



MAJLIS PERBANDARAN AMPANG JAYA
BAHAGIAN PERHUBUNGAN AWAM DAN SEKRETARIAT
MENARA MPAJ, JALAN PANDAN UTAMA,
PANDAN INDAH, SELANGOR,
55100 KUALA LUMPUR

KERATAN AKHBAR
28 NOVEMBER 2019 (KHAMIS)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

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'Sinkholes more likely to appear during rainy season'

PETALING JAYA: A geotechnical engineering expert said sinkholes more commonly appear in roads in the country during the rainy season.

Prof Dr Fauziah Ahmad of Universiti Sains Malaysia said rainwater could lead to soil movement that causes sinkholes to form.

"Rain is a triggering factor as the water flow can be very strong and dynamic," she said, adding that it is important to be extra cautious during the monsoon period.

Sinkholes, she said, appear when there is a cavity below the ground that causes the soil to suddenly give way.

"When there are strong vibrations or movement on top and there is a cavity below the ground, the sand or soil could erode little by little, and then it will abruptly collapse," she added.

Prof Fauziah said sinkholes could happen because compaction of the road was not done properly.

"Also, former mining land is especially susceptible to sinkholes," she added.

She said sinkholes regularly occur in other countries as well, giving an example of how a massive sinkhole, spanning five lanes on the road, appeared in Fukuoka, Japan in 2016.

Construction companies, she added, must be thorough and diligent in carrying out the site inspection before building roads.

"Only then will they know and understand what the soil condition is like beneath the planned development site.

"Once they know that the land was previously used for mining and where the cavities beneath the surface are, then proper precautionary measures can be taken," she said.

She said this was especially important as soil conditions might even differ every 100m.

A Public Works Department spokesperson said the sinkholes could be caused by water not flowing through the correct channels.

Among the other factors include soil movement, broken utility lines under the road surface or unstable pavement foundations.

The spokesperson said that for new roads, the department has determined that locations to install utility lines must be out of the right-of-way.



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Reports by CLARISSA CHUNG, SHALINI RAVINDRAN and DENISE KHOO 78 28/11/2019 (m154)

Soil movement may have caused sinkholes

KUALA LUMPUR: Soil movement or high water pressure may have led to the bursting of pipes that caused the recent series of sinkholes in the city.

Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor) has begun investigating the three sinkhole incidents that occurred in less than 48 hours and has so far identified several likely factors.

"One of them is the movement of soil caused by vibrations or hard pounding. This is usually the case when the pipes are near construction sites or are just beneath the road surface," said corporate communications head Abdul Halem Mat Som in a statement yesterday.

"Soil movement can also happen when it rains. The flow of rainwater erodes the soil holding the pipes in place and they break," he added.

"Pipes can also burst if they cannot handle high water pressure, especially in the case of old asbestos cement pipes."

He confirmed that there were no injuries from the incidents and that repair works at the affected areas were completed yesterday.

The three sinkholes were in Jalan Maharajalela, Jalan Pinang and Jalan Dewan Bahasa, which are all within the city centre.

They were caused by damage to the pipes that are part of Air Selangor's water distribution system.

Air Selangor, Abdul Halem said, had also taken measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

"For Jalan Maharajalela, Air Selangor will carry out redistribution of water pressure until it reaches an optimal level," he said.

This was done, he added, by

installing an endcap on the pipe at the side of the road and carrying out tapping relocation for 10 premises receiving water from the affected pipeline.

"For Jalan Pinang and Jalan Dewan Bahasa, Air Selangor has installed a pressure logger to analyse the pressure profile and stabilise the water supply system in the area," he said.

He added that Air Selangor also carried out valve control and pressure monitoring measures.

Pointing out that the asbestos cement pipes in front of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka were more than 30 years old, Air Selangor said its long-term plan was to replace ageing pipes.

"Air Selangor has identified 438km of asbestos cement pipes to be replaced, and to date, 365.16km

of the pipes have been replaced," he said.

Abdul Halem said Air Selangor and Kuala Lumpur City Hall were discussing the issue of compensation for the damage of vehicles.

The National Water Services Commission (SPAN) said it had instructed Air Selangor to monitor other high-risk areas that are prone to sinkholes.

"This is to avoid the same incident from occurring again, especially during the rainy season which is expected to last until February next year," it said in a statement yesterday.

SPAN noted that investigations by Air Selangor showed that the three sinkhole incidents could be due to the use of old asbestos cement pipes and soil movement due to vibration and rainwater.



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Delving into the problem

DBKL to study mapping system covering KL's underground utility lines

KUALA LUMPUR: A hole in one is a rare achievement in golf, but what do you call it when three sinkholes appear in the city within three days? Surely something is up. Or rather, something down below needs to be looked into.

This is what Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is pushing for.

It plans to call for an inter-agency study on a mapping system covering the city's underground utility lines in light of recent sinkholes.

City mayor Datuk Nor Hisham Ahmad Dahlan said the study, to be spearheaded by DBKL, would hopefully result in a comprehensive map of the cables, pipes and other systems that lie beneath the

"At the moment, Kuala Lumpur does not have a proper underground mapping system, so it is hard to predict when these pipes could burst and cause such an incident.

"The study will also look into the appearance of these sinkholes resulting from burst water pipes recently," he said.

He added that the exercise would involve the Mineral and Geoscience Department and utility companies.

"We need to determine the cause of these burst pipes and sinkholes, whether it is from overdevelopment or even heavy usage," he said, adding that the study would start next month.

Over three consecutive days, three sinkholes appeared in Kuala



Work in progress: Syabas personnel repairing the burst underground pipe along Jalan Dewan Bahasa in Kuala Lumpur.

Lumpur roads, which were said to have been caused by damaged underground water pipes.

The first was in Jalan Maharajalela on Nov 24, followed by the other two in Jalan Pinang and Jalan Dewan Bahasa.

But this problem of sinkholes caused by burst pipes has been reported elsewhere in Malaysia too, such as at a roundabout near Donggongon, Penampang, Sabah, on July 25; at Jalan Universiti in Petaling Jaya on Oct 2; and at the junction of Persiaran Bandar Utama and First Avenue, also in PJ, on Oct 18.

The managing director of an insurance agency, who only wants to be identified as Ng, said vehicle owners were generally entitled to make insurance claims in cases when their vehicles were damaged when driven into sinkholes.

"As long as they have a first-party policy, the policyholder should be able to claim but this will affect his or her no-claim discount (NCD).

"However, if they only hold a third-party insurance, then they will not be able to claim at all from their insurer," she said.

Thomas Philip Advocates &

Solicitors partner Alliff Benjamin Suhaimi said there were a few things to take into consideration when determining liability.

"First, we have to determine the party that owns or is responsible to maintain the road. It may be a government body or a private concessionaire.

"If there are third parties tasked with maintaining the road, they too may be held liable.

"Ultimately, it is for the court to decide on liability and any apportionment of the same based on evidence," he said.



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No decision yet on retention of Chetty Padang's name



KLANG Municipal Council (MPK) acting president Elya Marini Darmin (*pic*) said the renaming of Chetty Padang to Taman Warisan, "is still undecided".

Yesterday, Elya who chaired the full board meeting for the first time said no decision had been taken on the matter.

Chetty Padang is the size of three football fields located in the Indian business enclave of Little India.

This is not the first time that MPK has tried to rename Chetty Padang.

In April 2009, the council renamed the field Laman Sukan Majlis Perbandaran Klang but reverted to the old name after much opposition from the public.

In 2016, the council proposed the name Little India be changed to Kelana Square but again dropped the idea after opposition from locals.

Chetty Padang is slated for a major transformation as MPK's Gardens Parks and Recreation Department plans to spend RM2.5mil to restore the neglected field in Jalan Bukit Jawa, next to the Sri Nagara Thandayuthapani Hindu temple.

It is learned that MPK will offer an open tender for the refurbishment of Chetty Padang next month.



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Some of the children who took part in a workshop by MBPJ to get their input on city planning.
— Filepic

Child councillors to 'start work' in January

MBPJ will be first local council to involve children in city planning

By AIDA AHMAD
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PETALING Jaya City Council's (MBPJ) plans to set up a child council will be realised by January next year.

Petaling Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Sayuthi Bakar said 24 children would be appointed to participate in the first-of-its-kind council in the country.

He said the candidates would be identified after the launch of the Petaling Jaya Child-Friendly City Conference 2019, held from Monday to Friday.

"The purpose of setting up the child council is to get their opinion on how we can make Petaling Jaya a better city for them," he said after chairing the city council's full board meeting yesterday.

He said children would be invited to share their views at the conference.

With this, MBPJ will implement an action plan following a Memorandum of Understanding signing with Unicef Malaysia.

Mohd Sayuthi said MBPJ aimed to become a child-friendly city and wanted to incorporate children's views in city planning.

"Only 33 countries in the world are recognised for having child-friendly cities.

"We will be the 34th and the first local council in Malaysia to establish a child-friendly city.

"Although there is a time frame of three years to achieve the child-friendly city status, we are hoping to do it in one and a half years," said Mohd Sayuthi.

Earlier this month, *StarMetro* reported that MBPJ would select children aged seven to 17 as child councillors.

A series of workshops was organised by MBPJ recently for children to learn about their rights, on expressing their views and

learning the city council's functions.

Out of 50 children, 24 will be appointed as child councillors at the conference.

Meanwhile, Mohd Sayuthi said MBPJ allocated RM12.9mil to maintain the landscape of 38 areas next year.

These will include the maintenance of trees to provide shade, pruning of trees as well as cleaning and disposal of garden waste in public parks and open spaces.

To further improve the quality of maintenance services in public parks, Mohd Sayuthi said MBPJ had for the first time given a special allocation of RM4.2mil to focus on the maintenance of 15 public parks.

"This is a comprehensive method that is found to be more effective as it facilitates the monitoring of the work involved in all aspects of landscape maintenance in our jurisdiction," he added.



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MPAJ: Redevelopment of Highland Towers still on hold

TS 28/11/2019 (msc)

By VIJENTHI NAIR
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THE Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) is still waiting for direction from the Housing and Local Government Ministry (KPKT) before proceeding with the redevelopment of Highland Towers (pic) in Hulu Klang.

MPAJ president Datuk Abdul Hamid Hussain said there were many issues that need to be addressed before the redevelopment could take place.

"KPKT is in the midst of resolving the land ownership problem. When that is resolved, there will be discussions on which party will bear the cost of the redevelopment. It may look easy but there are many implications including legal ones, so we need to tread carefully," he said after the full board meeting.

On the dengue situation in the municipality, Abdul Hamid said there were nine hotspots as of Nov 24.

"Hotspots are areas with dengue cases consecutively for over 30 days. The areas are Taman Melawati (J) with 23 cases, Granduer Tower in Pandan Indah (18), Flat Desa Lembah Permai (18), Riviera Apartments (16), Jalan Pandan Indah 9/20 (nine), Kampung Fajar and Taman Melawati F (seven each), Taman Ukay Perdana Fasa 5 (six) and Nuri Court Apartments (four).

At the meeting, Abdul Hamid also announced that Jalan Bunga Mawar 4 in



Taman Muda would be converted into a one-way street starting Dec 1.

He said the 450m two-lane road would be changed to a one-way street for a test period of three months.

"Residents have complained about the traffic along the stretch which is sandwiched between the residential and commercial areas, especially near the Taman Muda morning market.

"We will inform the residents about the one-way street and start putting up signage and paint the arrows on the road.

"If traffic flow in the area improves in the next three months, the one-way street will remain. If the change fails to address the congestion problem, then we will bring the issue back to the drawing board," he added.

The new traffic plan will allow motorists using Jalan Bunga Mawar 4 to exit at Jalan Teratai 1/2.