

All 23 flood mitigation projects nationwide progressing as scheduled

WE refer to "Not Ready" (*The Star*, Nov 10) and wish to state that all the projects under the 23 flood mitigation programmes throughout the country, which were planned under the First Rolling Plan of the 10th Malaysia Plan, are progressing as scheduled and are at various stages of completion.

There are also projects that have been completed under the 9th Malaysia Plan which have been successful in reducing the impact of flooding, such as the 'SMART Tunnel project in Kuala Lumpur, Bertam/Kepala Batas Flood Mitigation Project in Penang, and the Sungai Muda Flood Mitigation Project in Kedah.

With regard to the flooding incident in Kota Tinggi, the Government through the Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) spent about RM67mil on 10 projects on rivers in and around Kota Tinggi.

The works included desilting, construction of flood walls as well as river widening and deepening. The works were carried out after the floods and completed in the 9th Malaysia Plan and have helped to reduce the effect of flooding in Kota Tinggi.

The problem of flooding and its adverse impact can be mitigated or reduced by both structural measures and non-structural measures such as the flood forecasting and warning system being implemented by DID.

Major flood mitigation projects are expensive and are generally carried out in phases according to the availability of funds.

We would like to reiterate that the Government is very committed to reducing the number of people affected by floods while ensuring that their welfare is taken care of.

**DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION
DEPARTMENT,
Natural Resources and
Environment Ministry.**