

DBKL replaces broken and missing drain covers in Jalan Alor's back lanes >4



'Lax attitude behind broken drains'

City Hall: Motorists' haphazard parking causing stress, damage to infrastructure

By BAVANI M
bavanim@thestar.com.my

BROKEN and missing drain covers in Jalan Alor's back lanes in Bukit Bintang are caused by irresponsible motorists parking their vehicles carelessly, says Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

In a press statement to *StarMetro*, the local authority said the damaged drains and manhole covers were caused by haphazard parking, contributing to significant wear and tear on the city's infrastructure.

DBKL said it had taken immediate action to temporarily cover open drains with wooden planks upon learning of the situation from the area's stakeholders.

"As an immediate measure, DBKL covered open drains with wooden planks for public safety.

"All damaged drains have now been replaced with permanent concrete structures.

"City Hall plans to repair and upgrade damaged drain struc-



Drain covers before and after they were repaired in the back lanes of Jalan Alor in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur.

tures and pavements next month," said a DBKL spokesperson.

City Hall was responding to a report in *StarMetro* on Sept 17,

"Jalan Alor drains in a terrible state", which highlighted the poor condition of Bukit Bintang's back lane infrastructure.

Regularly used by both vehi-

cles and pedestrians, the lanes had missing drain covers and exposed manholes with makeshift repairs posing a threat to public safety.

The presence of popular eateries and high traffic in this key commercial area heightened risks while raising concerns, especially after the sinkhole incident in Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur.

During a visit to a section of Jalan Alor's back lane, prior to City Hall carrying out repairs, several uncovered and damaged drains were found.

Five drains were either without covers or had collapsed, with wooden planks used as makeshift solutions.

Public complaints were spurred by the Masjid India tragedy where an Indian national had fallen into a sinkhole. Her body has not been recovered.

Bukit Bintang Central Environment Committee (BBCEC) chairman Simon Leong expressed gratitude for DBKL's swift action, adding that he hoped the public would take better care of city assets for everyone's benefit.