

Residents fear landslide and dengue after soil excavation creates cliff and deep pond

By **STUART MICHAEL**
and **WEY WEI LING**

RESIDENTS of Bandar Tasik Puteri, Rawang fear their neighbourhood is in danger of a landslide and a dengue outbreak after a contractor nearby illegally dug a sheer cliff close to their homes to excavate soil.

The cliff is located behind the houses at Jalan 3/34 and drops off steeply for about 20m. At the base of it, rainwater has collected and formed a pond about 3m deep.

Zahari Hussain, 57, whose home is located in Jalan 3/34, said the Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) sealed off the area with yellow tape after he made a complaint on Oct 17 last year. However, by then, the damage had been done.

The construction site at the base of the cliff appears to have been abandoned.

“Earlier, we could walk from our backdoor to the adjoining land located about 30m on the other side,” said Zahari.

“Now, there is a big gap in between, and rainwater has collected and become stagnant in a man-made pond. We fear that erosion will move the cliff to our homes when it rains.

“Each time there is heavy downpour, inch by inch the soil at the back of our houses would give way.

“Last year, a few trees, including some oil palms, near the construction area fell into the ravine during heavy rainfall.”

“When it rains heavily, we, as residents are on high alert and check the area to monitor the situation as we fear that our homes will be affected,” said Zahari.

He added that there had also



A 3m-deep pond has formed behind Jalan 3/34 in Bandar Tasik Puteri from the alleged land clearing.

been a few cases of dengue reported in the area.

“We fear that the pond, measuring about 5m wide and 3m deep, may turn into a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

“The contractors have fled but we do not see any permanent solution by the local authorities to fix the situation,” he said.

MPS Corporate deputy director Ahmad Fauzi Ishak confirmed that

the land clearing had been done without authorisation. He said MPS had informed the Gombak Land Office to take action.

“We have placed a yellow tape to seal the area off and stop the contractor from taking any more soil from the area.

“It is very dangerous for residents. We will let the Gombak Land office handle the matter,” he said.