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Condo residents form task force to speed up matters

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Residents of the landslide-hit Atheneum on the Peak apartments in Bukit Antarabangsa have formed a task force to co-operate with the authorities.

They are seeking a speedy solution to their dilemma after they were asked to evacuate their homes last Saturday, following landslides which blocked the access road to Bukit Antarabangsa and also threatened the safety of the condominium block.

About 100 families were affected.

Task force chairman Izzudin Che Din said the committee, formed yesterday, would hold daily meetings with Ampang Jaya Municipal Council officials at the landslide operations room near the entrance to Bukit Antarabangsa.

"The task force will monitor the progress of improvement works by the authorities and work with them in ensuring that the situation we are in right now can be speedily resolved," he told the New Straits Times today.

Izzudin said apart from the daily meeting, the residents would have a special meeting with Selangor State Exco member Datuk Fuad Hassan and MPAJ officials on Sunday to discuss further action.

He said the residents, who are mostly now putting up at the De Palma and Flamingo hotels in Ampang, would also decide after the meeting whether and when to return home.

He said that several tenants had already decided to leave the apartments permanently and seek accommodation elsewhere.

"The police have opened the access road (which is still closed to normal traffic) to one-tonne lorries to remove the tenants' belongings."

Izzudin said some of the residents were disappointed that they were unable to meet Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when the Prime Minister visited the area on Wednesday.

He said the residents were also informed by the authorities that the condominium structure was safe.

"However, tests are still being conducted on the soil and the results would only be told to us next week."

Meanwhile, the Highland Towers Residents and Owners Committee has called for a watchdog committee to oversee all residential development on hill slopes.

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