

# Work to end Sg Ramal floods

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**A**N ONGOING river widening and deepening project is expected to end flash floods in Kampung Sungai Ramal, Kajang.

After three decades of suffering from rising waters every time it rained, Kampung Sungai Ramal residents were relieved to see the presence of excavators and other heavy machinery in the village a few months ago.

The RM8.7mil project by the Federal Government involves widening and deepening works at three stretches of Sungai Ramal. Frequent flooding in these stretches forced a large number of villagers to leave their homes and relocate elsewhere in Kajang.

Outgoing Kampung Sungai Ramal village head Zainal Ariffin, who met Serdang MP Datuk Yap Pian Hon on Monday to view ongoing works at the

site, said villagers were happy that the authorities had finally done something about their plight.

He also said issues regarding compensation for private plots of land acquired for river widening works under the project were being ironed out with the authorities and advised the villagers involved to be patient.

Sungai Ramal Umno chief Mohd Arif Idris said the worst flood in the area occurred in 1998 when parts of the village were submerged in 5m of water. Besides rain, he added, the many housing project upstream Sungai Ramal contributed to the flash floods.

According to Yap, the 18-month project involving 2.8km of Sungai Ramal kicked off on May 31 and should be ready by the end of 2007.

"The flooding and inconveniences caused to Kampung Sungai Ramal residents were brought to the attention of the authorities in 2000 but as there was no allocation for the project under

the Eighth Malaysia Plan (RM8), the project is now under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (RM9)," he told the residents present.

With him during the site visit were Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) technical division officers and project contractor Sulaiman & Dayang Sdn Bhd executive chairman Wan Indra Putra Ahmad and Engineers Associates Consultants associate and project consultant Mazlan Shamsudin.

Mazlan briefed those present on the technical aspects of the project. Upon completion, he said the curtain area would be 10m wide and 2m deep; the vertical wall panel stretch 18m wide and 2m deep and the trapezoidal section stretch 15m wide and 2m deep.

A few residents, who approached Yap later, said they had not received notification of the ongoing works and urged the respective departments to contact owners whose land lots needed to be acquired.



Wan Indra (right) briefing Yap on the progress of the river widening and deepening project in Kampung Sungai Ramal, Kajang.