

FLOODS

Act before a disaster occurs

IT is not the cyclone, typhoon or tsunami that is causing widespread floods in the country. It is the failure to prevent them.

We usually know the monsoon period, the times of flash floods and the dramatic changes in the weather. However, we do not take preventive measures to alleviate the flood situation in many parts of the country.

Only when floods occur do the authorities take steps to widen or deepen canals. That is certainly not foresight.

How often do authorities make checks to ensure that drains and ditches are not blocked?

Do we seek ways to construct

new outlets for the excess rain water? Do we determine which rivers are too shallow or too narrow? Obviously, the authorities are not doing their homework.

It is a disgrace that Kuala Lumpur is always flooded during a downpour. Roads are waterlogged, cars stall, bus services are interrupted, office workers are stranded and, for many years, we have watched the repetition of such scenes.

The authorities do not seem to have the answers. As a result, the same situation can be seen not only in Kuala Lumpur, but also in towns and villages.

What the country needs is an efficient drainage system that en-



A flash flood in Kajang, Selangor. What the country needs is an efficient drainage system, regular cleaning of clogged drains and ditches, a stop to hillside development and a nationwide survey of the never-ending incidence of floods.

tails the construction of tunnels for water to flow out smoothly, the regular cleaning of clogged drains and ditches, a stop to hillside development and a nationwide survey of the never-ending incidence of floods.

By all accounts, we are not prepared to handle the flood situation.

Are we geared for a more disastrous scenario like the aftermath of a typhoon or earthquake?

Don't worry, we are given the assurance. Malaysia is not prone to such catastrophes. Thus, we become complacent until an unexpected disaster strikes.

The complacency and short-

sightedness are partly responsible for the flood woes.

The authorities are not proactive, prudent or result-oriented. They seem to be waiting for disasters to occur before they act. This is surely not 2020 thinking.

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