

Few register for flood warning service via SMS

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Story and photo
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ONLY about 10% of the 11,000 people who were affected by floods that hit Shah Alam in February this year have registered for the early warning service called SMSBanjir.

The service, offered by the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), provides an early warning system in the event of flood.

It is available for those living in flood-prone areas in Shah Alam, especially those who bore the brunt of a major flood that hit parts of Shah Alam on Feb 26.

The areas affected were TTDI Jaya, Kg Kebun Bunga, Kampung Melayu Subang, Taman Mesra and Section 13.

"So far, only 200 of the 11,000 flood victims have registered for the SMSBanjir service.

"We hope more people will come forward and register for the free service," said DID director-general Keizrul Abdullah.

He was speaking after the ground-breaking ceremony for flood mitigation works at Sungai Damansara and Sungai

Kuning in Shah Alam yesterday.

Keizrul said SMSBanjir would be activated in response to the water level at the two rivers.

When the water reaches the danger level, the siren would be activated.

"But sometimes residents cannot hear the sirens. It may be because of the distance of their homes from the river, the time of occurrence or because they are not home.

"This is when SMSBanjir comes to the rescue. The message will reach the residents wherever they are.

"Even if they are at work, they can call up their family members at home and alert them about the possibility of incoming flood," he said.

The SMS would also be sent to the relevant authorities including Fire and Rescue officials, local authorities and the police.

The form is available at the Selangor DID website.

As for the river widening and deepening project, Keizrul said it was part of the middle-term solution for flood problem in Shah Alam.

"The project covers both



Keizrul in the driver's seat of an excavator at the ground-breaking ceremony for upgrading work at Sungai Damansara and Sungai Kuning in Shah Alam yesterday.

Sungai Damansara and Sungai Kuning which run from Sungai Klang to Kampung Kayu Ara in Petaling Jaya," he said.

The RM3.9mil project involves 13km of the rivers and is expected to be completed in August 2007.

"The last time these rivers were dug up was in 2002. Our rivers accumulate between one to one-and-a-half metre of sediment within that period of time.

"So the widening and deepening work is badly needed," he said.