

Damaged roofs still not repaired

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tehathira.yusof@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: THE students of SMK Bukit Bandaraya here have been facing danger after the roofs of two blocks were damaged in heavy rain in April last year.

SMK Bukit Bandaraya Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) chairman Datuk Dr Rajandra Kumar V. Purusthotman said the previous headmaster had raised the issue with the Kuala Lumpur Education Department via the Bangsar Pudu district Education office (PPD) in May last year.

“However, no significant progress has been made,” he told the New Straits Times on Friday.

Rajandra Kumar said the PPD had informed the school that a contractor had been appointed to repair the damaged roofs, but the contractor never turned up to do the job.

The school has more than 900 students.

After raising the matter with the PPD, the school was told that the contractor had been terminated and that the PPD was in the process of appointing a new one.

In a series of pictures shared with the NST, a piece of the beam structure was seen just barely hanging from one of the damaged roofs.

The second damaged roof had a hole directly above the classroom on the top floor of the building.

“We need to expedite the repair work.

“The badly damaged roofs pose a danger to the students, and the school had to move them to another classroom.

“Now it is the rainy season and the classroom with the damaged roof has cracks and mould on the concrete floors.

“The excess rainwater is also seeping into the classroom next door as it is merely separated by roller shutters. The ceiling of the classroom below has damp patches. If repairs are not done soon,

we fear that the roofs may collapse,” said Rajandra Kumar.

The school is also facing electrical wiring issues, where several students and teachers were slightly buzzed when they turned on the switches in the classroom.

Following the urgency of the matter, the parents, through Rajandran Kumar, took matters into their hands by delivering a letter to Senior Education Minister Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin last month urging the minister to look into the plight of the school.

Rajandran Kumar also took to Twitter this month, tagging Radzi to draw attention to the matter.

The PTA is also raising funds to repair the damaged roofs and floor, which is expected to cost RM45,000 and take about a week to complete.

“We have resorted to hiring a private contractor. We were given a quotation for the repair work, and we need to raise the money ourselves,” said Rajandran Kumar.

“The school is in full session and the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination is around the corner. We cannot jeopardise the safety of our children, as well as the teachers and staff.

“We hope that the repairs could take place during the Chinese New Year and school holidays.”

The SMK Bukit Bandaraya PTA has also reached out to Lembah Pantai member of parliament Fahmi Fadzil for funds to facilitate the repair work.

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