

FLOOD MITIGATION PLANS

Unhappy KL residents taking City Hall to court

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RESIDENTS, including former Bar Council president Datuk Ambiga Sreenevasan, will be hauling Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to court over unanswered questions on its flood mitigation plans.

The group, represented by lawyer Lim Wei Jiet, said DBKL telling them to refer to its 2022 Flash Flood Action Plan, was not good enough.

He said the residents believed that the plans did not contain adequate detailed information on its flood mitigation strategy for Kuala Lumpur which allowed for accountability, scrutiny and meaningful public engagement.

Lim added that the plan was published in May this year and

drafted before the Auditor General's report was released in August this year.

"Hence, it does not take into account the multiple weaknesses identified by the AG in August, which are crucial to mitigate flooding in Kuala Lumpur.

"Simply put, the plan is outdated and inadequate to deal with the incoming monsoon season," he said in a statement, drawing on the Meteorological Department's prediction that the monsoon season would start in November and continue until March.

"For the above reasons, and due to the gravity and urgency of the matter, we have no choice but to file the suit.

"We hope the judiciary will compel DBKL and the Federal Territories Minister to provide us the required information — for the sake of all KL residents."



People wading through floodwater in Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Kuala Lumpur on April 25, 2022. PIC BY HAZREEN MOHAMAD

DBKL has earlier issued a press statement in response to the group's letter of demand which expires today.

It said the 2022 Flash Flood Action Plan in May was to reduce flash floods in Kuala Lumpur and it was in the midst of implementing its measures with several agencies.

The letter of demand was directed at the Kuala Lumpur Mayor, Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah, and the Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim as the minister in charge.

The AG produced a report in August 2022 highlighting several failures on the part of DBKL to carry out flood mitigation projects proposed in its own flood master plan.

It concluded that only eight out of 104 or 7.7 per cent of flood

mitigation measures proposed in the master plan have been implemented and, or is in the process of implementation by DBKL.

On Wednesday, Lim had said that DBKL's response to the AG was that another 22 flood mitigation measures would be implemented this year.

The AG had also identified five short-term mitigation measures proposed in the flood master plan that have not been implemented in the highly flood-prone areas encompassing Jalan Tun Razak, Persiaran Ampang Hilir and Jalan U-Thant as of March.

Lim said DBKL's response was that the proposal on the flood mitigation measures for Jalan Tun Razak and Jalan U-Thant would be conducted this year.

The residents also requested an

update on whether these mitigation measures had been carried out.

Lim said the residents wanted details on other flood mitigation measures which DBKL had implemented or planned to carry out to deal with flood risks in the city.

The federal capital was inundated by floodwaters in December last year as well as March, April and May this year. These incidents resulted in the crippling of the city's traffic and caused many vehicles to be submerged and subsequently damaged by floodwaters.

In August, the Public Accounts Committee reportedly asked Shahidan to present himself for its proceedings to explain the incomplete projects on the back of the worsening floods.