



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

KERATAN AKHBAR
21 JANUARI 2019 (ISNIN)

AKHBAR

MUKA SURAT

The Star

- For a smooth road forward

02-03



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Akhbar	The Star
Tajuk Berita	For a smooth road forward
Muka Surat	02-03

2 News

STARMETRO, MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2019



Potholes can turn an already dangerous road into a death trap, especially for motorcyclists, if maintenance work is made difficult by duplication and lack of communication. — Filepic

Roads will soon be placed under only two agencies, most likely JKR and local councils, to ensure maintenance can now be done without an overlap in jurisdiction. — ART CHEN/The Star

By PRIYA MENON
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THE perennial problem of potholes and poorly-maintained roads and water outlets in Selangor may end soon with a new system taking shape to cut red tape between government agencies.

State Infrastructure and Public Amenities, Agriculture, and Agro Industry Committee chairman Izhah Hashim said Selangor will restructure the ownership and maintenance of roads to fall under only two agencies.

Currently, a road may fall under the jurisdiction of several agencies, with no one willing to take responsibility for its condition.

Potholes, overgrown grass in the water outlets as well as lack of proper markings are just some of the problems caused by this.

There is also a lack of communication among the agencies namely the Malaysian Highway Authority (highways), Federal Public Works Department (JKR) (federal roads), Selangor JKR (state roads), local councils (council roads), district offices (village roads) and the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) (plantation roads).

"The problem is duplication and the relationship between agencies. Such issues turn the road into a no man's land and its condition only worsens. We want to end that," he said.

"One part of the road could belong to JKR, then a little along the way it could be under the councils, but they look to each other to fix the problem," Izhah said.

Lack of maintenance, he said, led to bigger issues including flooding, a problem that has plagued Selangor for years.

One example is Taman Perindustrian Ringan Bukit Kemuning, Shah Alam, where badly managed drainage and roads have led to floods for more than 18 years.

Despite numerous complaints,

For a smooth road forward

Inter-agency workshop next week to map out ownership and maintenance issues



Taman Perindustrian Ringan Bukit Kemuning, Shah Alam has been plagued by floods for years, with the poorly maintained roads and drainage mostly to blame. — Filepic



Izhah says the lack of maintenance of roads leads to bigger issues like flooding, which is a perennial problem in Selangor.

However, the entire exercise has to be done by June because the restructuring involved budget adjustments and allocations that need to be included in the national budget for next year through the Finance Ministry.

"We hope to have this running smoothly by 2020," he added.

Infrastructure problems

Izhah plans to meet the relevant district department officers personally to identify the infrastructure problems.

The upcoming meetings will involve department directors, local council department heads as well as the respective area assemblymen.

He said they are starting with

the response received from JKR, DID and the Shah Alam City Council is lack of budget.

"The common misconception is that there is a budget issue, but in fact, each agency has its own allocation for amenities under their respective scopes," he added.

He said the plan is to organise a

workshop where the agencies will map out all the roads before the state decides to divide them and place them under the care of local councils as well as the Selangor JKR. The workshop is expected to be held next week.

"Most likely we will take away all the roads from the other depart-

ments to be placed under JKR while leaving councils to manage city roads and those currently under their jurisdiction," he added. Izhah said this was the best way to tackle the issue as both these agencies have the necessary experience and expertise to maintain roads.

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Road tarring works along Jalan 225 in Section 51A. Izham hopes that the problem of who is responsible for a particular road will be resolved soon. — Filepic



The road in front of the shoplots in Taman Bayu Perdana is among many that tends to flood after downpours. (Right) Potholes are a common sight on Selangor roads, even outside the Road Transport Department in Petaling Jaya. — Filepics



Starmetro watch

TRAFFIC MATTERS

- There will be a temporary closure of Jalan Ampang Hilir for construction work on the Setiawangsa-Pantai Expressway (SPE). The closure is from today until Wednesday (Jan 21-23), from 10pm to 6am. Motorists from Jalan Tun Razak heading to Ampang Hilir can use the Jalan Ampang alternative route, while those from Ampang Hilir heading to city centre can use Persiaran Ritchie. For details, call the Lebuhraya Duta-Ulu Kelang (DUKE) hotline at 03-6251 3100.
- There will be a continuation of intermittent lane closures along Jalan Kuala Selangor (Sungai Buloh-bound and Kepong-bound) from Wednesday (Jan 23) until Feb 22, from 10pm to 6am. The affected areas include the lane leading to Sungai Buloh toll and ramp to Sierramas and IGB International School.
- There will be continuation of intermittent lane closures along Persiaran Dagang, Bandar Sri Damansara (Sungai Buloh-bound and Kepong-bound) from Wednesday (Jan 23) until April 10, from 8am to 6pm. The affected areas are between Emilia showroom and former Petron petrol station.
- There will be continuation of full-bound closure on the ramp up Jalan Ampat Tin, Kampung Batu from tomorrow (Jan 22) until March 29, from 9pm to 6am. Motorists heading from and to Jalan Ipoh via Jalan 1/18B and Batu Muda area will be redirected through alternative routes. Motorists are advised to follow the traffic signage and flagmen during road closure. For details, call the MRT hotline at 1800-82-6868.

TOP-UP LANE CLOSURE

Plus Malaysia Berhad is closing top-up lanes at all its highway toll plazas from Jan 31 until Feb 11 to reduce congestion from top-up queues during the Chinese New Year festive season. Motorists are advised to top up their Touch n Go and Plusmiles cards at the other 10,000 avenues available nationwide, including 24-hour convenience stores, petrol stations and ATM kiosks.

FREE EYE SCREENING

The Eye Specialist is offering free eye screening until March 31 at its centre at 100, Jalan Gasing, Petaling Jaya. Screenings are by appointment only. The centre is open Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 5pm, and Saturdays from 8.30am to 2pm. To register, call 03-7932 0103/ 017-286 1915 or email info@eye.com.my

MEDITATION WORKSHOP

The National Cancer Society Malaysia's (NCSM) Resource and Wellness Centre is organising a workshop called "Quick and Effective Meditation for a Happy Life" on Thursday (Jan 24), from 10.30am to 1pm, at NCSM's premises at 66, Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz, Kuala Lumpur. Susee Rajaram will guide participants to understand the basics of meditation, learn how to deal with stress and embrace inner peace. The workshop is open to cancer patients, survivors and caregivers. Entry is by donation. To register, contact Adeline/ Mla at 03-2691 7624 or adeline@cancer.org.my/ mla@cancer.org.my

Klang, where outstanding issues will be identified, prioritised and implemented.

Izham said assemblymen were well aware of local problems and have always voiced them out at the state assembly.

"This is pending the new system because we cannot wait. If we come across any 'no man's land' my standing committee will see who will have to take on the responsibility," he added.

The idea is something Izham has been toying with based on his experience as a councillor in local councils including the Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPS).

Asked if the agencies were willing to cooperate, he said they were more than happy when he suggested the idea.

He said this showed that they are aware of the problems but have never resolved it this far.

The people, he said, did not care about the ownership of the infrastructure; they only care about getting their problems resolved.

"The rakyat just want it to be done, so that is why I want to resolve it internally. I am going to take responsibility for this issue and deliver," he said.

The same method will be extended to detention ponds in the state still under local councils and third-party management.

He said it is best for the ponds to be handed over to DID as if had the expertise.

To address pothole issues, JKR is planning to buy a sophisticated machine to patch potholes utilising the latest technology.

The machine, costing RM1mil, will be brought in by next month to patch holes using good materials.

He said if the machine worked, it would be extended to the local councils to make it compulsory for agencies doing road patching to use it.

The state government's idea is getting positive response from government agencies.

Selangor JKR director Datuk Ruslan Abdul Aziz said it was a good move.

"The fewer number of authorities involved will resolve the question ownership. In principle, it should work, however, the details need to be ironed out," he added.

Ruslan said a retreat has been organised to finalise the details and to sort issues like budget and manpower that will need to be increased for this purpose.

"We need to look at how effective this solution will be but before that, we need to speak to the departments involved before any of the agencies take over," he added.

Currently, he said the maintenance works by JKR is done through concessionaires and minor problems can be resolved immediately.

However, the major ones need to get its costs approved before repair work can start.

A local council engineering director, who declined to be named, said this should have been done earlier.

The director said the issue has been a long-standing problem that the councils have had to face since the public always lodged complaints with them.

"Since we collect the assessment tax, they believe it is the local council's responsibility. They are not aware that there are several government agencies with their own roads," he said.

The best way to tackle the situation, said the director, is to allow local councils to take over all roads in their jurisdiction, including Jalan Kampung, while JKR takes over major trunk roads connecting cities.

"This way we can fortify the department under the local councils and focus on their delivery for the rakyat," he added.