Keeping floods at bay

UNDERWAY: The Department of Drainage and Irrigation has started work on several flood mitigation projects in the Klang Valley

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THE Department of Drainage and Irrigation (DID) has embarked on several flood mitigation projects to help reduce the recurring flood problems in the Klang Valley.

Currently, the Storm Water Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) and Batu Jinjang Retention Ponds are the main flood mitigation measures for the Klang Valley.

According to DID, there are other projects in the pipeline under the KL River of Life (ROL) programme, which are expected to reduce floods in the city.

The small-scale projects carried out under the ROL are due to be completed next year.

DID director-general Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman said that apart from the flood mitigation projects, DID is also concentrating its efforts on widening and deepening rivers in certain areas.

The Department of Drainage and Irrigation has several projects in place to ***curb floods*** *in the Klang Valley.* **Pic by Chan Wai Yew**

"This exercise will be carried out in wide river reserves, while some rivers will require bank protection and constructions of bunds.

"DID is also in the midst of improving detention ponds in Kolam Benteng 1 and 2 in

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System in place for flood forecast

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Segambut, Kolam Puah 1 in Sentul and Kolam Puah 2 in Kepong," said Husaini.

He said DID will also be installing new pumps at Kolam Sri Muda, Padang Jawa, Tidal Control Gate Sg Puluh and Sg Kapar Kecil.

Under the 9th Malaysia Plan allocation, DID has completed the Integrated Flood Forecasting and River Monitoring System (IFFRM) for the Klang Valley, which has been designed to accurately forecast floods in the Klang River Basin.

This new system integrates future rainfall based on radar data, numerical weather prediction model, a high density network of telemetry rainfall and water level stations, and GIS-based real-time flood forecasting model.

Husaini said this flood forecasting system is capable of predicting river flooding in the Klang Valley.

"As Klang river has shorter lag times from the upper part of the river to its river mouth of around one to three hours, it is not possible to provide warning up to more than 24 hours.

"However, a lead time of one to four hours is possible," he said.

The main flood control centre of FFRIM is at the Water Resources Management and Hydrology Division in DID Malaysia and the secondary flood monitoring facilities are at the Federal Territory DID and Selangor DID.

Husaini said that all stations will monitor the flood situation and warn the relevant authorities for flood relief operations.

The public will also be alerted via Infobanjir.

"The Infobanjir service, which was initiated in 2000, is useful in gathering and disseminating flood information. It has been an effective system for DID personnel at the district and state levels to monitor the flood situation and relay the information to the respective flood operation centres for relief operations," he said.

Husaini added that the extension of the Infobanjir known as the Public-Infobanjir website, was recently launched and has received positive response.

"The website is updated regularly to enable the public to make the necessary preparations before the floods.

The website will also update information on social media such as Facebook and Twitter automatically. Both have been helpful in disseminating information effectively through cyberspace," he said.

The Public-Infobanjir website can be accessed at http://publicinfobanjir.water.gov.my