

The warning system was one of the initiatives taken by **Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL)** in increasing assets for flood disaster management, apart from the installation of an additional 51 closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in flood hotspot areas, he added.

On March 7, flash floods hit areas in and around the Klang Valley, with Sungai Buloh and parts of Kuala Lumpur badly affected.

Meanwhile in Selangor, warehouse manager Baharuddin Abu Bakar, 31, who commutes from Sungai Besi to his workplace in Kampung Melayu Subang daily, said the conditions along the Federal Highway always had him worried whenever signs of rain appeared.

"During the floods in December, I was stranded along the Federal Highway and this was a traumatic experience.

"Since then, I have made it a point to pull out of my office earlier if the skies turn gloomy to avoid any possibility of being trapped again," he said, adding that he also spent the night at his warehouse last week, due to an evening of continuous rain.

Training manager Wong Hon Kitt, 33, said he avoided using the Persiaran Kewajipan roundabout in USJ whenever commuting home from work due to previous instances of flash floods.

"I was caught there several times previously and this, together with the heavy traffic build-up, is enough to deter me from using it, especially under gloomy weather conditions," he said.

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Manfaatkan 268,000 keluarga miskin - PM

Kerajaan sediakan Skim Insurans Keluarga Malaysia beri perlindungan sosial

KANGAR

Kerajaan bersetuju untuk menyediakan Skim Insurans Keluarga Malaysia bagi memberi perlindungan sosial kepada golongan miskin dan miskin tegar yang melibatkan 268,000 keluarga.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob berkata, di bawah skim ini Ketua Isi Rumah (KIR) yang berdaftar dalam sistem eKasih diberi perlindungan insurans dengan premium sebanyak RM50 setahun dan melibatkan kos sebanyak RM13.4 juta.

“Sekiranya KIR meninggal dunia disebabkan kematian biasa, keluarga akan mendapat manfaat RM10,000, keilatan kekal RM10,000 sementara yang meninggal dunia akibat kemalangan RM20,000.

“Pada masa yang sama, Pru-Takaful BSN menerusi tanggungjawab sosial korporat (CSR) syarikat itu sejak tahun 2018 memberi perlindungan insurans RM30,000 secara percuma bagi KIR yang berdaftar menerusi eKasih,” katanya semasa berucap merasmikan program Jelajah Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia Negeri Perlis 2022 di sini pada Jumaat.

Turut hadir Menteri Besar Perlis, Datuk Seri Azlan Man; Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan, Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim; Menteri Komunikasi dan Multimedia, Tan Sri Annuar Musa; Menteri Pembangunan Luar Bandar, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid dan Ketua



Ismail Sabri (tengah) ketika gimik perasmian program Jelajah Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia di Kompleks Sukan Tuanku Syed Putra, Kangar pada Jumaat.

Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Dalam pada itu, Perdana Menteri berkata, kerajaan sedia memperkasakan pendapatan kumpulan sasar melalui Program Meningkatkan Taraf Hidup Golongan B40 dalam kalangan Masyarakat Pertanian Agromakanan.

Beliau berkata, menerusi program tersebut pelbagai jenis bantuan telah diagihkan kepada 39,171 orang penerima dengan peruntukan RM109.7 juta.

Ujarnya, seramai 1,300 pesawah pula telah mendapat manfaat menerusi Program Smart Sawah Berskala Besar (SMART SBB) bagi tujuan meningkatkan produktiviti penanaman padi.

“Kerajaan juga sentiasa mendengar keluhan dan permintaan Keluarga Malaysia dan keputusan terkini yang dilaksanakan atas kehendak ramai ialah pengeluaran khas Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) sebanyak RM10,000,” katanya.

Ismail Sabri sebelum itu merasmikan program Jelajah Aspirasi Keluarga

Malaysia (AKM) Negeri Perlis 2022 yang diadakan di Kompleks Sukan Tuanku Syed Putra di sini.

Beliau berkata, seperti siri jelajah pertama di Johor baru-baru ini, pelbagai program disediakan untuk memberi kemudahan dan kefahaman mendalam kepada semua mengenai konsep Aspirasi Keluarga Malaysia yang menitik beratkan Keterangkuman (*Inclusivity*), Kebersamaan (*Common Ground*) dan Kesyukuran (*Contentment*).

“Siri jelajah ini bertujuan meningkatkan usaha menyebarkan konsep serta hala tuju Keluarga Malaysia agar mudah difahami dan dihayati oleh semua,” jelasnya.

Sementara itu, Ismail Sabri berkata, Skud Keluarga Malaysia ditubuhkan kerajaan menerusi Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM) pada Oktober lepas kini mempunyai kekuatan 10,000 anggota yang bertugas menyelaraskan semua mekanisme penyampaian bantuan kepada mereka terkesan akibat pandemik Covid-19. - Bernama

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