

Question by MP Lim Biow Chuan: To ask the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources whether PUB will expedite the repairs or replacement of damaged or very old drains so that water stagnation will be minimised and mosquito breeding places can be reduced.

Reply by Minister Masagos Zulkifli:

1. To maintain Singapore's vast network of drains and canals, PUB works closely with NEA to adopt a comprehensive maintenance regime which comprises regular cleaning and structural maintenance.
2. PUB regularly inspects and upkeeps our drains to ensure their performance. Drains that show minor damage will be repaired promptly. Such repair works will be prioritised based on the drain conditions. Drains that are found to have severe structural wear beyond repair will be upgraded as soon as possible through PUB's drainage improvement programme.
3. NEA undertakes the regular cleaning of public drains. Debris, litter and shed leaves in the drains are removed promptly to allow stormwater to flow freely and to prevent pockets of stagnant water from forming. This is to avoid choked drains becoming mosquito breeding sites. Drains are also flushed periodically to remove silt.
4. PUB and NEA will continue to keep our drains and waterways clean and in good condition, so as to better protect Singaporeans from floods and vector-borne diseases like dengue.

Supplementary Question By MP Lim Biow Chuan: Would like to ask the Minister, when I speak to my residents about damaged drains, PUB seems to give me the answer that I have to wait for IEUP. Can I ask the Minister to confirm if I do have a damaged drain, or one that is not flowing properly, if I can request PUB to carry out immediate repairs? Otherwise it can become a potential source for dengue, and we can't solve the problem of dengue until the case of drains get repaired.

Answer: Madam Speaker, I assure the member that if there is a drainage problem, we will fix it quickly. Thank you.
