



## PKNS FLATS

### Resident: Pillars are 'ticking timebombs'

**BANGI:** Residents of the Jubli Perak PKNS Flats here said they are thankful that the cracks on the pillars at their block were noticed before anything untoward happens.

Jamaluddin Aripin, 45, said he could not help but began to worry because the pillars were "ticking timebombs".

"We are very lucky that nothing happened. Cracks began appearing some 10 years ago, but all of sudden, the cracks have widened and pieces of concrete have come loose," he said.

Another resident, 57-year-old Johan Mahat, said even though he and his family would now face some difficulty going about their daily lives since they had to evacuate, he was glad that they were safe.

"We will cooperate with the authorities... this is not something we have ever experienced before. We hope they can solve our predicament soon," he said.

Johan said the cracks had been around for a long time, but had worsened of late.

"It began to worry me when I noticed the cracks widening. This morning we discussed with the chairman of the residents association about the cracks and what needed to be done.

"That was where we decided that we needed to call the Fire and Rescue Department to take a look. But it was only when the firemen declared the building unsafe that we knew just how dangerous the situation was and how lucky we have been so far." By **Kalbana Perimbanayagam**



Residents of the Jubli Perak PKNS Flats say the cracks have been around for a long time, but had worsened of late. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

PKNS architects and Public Works Department engineers will need one to three days to confirm the safety of the Jubli Perak PKNS flats in Section 4, Bandar Baru Bangi, before deciding on any restoration or repair works. PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN

## CRACKS IN BUILDING

# OVER 300 RESIDENTS FORCED TO EVACUATE

Authorities to conduct thorough structural inspection at Block 4 Jubli Perak PKNS flats to determine it is safe for occupation

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**M**ORE than 300 residents from Block 4 of the Jubli Perak PKNS flats in Section 4, Bandar Baru Bangi, were forced to evacuate after cracks began appearing on the building.

They have been placed in the hall of SMK Jalan Tiga, located some 2km away, as the authorities inspect the building to determine the building is safe for occupation.

District Officer Datuk Rosli Othman gave the evacuation order after being briefed on the condition of the building during his visit to the scene.

Rosli said the school hall was offered to the residents, but they were not obliged to stay there.

"Whatever the case is, they must register their evacuation at the temporary command centre set up at the flats parking area. This is to ensure that we

have all the owners' contact details with us in case something happens to the building or their belongings which are still inside," he said.

Rosli said police and officers from the local council would be on 24-hour guard at the flats to make sure the residents' homes and belongings were safe.

He said PKNS architects and Public Works Department engineers would need one to three days to confirm the safety status of the flats before deciding on any restoration or repair works.

"It is an old building that was built in the 1980s. Architects have to conduct a thorough structural investigation and tests before they allow the owners to go home," Rosli said.

Earlier yesterday, Jubli Perak Residents Association chairman Mat Shaharuddin Yatim had contacted the Fire and Rescue Department after he noticed major cracks on some of the ground floor pillars.

The building was then inspect-

ed by a team of firemen from Bangi and was declared unsafe.

Bangi fire station chief Rosman Majid said this was only the initial finding and the department would leave it to engineers to test the structure.

"Since the building is a project under PKNS, we will wait for their architects and an evaluation by Ikram (Malaysian Public Works Institute) before deciding anything else," he said.

Rosman said since Ikram and PKNS architects could not assure the safety, it was best that the residents were temporarily relocated to a safer place.

He said there were a total of 114 pillars in the flats and some 10 per cent seemed damaged and cracked.

Meanwhile, Selangor State Secretariat Disaster Management Unit head Ahmad Fairuz Mohd Yusof said it was better for the residents to be evacuated.

He thanked the agencies involved in the evacuation process and said arrangements had been made for some 350 people at the hall.

Agencies involved in the evacuation process were the police, Civil Defence Force, Welfare Department, PKNS and the Fire and Rescue Department.