

River of Life flowing smoothly

PROGRESSING: The project to clean and beautify rivers and their surroundings in the Klang Valley is going according to plan with an estimated budget of RM4 billion

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THE Greater KL/ Klang Valley River of Life (ROL) project, which was implemented early this year, is progressing smoothly.

Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, who visited four of the project sites yesterday, said he was pleased with the progress of the project.

"To date, 18 out of the 47 projects under ROL have begun construction, while many more are progressing on schedule. We will continue the momentum of the project, which will complete in 2020," he said.

Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister Department Datuk Seri Idris Jala, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Unggah Embas, Mayor Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail and Federal Territories and Urban Wellbeing secretary-general Datuk Ahmad Phesal Talib.

The delegation of ministers first visited the Batu Detention Pond where the river cleaning project will take place.

The Department of Irrigation and Drainage is constructing a Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at the Batu Detention Pond. It is expected to complete in March 2013.

The project aims to improve the water qual-

ity of Sg Batu from Class 4 to Class 2. Once the WTP is completed, water from Sg Gombak will be channelled to the Batu Detention Pond where the water will be treated and diverted to Sg Batu through Sg Keroh.

The second site they visited was the Bunga Tanjung Food Court in Ampang, where two communal grease traps were built last October. The grease traps will reduce oil and grease entering the river by 90 per cent.

The Ampang Jaya Municipal Council were given RM2.3 million under the ROL project to install 20 communal grease traps in nine food courts in their municipality. Another 46 grease traps will soon be installed at eateries in the city and Selayang.

The next site they visited was the Bunus Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Titiwangsa which will be upgraded by the Sewerage Services Department (SSD).

The upgrading project is expected to start next year. The upgraded Bunus STP will be able to handle 1,100,000 metre cubic of waste from 352,000 metre cubic per day.

Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd spokesperson said that once completed the waste from three catchments areas will be treated at the Bunus STP.

The ministers then visited Precinct 7 of the river beautification project in Masjid Jamek.

AECOM, which won the bid to beautify the river, will be producing detailed designs for Masjid Jamek. The beautification project is



(From left) Physical Planning Director Zainab Mohd Ghazali, Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin, Datuk Seri Douglas Unggah Embas, Datuk Seri Idris Jala and Tan Sri Ahmad Fuad Ismail in Masjid Jamek. Pic by Iqmal Haqim

expected to begin towards the end of next year and completed in five years.

Raja Nong Chik said once the transformation is completed, the Klang and Gombak river confluence will become a vibrant and exciting waterfront.

"Tourists and locals will benefit from the project. They will be able to enjoy the beauty of the city and the river," he said.

Raja Nong Chik also said the heritage build-

ings by the river will be retained. He said the old buildings complement the ROL project. The ROL project will span over a decade, from 2010 from 2020.

The estimated budget for the project is RM4 billion.

