

State's flood prevention efforts

ON ALERT: Malacca government widening and deepening four rivers in flood-prone areas

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THE state government is taking steps to prevent floods from occurring during the monsoon season by widening and deepening the rivers in flood-prone areas.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said five excavators had been working on widening and deepening Sungai Gapam, Sungai Tehel, Sungai Air Panas and Sungai Duyong over the past two days.

"In the near future, we also hope to build two 20-hectare water catchment ponds, one near Sungai Bemban and one near Sungai Air Panas.

"We have already requested RM70 million from the federal gov-



Retailer Muslim Dalhar, 70, removing a gas tank and rearranging his goods to ensure that they remain dry at his shop in Kampung Labohan Dagang, Sepang, Selangor. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail

ernment to build these ponds."

He said about six hectares of land near Kampung Pengkalan Badak, near here, belonging to the Islamic

Religious Council, had been identified as a suitable water catchment area.

"Right now, the land is being

used as a palm oil plantation and we expect to begin work soon to turn it into a water catchment area," he said after attending the open house of state rural development and agriculture committee chairman Datuk R. Perumal in Kampung Selandar Baru, near here, yesterday.

Also present was Yang diPertua Negeri Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

Mohd Ali said the Hang Tuah Jaya Municipal Council had been asked to monitor the progress of repairing blocked drains in the area as they prevented rainwater from flowing into the rivers.

According to the state disaster operations room, until 2.30pm yesterday, 84 people from 17 families were still at the relief centre at Sekolah Kebangsaan Tehel.

Meanwhile, in **Kuala Selangor**, people living nearby the Sungai Selangor in Kuala Badong, have

been advised to be on alert as the water level in the river was rising and nearing the danger mark.

However, the Drainage and Irrigation Department said that while the water level was at the danger level of 4.04 metres at yesterday morning, it dropped to 3.75 metres as of 5pm.

The water level at the Sungai Langat in Bukit Changgang remained at 4.10 metres, while at Sungai Labu, near Kampung Salak Tinggi in Sepang, it had exceeded the danger level at 9.07 metres.

The National Security Council flood portal showed that the number of flood victims in Selangor had decreased from 1,357 on Monday to 1,303 yesterday evening.

A total of 327 families are still staying in seven flood relief centres — four in Kuala Langat, two in Sepang and one in Kuala Selangor.