

By **BAVANI M**  
bavanim@thestar.com.my

# Killer litter victim's mum with house problems gets no response from DBKL

11/02/2023  
Pg 2 News

SINGLE mother S. Kasthuri Bai is not only saddled with mounting bills for her unit at Seri Pantai People's Housing Project (PPR) in Jalan Pantai Dalam, but also a flat that appears to be falling apart.

"The glass window panes are falling off, the ceiling is leaking and the paint is peeling all over the place," she said.

Kasthuri, 50, pointed out that the paint was peeling mostly in the kitchen, bathroom and bedrooms of the unit where water seemed to have gotten under the paint.

"I also have to keep the windows closed so that debris from rubbish thrown from upper floors do not get stuck on my window panes.

"I do not have the funds to repair the unit and I am slowly trying to settle the backlog from the rent for the unit which was supposed to be free," she said.

Five years ago, Kasthuri's older son, S. Sathiswaran, 15, was killed by a falling chair and following that incident, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) offered to move her to a "better" unit.

According to Kasthuri, the officers who helped to facilitate her move said the unit would be rent-free.

"When my son died, I was devastated.

"Politicians and DBKL representatives who came to offer their condolences saw the terrible condition

of my previous place on the 16th floor and offered me a unit on the second floor.

"They said I did not have to pay rent and so I moved into the new place.

"But this unit started to slowly fall apart too," she said.

She has visited the DBKL office in the PPR and the office at Jalan Raja Abdullah several times to get someone to fix the unit, but her attempts have been in vain.

Kasthuri, who works as a cook in a Subang Jaya restaurant, is the sole breadwinner of the family and earns RM1,800 a month, which she said was barely enough to make ends meet.

"I work more than eight hours a day, six days a week, and on shift.

"I am too exhausted to take on a second job," she added.

Her younger son, who is 20, did odd jobs to help with some payments but she said, it was hardly enough.

"I am also taking care of my mentally ill brother, who retired from the army.

"We have been trying to get him a disabled (OKU) card from the Social Welfare Department but it has been hard," she added.

Lembah Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil's special officer Mohd Zaki Haruddin said he was aware of the deplorable condition of PPR Seri Pantai and other PPR in the area.

"We have written numerous letters to DBKL seeking guidance and help, but we never got a response.

"So I am not surprised if Kasthuri is facing a similar situation," Mohd Zaki said.

"If you go to the DBKL office at the PPR to ask for information, chances are, no officers will be available to help you.

"When you ask, you will hear that the officer is on leave or on medical leave and they will ask you to come back tomorrow.

"It can be very frustrating. When we have a meeting with DBKL, the directors and heads of departments will come down and are helpful, but we are facing problems with the staff working at the offices here," he added.

*StarMetro* visited the DBKL office at PPR Seri Pantai to get comments on the matter, but was informed that the officer-in-charge was on leave.

DBKL could not be reached for comments at press time.



Kasthuri showing the peeling paint in the toilet of her unit at PPR Seri Pantai in Jalan Pantai Dalam. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star