

# First phase of flood mitigation work along Jalan Cheras to be completed on Oct 9

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MOTORISTS travelling along Jalan Cheras will have to put up with massive traffic jams just a bit longer as flood mitigation works are being carried out until Oct 9.

The works, which include silt dredging and removal of Air Selangor pipes, have caused traffic disruption as three of the five lanes on the Kuala Lumpur-bound road have to be closed.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) had previously announced that the area in front of Taman Mutiara MRT station and EkoCheras Mall was a flood hotspot.

Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said this was phase one of a long-term solution to reducing the severity of flooding in the area.

"Stakeholders have had to deal with frequent flooding, especially over the past three years.

"The situation is so bad that cars have even become submerged after being stuck here during heavy rain.

"DBKL is finally taking action and we hope that motorists will be patient while the works are being done," he said after a briefing with DBKL, Air Selangor and Public Works Institute of Malaysia's (Ikram) representatives.

He added that one lane might be reopened to traffic by this Saturday should work be carried out without disruption.

The first phase of the project is estimated to cost RM1.7mil.

Tan said the second phase of the project would involve raising the road level in front of the MRT station.

"At the moment, this particular section is lower and creating a dip where water collects.

"DBKL will raise the road so that it is even and water can flow into the drains before being channelled into Sungai Kerayong," he explained.

Meanwhile, Ekovest Bhd (which owns EkoCheras Mall) said it was keen to see the flood mitigation project completed soon.

Managing director Tan Sri Lim Keng Cheng said customers and tenants had been severely affected by the floods.

"This is an important route for those heading to and from the city.

"Every downpour is a cause of worry for us as traffic comes to a standstill.

"We are pleased to learn that DBKL is undertaking flood mitigation here," he said, adding that an estimated 20,000 vehicles used the route daily.

In tabling DBKL's Budget 2021, Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Mahadi Che Ngah had announced that RM130mil would be allocated as part of the Flood Mitigation Masterplan 2017 measures with 23 projects to be implemented by DBKL.

DBKL has also mapped out 53 vulnerable flood hotspots, including this stretch along Jalan Cheras.