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Some federal roads in Kelantan must be upgraded to prevent floods



Several federal roads in Kelantan must be upgraded to prevent low-lying areas from being flooded especially during the monsoon season. (NSTP/FATHIL ASRI)

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KOTA BARU: Several federal roads in Kelantan must be upgraded to prevent low-lying areas from being flooded especially during the monsoon season.

Kelantan Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) director Kamal Mustapha said the identified routes are mostly located in Bachok, Pasir Putih and here.

Therefore, he said the department would suggest to the state Works Department to find a way to solve the problem.

"Based on several flood that happened in Bachok, Pasir Putih and Kota Baru district over the past years, the department found that it occurred not due to stagnant drains but more due to the level of roads.

"This causes water to stagnate on the road. The department believes this can be solved if the Works Department renovates the roads to be a little bit higher than the original level," he told NSTP when contacted today.

Kamal said he was sad that many people did not realise this and kept blaming the state DID for not clearing streams, drains and small rivers.

"We will discuss the issue soon with the Works Department as well as local government such as Kota Baru Municipal Council.

"We do not want high risk and low-lying areas such as in Kok Lanas, Ketereh, Semerak, and Padang Melintang to continue being hit by floods," he said.

Kamal said the department has made all necessary preparations to face the monsoon season and at the moment, they were monitoring the water level of the main rivers in the state.

"The department's staff have been told to be on stand-by for the eventuality of floods anytime now," he said.

Meanwhile, the levels of two rivers in the state have continued to rise following heavy and continuous rains since Monday.

According to flood portal-infobanjir.water.gov.my, the two rivers are Sungai Lebir in Tualang, Kuala Krai and Sungai Golok in Rantau Panjang.

The water level of Sungai Lebir, was recorded at 29.20m which is 2.20m above its alert level of 27m.

Sungai Golok was measured at 7.63m at 4pm compared to 7.47m at 10.30am. The river's alert level is 7m.

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