

Stopping the overflow:

Sandbags have been placed along Sungai Batu in Kampung Kasipillay off Jalan Ipoh as part of DBKL's flood mitigation measures. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/
The Star



Long view on flood control

Stakeholders want lasting solutions to be implemented alongside the recently announced short-term measures by Kuala Lumpur City Hall to ensure future inundations are prevented altogether >2&3

Glam Raya
with
JUBIN BMS
MAY 2022

Purchase now
and stand a chance
to receive
exclusive prizes!



JUBIN BMS
寶馬磚業

YOUR TRUSTED TILES & SANITARY WARES PROVIDER



JubinBMS



www.jubinbms.com.my



07-360 8888 (JB) / 03-6148 7888 (KL)

T&C apply



STAR METRO WATCH

HANDLING STRESS

WIM College is presenting a free online talk on stress management from 10.45am to noon on May 28. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3PtU19s> or email name and mobile number to info@wimnet.org.my

CAR-FREE DAY

Shah Alam City Council will be organising its car-free day at 7.30am in Dataran Merdeka, Section 14 on May 22. In conjunction with Hari Raya celebrations, there will be fun runs, zumba sessions, clown performances, face painting, children's games and a concert. The council will also be setting up its mobile service to receive payments such as assessment taxes and parking compounds, a mobile library and an exhibition by its emergency response team.

CHARITY TOY SALE

The Replay Toy Shop at Sungai Way, in Petaling Jaya is organising a two-day sale from 10am to 5pm on May 28 and 29. All proceeds will go towards the setting up of a toy library at PPR Lembah Subang 2. For details, call 016-213 1455 (Jeannie).

RAYA OPEN HOUSES

> The state-level Hari Raya open house will be held at Kuala Selangor from 3pm to 6pm at Bandar Melawati bus terminal (May 20); Sabak Bernam from 4pm to 7pm at Sungai Besar Stadium (May 20); Petaling from 2.30pm to 5.30pm at Puchong Indah Subang Jaya City Council field (May 21) and Klang from 8pm to 11pm at Pandamaran Sports Complex (May 21).

> Petaling Jaya City Council will be holding a Hari Raya open house at Laman MBPJ and Dataran Boulevard, Jalan Yong Shook Lin in Section 52 on May 20 at 7.45pm. There will be cultural performances, guest artistes, presentation of duit raya to children and other activities.

OPEN DAY

In conjunction with its 2022 intake, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College will be having its open day at campuses in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Perak, Johor, Pahang and Sabah every Saturday and Sunday, from May 21 to June 26, 10am to 5pm. Students who submit their application at the open day will get a waiver on processing fees. For details, call 03-4145 0100 ext 3478 or 011-1084 3326 or visit www.tarc.edu.my

HEALTH WEBINAR

Learn how to keep bones, muscles and joints healthy during the golden years in a free webinar with topic experts at 9am to 11am on May 21. Register at bit.ly/parentshealth10

ZOO VOLUNTEERS

Students aged 13 years and above are urged to join the Zoo Negara Malaysia volunteer programme. Write to education@zoohegaramalaysia.my

MANGROVE PLANTING

Kuala Selangor Nature Park is calling for volunteers to plant 2,000 mangrove saplings on May 21. For details and compulsory registration, visit shorturl.at/tvLR3

WRITING CONTEST

University of Nottingham and Maya Press are organising and sponsoring a short story competition. Stories must be written in English, be on any theme or subject, between 2,000 and 3,000 words and must be unpublished and original. Each author can submit a maximum of two essays. Open to Malaysians over 18 years of age. Deadline is June 1. For details, visit shorturl.at/rBFTY



High water level at Sungai Klang as a result of heavy rain earlier in the day. Activists say urban development has changed the natural topography of Kuala Lumpur, thus reducing the city's ability to absorb rainwater. — Filepic

'Find holistic approach to ending floods for good'

By FARID WAHAB
faridwahab@thestar.com.my

KUALA Lumpur residents are filled with dread each time it rains.

Over the past few months, many parts of the city have been inundated after a downpour, wreaking havoc in its wake.

In response, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) has unveiled short-term measures costing RM10mil to tackle the problem.

The measures include upgrading scupper drains, placing sandbags along riverbanks, desilting retention ponds and building new sump pumps.

Stakeholders say while these measures are a step in the right direction, a more holistic plan is needed to resolve the issue permanently.

Improve development control

Alliance for Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said DBKL should ensure that developers always complied with the conditions stipulated in a development order.

This document – which outlines the technical specifications and requirements of a project – is issued after a review by the DBKL planning committee.

Among common requirements, noted Lee, were building temporary drains to divert water and silt traps to capture on-site debris.

He said while companies usually comply during the initial construction stage, they tend to grow lax as their project progresses.

"Over time, the drains become clogged with debris and the silt traps are not serviced properly."

"DBKL must ensure that such assets remain in good condition and operable throughout the construction period," he added.

Town planner Ihsan Zainal Mohtar said the authorities should review existing engineering standards to deal with changing weather patterns.

"We need to adapt to the new environmental norms and rethink

Review entire city infrastructure and eco-system in light of new climate norm, urge stakeholders



Cars going through floodwaters in Dataran Merdeka after a downpour in the city centre on April 25. — Filepic

the design of drains and provisions for retention and detention ponds, among other things," he said.

"An overhaul of the drainage master plan to include more SMART tunnels may be needed."

Global Environment Centre river care programme coordinator Dr K. Kalithasan urged DBKL to stop all land-clearing activities near rivers.

He said sludge and sediment from such project sites were being discharged into natural waterways, which reduced their carrying capacity.

"This results in more work for the authorities, as they have to deepen waterways and build retention walls," he added.

He also noted that the sprawling urban landscape had altered Kuala Lumpur's natural topography, replacing it with artificial surfaces.

This situation, he said, had

decreased the city's ability to absorb and retain rainwater.

"Water needs space too and soil acts as an absorbent."

"Without it, the excess water has nowhere to flow to," he explained.

Inject more funds

Recent floods – which activists attribute to climate change – have renewed a push among the public to limit the scale of physical developments in the city.

Ihsan, however, said there was a need to balance environmental concerns with developmental and economic needs.

"DBKL, as a local authority, generates an income by collecting development and planning fees from projects."

"The monies from these projects are used to provide services and maintain facilities in the city," he said.

Ihsan explained that higher density was not necessarily bad for the environment, provided there was proper planning.

Lee, meanwhile, said substantial financial support from the Federal Government was needed to fund a comprehensive flood mitigation plan.

He also questioned if the RM10mil allocated by DBKL in its recent announcement was enough to service the entire city.

"DBKL is just a local government. It does not have the budget to undertake a plan on such a massive scale," he added.

On April 27, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob reportedly ordered DBKL to take immediate measures to tackle floods.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim told the media that the premier agreed to reimburse the amount spent by City Hall.

Engage local communities

Save Kuala Lumpur, a local government watchdog, urged DBKL to work with residents associations to better understand local needs.

Its chairman Datuk M. Ali said regular meetings should be held for residents to give their views to DBKL.

"Locals know better than DBKL which parts of their area are at a higher risk of flooding and thus, can suggest improvements."

"This allows DBKL to take proactive measures to tackle the problem instead of acting only after a complaint is lodged," he said.

For example, the retention pond in Lorong Maarof, which services the upper part of Bangsar such as Bukit Damansara and Bukit Bandaraya, would overflow during a downpour to surrounding roads.

"Only when residents complain would DBKL personnel come to

Bandar Parklands folk up in arms over high-density project

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
edward@thestar.com.my

SIX residents associations (RA) of Bandar Parklands in Klang, Selangor are unhappy over a plan to build five blocks of high-rise serviced apartments with an eight-level podium in the area.

They carried out a peaceful protest outside the site of a proposed development off Jalan Persiaran Delima 2 in Bandar Parklands.

One huge objection banner has been strung up close to the entrance of the 5.97ha triangle-shaped plot that is sandwiched between Jalan Jed 4 and Jalan Persiaran Delima 2.

According to some residents, the protest was aimed at "awakening" the planning department of Klang Municipal Council (MPK) and councillors in charge of the area, urging them not to approve such a project.

Photos of the banner have also been shared on social media to galvanise support to have the high-rise development scrapped.

Bandar Parklands RA Precinct 3A chairman Kuldip Singh, who is also the ad-hoc committee chairman coordinating the protest, said



Bandar Parklands residents looking at the site for a proposed high-rise project in Klang.

— AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

a majority of the residents in Bandar Parklands had voiced out against the mega high-rise project.

"Owners of houses across the site were given survey forms by a private firm on Jan 2 that detailed the components of the development.

"Most of the residents have said no to the project," he added.

Kuldip said the residents were not against developers or landowners developing their land but the project to build 35-storey buildings containing 2,160 apartments was not suitable.

"Our residents want MPK's councillors who live in the area to take this issue seriously and speak for the people and betterment of the environment," he said.

Bandar Parklands Precinct 3 chairman Ken Chew, 46, was worried that the high-density project

would contribute to traffic congestion while Bandar Parklands Lorong Delima 13A Precinct coordinator Kan Kim Seng, 68, said the entire community would benefit from a lower plot ratio.

Bandar Parklands Lorong Delima 59A resident, T. Selvarajah, 65, said developing the land would be a grave mistake in light of frequent flash floods in the area.

"During continuous rain on Dec 17 and 18 last year, drains and retention ponds here were overwhelmed," he said.

Bandar Parklands Jalan Delima 14A RA coordinator K. Rajoo agreed, saying the development in the area consisting largely of single-family homes was too big for the local infrastructure to handle.

In response, MPK corporate communications director Norfiza Mahfiz said the council's planning department had not received any submission plans for development on the parcel of land at Persiaran Delima 2.

"The council requires a social impact study to be carried out if plans are submitted.

"MPK will also take the people's feedback into account," she added.



Some are concerned that projects allowed to take place near rivers or ponds could result in sediment flowing into the water, thus reducing capacity to hold rainwater. — Filepic

desilt the pond.

A proper schedule should be drawn up to ensure regular maintenance," Ali added.

When asked why residents did not channel concerns to the respective MPs, Ali said solving neighbourhood matters was not an MP's main task.

"MPs are supposed to deliberate on broader national issues, not check on drains and roads," he said.

On April 27, Shahidan announced that pumps would be mobilised to flooded areas to divert water to detention ponds.

He also said DBKL personnel would be stationed at 25 flood hot-spots to clear scupper drains to ensure unobstructed water flow.

Community activist Yee Poh Ping, however, questioned if these actions were a productive use of funds by DBKL.

"These mechanical devices need regular maintenance which incurs additional costs.

"That money can be better spent on a more permanent solution such as building retention walls

along rivers," he said.

Cultivate stronger cooperation

A spate of flash floods have hit Kuala Lumpur in recent months.

The latest major flood on April 27 inundated several areas in and around Pudu, causing traffic delays in both directions from Pudu and towards Bulatan Merdeka.

Two days earlier, several major roads were submerged after a downpour that started at 3pm.

It was reported that rainfall exceeded 80mm, with several areas recording more than 100mm of rain per hour.

According to the Drainage and Irrigation Department, a rainfall is categorised as drizzle (1-10mm), light rain (11-30mm), heavy rain (31-60mm) and downpour (>60mm).

Kalithasan stressed that higher rainfall in recent months should not be used as an excuse to explain away flood incidents.

"Many warnings have been issued about the impact of climate

change and Kuala Lumpur has not been spared," he said.

Ihsan said dealing with environmental matters called for enhanced interstate cooperation at all government levels instead of authorities working in silos.

For example, rivers can flow across several states and deforestation activities affect neighbouring states too.

"The environmental impact in one place will have wide-ranging consequences on other places.

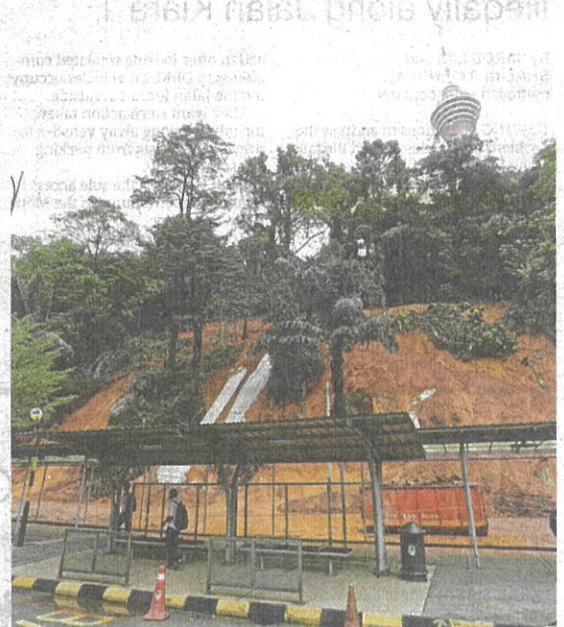
"Take the rivers for example. Any activities upstream will likely affect downstream areas."

On March 7, a two-hour downpour again brought traffic to a halt in many areas.

City bus provider RapidKL announced a temporary closure of several routes as floodwaters left many roads impassable.

A flood on Dec 18 last year was described by experts as a one-in-100-year weather event.

A downpour that exceeded a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours caused 10 landslides in the city, according to DBKL.



A landslide occurred at Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve early this year after a downpour. — Filepic



Yee (right) and residents showing the drainage system in Jinjang Selatan that is unable to cope with high water levels during floods.

Mahadi: City Hall setting up task force to address strata issues

KUALA Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will establish a task force to look into long-standing strata issues in the city, including those related to joint management bodies and management corporations.

Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah said the task force would comprise technical officers and its commissioner of building department amid rising

strata-related complaints within private strata properties in the city.

"This (strata) is an issue we are looking at closely at the moment."

"It is part of our duty to ensure that residents and strata management are aware of their responsibilities and carry out their duties accordingly."

"When issues arise, we need to find a new and more permanent

solution," he said after attending DBKL's "Majlis Semarak Aidil Fitri Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur" in Cheras yesterday.

He said City Hall had received many reports on ineffective strata management as well as those related to maintenance and cleanliness problems which had to be resolved.

Acknowledging that it was a complicated issue, Mahadi said

DBKL would engage with residents, developers and other related agencies for practical solutions.

On another matter, Mahadi said DBKL would send a team immediately to look at water pressure issues at Residensi Awani 2 in Kampung Batu Muda, Sentul.

"If needed, we will send pumps to help with water distribution while the root cause of the problem

is being investigated together with other relevant parties," he said.

Some 5,000 guests turned up at the Hari Raya open house.

Also present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim, Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias as well as DBKL department heads and staff. — **SHALINI RAVINDRAN**

'Vehicles to be towed away in June'

DBKL enforcement action against motorists who park illegally along Jalan Kiara 1

By **JAROD LIM** and **SHALINI RAVINDRAN**
metro@thestar.com.my

TOWING operations to address the problem of vehicles parked illegally along Jalan Kiara 1 in Kuala Lumpur will kick off in June.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) Enforcement director Osman Ismail said operations to tow away the vehicles would start next month.

"DBKL will give a two-week allowance as it is still Hari Raya but will move in come June," he said yesterday.

Residents have been questioning the delay for initiating enforcement

action after lodging repeated complaints to DBKL on vehicles occupying the Jalan Kiara 1 roadside.

They want stern action taken, including towing away vehicles to prevent motorists from parking indiscriminately.

Jalan Kiara 1 is the sole access to several condominiums in the Mont Kiara area.

According to residents, the vehicles obstruct traffic flow and are a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians.

StarMetro in an April 13 report highlighted that DBKL had issued 2,386 compounds to errant motorists for parking along Jalan Kiara 1



Motorists who park their vehicles along Jalan Kiara 1 are obstructing traffic along this main access to several condominiums in Mont Kiara. — **YAP CHEE HONG/The Star**

and Jalan Kiara 4 last year.

DBKL had earlier said in a statement that towing operations would be carried out after Hari Raya.

10 Mont Kiara Joint Management Committee (JMC) resident manager Sobel Phang said the situation had not improved despite forwarding complaints to DBKL.

"Cars are still parking along Jalan Kiara 1 during the day."

"We even sent a letter to DBKL before Hari Raya but have not received a response."

"Residents also complained of rubbish being littered by the road-

side," he said.

"We hope City Hall will act on these errant motorists soon," he said.

10 Mont Kiara JMC chairman Hiten Asher said vendors trading by the roadside were adding to the problem.

"One sells coffee and the other offers pet grooming services."

"They have even set up tables and are blocking the pedestrian walkway."

"Motorists who patronise these services are adding to the traffic congestion too," he said.

Troubled by illegally parked vehicles

Residents in Mont Kiara want DBKL to take stern action against errant motorists



StarMetro's report on April 13.

PERAK

MATTA Fair returns to Ipoh with host of travel deals

By **MANJIT KAUR**
manjit@thestar.com.my

PERAK MATTA Fair is back with travel deals after more than a two-year hiatus because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) Perak chapter chairman Chong Yu Ken said the fair was put on hold because of the movement control order when the pandemic hit in 2020.

He, however, said that when the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry kick-started a travel bubble programme in September last year, it was a signal for tourism activities to be revived.

"With the programme's success, Perak MATTA decided to hold its fair this weekend (May 21 and 22) as its last fair was in September 2019."

"So visitors to the two-day fair at Ipoh Convention Centre can look forward to great deals and lucky draws," he said at a press conference at the MATTA office in Ipoh yesterday.

Also present were Tourism Perak chief executive officer Nurmalis Musa, Royal Caribbean Cruise Asia Pacific business development manager Valerie Tan and Tourism Malaysia Northern region



(From second left) Nurmalis, Tan, Chong and Yoganthiran talking about the upcoming MATTA fair at the press conference in Ipoh yesterday.

deputy director M. Yoganthiran.

Chong said more than 30 tourism players would be participating and 70 booths set up at the 29th MATTA fair.

He said the Kedah/Perlis MATTA chapter, Tourism Malaysia Northern Region, Tourism Perak and Tourism Melaka along with industry players from out of state

would be joining the fair.

There were ample travel destination choices ranging from cultural, heritage, nature and wildlife to water and sky activities to look forward to, he added.

"We are also pleased to announce that Royal Caribbean will be our main sponsor and visitors wanting to go on its cruises

will find endless opportunities."

"We are expecting 15,000 visitors during the fair and hope to rake in over RM30mil in sales turnover."

"Although the standard operating procedure has been relaxed, visitors must adhere to the rules as only those fully vaccinated will be allowed into the hall, face masks

are a must and young children are not encouraged to attend the fair," he said.

Chong said those with a minimum purchase of RM300 would be entitled to participate in lucky draws and stand a chance to win attractive prizes such as return air tickets, cruise vouchers, holiday packages, hotel stay vouchers, travel gifts and admission tickets to theme parks.

He said Perak tourism committee chairman Datuk Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi was expected at the event on Saturday at 11am.

Tan said Royal Caribbean would feature cruises with great deals on Asia's largest and most innovative ship - Spectrum of the Seas.

She said visitors to the fair could find out more about Royal Caribbean's cruises to Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam that start in October, priced as low as RM909.

"Guests on board the ship can gear up for an action-packed holiday, including a skydiving experience at sea, a jewel-shaped observation capsule that takes guests 91m above sea level and a surf simulator," she added.

For details, visit the MATTA Fair Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MattaPerak/

NST • 20/5/22 (Friday)

LONG-STANDING ISSUE pg:8

KL City Hall task force to tackle strata property woes

KUALA LUMPUR: Kuala Lumpur City Hall will set up a task force to address problems faced by strata property residents.

Mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah said the problems included the setting up of a joint management body (JMB) and irresponsible strata management.

"This is a long-standing problem. City Hall needs to take steps to resolve these issues for the wellbeing of residents in strata housing areas."

He said this after attending the Federal Territories' Semarak Aidilfitri open house at the DBKL Training Institute here yesterday. Present were Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim and his deputy, Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias.

Commenting on the low water pressure faced by residents in Residensi Awani 2, Kampung Batu Muda here, Mahadi said City Hall would look into the cause of the problem.

"If needed, City Hall will provide pumps to channel water to affected units."

He said City Hall would appoint a management agent as the condominium had not had a JMB for the past two years. **Bernama**

DBKL tubuh pasukan petugas atasi isu perumahan berstrata

Berita Harian, 20/5/22 (Jumaat) - M/S: 20

Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) akan menubuhkan pasukan petugas dalam kadar segera bagi menangani masalah yang dihadapi penduduk di kawasan perumahan berstrata di ibu kota.

Datuk Bandar Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah, berkata permasalahan itu, termasuk membabitkan penubuhan badan pengurusan bersama (JMB) yang bermasalah serta pengurusan strata tidak bertanggungjawab.

"Ia satu masalah yang agak lama berbangkit dan sehingga

hari ini masih belum dapat diselesaikan.

"Oleh itu, kita (DBKL) perlu mengambil langkah segera supaya permasalahan itu dapat diselesaikan demi kesejahteraan penduduk di kawasan perumahan berstrata di ibu kota," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas menghadiri Majlis Semarak Aidilfitri Wilayah Persekutuan yang turut dihadiri Menteri Wilayah Persekutuan, Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim dan timbalannya, Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias di Institut Latihan DBKL

di sini, semalam.

Mengenai masalah tekanan air rendah dihadapi penduduk di Residensi Awani 2, Kampung Batu Muda, Mahadi berkata, DBKL akan mengkaji punca sebenar permasalahan itu dalam kadar segera.

"Sekiranya perlu, DBKL akan memberi bantuan dengan menyediakan kemudahan pam air dan disalurkan kepada unit terbabit," katanya yang turut akan melantik ejen pengurusan berkaitan isu ketiadaan JMB di kondominium terbabit sejak dua tahun lalu. BERNAMA

Usir penyewa warga asing

Oleh Ekhwan Haque
Fazlul Haque
ekhwan@hmetro.com.my

DBKL pastikan PPR dan PA hanya untuk penyewa layak

Kuala Lumpur

Tiada kompromi buat penyewa Projek Perumahan Rakyat (PPR) dan Perumahan Awam (PA) milik Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) yang didapati menyewa kepada warga asing.

Malah, tindakan pengusiran juga dibuat jika 'tembelang' mereka mengaut keuntungan dihidu DBKL.

Menurut jurucakap DBKL, pihak berkuasa tempatan itu begitu teliti untuk memastikan mereka yang layak sahaja dibenarkan menyewa.

Katanya, kadar sewa dikenakan DBKL hanya RM124 hingga RM240 sebulan menjadikan PPR dan PA menjadi rebutan warga kota.

"Jika membabitkan warga asing, memang DBKL tidak berkompromi dan tindakan usir dikenakan kepada penyewa.

"Ini seperti merampas hak rakyat tempatan yang layak mendapat kediaman dan menetap dengan kadar sewa sedemikian," katanya



ketika dihubungi, semalam.

Dalam pada itu, katanya, isu 'pewarisan' PPR dan PA sememangnya berlaku namun pelbagai faktor perlu diambil kira sebelum keputusan pengusiran dibuat.

Menurutnya, ada antara generasi kedua yang terus menetap selepas kematian ketua penyewa iaitu bapa atau ibu mereka dan menghadapi isu masalah kewangan.

"DBKL perlu menilai pelbagai aspek kerana ada generasi kedua tidak mem-

punyai pendapatan tetap untuk tinggal di tempat lain jika diminta mengosongkan kediaman.

"Namun, DBKL berharap tiada pihak mengambil kesempatan menikmati sewa rendah walaupun mereka berkemampuan menyewa di tempat lain," katanya.

Muka depan Harian Metro sebelum ini melaporkan ada penyewa yang disifatkan golongan liat dan sengaja culas membayar sewa bulanan rumah didiami bersama keluarga hingga jumlah keseluruhannya mencecah RM50 juta.