

Prevent, not cope with, floods

I HAVE been seeing a lot of articles in *The Star* on getting the states ready to face the floods that may hit Malaysia. However, most of the measures sound more like corrective action.

An example is "Regular updates from RTM on flood situation" (*The Star Online*, Nov 6), with officials citing that the actions taken are monitoring of river levels, increasing manpower needs, the number of boats, and flood relief centres.

Such action is good and needs to be done. But I think more effort needs to be put into preventing floods instead of coping with it, such as deepening of rivers and lakes, clearing of drains, and lowering the dam levels before they hit red alert.

We need to know how many days of continuous rain would result in floods or dams bursting as well as have data related to removing soil or sand from rivers/lakes/drains.

To me, it would be silly to announce that water would be released from a dam and certain parts of Klang (or wherever) could face flooding after the risk of floods had been highlighted three weeks prior.



Instead, water could be released from the dam in smaller amounts across the three weeks to minimise flooding.

As of now, I don't see these being done. Even if there are efforts they are probably not aggressive enough.

Travelling back home from Petaling Jaya to Puchong, I will see parts of the roads under water after only three hours of continuous downpour. If it were one week,

there definitely would be a major flood.

Having relief centres and increasing the number of boats are just not good enough. Ultimately, we need to see more proactive steps by the authorities, be it at national, state or district level to prevent, not cope with floods.

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