

16 days and counting, flat dwellers at wits' end

KUALA LUMPUR: Residents of Desa Rejang Public Housing Block D want the authorities to intervene after enduring 16 days without functioning lifts.

They are forced to use the narrow stairway in the 18-storey block of flats.

The situation, which began early this month, had severely affected families with elderly residents and those with disabilities.

Rohaya Ali, a sexagenarian food stall operator, believed the stress from the lift outage had contributed to her recent stroke.

"I suffered a stroke on the second day the lifts stopped working. My husband and I have been climbing the stairs daily, step by step. It's exhausting," she said.

Rohaya, who started her day at 3am to buy supplies for her stall near Wisma FGV in Jalan Raja Laut, said the physical strain had affected her livelihood.

"Before this, I could prepare and sell more items. Now, my condition and the broken lifts have sapped my energy," she said, adding that she lived in Desa Rejang for over a decade after moving from Pekeliling Flats.

Another resident, 36-year-old Dasuki Zulkiflee, lives on the top floor with his asthmatic wife and three children.



Rohaya Ali (using cane), a sexagenarian food stall operator, struggling to use the stairs at her Desa Rejang flat in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

"My wife has critical asthma, so climbing the stairs is impossible for her. I have to carry her at times," he said.

Dasuki described how the situation had disrupted his family routine.

"Every morning, I take my kids down to school and, in the evening, they wait in the car until I finish work because my wife can't come downstairs.

"Food deliveries also refuse to come up, so I have to collect the orders, often with my kids in

tow," he added.

Financial constraints have stopped Dasuki from moving out.

"If I were wealthy, I'd stay in a hotel while the lifts are being fixed. But we have no choice but to endure this," he said.

Residents are calling for urgent action from the authorities to resolve the issue.

The *New Straits Times* has reached out to Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif for comments.