

Works at pond **raise** concern

Taman Wahyu residents seek stop-work order over fears of soil erosion

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RESIDENTS of Taman Wahyu, Kuala Lumpur are up in arms over alleged sand mining activities by Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) contractors at the Wahyu flood retention pond.

They want the authorities to issue a stop-work order for fear of soil movement and erosion.

"The sand mining has been going on since 2001 but we were told by DID that it was working on deepening the pond, which is formerly a mining pool.

"However, it now looks like sand mining is going on in the area," said Yap Poh Peng, 56, a resident for more than 20 years.

Yap said residents had noticed soil movement in the back lanes outside their houses and this was worrying.

"We support the initiative taken by the Government to build a retention pond but we are concerned about the safety of our houses," she added.

Another resident, Chan Suit Wah, 53, said residents had lodged many complaints in the past and the contractors would stop work each time.

"However, they would always resume work after a few months. We hope the authorities will resolve the matter as soon as possible.

"It does not look like the contractors are merely deepening the pond," said Chan, adding that it was puzzling that the Land and Mines Department had approved the permit for this.

"In 2003, when we complained to a DID engineer, the officer said we should not have bought houses located on a former mining area."

Chan also said on Jan 30, repre-



Concerned about their safety: Ongoing works by DID contractors at the Wahyu retention pond, which residents claim are sand mining activities.

sentatives of Taman Wahyu's residents' association met with Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib to discuss the issue and he had said he would look into the matter.

When contacted, Ahmad Phesal said he would ask Kuala Lumpur City Hall's Engineering and Drainage Department to work with DID to carry out an environmental impact assessment in the area.

Meanwhile, Federal Territory DID director Abu Bakar Mohd Yusof said improving the water quality at flood retention ponds was part of the River of Life package.

The River of Life is an Entry Point Project identified in the Greater KL national key economic area under the Economic Transformation Programme.

"The Nanyang, Wahyu and Delima ponds fall under this package. To

improve water quality, we need to deepen the ponds and this is done through excavation.

"An aerator is installed in the pond to improve the water's oxygen content," Abu Bakar said, adding that the Land and Mines Department had approved the permit for this.

He said residents need not worry about the safety of their houses as the flood retention pond was located more than 200m away.