

'Flooding in Chow Kit due to lack of resolve'

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A COMMUNITY activist is laying the blame for flooding woes in the Tiong Nam area of Chow Kit on the authorities.

Kepong Community Service Centre head Yee Poh Ping singled out the Drainage and Irrigation Department and Kuala Lumpur City Hall.

He said people have been told countless times that the authorities want to solve the problem, but after so many ministers and mayors have come and gone, the problem is still there.

The continuous heavy rain two weekends ago affected over 200 homes along with dozens of businesses in the area.

Yee said a number of flood retention ponds were located upstream of Sungai Gombak, which contributed to the increase of water into the river during a downpour and that the problem had been compounded by development in the city.



Fabrics left out to dry at a textile shop on Lorong Tiong Nam, Kuala Lumpur after the area was flooded recently.

"This, along with other rivers like Sungai Batu and Sungai Klang feeding into Sungai Gombak had also led to other parts of the river spilling over due to the backflow in areas like Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah and Masjid Jamek.

"There are insufficient retention ponds, and the accumulation of sediment and rubbish at existing sites combined with the lack of cleaning has caused the depth to

reduce, resulting in water spilling back into the river," he said after meeting residents there on their plight.

Yee suggested building an underground culvert tunnel to draw water from Sungai Gombak into the almost complete water retention pond near Jalan Parlimen, as well as increasing the height of the river walls by about 2m along Sungai Gombak to prevent flooding

in high-risk areas.

"This method of drawing water away has proven to be successful in solving floods in Kepong since 2012.

"Changing the metal railings along Sungai Gombak from the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur to Bank Negara to higher concrete walls will give an added layer of security to those living in the Tiong Nam area," he said.