Kampung weekend

It’s most quiet at Kampung Lorong Buangkok. The elderly stop for a leisurely chat, cats laze in the shade, even the kampong’s sole business establishment is dozing in the heat.

But come the weekend, and grandchildren and children aplenty descend on the kampong for visits and to escape the city. From their happy smiles, it’s obviously a visit they relish.

By Sim Chi Yin

SHE spent most of her time on three days ankle-deep in silt, raking out rubbish from the drain.

That, Miss Sng Mui Hong hopes, will help prevent a replay of the recent flooding in Kampung Lorong Buangkok.

At least 13 of the 28 households in the flood-prone area were affected some covered in knee-deep water - on Mar 8, when heavy rains coincided with high tides.

Residents had again received warnings from the Public Utilities Board (PUB), which said that there was a high risk of floods hitting them from yesterday to Tuesday.

Clearing the 100m-long drain that snakes around the whole kampong should keep water levels down, said Miss Sng, who has weathered many floods.

She said: ‘We live here, so we should depend on ourselves.’ Muddy water flowed freely in the drain when The New Paper team visited in light rain on Sunday evening.

In her own home, Miss Sng has not done more than raising some of her furniture by placing them on bricks.

Wrapped in plastic
Similarly, her long-time neighbour Miss Maimah Ahmad, 47, has done no more than putting her clothes in plastic bags before keeping them in her wardrobe.

Mr Ariff Johari, 53, an airport cargo clerk who has been living there for 35 years, has wrapped his single prized possession - his drum set - in a thick plastic bag.

The set costs $8,000 but for Mr Ariff, who performs at weddings, it's the sentimental value that counts - he's had it since the 1960s.

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