

Effective measures in place in Pahang

KUANTAN: The next round of floods, which is expected to begin on Dec 25, will test the effectiveness of the flood mitigation projects here and in Pekan.

The project here, which cost RM45 million, is almost completed with a bund built along Sungai Kuantan in the flood-prone Sungai Isap settlement.

Water pumps have also been installed at strategic locations to help drain rain water into Sungai Kuantan during a downpour.

The state Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) will also build a retention pond in Sungai Isap next year to keep excess water from flowing into Sungai Kuantan when the river overflows.

“When the retention pond is completed, the whole project will overcome Kuantan’s flood problem, especially in Sungai Isap,” said DID engineer Saiful Rizal Sanusi.

Even without the retention pond,

the flood mitigation project had already proven effective in reducing the severity of floods in Sungai Isap during the recent wet spell.

The situation had also improved with the upgrading of the drainage system in the town area by the Kuantan Municipal Council at a cost of RM100,000.

As for Pekan, the DID is spending RM63 million for a flood mitigation project.

The project, divided into three packages, is expected to be completed by September next year.

State DID director Datuk Zulkifli Hassan said the project included the construction of a bund and the upgrading of the existing drainage and irrigation system.

The first phase of the project was completed in June while the second phase began in October.

Zulkifli said the construction of a three-kilometre wave breaker at the mouth of Sungai Pahang in Tanjung



The water pumps at Tanah Putih to help alleviate the flood problem near Sungai Kuantan in Kuantan, Pahang. Pic by Azmaidi Abidin

Agas was 15 per cent completed.

The project, costing RM258 million, would stop the formation of shoal or sandbars, near the river

mouth, which could hamper the flow of water from Sungai Pahang into the sea.

When fully completed, the flood

mitigation projects in the two districts will help protect 490,000 people here and another 24,000 in Pekan.