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Sabri noting down the trees that need trimming on the main street off Jalan 3A in Taman Jati.

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HEAVY rain and strong winds can cause havoc as old trees weighted by thick foliage and weak or diseased branches can snap or uproot, posing danger to people's lives.

Over a week ago, there was chaos in major parts of the Klang Valley after torrential rains lashed some areas, causing flash floods, uprooting old trees, leaving motorists in Kuala Lumpur and the outskirts stuck in a traffic gridlock for hours.

Selayang Municipal Council's (MPS) Landscape Department had a difficult time clearing broken branches and uprooted trees along public roads after that.

Councillor Md Sabri Md. Taib said deep-rooted trees may not fall but diseased branches due to infection by insects could easily snap in a storm.

"Trees in our municipality are not storm-resistant, so timely maintenance is important.

"The landscape department officers must prepare for bad weather and identify diseased, top-heavy or dead trees to be felled to minimise damage on people's property and lives," he said.

Sabri added that tree maintenance in the municipality was a serious issue.

"The trees must be pruned and branches

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Selayang councillor stresses importance of felling weak trees to prepare for bad weather

kept at a certain length to withstand the winds and help with their survival during storms.

"I have walked through some housing areas in Rawang after people complained that some trees had tilted.

"I have since instructed MPS to cut down three trees in Taman Jati and another four in Taman Tun Perak," he said.

During his walkabout in Taman Tun Perak, the residents asked that top-heavy trees be trimmed and damaged drains reconstructed to allow smooth water flow along Jalan Tun Perak 18.

Sabri said there was a need for the landscape department to seek professional advice from the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia on tree care during torrential rains.

"Certified arborists are the most qualified people to consult," he said.

On the issue of clogged and damaged drains in Taman Tun Perak and throughout the municipality, Sabri said MPS' engineering department should aggressively resolve the matter to avoid flash floods and conduct an immediate visit to Taman Tun Perak to reconstruct the damaged inner drainage network.