

Master plans to tackle floods

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Flood prevention

Local

News

Mitigation projects among measures taken in three northern states

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KEEPING FLOODS AT BAY: Scenes like this will soon be a thing of the past once all projects are completed — BERNAMApic

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is ready for any eventuality of flood in the flood-prone areas of Penang, Kedah and Perlis.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Tan Sri Joseph Kurup said the government was taking proactive measures to mitigate floods with the completion of drainage master plans for the three states.

"In Penang, there are six drainage master plans covering Tasik Gelugor, Seberang Perai, Bukit Mertajam, Jawi, Cybercity George Town and Barat Daya district areas.

"In Kedah, there are 13 drainage master plans covering Alor Star, Sungai Muda, Bandar Kulim, Kuala Kedah, Sungai Petani, Sungai Keroncho, Pekan Pendang, Sungai Kedah/ Sungai Anak Bukit, Kuala Nerang, Pokok Sena, Sungai Serdang, Sungai Bedong and Sungai Gurun areas.

"In Perlis, there is one drainage master plan covering Kangar, Arau and Padang Besar," he said during the answer and question session in Dewan Negara yesterday.

Kurup was responding to questions by Ahmad Hussin who wanted to know if the drainage master plans in the flood-prone areas in Penang, Kedah and Perlis have been completed and also the status of the flood mitigation project in Kangar and Arau, Perlis.

Kurup said the Drainage and Irrigation Department would also implement three flood mitigation projects in Perlis under the 10th Malaysia Plan.

"The three projects are the Sungai Arau mitigation plan, the upgrading of the Timah Tasoh Phase 2 Dam and the building of a west flood diversion," he said.

Kurup explained the Sungai Arau mitigation plan involves building of a pond and diversion site as well as widening the river.

"The tender for building the pond in Felda Chuping (near Arau) was advertised on Dec 1 and will be closed on Jan 2.

"The tender for the first package of the Timah Tasoh Phase 2 Dam was advertised on Dec 15 while the consultation service for the west flood diversion is expected to begin early next year."

On a question whether the government has an early warning system to warn the public of oncoming floods, Kurup replied such a system has already been in place in the country for a long time.

"We have systems to warn the public against oncoming floods including sirens in strategic, flood-prone areas as well as water level readers.

"However, the public themselves have to take the initiative to move away from flood-prone areas once we warn them of the oncoming floods," he said.