

Bodies of drowned anglers found

Fire and Rescue Dept recover missing five after strong currents swept them away

KUALA LUMPUR: The bodies of five anglers have been found after they were swept away by strong currents while fishing at Sungai Gasi near the Sungai Buloh army camp.

The strong river currents was caused by heavy rain on Monday evening.

The body of 14-year-old Jamaluddin Rapawi, was found at 1.26am yesterday, while the body identified as that of Silawati Zailan, 31, was found at 12.30pm. About three hours later, the body of Jeleha Hashim, 48, was found 18km from the Fire and Rescue Department control post at Kampung Paya Jaras.

The body of an Indonesian identified as Hashir, 38 was found on Monday night, about 7km from where the victims were reported to have been swept away.

The body of Jamaluddin's father Rapawi Jum'ada, 37, was found by the search and rescue team at 4.35pm yesterday.

Silawati's husband Mohd Rizal Mat Desa, 31, managed to swim to safety, Bernama reported.

Mohd Rizal said his wife slipped from his grip and was carried off by



strong currents which appeared in a flash.

"I managed to hold on to my wife before her hand slipped from my grip and she was dragged off by the strong current," he said, adding that he managed to grab a tree branch.

"I saw my wife's hand waving in the water and I immediately jumped back into the river to save her, but it was in vain," he said.

Muhd Badrul Baharin Syamsul Azhar, 21, the eldest child of Jeleha Hashim, said he and three relatives,

were on the bridge about 7km from the scene of the incident, since Monday night.

"My mother always goes out fishing with my father.

"It was last Sunday that I saw her," he added.

Unbearable grief: Mohd Rizal (second right) unable to hold back his emotions as Fire and Rescue personnel retrieve the body of his wife Silawati from Sungai Gasi. — Bernama

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he has instructed the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh) to prepare a Cabinet paper to curb drowning incidents.

"Niosh had previously suggested that a special committee be set up, and I have asked Niosh to prepare a paper to be tabled to the Cabinet.

"This is to seek a long-term solution. Not only in the east coast but throughout the country and in any situation," he told reporters at the 16th Defence Services Asia and the National Security Asia pre-launch event here.

Sungai Buloh district police chief Supt S. Somu said the incident at the river was the first since 2013.

The SAR operation was extended up to 20km from where the victims were believed to have been swept away, said Selangor Fire and Rescue director Azmi Osman.

He advised the public against conducting water activities at rivers or irrigation canals, adding that 12 people were reported drowned since January this year in Selangor.